

# Big aircraft lands on short runway

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

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — A C-17 Globemaster III piloted by Air Force Col. Michael Merritt, commander, 15th Operations Group, 15th Wing, landed, here, on a runway mostly used for helicopters, Monday.

The arrival and departure of the huge, jet engine cargo aircraft was the end result of four months of planning by the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) assigned to the 15th Air Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

What’s unique about the Wheeler runway is that it is only 5,600-feet long, much shorter than the one the C-17 took off from, explained Sgt. 1st Class Eric Pettengill, ground liaison officer (GLO).

Pettengill said Merritt brought up the subject of a joint service exercise in September to validate the deployment process, setting into motion the coordination required to make the exercise useful for the Army and Air Force.

“I approached the 25th Infantry Division to see if it was something they wanted to do,” said Pettengill. “It was, and Dec. 16 was the best date that worked out for both parties.”

Soldiers and humvees awaited the arrival to load up. The road at the western edge of the runway was briefly closed for safety, and groups of Soldiers and Airmen traded takeoff and landing experiences in Afghanistan as the C-17 approached.

Capt. Adam Thompson, GLO officer in charge, 5th BCD, was on board while Pettengill managed final arrangements on the tarmac.

The huge Globemaster, easily spotted miles away against the backdrop of blue

sky, grew larger as it approached from the south, first banking west toward the mountains and then sharply to the east as it descended on approach.

The landing looked textbook perfect as the C-17 touched down and braked to a stop.

“That was a short runway,” said Thompson afterwards.

The C-17 then backed up the runway under its own power to take on the troops and vehicles.

“The 15th Wing continues our partnership with 25th ID, with our joint base partnership, here, on the island,” said Merritt. “This is just one more way in which we are able to increase our opportunities to train together and grow our partnership.”

“This took a long time to plan, but it was well worth the time and effort put into it,” said Pettengill. “With the coordination between 25th ID, 15th Wing and the 5th BCD, we were able to execute this mission with great success.”



Soldiers of the 25th ID board a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, Monday, as part of an exercise to test joint readiness procedures.

*(Editor’s note: The landing was featured on the front page of Tuesday’s “Honolulu Star-Advertiser,” Army.mil and other news outlets. Clips of the landing are posted online.)*



A C-17 Globemaster III aircraft touches down, Monday, in an exercise to demonstrate the ability of the Air Force and Army to rapidly deploy. The runway, a National Historic Landmark dating back to the dawn of aviation, is shorter than the one at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and is mostly used today for helicopters and smaller, propeller driven aircraft. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Adora Gonzalez, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

# Army divers assist in de-mining Cambodia

**STAFF SGT. GAELN LOWERS**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia — The Pacific theater’s waterways are still filled with explosive remnants of war, sunken munitions that are dangerous if mishandled.

Clearing out these munitions and making these rivers safe for everyone who relies on them for subsistence is the goal of a joint effort between Army divers and their Pacific neighbors.



Tony Garcia (white shirt, right), a second-class diver with the 7th EDD, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, instructs divers with the Cambodian Mine Action Center on proper start-up procedures and preventative maintenance checks and services for their new high-pressure compressor, Nov. 29-Dec.12. (Photo courtesy 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command)

As part of Pacific Command’s Humanitarian Mine Action initiative, the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment (EDD), 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, equipped, trained and certified Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) divers on military diving protocol and salvage diving operations, Nov. 29-Dec.12.

“This training is important not only to build regional partnerships throughout the U.S. PACOM area of responsibility, but also to specifically enable the CMAC dive team to clean up Cambodia’s waterways,” said Capt. Robert Meyer, commander, 7th EDD. “The CMAC divers have a very critical mission, and it’s an honor for my team to be involved in building their capability during this phase of training and the following phases to come.”

By traveling to Cambodia, the Soldier divers of the 7th EDD were forced to focus on aspects of their mission that they may ordinarily overlook or take for granted.

“This training is forcing us to really know our equipment, diving procedures and techniques,” said Spc. Tony Garcia, second class diver. “To instruct, you really have to understand and know the material you’re teaching, and given how bright these CMAC divers are, we really have to be on our game. They ask great questions and are very eager to learn, so we are constantly being tested on everything we need to know as divers.”

Both countries benefited from the training. The 7th EDD was able to revisit training techniques and interact with a culture foreign to them, while the CMAC divers learned proper maintenance procedures, salvage techniques and military diving protocol, ultimately building a program to replicate U.S. military diving standards.

“Having the opportunity to interact with foreign divers and teach them has increased my confidence,” said Garcia. “Also, knowing we are helping these CMAC divers to do their mission is very rewarding, and I’m proud to say I was part of this exercise to help make them successful.”

# 2nd SBCT names Sprague Best Medic

Story and photo by  
**SGT. DANIEL JOHNSON**  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers from across the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, gathered, here, and on East Range, Dec. 9-13, to compete for the title of Best Medic.

The competition was based directly on the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) testing guidelines so that the Soldiers are afforded a to-standard practice run before the badge testing is conducted early next year.

“This is the EFMB,” said Spc. Brandon Russell, combat medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT. “The lanes, critical skills, grading and evaluation are all based on the (Army Medical Department Center and School Pamphlet) 350-10 for the EFMB. If we are studying that and performing these lanes correctly, we are going to be fine for the EFMB.”

The Best Medic Competition spans three days and covers basic Soldiers skills as well as specialized medical training.

“The competition begins with land navigation, both day and night, as well as a written test on the first day,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Boggs, officer in charge of the trauma lane events. “The second day consists of a four-event trauma lane and will end on the third day with a 12-mile foot-march.”

Boggs said the trauma lane is what really lays the groundwork the medics need to succeed in the EFMB and gives them a chance to show what they know.

“It gives them the chance to show off to the brigade their skills as a medic and earn the coveted title of Best Medic in the brigade,” he said.

The lane tested knowledge and the Soldiers’ abilities to deal with stress in a combat environment. With casualties screaming for help and artillery simulators

**Winners**

- Best Medic:*  
Sgt. Stephen Sprague, 2-14th Cav. Regt.
- 2nd Place:*  
Spc. Timothy Anderson, 2-11th FA Regt.
- 3rd Place:*  
Pfc. Michael Murphy, 1-27th Inf. Regt.

blasting in the distance, it is as close to a real life situation as possible.

“I learned how important it is to be prepared, as well as having patience,” said Russell. “There is a lot going on, and pacing yourself — no matter what distractions are going on around you — will help you keep your head in the game.”

“This entire event is what it means to be a medic. This is what medics do. This is what they get paid for,” said Boggs. “They go out and treat casualties that have been wounded in combat and prepare them for the next echelon of care.”

“Coming on the first casualty was the most stressful,” said Russell. “Once I had finished with the first, I had confidence building and was able to work through the events more easily.”

This competition and the EFMB early next year is vital for young medics seeking to advance their careers.

“With the war winding down in Afghanistan, the EFMB is something these Soldiers may need to get promoted in the future,” said Boggs. “It sets them apart from their peers.”

His unit is doing everything possible to set him up for success, said Russell. The Best Medic competition, as well as small unit training based upon the EFMB field manual, is conducted regularly to ensure the Soldiers’ success.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg as far as training for the EFMB is concerned,” said Boggs. “It is up to the Soldiers and their units to make sure they prepare for the EFMB.”



Spc. Brandon Russell (right), combat medic, HHC, 1-14th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, provides medical attention to a simulated eye injury on Pvt. Stephanie Otero, motor transport operator, Co. A, 225th BSB, 2nd SBCT, during the Best Medic Competition at East Range, Dec. 10.





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314 Sasaoka St., WAAF Building 300, Room 105  
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5000  
**Website:**  
www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com  
**Nondelivery or distribution**  
656-3155 or 656-3488

Contributing Commands  
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**25th Infantry Division**  
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# USARPAC CG offers safe season’s greetings

The holiday season is a special time of year marked by celebration with family and friends.

It is also important to be mindful of the increased potential for hazards during this busy time of year.

Many of you will travel to the mainland or abroad to be with family and friends. As you travel, I ask that each member of the USARPAC team take precautions and include safety in all of your holiday planning and events.

Additionally, be alert to the typical hazards during the holidays, such as weather, vehicle or motorcycle acci-

dents, criminal activity, alcohol consumption and sexual assault. The protection and safety of our Soldiers, civilians and family members is my greatest concern.

I also want to emphasize the importance of maintaining our vigilance and situational awareness to guard against a multitude of ongoing threats.



Brooks

Terrorism remains an enduring, persistent, worldwide threat throughout the Pacific region and our homeland. It comes in many forms and can happen at any time. The tragic attacks on our homeland over the past year continue to underscore the importance of our vigilance. The most effective means of protecting yourself and your family is individual vigilance, situational awareness and reporting suspicious or inappropriate activity or behavior.

I challenge all leaders, Soldiers, civilians and family members to take an active approach to protection throughout

this holiday season. Be personally and collectively prepared. Look out for one another; each of you are valued USARPAC “One Team” members.

Remember, a vigilant effort of detection and prevention is our greatest weapon in the fight against terrorism, high-risk behavior and accidents.

Thank you for your continued contributions to our nation and in support of the USARPAC mission. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

One Team!  
**Vincent Brooks**  
Commander, U.S. Army-Pacific

## BRIDGING THE BASICS

# Time, training, care make future leaders

**MASTER SGT. Q.P. BEAN**  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

During my 20 years of military service, I have seen many changes in uniform and to policy.

Some of these changes have been for the best, and some not so much.

I have also witnessed the basic standards and discipline that once shaped the very fabric of our profession steadily decline.

I contemplated the reasons for this decline and decided to ask leaders what they thought contributed to this decay in the standards and discipline within our military. Out of all the responses I received, I was led to the same conclusion: A loss of the basic skills we all were taught at basic training has steadily been pushed to the back of our things to do list.

As I look around our Army these days, I see young Soldiers not respecting their leaders, and their leaders not respecting them. I set out to find a solution to at least fix the problem in the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

After much deliberation and studying, the answer became clear to me: We must go back to our beginning.

The leaders of the communications section of the 94th AAMDC have committed themselves to bridging the basics in respect to training our future leaders. Each month, the noncommissioned officers and Soldiers huddle together to discuss some of the new regulations that affect our profession. We look at how these changes can improve our section as a whole. We also help them develop clear and concise counseling for their Soldiers. We owe it to our Soldiers.

This method may seem simple and somewhat trite, but this practice is the first step in bridging that gap because we can't expect our Soldiers to know what we expect of them unless we tell

them and counsel them on their performance.

The next step we are taking within our team is training. I know training can be very tough given the budget cuts we are facing, but we, as leaders, have to be creative and come up with ways to train our Soldiers on the basics. We take them outside and teach them how to march, extend a physical training formation or even set up a radio antenna.

This training doesn't take money, just our time. Telling Soldiers to go and accomplish a task that we have never taken the time to teach them only creates a cycle of failed leaders.

Finally, we must get back to showing Soldiers we care. To some, this telling might sound as if we are babying them. However, I believe it shows the total opposite. From a seasoned senior NCO's experienced viewpoint, with many years of first sergeant assignments, when my Soldiers figured out how much I genuinely cared for them and their families, there was simply nothing they wouldn't do for the mission and me.

Within the communications section, we always talk about dignity and respect from the highest to lowest ranking. We always allow the junior Soldiers to have a voice in the decision process in our section, because if Soldiers don't feel they have a say in the planning, they will not be very happy Soldiers. Thus, the mission will fail and the section will lose in the end.

If all leaders start at the few simple points I have mentioned, we will see a major shift in the discipline in the Army and, in turn, preserve the pride and respect given to us by our nation from those who came before us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

*(Editor's note: Bean is the 94th AAMDC communications section senior enlisted leader.)*



Bean

## FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

# Faiths preserved at holidays

Religious freedom is a right, a responsibility a privilege — agree?

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) CHARLES “CHUCK” WILLIAMS**  
North Community Chaplain

Numerous and recent events in the news underscore the reality that our treasured religious freedoms are under assault, even in our military communities.

It seems that today the mere “possibility” of someone being offended at a religious symbol or display is now sufficient cause to rescind the Constitutional protections of the First Amendment against prohibiting the free exercise of faith.



Williams

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ...”

— U.S. Constitution  
First Amendment

I wonder if people realize that in doing so they are undermining their own right to a freedom of religious expression, even the “religion” of “secular humanism,” as defined by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The first clause of the First Amendment reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” The intent of this Amendment was to preserve the right of all Americans to believe in whatever religion they choose, or even not to believe, without coercion or force. However, having a nativity scene on a military installation does not force or coerce anyone to adhere to the faith that, that display represents simply because they see it.

A nativity scene is merely a seasonal expression of an essential event for

Christians, a faith that many adhere to in our communities.

Additionally, for several years now, military installations have changed the name of their tree lighting ceremonies from “Christmas” to “Holiday,” simply to appease so as not to offend. Given that Christianity is the

only religion that incorporates a lighted tree in its celebration this time of year, to change that name is to redefine and diminish the meaning and significance of that religious celebration that the majority of people treasure.

And if this practice is appropriate, why don't we do this to other faiths and their symbols?

Recently, our base enjoyed a well-attended Menorah Lighting Ceremony for those Jewish service members and their families to celebrate Hanukkah. No effort was made to rename that event the “Holiday” Nine Candle Lighting Ceremony. Nor would we want to because that would show disrespect to the faith of our neighbors in the Jewish community.

Protecting the right of everyone's freedom of religious expression is the right thing to do, and a privilege that we chaplains are called to defend. Respect and honor needs to be paid to the integrity of other people's faiths. Appeasement knows of no such respect and honor.

Before President George Washington left office he wrote in his “Farewell Address” in 1796:

*“Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”*

Preserving the integrity of the principles and message of our respective faiths in our community assures us of the blessings of goodness, health and prosperity that God would have for us and our families. But to devalue it can only be done to our own peril.

## ENGINEERS IN THE CLASSROOM



Four Soldiers with the 5th Engineer Detachment (Geospatial Planning Cell), 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, donate 84 maps of Oahu and the world to the students and teachers of the Pearl Harbor Elementary School, Tuesday.

"We want to make sure our children and our community are receiving the best education possible," said Staff Sgt. Angelic Smith, whose idea it was to donate the maps and who is a mother of a child that attends Pearl Harbor Elementary.

"We, as Soldiers, want to support our community as much as they support us," Smith said. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gaelen Lowers, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs)

# Voices of Ohana

Year in Review

“What is your favorite 2013 memory?”

Photos by 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs.



“Getting the opportunity to give maps and teaching aides to Pearl Harbor Elementary.”

**Spc. Adan Cisneros**  
5th Eng. Det. (Geospatial Planning Cell), 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



“Being in school with my friends.”

**Adam Harlow**  
Grade 3, Pearl Harbor Elementary School



“Getting a new trampoline.”

**Autumn Larson**  
Grade 3, Pearl Harbor Elementary School



“When I learned division in math class.”

**Dezeray Angel Orcutt**  
Grade 3, Pearl Harbor Elementary School



“When my son, Keith Smith III, was born.”

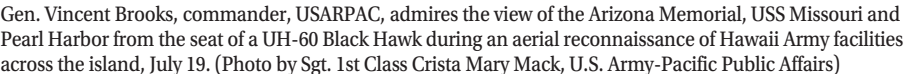
**Staff Sgt. Angelic Smith**  
5th Eng. Det. (Geospatial Planning Cell), 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC





**U.S. ARMY-PACIFIC**  
Public Affairs

USARPAC welcomed Gen. Vincent Brooks as its new commanding general, July 2, and said goodbye to Wiercinski as he retired after 34 years of service. The change formally transitioned USARPAC into a four-star command for the first time since 1974, symbolizing the importance of the Army in the Asia-Pacific region.

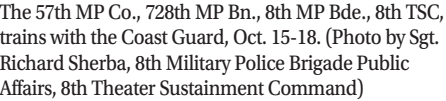


Two UH-60 Black Hawks from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Brigade, landed at Fort Shafter, July 19, marking the first time in years since helicopters have landed on historic Palm Circle.

Another first was a nonstop flight from Alaska to Australia during exercise Talisman Saber 2013. Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota, senior enlisted leader, USARPAC, and members of the 4th Inf. Bde. Combat Team (Airborne), 25th ID, stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, flew 15 hours straight before jumping into Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia, July 20. The nonstop flight and jump demonstrated forced entry capa-

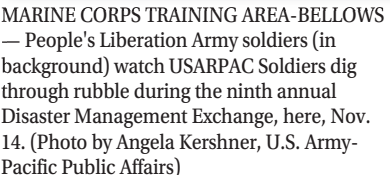
USARPAC will continue to be the theater army in the Pacific as it starts a new year.

8th TSC Soldiers also strengthened their ties with the Hawaiian community by volunteering nearly 3,000 hours to elementary schools, veterans organizations and shelters across the island of Oahu, earning Hawaii-wide community recognition this year for their selfless volunteer efforts.



The 71st Chemical Company, 303rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, main-

Troops from the brigade headquarters participated in Australian Joint Training exercise Talisman Sabre with items like food, water and vehicles, and were heavily involved in the planning and set up.





2013

YEAR IN

Review

# Broncos close out successful year

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, finishes out the year just like it started it — ready and willing to go where the call demands.

Soldiers began the year participating in light infantry training all across Oahu, including locations such as Kahuku Training Area and Marine Corps Training Area-Bellows, Jan. 14-26.

Time of relaxation rarely exists inside a brigade combat team, so one must find the time to keep morale up with the Soldiers. The brigade put together the 3rd BCT Single Soldier Cohesion Day that gave Soldiers a day to compete against one another in friendly competition.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment “Cacti,” paid respects to the 36 Soldiers lost in the battalion’s four combat tours by creating a formation in the shape of the battalion’s crest on the anniversary of the unit’s fallen platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Clovis Ray.

The big moment of the year came in May, when the Broncos would put together Bronco Rumble, a company level, combined arms live-fire exercise, here. For two weeks, Soldiers battled some of the island’s hottest and rainiest conditions as they trained through both day and night iterations. The training was about combining every aspect of the brigade to accomplish one overall mission.

To acknowledge all that Soldiers had accomplished through the beginning of the year, the Broncos put



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, 25th ID, participate in "Bronco Rumble," May 1-14. Bronco Rumble is a company-level combined arms live-fire exercise put on to develop leaders and service members with critical thinking and tactical skills, while remaining prepared to support the Army’s mission in the Pacific.

down rucksacks for “Week of the Bronco,” which featured a heavy emphasis on sports. Some of Hawaii’s most famous battalions squared off against each other. To close out Week of the Bronco competition, more than 2,200 Soldiers of the Bronco Brigade stood in the shape of the unit’s emblem to honor the 50-year history

of the brigade.

Operation Mangoday, a leader assessment and development exercise intended to put captains under duress and deprivation in a physically and mentally difficult environment, was the main exercise to take place in the 3rd quarter of the year.

At the end of October, the Broncos

bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark and welcomed in Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Johnson to lead the “None Better” Brigade.

Monday, the brigade dedicated the Bronco Room of the dining facility to Staff Sgt. Joseph Altmann.

Every New Year brings new challenges, and 2014 will be no different.

# 25th CAB aviators redeploy, upgrade, partner with Navy

**CAPT. RICHARD BARKER**  
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade started 2013 by returning to its home, here, following a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan.

The CAB celebrated its return with a redeployment ceremony and by uncasing the brigade colors, Jan. 31.

The 25th CAB was the last major Army unit out of Hawaii to deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, marking the first time all of the units were home together at the same time since 2001.

*In August, the brigade upgraded to the model UH-60M Black Hawk, increasing the 25th CAB’s ground support capabilities.*

While the brigade enjoyed the month of February for redeployment block leave, several notifications poured in recognizing the effort and hard work of Soldiers. These included Army Aviation Association of America winners for Crew Chief of the Year, DUSTOFF Medic of the Year, NCO of

the Year, and Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year.

During April, the 25th CAB experienced a complete changeover of leadership as the brigade and all battalion command groups held changes of command. In the last of five changes of

command during the month, Col. Kenneth Hawley took command of the 25th CAB from Col. Frank Tate, April 30th.

Hawaii communities welcomed the 25th CAB home during several events, to include the state Senate and House of Representatives awarding the Hawaii Medal of Honor to eight Soldiers.

The brigade worked with several organizations in the Hawaiian community. It invited local Hawaii educators, here, and conducted knowledge sharing with Queen’s Medical Center personnel on risk management processes.

In early spring, the CAB offered assistance to Soldiers who were relearning how to be good husbands, fathers, wives and mothers through several couples classes and marriage retreats.

Also, during the spring, individual and small unit training began as the brigade started a new training cycle in preparation for building contingency reaction forces designed to provide

aviation support for ground troops as the Army realigned to the Pacific. Soldiers practiced static load training, leadership development courses, rifle

ranges and plenty of flying.

Summer was a time when the 25th CAB’s realignment to operations in the Pacific really started to show blue



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 25th CAB, 25th ID, comes in for a landing on the back of the USNS Guadalupe (T-AO 200), a Navy replenishment oiler, during deck-landing qualification, July 15. (Photo by Capt. Richard Barker, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

colors. In mid-June, the brigade started what would develop into a strong joint relationship with the Navy by conducting training with Sailor divers who practiced being extracted and inserted by CH-47F Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. This training continued into July with the 25th CAB conducting deck-landing qualifications aboard ships at sea for the first time in more than 10 years.

The end of the summer was an exciting time for the CAB as it received its first shipments of UH-60M models to replace the UH-60L Black Hawks, Aug. 27. The new model features several upgrades that increase the CAB’s ability to support troops on the ground.

Assuming its role with contingency response forces in the Pacific, the brigade successfully performed in a series of validation exercises in the fall to test and perfect the ability of its aviation support packages to rapidly deploy. This training was coupled by several units in the brigade conducting ground and aerial gunnery qualifications at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii.

The brigade ended its year solidifying its growing joint capabilities with the Navy during an exercise with the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG-70), including OH-58D Kiowa Warrior deck-landing qualifications and recon training in December.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, 25th ID, form the shape of the unit’s emblem during the final day of the Week of the Bronco, July 3. (Photo by Sgt. Brian Erickson, 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Johnson (front), senior enlisted adviser, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, salutes the brigade commander for the first time as the new brigade senior enlisted leader during a change of responsibility ceremony, Oct. 29. (Photo by Sgt. Erickson, 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)

KANEOHE — A CH-47F Chinook helicopter assigned to Company B, 3-25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, drops the caving ladder for divers with the Navy SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1, Naval Special Warfare Group 3, for extraction during helocast training at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, June 18. (Photo by Capt. Richard Barker, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Staff Sgt. Thomas Combs (standing), a CH-47 Chinook crew chief assigned to Company B, 3-25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, shares his Army experiences with Hawaiian educators during a visit to learn about the career and educational opportunities for Soldiers, May 6. (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



# Warrior Brigade reviews progress

2013

YEAR IN

Review

**2ND STRYKER BRIGADE**  
**COMBAT TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — For the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, 2013 was a challenging, yet rewarding, year.

The primary focus of the brigade was strengthening its relationships with the local community and its joint and Pacific partners.

The brigade conducted the first company-level combined arms live-fire exercise, here, in more than a decade. All nine infantry companies and three cavalry troops employed all of the weapon systems within the unit, supported by 155 mm artillery from the batteries of 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment.

The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) recognized four 2nd SBCT Soldiers, Aug. 29, for their work with the School Partnership Program. JVEF is a cooperative venture between U.S. Pacific Command and the Hawaii Department of Education to promote interaction between military and state educators. The School Partnership Program is a part of this venture and is how the Army is able to reach out to the community to give a helping hand to area schools.

Also in August, the Warrior Brigade had the distinct honor of hosting an award ceremony for Robert Cox, a former member of the Gimlet Battalion who served as a sergeant during the Vietnam War. Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard presented Cox with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal with



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A breaching team made up of squad and team leaders from two of the 2nd SBCTs infantry battalions and its cavalry squadron blow a door off its hinges as part of the Breaching Academy, taught by the 66th Eng. Co., 1-14th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, Aug. 13-23. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everette, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)

V device.

Members of the brigade staff and representatives from the battalions traveled to Malaysia in September as part of 2013 Keris Strike Exercise, an annual theater security cooperation exercise conducted with the Malaysian armed forces. Soldiers from the brigade trained at the Malaysian Jungle Warfare Wing Training Center,

provided counter-improvised explosive device training and medical first responder training to Malaysian soldiers, and experienced the Malaysian culture.

Keris Strike’s culminating event was a command post exercise simulating a peace enforcement operation and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission aimed at working with the

Malaysian armed forces to restore peace and basic services during a catastrophe in the region.

The 1-21st Inf. received the coveted 25th ID “Guadalcanal Cup” for excellence in athletic competition. The event was part of the division’s 72nd birthday celebration in which all elements of the division competed for the cup, Oct. 1-3.

Another first for the Warrior Brigade in October was Stryker out-load training on an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III in preparation for assumption as the division’s Contingency Response Force. The 1-14th Inf. trained at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, marking the first tactical out-load and fly away of Hawaii-based Strykers on the C-17.

Despite the government shutdown, the Warrior Brigade continued to conduct training. It executed all scheduled training rotations at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii.

PTA offers a unique training environment for units, and the Warrior Brigade is fortunate to have built a relationship with the Big Island community.

While training at PTA in November, brigade units had the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity in appreciation for the support of Big Island communities.

Rounding out the year, Soldiers from 2-14th Cav. partnered with Marines and New Zealand defense forces for Southern Katipo 2013, Nov. 4-29, a multinational military training exercise designed to enhance military-to-military relations between participating forces while supporting the development of the host nation’s amphibious capabilities.

As the brigade prepares for future contingency missions and deployments, Soldiers remember that even with all of the accomplishments they’ve had this year, none would be possible without the support of their families.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A cadre member demonstrates an Australian rappel and firing on the move during the activation ceremony of the Lightning Academy, May 1. (Photo by Staff Sgt. William Sallette, U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A squad of Soldiers from 2-14th Cav. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, advances to its objective on the combined arms live-fire lane during the brigade-wide exercise Warrior Spear in February. This exercise was the first company-level CALFEX on Oahu in more than a decade. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everette, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Brig. Gen. Pete Johnson (left), deputy commander-operations, 25th ID, meets with Maj. Gen. Kai (right), deputy chief of staff of operations for the northern army of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force, June 20, before the Yama Sakura Exercise, which is held to help provide security and prosperity in the Pacific. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Ryan, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

SUNGAI PATANI, Malaysia — 1st Lt. Alex Lovo (right), 1-21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, and Capt. Mohd Hafizuddin bin Sulaiman, 4th Royal Ranger Regiment, Malaysian army, cook fish over a fire while sitting in a lean-to shelter during the Jungle Survival demonstration at Lapangan Terbang Camp as part of Exercise Keris Strike 2013, held in September. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everette, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 25th ID command team leads the entire division on a run down Trimble Road to kickoff Tropic Lightning Week, Oct. 1. This run was the first time in more than a decade the entire division was home to participate in Tropic Lightning Week, a celebration of the division’s activation, Oct. 1, 1941. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Ryan, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs)



2013

YEAR IN

Review

# 18th MEDCOM (DS) takes on many medical missions

**STAFF SGT. NICOLE HOWELL**  
18th Medical Command (Deployment Support)  
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — In July, the 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) welcomed Col. Bret Ackermann as the new commander as it bid farewell to Col. Judith Bock, who relinquished control after completing her two-year command.

Shortly following this change of command, the unit welcomed a new senior enlisted leader into its ranks, Sept. 17. Command Sgt. Maj. Alexis King assumed responsibility of MEDCOM from Command Sgt. Maj. Garfield Skyers, concluding his two-year tenure.

As changes continued in late 2013, the 18th MEDCOM (DS) was notified and assisted with the deactivation of its subordinate unit, the 124th Medical Detachment (Optometry), which had conducted optometry care for more than seven different countries within the Pacific Rim.

Throughout 2013, the 18th MEDCOM (DS) also conducted numerous missions in line with the Theater Support Cooperation Program (TSCP) and has already begun to plan future engagements next year.



Col. Bret Ackermann, newly appointed commander for the 18th MEDCOM (DS), addresses attendees during a change of command ceremony, July 3. (Photo by Master Sgt. Rodney Jackson, 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) Public Affairs)



Col. Bret Ackermann (left), commander, 18th MEDCOM (DS), takes the sword from Command Sgt. Maj. Garfield Skyers as a sign of him relinquishing responsibility of the unit to Command Sgt. Maj. Alexis King, Sept. 17. (Photo courtesy Tripler Army Medical Center)

Its role in the TSCP is intended to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to Asia-Pacific allies, as well as strengthen partnerships within the region through the education, support and collaboration of medical practices and procedures used worldwide.

The command also conducted its annual visit to Radford High School in support of its sponsorship program and the Radford High Health Services Career Pathway program. Booths were set up at the school's health fair as a way to expose the students to an array of medical practices within the

Army's ranks.

During the visit, combat medics, dental surgeons and optometry specialists talked to students about the importance of good health.

Other key events during the year included two large-scale training exercises, one internal medical exercise and support for Operation Dayaman.

The command conducted 17 re-enlistments and focused on building esprit de corps.



Joy and Logan Myrick admire the portrait of Logan done by volunteer Richard Bartlett during the Oncology on Canvas event at TAMC, April 19. Art created at the event was on display at various spots around Oahu throughout the spring and summer. (Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Cynthia Clark)

## TAMC, PRMC earn 2013 accolades for excellence

**CAPT. EREN MCBRIDE**

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs  
HONOLULU — Tripler Army Medical Center and the Pacific Regional Medical Command continued to provide world-class health care and stay on the cutting edge of technology in 2013.

TAMC kicked off 2013 by bringing new life to Hawaii, delivering Adelie Thisius, the New Year's baby for Oahu.

TAMC also celebrated three grand openings. The first was the opening of its single family room Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Feb. 14; it is the first single family room NICU in the state of Hawaii and the Department of Defense.

logically Healthy Workplace for 2013. TAMC was the first organization within the Department of Defense to be honored with this national award since the program began in 2006. TAMC's efforts to create a healthy workplace have resulted in lower turnover rates, along with increased clinical productivity, financial performance and customer satisfaction.

•In *April*, TAMC received the 2013 Practice Greenhealth Partner for Change Award — for recycling 15 percent of its total waste, reducing products containing mercury and regulated medical waste, and pollution prevention programs in other areas.

TAMC's simulation center and research program, with 195 ongoing research protocols, became fully accredited.

•In *August*, TAMC's cancer program was awarded with a three-year accreditation, with commendation, for its high-quality cancer care. This accomplishment was nationally recognized by the Joint Commission, the American Cancer Society, Aetna, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the National Quality Forum and the National Cancer Institute.

•*September* was an extremely busy month. It started off with the 2nd Pacific Regional Behavioral Health Summit, resulting in the largest and most diverse locally organized collection of behavioral health providers and leaders in one location within the Pacific Rim.

The American Hospital Association designated TAMC as a "Most Wired" institution in recognition of its implementation and use of information technology in its health-care delivery.

The annual Health Care's Most Wired Survey, sponsored by the American Hospital Association's publication "Hospitals and Health Networks" magazine, measures a hospital's level of adoption of information technology relative to other hospitals and health systems. TAMC's award was based on a comprehensive assessment that examined its overall IT infrastructure and its use of IT and electronic processes (versus paper) for business and administrative purposes, clinical quality and safety, and clinical integration.

See TAMC A-10



Dr. (Col.) Sarah Lentz-Kapua (left), assistant chief, Department of Pediatrics, TAMC, and Brig. Gen. Dennis Doyle, commander, PRMC, celebrate the grand opening of the single family room NICU with a traditional Hawaiian ceremony. (Photo by Soraya Robello, Tripler Army Medical Center)

Second was the opening of TAMC's first bariatric room for patients recovering from surgery. The new room was fully outfitted with specially designed furniture, equipment, lifts and accessories that made patients more comfortable. It also made it easier for staff to deliver more personalized care.

Third, TAMC opened the doors to its very own Starbucks earlier this month.

Numerous awards and recognitions were honored in 2013:

•In *March*, the American Psychological Association named TAMC a top Psycho-



# Dynamic 311th Sig. team gives premier support in this year

**LIANA KIM**  
311th Signal Command (Theater)  
Public Affairs

**FORT SHAFTER** — With 2013 came new challenges, opportunities and faces for the 311th Signal Command.

A change of responsibility ceremony, Jan. 25, heralded Command Sgt. Maj. Travis L. Cherry as the senior enlisted leader of Signaleers in the Pacific.

As the designated signal command for the Pacific theater, the dynamic teams continued to achieve milestones for the Army signal community, pro-



AFGHANISTAN — A Soldier with Co. A, 307th ESB, 311th SC(T), conducts signal support operations as part of OEF during the company’s nine-month deployment. (Photo courtesy 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 311th Sig. Command (Theater))

vided a wide spectrum of signal support operations, helped strengthen ties with partner nations throughout the region and paved the way for new friendships.

“As our nation’s defense focus shifts to the Pacific, it will be the 311th that will provide the example of communications readiness for the rest of the Army,” said Maj. Gen. LaWarren Patterson, commander, Signal Center of Excellence.

LaWarren made his remarks during his regimental address for the senior communicator’s forum as part of Signal Regimental Week, the command’s annual weeklong event that brought more than 800 Signalers together to share best practices and commemorate the 153rd birthday of the Army’s Signal Corps.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Soldiers of Company A, 307th Expeditionary Sig. Bn., provided signal support to three regional commands in 19 locations throughout Afghanistan. During their nine-month deployment, December 2012-September 2013, they supported network operations, satellite communications, signal systems integration, troubleshooting and help desk operations, which included solving division-level end user problems.

While staying vigilant to their core mission of maintaining and defending the Pacific LandWar Net to provide a robust and secure network for warfighters in the Pacific, Soldiers of the 311th also provided signal support and tactical satellite communication

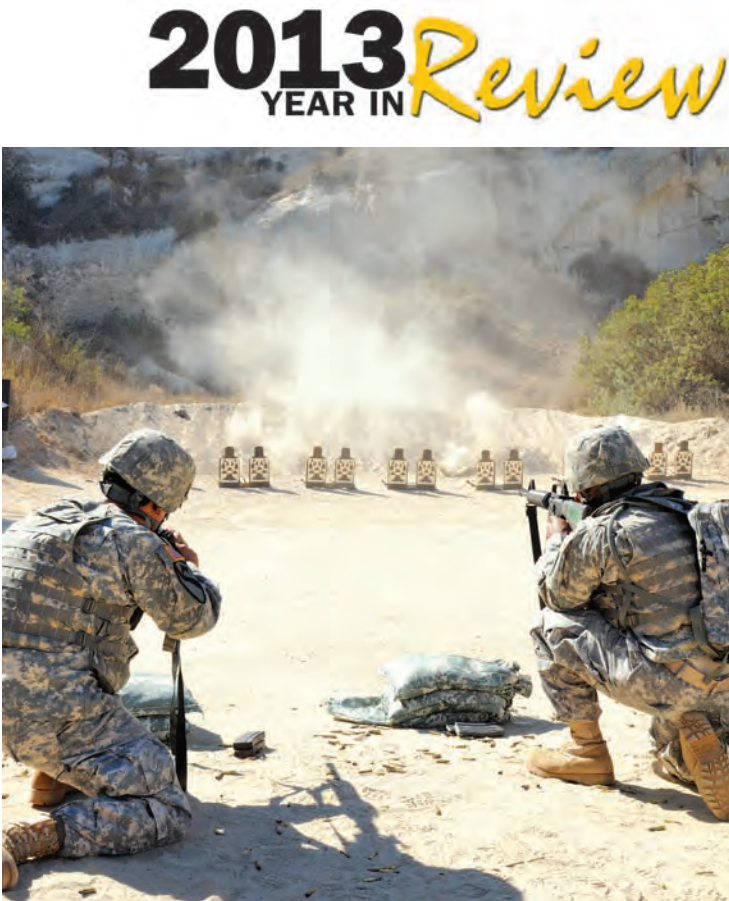
platforms for U.S. Pacific Command’s Theater Security Cooperation Program joint military exercises Cobra Gold in Thailand; Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian in South Korea; Balikatan in the Philippines; and Yama Sakura and Keen Edge in Japan.

In Hawaii, Soldiers provided signal support for the fourth iteration of Operation Pacific Response, a joint disaster training exercise at Bellows Air Force Station.

A highlight of organizational transformation and network integration in 2013 was the merging of our Theater Network Operations and Security Centers and Regional Computer Emergency Response Teams together to become a Regional Cyber Center, a single unit tasked with the authority to operate, maintain and defend the Army’s cyber realm within the Pacific theater.

The 311th SC(T) supported the U.S. Army-Pacific communications team’s Information Assurance and Cyber Security Awareness week, Oct. 15-18, followed by a Cyber Security stand down, Oct. 25. Soldiers and civilians at all echelons conducted training to address identified weaknesses in cyber security awareness and to gain a better understanding of current threats to cyber security in the Pacific.

“In the evolving environment, we have to work to empower the cyber security team, and it is a team effort consisting of multiple layers of defense,” said Maj. Gen. James Walton, USARPAC communications, and commander, 311th SC(T), during a cyber security panel discussion, the keynote



CAMP PENDLETON — Dust rises from the burms behind the 25-meter targets as Soldiers of the 311th SC (T)-Support Unit conduct weapons qualifications, Sep. 14. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Amy Richards, 311th Theater Signal Command-Support Unit)

event of the awareness week.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander, USARPAC, also emphasized the importance of keeping the network secure all the way to the end user’s desktop.

“Every day,” Brooks said, “the enemy is operating in our cyber environment, probing and infiltrating our perimeter.”

Several 311th units received awards for outstanding performance in 2013. The 516th Signal Brigade and units assigned won multiple Department of

the Army awards on various levels for excellence in supply, maintenance, communications support facilities, deployment and equal opportunity.

The command’s proudest achievements can be attributed to its excellent leadership and the outstanding support from a diverse team of operators across the Pacific theater. The professionalism and achievements of these leaders was recognized by the Federal Executive Board with several Excellence in Federal Government awards.

# Sea Dragons build rapport with allies, ready for missions

**94TH ARMY AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND**  
Public Affairs

Over the past year, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command “Sea Dragons” demonstrated the critical interoperability of air missile defense assets.

In doing so, they forged and strengthened partnerships with America’s allies in the Pacific region as they continued to train their Soldiers in preparation for wartime missions and traditional garrison operations.



Brig. Gen. Daniel Karbler (right), commander, 94th AAMDC, stands with Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson (left) as Sgt. Maj. Scott Caspari (center), operations, prepares to hand off the ceremonial sword at Dodson’s assumption of responsibility, Oct. 31. (Photo by Master Sgt. Reginald Creech, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command)

The Dragons also instituted programs to build bonds within the unit that mentor and foster cohesion and fellowship, and increased rapport with local communities by participating in outreach programs.

The 94th AAMDC participated in more than 15 joint, combined and bilateral exercises with other branches of the U.S. armed forces, allies and partner countries, to include more than 32 joint-theater air missile defense command and control, asset management and system development exercises,

with the 613th Air Operations Center and the 607th Air and Space Operations Center.

By continuously working closely with its allies and partners in the Pacific, 94th AAMDC helped to build capacity and solidarity of missile defense within the Pacific Command’s area of operations.

Its lead role in the nation’s effort to rebalance military efforts to the Asia-Pacific increased tremendously in 2013. 94th AAMDC stood up Task Force Talon, the first ever forward deployed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. All eyes were certainly on the command and fires community, making 94th AAMDC a central figure in local and national headlines.

During the summer, the 94th AAMDC and Soldiers from 25th Infantry Division, 32nd AAMDC, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the Missile Defense Agency successfully conducted Flight Test Operational 01, the second largest, most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted, resulting in the successful engagement of two medium-range ballistic missiles targets over water. This live-fire test proved the Mission Essential Task List of the A-2 THAAD battery.

The command also bid aloha to its new senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, Oct. 31. Dodson has served at all enlisted levels of air defense and continues to sustain

momentum in the 94th AAMDC.

The command established the “Sea Dragon Sisters In Arms” female mentorship program, a program to connect senior and junior females, so they can reach out to one another due to the limited number of women in the unit.

The program accomplished a host of events and endeavors, including increasing cultural awareness, conducting Rape and Aggression Defense training, supporting the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk” and hosting quarterly off-duty events.

The 94th AAMDC assisted in outreach programs by volunteering to participate in several events at Linapuni Elementary. 94th AAMDC Soldiers also made individual contributions, including reaching out to Soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder and saving a couple trapped after a crash.

The command is slated to move its headquarters from Fort Shafter to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. It’s currently assigned to U. S. Army-Pacific in direct support of U.S. Pacific Air Force. This move will unify efforts and mission command for integrated air missile defense efforts, providing greater access to the same domains and engagement opportunities with the 613th Air Force and further enabling its direct support relationship with PACAF.



A THAAD interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test conducted by Missile Defense Agency, Ballistic Missile Defense System Operational Test Agency, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, and USARPAC. (Photo courtesy Missile Defense Agency) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

The Sea Dragons of the 94th AAMDC stand as the first line of defense against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



2013  
YEAR IN *Review*

# 599th Trans busy with multiple Pacific exercises

**DONNA KLAPAKIS**  
599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs

**WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD** — The 599th Transportation Brigade is the Pacific arm of Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), which is headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Similarly, the 599th has only its headquarters in Hawaii, with all of its components scattered throughout the Pacific.

Battalions are in Busan, Korea; Okinawa, Japan; and Yokohama, Japan. The brigade also has detachments in Singapore, Guam and Alaska.

Although much of the unit’s activities loading and unloading cargo as a transportation brigade are conducted by its battalions and detachments overseas, the brigade headquarters has traditionally been the single port manager for all ports in Hawaii, booked all military cargo leaving the Pacific area of responsibility and tracked all military cargo coming to or going through the Pacific. However, during 2013, the booking function moved from the 599th Trans. Bde. to SDDC headquarters.

“We’ve taken on more of a role of interacting with military units that are shipping cargo. Now we focus more on their requirements rather than the actual booking function,” said John Fisher, chief, 599th sealift management section. “This allows for better coordination and increased communications.”

In June, the 599th was able to finalize long-term contracts for cargo shipments between the outer Hawaiian Islands and from Oahu onward that had previously been handled by one-time-only contracts or liner-term vessels, wherein the carrier provided the stevedores.

“Not only did we need a contractor of our own for our Barbers Point moves, but Pearl Harbor indicated they want to use the contract for some of their larger moves” said Carlos Tibbetts, terminal operations chief. “If you have a ship come out under liner terms, you add a lot of additional expenses and time. Having our own contracts should save the government a lot in the long term.”

The brigade held its biennial change of com-



**PEARL HARBOR** — Dave Bertao, traffic management specialist, 599th Trans. Bde., performs single-port-manager duties during the offload of USAPAC cargo from the M/V Ocean Giant, Oct. 22. (Photo by Donna Klapakis, 599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs)

mand in July aboard the battleship USS Missouri at Pearl Harbor. Col. Shannon Cox assumed command of the unit from Col. Gust Pagonis.

In October, the unit underwent its first virtual command inspection with the unit’s higher headquarters, SDDC, as the examiner. The brigade performed exceptionally well.

The 599th participated in or supported Pacific military exercises Key Resolve, Foal Eagle, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Balikatan, Cobra Gold, Talisman Saber, Forager Fury, and Northern Edge.

“We participate in all of these and other Pacific exercises every year, but planning for them was more difficult between August 2012 and October 2013 because we didn’t have a forward planner in Korea. Now that that position is filled, things run a lot smoother,” said Jim

See 599th A-10



**FORT SHAFTER** — Jon Hosaka (right), mechanical engineer, 565th Eng. Det., FEST-A, shares a laugh with USACE-Honolulu District ohana at a redeployment ceremony at District headquarters in January. (Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District Public Affairs)

# Honolulu District builds a better Pacific Region, Army

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
Honolulu District Public Affairs

**HONOLULU** — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District staff supported military construction, transformation and initiatives on Hawaii Army posts that included opening a new barracks; continued construction of a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient barracks at Helemano Military Reservation; the new Warrior in Transition barracks and complex; ongoing South Range Projects; Quad D renovations at Schofield Barracks; the Combat Aviation Brigade Phase 1 at Wheeler Army Airfield; and the Command and Control Facility at Fort Shafter.

In the face of national fiscal uncertainty and sequestration issues during 2013, the District remained committed to sustaining the high quality of service it offers customers, partners and stakeholders. The District ohana demonstrated an unwavering willingness to work as a team to deliver projects and services, and focused on quality, timeliness and community outreach.

Unique partnerships were initiated with military wounded warriors and for professional development. The District also began a partnership with local, state and federal agencies for the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative and provided support for the Waikoloa formerly used defense site Sandalwood Project Outreach Initiative.

In late January, the Corps welcomed home the eight-man, District-based 565th Eng. De-

tachment, Forward Eng. Support Team-Advance (FEST-A), with a redeployment ceremony at District headquarters to mark the official end of its successful eight-month deployment in Afghanistan.

In early February, 72 people eagerly crammed into a District conference room to attend Safety and Health Training for Small Business Contractors. The free, four-hour training was geared primarily for small business contractors in Hawaii.

Leaders from the District joined forces with Navy officials for a maile lei untying and blessing ceremony in March to officially open the Corps-renovated Building 22 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, near Wahiawa. This project involved a major design-build renovation of historic Building 22 — a building that houses the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, Naval Branch Annex Wahiawa for medical and dental services provided for the Navy and DOD.

Throughout the year, Honolulu District developed working relationships with two wounded warrior units: the Warrior Transition Battalion based at Schofield Barracks and the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to help assist these organizations to transition warriors and families from injury, illness or disease to duty or veteran status.

See USACE A-10



# Garrison looks back over the year

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

2013 will be remembered for its furloughs, sequestration and hiring freezes, but other significant events took place at U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Hawaii.

Among them, the 38th Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Raymond Odierno, visited Hawaii, Jan. 8-9; Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal reviewed developments, Jan. 13-14; Hawaii’s U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono toured facilities, April 3; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, the Honorable Katherine Hammack, toured in September; and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III wrapped up visits in November with a standing room only crowd at Sgt. Smith Theater.

“We are going to have fewer troops and less assets and equipment,” Chandler explained to Soldiers, stating that budget cuts will take the active Army to 490,000 by the end of 2015.

In March, a 6,400-foot deep test water well was drilled at PTA to determine if the high-altitude base and surrounding communities could be sustained by their own water supply.

The garrison’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored the annual Fourth of July Spectacular at Schofield Barracks. This year’s event was limited to DOD ID cardholders — since most Army units were home after 10 years of deployment. Still, 30,000-40,000 people attended the successful event.

Also in July, the garrison became “Nixle” alert ready for emergency messages. The free service is available via text messages or online for all community members.

Before July ended, USAG-HI commander, Col. Daniel Whitney, and the command, welcomed new deputy garrison commander, Howard Johnston.

In August, an Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision was published to construct and operate a modern Infantry Platoon Battle Course at PTA.

The Directorate of Human Resource’s Army Career Alumni Program put the Veterans Opportunity to Work, or VOW Act, into full swing in 2013. VOW greatly supports Soldiers transitioning into civilian life.

A traffic roundabout made its debut just inside Macomb Gate. Now fully operational, the roundabout improves traffic safety and flow.

In September, the installation and 25th Infantry Division began placing renewed emphasis on dress code policies and new courtesy patrols, which increase safety awareness and enforce Army regulations, policies and standards.

Early October, USAG-HI welcomed its new



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Representatives from USAG-HI, DOD and Hawaii State Department of Education break ground at Hale Kula Elementary School, July 1, officially marking the beginning of the renovation and expansion plans at the school. Among the supporters are Col. Daniel Whitney (left), commander, USAG-HI; Gary Willis (second from left), Office of Economic Adjustment; Brig. Gen. Pete Johnson (fifth from left), deputy commander-operations, 25th ID; U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (sixth from left); Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie (seventh from left); Jan Iwase (fifth from right), Hale Kula Elementary School principal; and Kathryn Matayoshi (right), superintendent, HIDOE. (Photo by Sgt. Matthew Ryan, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Col. Daniel Whitney, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, helps Family Advocacy Committee members and children kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month by signing the CAPM Proclamation at the School Age Center, here, March 29. (Photo by Tye Clark, Army Community Service)



HONOLULU — Family members of the fallen, along with the USAG-HI command, attend the honor and remembrance ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Sept. 29. (Photo by Jack Wiers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs)

teammate, USAG-Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Finally, three Facebook town halls allowed garrison directorates to personally address pressing issues on the minds of the community. As well, numerous awards and commemorative ceremonies, like Gold Star Families Day, celebrated installation Soldiers and families.



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SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens (second from left), commander, Pacific Ocean Division, is briefed by Schofield Barracks Area Office engineer Darren Carpenter (right), about the 25th CAB, 25th ID infrastructure project, June 11. (Photo by Dino Buchanan U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District Public Affairs)

## USACE: Safety promoted

CONTINUED FROM A-8

More than 80 Corps of Eng. general contractors and District engineers attended a safety conference in mid-August, sponsored by the District’s Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Area Offices in the Schofield Barracks post conference room. The annual event was held to promote job site safety awareness and provide a venue to discuss best safety practices being used on Corps project sites.

In late October, officials from USACE, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and Absher Construction opened a new \$35.3 million barracks on Montague Street that will house Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

District contract actions signify the Corps’ commitment to provide high-quality facilities to the armed forces and to protect and improve the lives of the people of Hawaii and the region.

Honolulu District is responsible for major military design and construction, civil works, international and interagency support, real estate services to the Army and Air Force, regulatory work, environmental services and emergency management.

*(Editor’s Note: Read the full story online at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com))*



Maj. Timothy Wagner ( left), chief, and Mark Ahsing, therapy technician, both with Radiation Oncology, TAMC, demonstrate Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy in which they stablize the patient in order to precisely target a tumor with minimal radiation exposure to the surrounding tissue. (Photo by Sgt. Margaret Jordan, Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs)

## TAMC: No pain is best practice gain at Center

CONTINUED FROM A-6

Finally, TAMC was surveyed by TJC. Its surveyors praised the holistic approach of the pain management clinic and recognized TAMC for a best practice of developing and implementing the use of diabetes information cards for specific patients, which had not been seen at other health care facilities inspected.

TAMC’s Patient Centered Medical Home received Level II certification.

- In *November*, TAMC implemented the availability and use of the Pay.gov website for all its patients. This website was developed to meet the Financial Management Service Agency’s commitment to process collections electronically using Internet technologies.

TAMC was the first overseas continental U.S. military treatment facility to implement the Pay.gov website, which provided patients with a simple and secure way to pay for medical services.

- Dec. 2*, TAMC celebrated its annual tree lighting ceremony.

To end 2013, TAMC hosted several community groups, civic organizations, local businesses and schools to spread holiday cheer to patients.

## 599th: Alaska unit realigns to Northern Command

CONTINUED FROM A-8

Staege, plans chief.

Cox said she considers the last change the brigade will undergo during 2013 as its most significant structural change: The Alaska Detachment will realign from the 599th Trans. Bde. to the 597th Trans. Bde. at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Because the Unified Command Plan had realigned Alaska from U.S. Pacific Command to U.S. Northern Command in 2011, SDDC plans to realign the detachment to a brigade in the USNORTH-COM area of responsibility to be in line with combatant commander control.



PORT OF VALDEZ, Alaska — The Army vessel CW3 Harold C. Clinger (LSV2) prepares to dock, Oct. 2, during fall port operations conducted by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Alaska Detachment. (Photo courtesy Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Alaska Detachment)



# Holiday Gift Traps



## Will you make a common mistake?

**SARAH PACHECO**  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — So you've made your list and checked it twice, trying to figure out who gets a sparkly necklace and who gets a big bag of rice.

OK, so maybe your idea of holiday shopping doesn't involve a trip to the nearest grocery store, but that doesn't mean you have to rack up the credit card bills in the hunt for the perfect present, either.

According to the National Retail Federation, American consumers are ex-

pected to spend \$602.1 billion this holiday season, an increase of about 3.9 percent from last year. The retail trade association adds that the 61 days between November-December is the biggest time of year for retailers of all shapes and sizes and can account for as much as 20-40 percent of retailer's annual sales.

Before you get too wrapped up in the gift-giving spirit and succumb to all those tidings of good cheer, read the following article and curb your spending spree.



## Service members warned about being attractive targets

**CAPT. FABIENNE SUTER**  
Consolidated Legal Center  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — According to the most recent U.S. Better Business Bureau statistics, new car dealer complaints are the second most common consumer problem; used car dealer complaints are not far behind as the sixth most common consumer issue.

Unfortunately, Soldiers are frequently victims of dishonest sales associates.

"Service members, veterans and their families are attractive targets for good and bad lenders because they are often young, have a steady income. Many lenders know the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) requires you to have good financial practices, and you are easy to find and target for marketing due to your geographic location," said Capt. Sean Mahoney, chief of Legal Assistance, 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

Below are the most common scams and how to prevent falling into their traps.

**Bait and Switch.** The bait and switch scam happens when a Soldier responds to an advertisement for a vehicle, price or interest rate that is not really available. The Soldier then ends up buying a different, usually much more expensive, car. If you see an advertisement, even on post, for a deal that sounds too good to be true,

it probably is.

**Yo-Yo.** Yo-yo financing occurs when a Soldier understands his sale is "pending financing," but the dealer does not actually secure financing or lies about financing, and sells the trade-in. This practice usually occurs on a Friday when a Soldier thinks he bought the car, but then gets a call the following week that his "financing fell through." The dealer explains that this can only be fixed with a higher interest rate.

**Prior-Wreck.** Another tactic occurs when a sales rep does not label a car as a "prior-wreck," and a Soldier buys a car that was previously "totaled" or "salvaged." The dealer does not disclose the prior-wreck, and the Soldier ends up with an unreliable and sometimes dangerous car.

**Nondisclosure.** Frequently, sales reps do not properly calculate or disclose the correct finance charge, amount financed, payment total, date of payments, and more. The dealer is required by law to physically cover the numbers with you during the transaction.

**Possible Solutions.** One option, if you feel you have been duped by a sales rep, is to attempt to unwind your contract. First, stop driving the car and keep all paperwork in a safe place (not in the car). Second, see if the dealer will take back the car and return your down

payment and trade-in or its value. If the dealer agrees to the unwinding of the contract, you may need to pay the fair rental price for the time you used the car.

**Do Your Research.** Litigation remedies are available, but filing a lawsuit can be costly and time-consuming. The best way to protect yourself is to do your research before you even go to the dealership.

Research the price of the car. Research how much car insurance you will need to pay. Call the dealership first to negotiate, even if it offers to pick you up or send a taxi. Once you are at the dealership, it has the upper hand.

**Get Preapproved for a Loan.** Find a bank that will get you a preapproved loan before you go to the dealership. You will get a better interest rate, and you will stick to the amount that was preapproved. If you have to finance at the dealership, do not drive away with the car until the entire financing process is complete.

**Take a Battle Buddy.** Bring a noncommissioned officer or someone who is "smart" on cars to the dealership. Dealers prey on young buyers with little experience and even less credit.

**Do an Independent Inspection.** Have your own mechanic do an inspection on a used car. To avoid being sold a prior-wreck, also do a car facts check to get the history of the car.

### Army Legal Help

If you think you have been the victim of one of these deceptive practices or want more information before making a similar purchase, schedule an appointment to meet with a legal assistance attorney at USAG-HI Consolidated Legal Center located at 278 Aleshire Ave., Building 2037, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0663.

**Read the Entire Contract.** Make sure the dealer goes over every single number in the contract and make sure you understand the calculations. Ensure the dealer puts all promises in writing.

"As Soldiers, our battle drills teach us to plan for, detect and react to threats," Mahoney said. "Service members and their families need to approach buying an automobile with the same thoughtful planning, as the auto buying landscape is filled with lenders looking to make an extra buck off of customers who they know possess a steady income."

"Knowing the strategies the lenders employ to deceive you will better prepare you to identify these tactics and then how to react to protect yourself," Mahoney warns.

(Editor's note: Suter is the judge advocate at USAG-HI Consolidated Legal Center.)



## Chapel Holiday Services



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. 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)



#### 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. 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.

**Online NAF Property Sales Deadline** — Purchase items at a discount with online anonymous bids at himwr.com/nafe-auction. This sale includes different excess items, and auction bidding ends today.  
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; lessons are \$59. Get reservations at 655-0143.

**22 / Sunday**  
**NFL Sundays** — SB Tropics Warrior Zone offers all the NFL games. Facility opens half-hour before the first game starts.  
Tropics also will feature Monday and Thursday night NFL games. Patrons 18 and older are welcome. Call 655-5698.

**Kolekole Sunday Football** — Doors open 30 minutes 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. Call 655-4466.  
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.

**23 / 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., Mon-

CITY LIGHTS



HONOLULU — More than 60,000 people (above) crowd the lawn of Honolulu Hale, here, for the annual Honolulu City Lights parade and opening-night ceremony, recently. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell kicked off festivities by illuminating the city tree and simultaneously turning on the lights in the downtown corridor.

Honolulu City Lights is a monthlong celebration that continues through Jan. 1, 2014, during which children can enjoy carnival-type rides, including train rides that will operate between 6-10 p.m., nightly, or visit Santa in the gingerbread house in Honolulu Hale and tell him their wishes.

There will also be a free photo night with Santa, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 21, compliments of Kraft Foods Group in Hawaii. The Clowns of Aloha also will be on hand to give away balloons. (Photos by Robert Rock and Ron Slausson, City and County of Honolulu photographers)

days, 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 per ounce. Call 655-4466.

**26 / 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.

**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.

Ongoing

**SKIES Hula Classes** — Hula classes are offered as follows:  
•AMR, 8:30 a.m., Saturdays;  
•Schofield Hula 101, 9:15 a.m., 4 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.; and Intermediate, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays. Call 655-9818 or visit www.himwr.com.

**SKIES Unlimited Dance Classes** — AMR and Schofield Barracks Studios offer a variety of dance classes to include rhythm in motion, for 2 year olds; beginner/intermediate dance combo, for ballet; tap, for 3-5 and 6-9 years; hip-hop; and ballroom dancing. Call 655-9818 for details.

**Storage Shed Rental** — Rent a storage shed from either the FS (438-9402) or SB (655-9368) Auto Skills centers. Fee is \$40 (8x6x5, metal) or \$60 (8x6x6, plastic) per month.

**Vehicle Safety Check** — The SB (655-9368) and FS (438-9402) Auto Skills centers perform Hawaii safety checks on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointments.



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

Holiday  
Events

**Today**  
**“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. 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.

**Santa at Ala Moana** — Photos with Santa, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Mondays-Saturdays, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays, through Dec. 24, near Centerstage. Packages start at \$22.99.

**“Elf”** — Diamond Head Theatre presents the tale of Buddy, who mistakenly believes he’s an elf, 8 p.m. Performances are Thursday-Sunday, through Dec. 28.  
Purchase tickets by phone, 733-0274, or online at www.diamondheadtheatre.com.

**21 / Saturday**  
**Ewa Beach Holiday Parade** — Held from 10 a.m.-noon; begins at Ilima Intermediate School.

**Santa at Pearlridge Center** — Downtown Center Court, Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Varied daily schedule through Dec. 24. Photos packages from \$20.

**Honolulu City Lights Trolley**

**Tours** — Tour the Honolulu City Lights display nightly. First tour departs at 6:30 p.m., through Dec. 30 (except Dec. 24-25), from Ward Warehouse. Cost \$6; free to children 3 and under.  
Proceeds go to the Hawaii Foodbank. Visit www.wardcenters.com for ticket information.

**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, SB.

Ongoing

**DeCA Scholarships** — Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available at commissaries or online at www.military.scholar.org.

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, not emailed or faxed.

**Jewish Services** — Weekly worship services are now held at 7:30 p.m., Fridays, at Aloha Jewish Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.  
No Saturday morning services or Monday Bible studies are offered at JBPHH.  
Service members interested in Jewish Bible study or keiki Hebrew School (Sunday School) call 348-4560 or visit www.chabaofhawaii.com.

Saturday services are available at the Ala Moana Hotel. Call 735-8161.

**Pearlridge Farmers’ Market** — Browse more than 40 booths featuring Oahu produce and locally inspired artisan foods, 8 a.m.-noon, ev-

See Community Calendar, B-7

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

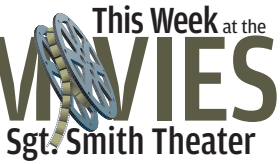
**Gospel Worship**  
•Sunday, noon. at MPC  
•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

**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



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



**Free Birds**  
(PG)  
Fri., Dec. 20, 7 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m.

**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa**  
(R)  
Sat., Dec. 21, 2 p.m.



**Thor: The Dark World**  
(PG-13)  
Sat., Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

**Enders Game**  
(PG-13)  
Sun., Dec. 22, 6 p.m.  
Thurs., Dec. 26, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Calendar abbreviations			
8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command	ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA	Recreation	SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division	BCT: Brigade Combat Team	FRG: Family Readiness Group	TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center
ACS: Army Community Service	BSB: Brigade Support Battalion	FS: Fort Shafter	USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan	Co.: Company	HMR: Helemano Military Reservation	USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific
AFTB: Army Family Team Building	CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services	IPC: Island Palm Communities	WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation	EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program	PFC: Physical Fitness Center	
	FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and	SB: Schofield Barracks	





Teacher Kristin Veralobos (top, center) and her Hale Kula 1st grade class share a “shaka” moment prior to the awarding of a \$10,000 technology donation to the school. The class demonstrated its computer programming coding abilities to visitors, including Governor Neil Abercrombie.

# Hale Kula students teach ‘Coding’

Story and photos by  
**JACK WIERS**  
Pau Hana Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The “Hour of Code” global event initiative that teaches students the basics of coding/computer programming found several leading state of Hawaii officials, including the governor, at Hale Kula elementary school, Dec. 13.

Governor Neil Abercrombie, state and Army officials gathered, here, for the presentation of a \$10,000 check by code.org for the purchase of technology equipment and resources for the school.

“You are the pioneers here, and young people we are very proud of,” Abercrombie told the Hale Kula student body at the presentation.

Hale Kula was the only school in Hawaii selected to receive the \$10,000 funding grant for the school’s participation in the program.

**Hands-on teaching**

Before and after the presentation, state and Army officials and other visitors received firsthand computer programming instruction — from the students.

Kristin Villalobos’s first grade class came to the presentation armed with iPads and a “watch-me,” can-do attitude as they demonstrated coding to visitors who entered the school for the event.

“It’s easy,” said 6-year-old Victoria Burton, who was instructed to show one visitor how to enter a line of code on her school-provided iPad.

Sure enough, it took only minutes for

Burton’s instruction to bare coding fruit. Following the formal presentation, the governor and other officials also received coding instruction.

**Hale Kula part of the big picture**

“The Hour of Code” was a global event held during Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 9-15. More than 3.2 million students in 161 countries signed up to participate, including all of Hale Kula’s teachers and students.

“(Hale Kula) is on the front line in the teaching of coding,” said Kathryn Matayoshi, superintendent, Hawaii State Department of Education.

She noted only 10 percent of schools nationwide teach computer programming/coding.

**Hour of Code**  
Learn more about the donation and the Hour of Code at [code.org](http://code.org).

Computer programming jobs, said the governor, during his remarks, are growing “three times faster than the rate that students are entering the field.”

Hale Kula Principal Jan Iwase stressed that her school has a commitment to embracing 21st century skills into the schools curriculum. Coding is one element of the strategy, she said.

“We want to be sure that our students receive the knowledge, skills and strategies to help them succeed in this technological world,” said Iwase.



Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie (left) applauds the awarding of a check for \$10,000 to Hale Kula Elementary School representatives, Dec. 13. The school received the award by Code.org for introducing computer programming to students.

# 25th ID spouse earns top three ‘Star’ finish

Story and photo by  
**ROBERT DOZIER**  
Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation  
Installation Management Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO — A Schofield Barracks spouse was a top three finisher in the Army Entertainment’s 2013 Rising Star competition held this past weekend, here.

Joyce Ann Severino was selected to participate in the San Antonio finals by a panel of Army Installation Management judges, after her competition win at U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Rising Star event in October.

The mother of a 2-year-old daughter is also the wife of Sgt. Jesus Severino, Company F, 2-27th Infantry Regiment, “Wolfhounds,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

“I am so happy and excited, and I appreciate the votes I received from everyone,” said Severino, about her finish. “The advice we received from the judges about proper breathing, how to perform and connect with the audience was priceless.”

Sgt. Christiana Ball from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was voted Army Entertainment’s 2013 Rising Star in the competition that ended Sunday.

Ball was chosen from a field of 12 vocalists from Army garrisons around the world. She edged out family members Severino, along with Sarah Hopkins from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., in the final round of competition.

See ‘Star,’ B-6



Joyce Severino (right), a military spouse from Schofield Barracks, stands with Sarah Hopkins (left) and Sgt. Christiana Ball as the three are introduced as the finalists in the 2013 Operation Rising Star production, Saturday.





# 2013 YEAR IN *Review*



## Garrison, USAG-HI community building for future

**JACK WIERS**  
Pau Hana Editor

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii community members witnessed a year of building in 2013 as the garrison stood poised for continued growth.

**A building year**  
Garrison welcomed the dedication of new barracks, the building of new family homes and breaking ground for an extensive new building and renovation of Hale Kula Elementary School.

The \$33,200,000 project for Schofield Bar-

racks' Hale Kula, announced in March, is funded primarily through federal grants and is now underway. When completed in 2015, the new complex will include a new two-story, 10-classroom building, a Library/Student Services Building, an Administration Building and a covered play court.

The facility serves approximately 900 children of military personnel.

The new \$35.3 million Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing on Montague Street, dedicated Oct. 30, now houses Soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion and with 2nd Stryker

Brigade Combat Team.

Moving trucks began rolling into Helemano Military Reservation, beginning in February, and delivered household goods to 146 new homes in 2013. Schofield Barracks' Kalakaua community began opening 296 new housing units in August, and Aliamanu Military Reservation's Valley View community witnessed the completion of two phases of homebuilding completion in February and November. The Hibiscus neighborhood also welcomed another 137 new homes during the year.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation reopened the Schofield Barracks Stoneman Field athletic complex in the fall following two years of building and renovation.

week garrison appearances and activities in January that brought Soldiers, family members and NFL stars together. One example was the appearance by football superstars Drew Brees, Eli Manning and Larry Fitzgerald at Wheeler Elementary School as part of the "Play 60" NFL initiative.

Concerts included movie and television star Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, country superstar Toby Keith (May 4) and Fourth of July Spectacular entertainment by OneRepublic.

**A year of remembrances**  
The Army's history in Hawaii continued to be highlighted through a year of remembrances. During one, Gold Star mothers and families were recognized during a Lei of Honor and Remembrance Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Sept. 29. The event, hosted by Survivor Outreach Services (part of Army Community Service, DFMWR), captured the attention of the state for its solemn recognition of family sacrifice.

**A year to be entertained**  
Through the efforts of FMWR, the NFL and the USO, it was a big year with big-name entertainment for USAG-HI.

The National Football League's annual Pro Bowl event provided the backdrop for game



ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Maj. Michael Post, Support Operations, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and wife Kari stand on the porch of their new home in the new Hibiscus neighborhood, here, in November. More than 4,000 new homes have been added to USAG-HI during the past 10 years. The opening of new homes in Aliamanu, Helemano and Schofield Barracks highlighted 2013. (Photo courtesy Island Palm Communities)



WASHINGTON — Five Leilehua High School Army JROTC students pose for a photo after defeating more than 800 teams to win the top U.S. Army Service Award at CyberPatriot V, March 14-15, here. From left to right are Team Mentor retired Senior Master Sgt. Mike Herr, Cadet/Team Capt. Sharon Thepsenavong, cadets Michael Grajales, David Williams, Seth Allen, Kawika Lavarias, and Leilehua Senior Army Instructor/Team Coach retired Lt. Col. Nick Spiridigliozzi. (Photo by Charles Fazio)

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



HONOLULU — Jeff Saturday, Green Bay Packers center No. 63, calls out the coin toss for the Nationals before the start of the 2013 Pro Bowl, held at Aloha Stadium, here, Jan. 27. NFL stars made appearances at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter during the NFL's All Star week prior to the game. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Johnson, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs)



KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii — Army units and garrison organizations continue to play a role in community environmental issues in 2013. Maj. Matthew Scher, operations officer, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, packs soil around a tree he planted with a community member at the West Hawaii Veteran's Cemetery, here, Sept. 21. Soldiers and more than 120 community members and students from the University of Hawaii at West Hawaii planted 500 trees as part of the volunteer tree-planting effort, aimed at restoring dry-land forests on the island. (Photo by Capt. Catherine McNair, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Hundreds of six-person teams, comprised of civilians and military from across Oahu, compete in the 19th annual Swamp Romp, here, Feb. 16. The "romp" took competitors through a grueling five-mile course of mud, obstacles and exhilaration. The 8th Theater Sustainment Command's senior noncommissioned officers team won the men's masters division competition. (Sgt. Marcus Fichtl, 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Country music sensation Toby Keith performs for a crowd of 12,000 Army Hawaii Soldiers and family members during a USO concert, here, May 4. (Photo by Allan Criss, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation)





SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Hale Kula Elementary School students share their electronic portfolios with U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (right) and Hawaii State Rep. K. Mark Takai during a visit to the school, here, April 3. The visit dovetailed with an announcement of a major \$33.6 million new building and renovation of the school that is comprised of 99 percent military family members. (Photo by Principal Jan Iwase)



ABOVE MOKULEIA, Hawaii — In August, “Hawaii Army Weekly” readers learn more about the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program. BOSS is designed to help Soldiers to get out of the barracks and into the community and spread their wings. (Photo courtesy Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The March announcement of new and renovated Hale Kula elementary school buildings and facilities, along with construction grants of more than \$33.6 million, gives an educational facility boost to the Schofield Barracks community. (Courtesy Hawaii Department of Education)



HONOLULU — Tia Briggs (kneeling), wife of fallen Air Force Staff Sgt. Raymond Briggs, presents her husband’s boots as son Kai looks on during the Lei of Honor and Remembrance Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, here, Sept. 29, for Gold Star mothers and families. (Photo by Jack Wiers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs)

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JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Joyce Severino, a 25th ID spouse, receives a congratulatory hug for winning U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Operation Rising Star competition, Oct. 24, from runner-up Sgt. 1st Class Deighton Little. Third-place finisher Spc. Eulogio Montes (left) looks on. Severino went on to place in the top three at the Installation Management Command’s finals in December. (Photo by Jack Wiers, Pau Hana Editor)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Drew Brown, a guitarist for the band OneRepublic, tests out a gun at the engagement skills trainer during a visit to Soldiers and family members of the 73rd Signal Company, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, here, July 3. (Photo by Spc. David Innes, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Fireworks illuminate Schofield Barracks during the finale of the 2013 Fourth of July Spectacular, here. A crowd of more than 30,000 attended the daylong festival that featured the rock band OneRepublic. (Photo by Kayla Overton, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs)



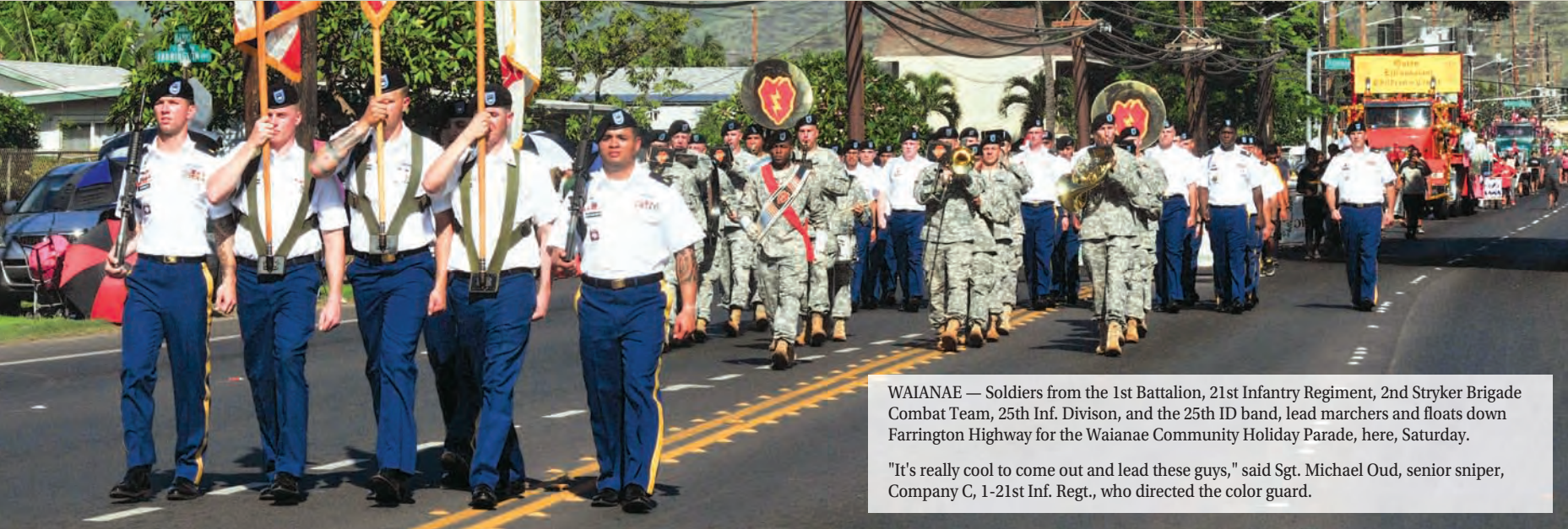
WASHINGTON — The 9th Mission Support Command’s Army Ten-Miler women’s team wins first place for the Army Reserve women’s category at this year’s 29th annual race, held here, Oct. 20, when approximately 35,000 runners showed up to run the 10-mile trek through the streets of our nation’s Capitol. (Photo by Capt. Liana Kim, 9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs)



AIEA — Gen. Vincent Brooks (right), commander, U.S. Army-Pacific, shakes the hand of Capt. Edward “Flip” Klein, one of the wounded warriors honored during the annual military appreciation night held at Aloha Stadium, here, Nov. 30, as the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors football program hosted the Army Black Knights in a football match-up. (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



HOLIDAY MARCH



WAIANAE — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Divison, and the 25th ID band, lead marchers and floats down Farrington Highway for the Waianae Community Holiday Parade, here, Saturday.

"It's really cool to come out and lead these guys," said Sgt. Michael Oud, senior sniper, Company C, 1-21st Inf. Regt., who directed the color guard.

‘Star’: Operation Rising Star places local spouse on the Army’s world stage

CONTINUED FROM B-3

Operation Rising Star gives performers a unique opportunity to entertain their comrades around the world and fulfill their own personal musical ambitions. The 12 finalists competed against each other in three elimination rounds, first narrowing the field to six finalists. Each round of competition was recorded and was made available online for viewing.

The competitors were mentored and judged by professionals in the industry. Returning this year to Operation Rising Star were vocalist and vocal

coach Debra Byrd (from television’s “The Voice”), vocalist and recording country artist Michael Peterson and 12th Sgt. Maj. of the Army (retired)

Watch Online

All performances have been recorded and are available online at [www.OpRisingStar.com](http://www.OpRisingStar.com). More information about the contest, the contestants and how to view the finals can be found at [www.armyentertainment.net](http://www.armyentertainment.net).

Jack Tilley.

The judge’s scores were combined with online votes from fans from around the world to determine who moved ahead in the competition.

“I feel honored and humbled,” said Ball. “Right now, my husband and I are going to celebrate a little, but soon it will be time to get back to the drill. My team back home needs me.”

Many Soldiers in the competition are hoping

their performance at Operation Rising Star will help them secure a position in the 2014 Soldier Show, also sponsored by Army Entertainment.

Thirty garrisons participated in preliminary rounds leading to the top 12 live competition. The 18 not represented in the finals have been contacted to encourage their active duty, Guard and Reserve performers to submit audition packages for the Soldier Show.





THE  
MEAT & POTATOES OF LIFE

LISA SMITH MOLINARI  
Contributing Writer

# Guilt can trip the ‘merry’ out of Christmas

I’m being haunted.

Not by swaddle-jawed, clanking Jacob Marley or the dark and towering Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come.

No, the spirit that appears almost daily in my drafty old base house at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, is not your conventional, run of the mill apparition. It is a specter of a different sort, but terrifying nonetheless.

During the time of year when sugar plums should be dancing in my head, my thoughts are being tormented by none other than, yep, you guessed it, Marie Osmond.

As far as I know, she is alive and well and living somewhere former 70’s teen idols and QVC doll designers live, like Santa Barbara or Salt Lake City. But despite her current status as a live human being, her image still haunts my visions.

Why, just the other day, I was reaching for two sticks of butter that I was about to add to a mixing bowl of sugar for a double batch of Christmas cookies, when suddenly, I hear her, speaking directly to me through the television in our kitchen like some kind of Dickensian holiday poltergeist.

“I’m Marie Osmond, and I lost 50 pounds on Nutra-System.”

No sooner did the words leave her television spokesperson’s, plumped up, lipsticked mouth, than I felt it: pure, unadulterated GUILT. How was I supposed to bake cookies in that condition?

Thanks, Marie. Like some kind of yuletide plastic surgeon, you just sucked the merry right out of Christmas.

I mean, I’m happy for her and all that, but whose idea was it to run diet commercials during the holidays anyway? Isn’t there some local ordinance, federal law or Supreme Court decision dictating that all diet and weight loss advertisements must start after the New Year?

After we’ve baked our cookies, thickened our gravies and slurped our nog? After we’ve eaten too much fudge, wailed on a bowl of mixed nuts and downed too much Irish Cream? After we’ve blown off the gym, lazed around in our new PJs watching Seinfeld reruns and sucked on half a dozen candy canes?

I get it. It’s not a great idea to go on a monthlong holiday hog-wild binge, or we might find ourselves 20 pounds heavier when January rolls around. But can’t we just enjoy the traditional seasonal delights without feelings of guilt, defeat and self-loathing?

Apparently, just like Halloween candy displays in August and stores opening for Christmas shopping on Thanksgiving, the post-New Year’s diet season has now infiltrated Christmas.

I fully intend to fight off the dilution of our holiday traditions by corporations wishing to brainwash us into buying their products earlier and earlier every year. I won’t buy Halloween candy until October, I won’t Christmas shop on Thanksgiving, and I will bake as many Christmas cookies as I please.

Lord knows, this time next month, I’ll be gnawing on celery sticks and coughing up a lung at the base gym, so I’d better enjoy myself while I can. However, try as I might to stop it, I know consumerism will creep into our houses and our lives, haunting us to change our merry ways.

So, while we are packing our bags this holiday season to go over the river and through the woods to grandmother’s house, we’d better throw in a few extra pairs of undies, because we’re going on a guilt trip too.

*(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 and civilian newspapers and at [www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com).)*



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ery Saturday at the Pearlridge Center Downtown. Visit [www.haleiwafarmersmarket.com/pearlridge.html](http://www.haleiwafarmersmarket.com/pearlridge.html).

**Legal Aid** — The SB and FS Legal Assistance offices provide free legal assistance to active duty personnel, family members, retirees and certain Department of Defense personnel.

The offices provide assistance on issues including es-

tate planning services (including wills and advance medical directives), consumer affairs, guardianship, divorce, taxes, landlord-tenant law, military administrative matters and insurance claims. Notary service and powers of attorney services available. Visit SB Bldg. 2037 (655-8607), or FS Bldg. 330, Rm. 110C (438-2627).

**Naval Air Museum** — This nonprofit museum, located in Bldg. 1792, Midway Rd., Kalaheo Airport. Kapolei, focuses on the history of aviation in Hawaii. Cost is \$7 adults and \$5 for keiki under 18. Visit [www.nambp.org](http://www.nambp.org) or call 682-3982.