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Cultural pride

25th ID Soldiers share their roots with fellow deployed forces.

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Memorial Day

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Award winning

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25th ID mourns four losses

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
News Release

The Department of Defense announced, Wednesday, the deaths of four Soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Pfc. Thomas Allers, 23, Plainwell, Mich.; Pfc. William Blevins, 21, Sardinia, Ohio; Pvt. Andrew Krippner, 20, Garland, Texas; and Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Lorenzo, 33, Chula Vista, Calif. died May 23, in the Kunar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device.

They were all infantrymen assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division.

The deployment was Lorenzo's third to Iraq and Afghanistan. His awards and decorations include, among others, the

Army Commendation Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Purple Heart.

The deployment was Blevins' first. His awards and decorations include, among others, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Purple Heart.

The deployment was Krippner's first. His awards and decorations include, among others, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Purple Heart.

The deployment was Allers' first. His awards and decorations include, among others, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Purple Heart.

JTF-HD preps for Category 4 hurricane in annual exercise

DARRELL D. AMES
Joint Task Force Homeland Defense Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM – Joint Task Force Homeland Defense, or JTF-HD, played host to the Department of Defense's "Makani Pahili," Hawaiian for strong winds, conference, April 27, at Lockwood Hall, here.

The conference covered final planning and a master scenario event list synchronization for the annual exercise, slated to run from May 31-June 8.

"The purpose of Makani Pahili 2011 is to prepare (for) and respond to a Category 4 hurricane on Oahu, in an interagency-operational environment, as outlined in the Hawaii Catastrophic Hurricane Operations Plan," said Jeffrey Hensel, training and exercise planner, JTF-HD.

Chamber of Commerce hosts concert to honor service members



Tech. Sgt. Tamiko Boone (left), U.S. Air Force, and Staff Sgt. Samuel Hesch (right), HIARNG, sing together during the 2011 Combined Military Band Concert at the Hawaii Theatre, May 21.

Performers included 25th ID, 111th Army National Guard bands

Story and Photo by CHRIS AGUINALDO
Contributing Writer

HONOLULU – The sounds of freedom reverberated throughout the historic Hawaii Theatre, as service members mustered for the 2011 Combined Military Band Concert, here, May 21.

Musicians from the 25th Infantry Division Band, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii, Marine Forces Pacific Band, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, U.S. Coast Guard Band and the 111th Army National Guard Band took the stage for a free program of patriotic favorites.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii, told the audience that the musicians "just don't play concerts. They deploy forward when their

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

Engineers join aviators for air-ground integration

Story and Photos by 2ND LT. KYLE SUCHOMSKI
65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA – Enemy targets that have been spotted in the open, but are out of range, are difficult and dangerous scenarios for Soldiers on the battlefield, as these targets are an explicit but unattainable threat.

Fortunately, with close air support assets in the vicinity, ground forces can engage and destroy these threats from a distance.

Close air support is air action against a hostile enemy target in the proximity of friendly forces.

Soldiers of the 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, teamed up with the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Bde., 25th Infantry Division, for joint training operations in close air support, here, recently.

Close air support operations are inherently complex and require clear coordination between rotary aircraft crews and forces on the ground to prevent fratricide. For this reason, practice and training are essential in air-ground integration operations.

"Working with (2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., 25th CAB,) has been great," said Lt. Col Daniel Koprowski, commander, 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. "They're very professional and have offered us a training opportunity we wouldn't have been able to execute on our own."

Much like artillery support, Soldiers call in close air support from a distance, via radio. These communications are generally made from ground forces on the scene directly to the pilots above.

If they can safely accommodate nearby Soldiers, pilots and their crews will confirm the request and neutralize or destroy enemy targets with strafing or rocket fire from above.



1st Lt. John McCrone (left, on radio), requests air support from a helicopter above, while Staff Sgt. Adam Leslie (center), pulls security. Soldiers of the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, teamed up with the 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, for joint training operations at PTA, recently.

USAG-O cases colors, disestablishes command

Story and Photo by MIKE EGAMI
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – In a bittersweet ceremony, the inactivation and color-casing of U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu was held here, May 24.

The ceremony showed appreciation and dignity for the tremendous work and responsibility that USAG-O personnel accomplished in caring for Soldiers and families during decades of support to the Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks communities.

"Over all these years, this garrison has provided invaluable support services to our customers – the Soldiers and civilian employees who work on our installations, the family members who live there, our military retirees, veterans and others," said Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-Hawaii.

USAG-O had coordinated and integrated base operations support for all organizations on Oahu's Army installations. The Oahu garrison's goal had been to ensure the health, safety and well-being for all – resulting in



Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Jannone, senior enlisted leader, USAG-O, and Linda Keller, garrison manager, case the garrison's colors during a disestablishment ceremony at Fort Shafter, May 24.

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25th ID celebrates Asian-Pacific culture



Downrange events underscore significance of traditional dances and other prominent aspects of Asian-Pacific Islanders’ culture

SGT. JENNIFER SARDAM
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — Service members from throughout U.S. Division-Center recently commemorated Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month at Camp Liberty, here, with a guest speaker and a performance with a variety of cultural dances.

“We really want to educate on some of the things that have happened in the culture,” said Sgt. 1st Class Marliser Fergerson, advisor, Equal Opportunity, 25th Infantry Division, and the primary organizer of the event.

“It’s (Asian and Pacific Islanders’) time to be highlighted on what they have done ... and still continue to do,” she said.

“If one person that shows up to this observance learns something about this culture — maybe why they dance the way they do, or why they speak the way they do — it will give them a totally different outlook on them, on the culture (and) on life,” she said.

The event encompassed a number of Asian and Pacific Islander dance styles, from a war dance of the Maori tribesmen of New Zealand to a traditional Saipan dance, where women welcomed home men returning from battle.

“In our (Samoan) culture, you may not understand what the song may be, because it may be in a native language or whatever, but our hands and our eyes tell the story,” said Cpl. Theresa Faoa, promotions noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th ID.

The various forms of dance seen on stage, here, originated in lands far removed from the desert environment of Iraq, but to some service members, the scenes were familiar and delivered a touch of home.

Many 25th ID Soldiers recognized a mix of the same cultural influences found in Hawaii, where nuances of Tahitian, Japanese, Samoan, Fijian and other cultures can be found.

“For us (in the 25th ID), that’s home,” Fergerson said. “When we leave here, that’s where we go back to, and that’s home. That’s where our families are.”

Sgt. Mose Matautia, Headquarters Support Company, HHBN, 25th



Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy | 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from USD-Center perform during a celebration in honor of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, at Camp Liberty, Iraq, May 20.

ID, was honored to showcase some of his own cultural roots through dances like the Faataupati, a traditional Samoan men’s dance also known as the “slap dance.”

“I take pride in where I come from, and I want to show everybody else where we come from, how we live (and) our culture,” he said.

“Understanding those differences is important,” Matautia said. “I think that’s the main reason why I wanted to partake in the event.”

Although the event centered on recognizing significant achieve-

ments of people with Asian or Pacific Island descent, it was an exercise in teamwork that benefited all.

“You see different races; you see Hispanic ... and you see African-Americans up there, so it’s not just about being an Asian-Pacific Islander,” Faoa said. “It’s just coming together as a group, and through our diversity, we’re able to just mesh as one.

“That’s how the military is, period,” she said. “You see that on the stage, but then, we also see that in uniform, too.”

325th BSB settles into new mission

1ST LT. KATHLEEN PULLIAM
3rd Brigade Combat Team,
25th Infantry Division

AFGHANISTAN — The 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, has taken the reigns of support missions in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan, here, recently.

Based out of Forward Operating Base Fenty, Soldiers in Company A, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT, took over all supply support activity, ammunition transfers and holding points, sling-loads and the delivering of fuel and water to smaller FOBs and combat outposts in Regional Command East.

They also inherited hundreds of miles of travel through mountainous roads that must be traversed to sustain the FOBs and combat outposts in the “Task Force Broncos” area of operations.

Co. B, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT, took over the maintenance and readiness of vehicles, weapons, generators and radios for the brigade headquarters, as well as operations of the entry control point, or ECP, at FOB Fenty, the third largest FOB in theater.

“The Soldiers at the ECP are doing a tremendous job,” said 1st Sgt. Neil Craig, first sergeant, Co. B, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT. “By ensuring that every measure is in place to only permit authorized personnel and equipment onto the FOB, they secure the safety of the vast coalition forces and civilian contractors. They do all of this despite extremely long hours and taxing weather conditions.”

Co. C, the medical company for 325th BSB, 3rd BCT, now handles all medical evacuations and patient care for TF Bronco. The company runs the only level-two-plus medical facility in the area, which includes a Forward Surgical Team, dental, labs, X-rays, a pharmacy, physical therapy, behavioral health, routine medical appointments and preventative medicine.

Providers also work a rotation to all the outlying FOBs and combat outposts,



Courtesy Photo

Pvt. Adrian Thomas, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, gives an Afghan local “jingle truck” a good check, at the ECP for FOB Fenty, in the province of Nangarhar, Afghanistan, recently.

which ensures all Soldiers are provided with medical care.

At FOB Fenty, Headquarters and Headquarters Co. has grown to encompass the Base Defense Operations Center, internal base operations, a personal security detachment/quick reaction force and Afghan partnership teams located at two different FOBs. This is all in addition to the traditional battalion headquarters, battalion staff sections — personnel, intelligence, plans and operations, supply, signal and support operations — and a headquarters platoon.

BDOC Soldiers maintain the security of the FOB. They fortify fighting positions and make general improvements to the security of the FOB and surrounding area. BDOC also monitors everything that is happening on and around the FOB, controls the alerts of both pending and immediate threats, and consistently partners with local Afghans to make FOB Fenty a safer establishment.

Further, BDOC Soldiers ensure all FOB tenants’ concerns and needs are taken

care of through their integrated staff, including Afghans.

“Working in Base Ops truly is like running a small city,” said Capt. Daniel Callahan, base ops officer in charge, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT. “Everyone brings their concerns and issues to us, and we try to make everyone as happy as possible — within reason.”

Afghan partnership teams consist of 18 Soldiers, who are partnered with the Afghan national army’s 5th Combat Service Support Bn., with whom they will train, work and live with for the next year.

“We intend to focus on the partnership with the ANA and increase their involvement in our combat logistic patrols in order to resupply both ANA and U.S. Army units concurrently,” said Maj. Larry Johnson, executive officer, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT. “The joint operations will result in increased confidence of the ANA in their ability to be a sustaining force, when coalition forces withdraw from Afghanistan.”



Spc. Marcus Fichtl | 8th MP Bde. Public Affairs, 8th TSC

Casing colors

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Capt. Megan Spangler (left), commander, and 1st Sgt. Andrew Shaw, first sergeant, both with the 58th Military Police Company, 728th MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, case the company’s guidon during a deployment ceremony at Hamilton Field, here, May, 13.

The 58th MP Co. is deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and it is relieving the 552nd MP Co., 728th MP Bn., 8th MP Bde., which is redeploying from Afghanistan in the coming months. This deployment is the 58th MP Co.’s second to Afghanistan.



Spc. David Lurch III, (kneeling, right) combat medic, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, shows ABP soldiers how to properly wrap a leg bone fracture during a medical training exercise at Torkham Fire Base, May 19.

3rd BCT, Afghan medics come together for learning, laughs

Story and Photo by
SPC. HILLARY RUSTINE
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A rustic tent sheltered Soldiers from the harsh Afghanistan heat, while men and women singing in a foreign language and dancing together were projected on a white sheet, hanging from a ceiling, as Soldiers nudged each other in enthusiastic delight.

Combat medics assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, “Task Force Steel,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and Afghan Border Police soldiers, recently shared a good laugh during a lunchtime break, before they continued training.

Afghan and U.S. Soldiers were participating in ongoing joint medical training at Fire Base Torkam, here.

“All right, where did we leave off?” said Spc. Erik Michelson, combat medic, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT.

The heads of the students snapped to follow the

words and gestures of the interpreter. After a few seconds, many voices raised and gestures were made to the leg bones.

“That’s right, we were learning how to splint a leg bone, so let’s try it on each other,” Michelson said.

The ABP soldiers eagerly took the supplies and quickly broke down into groups of three to demonstrate their knowledge of splinting procedures.

“We understand each other even without the interpreter. They watch and we gesture a lot,” said Spc. David Lurch III, combat medic, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT. “The language hasn’t really been a problem; we just work around it. (Although,) we had some misunderstandings, such as the ‘nose hose’ — a tube placed in the nose to open the airway.

“The training is a little slower, because we have to translate everything to teach them,” he said, “but overall, we have overcome the language barrier.”

Both the U.S. Army Soldiers’ and ABP soldiers’ willingness to exchange ideas and humor helped overcome the language barrier.

“We joke around together, they play jokes on us, and we joke with them,” said Pfc. Jimmy Serrano, combat medic, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT. “They have learned a little English to communicate with us better.”

Even with the jokes and budding friendships, both groups took instructions very seriously.

“They don’t have full-time combat medics, they do have a doctor and a similar aid station, but (they have) no medical treatment during patrols,” Serrano said, comparing the training of U.S. Army Soldiers to that of ABP. “This makes immediate medical training in high demand.”

“This training is very helpful to us, because we are learning how to take care of our friends during combat,” said Sgt. Gull Rahman, ABP.

Through teaching, learning, shared lunches, laughter and much gesturing, barriers were broken. Soldiers are more confident in their own ability to properly provide medical treatment to their friends in combat, no matter what language they speak.

CSF brings balance, resilience to 84th Eng. Bn. community

2ND LT. JYMETTE WATROUS

Forward Support Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng Brigade,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, is creating an Army of balanced, healthy, self-confident Soldiers, families and Army civilians, whose resilience enables them to thrive in an era of high operational tempo and persistent conflict.

The unit is using the five pillars of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, or CSF, which are physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual fitness.

The 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., recognizes the absolute necessity for CSF, and it has taken progressive steps to improve the quality of life and overall readiness of its Soldiers.

“I think you’ll find that in every high-performing unit, Soldier readiness is directly linked to mission success,” said Lt. Col. Jerry Farnsworth, commander, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. “In these units, leaders care and are involved with their Soldiers and families.

“The CSF program allows leaders to build resiliency and coping skills that will better serve our Soldiers and families, keeping them strong no matter what the challenge is,” he said.

CSF is a program based on more than 30 years of study that strives to provide Soldiers, families and Army civilians with the tools they need to thrive in the Army and lead balanced, healthy lives.

CSF provides individual assessments, tailored virtual training, classroom training and resilience experts to all Department of

Defense personnel and their families.

During one of the battalion’s recent safety days, a Unit Risk Inventory, or URI, was conducted on all Soldiers and family members present at the event. A URI is a group survey that is designed to identify high-risk behaviors and/or attitudes within an organization.

When the results came in, Farnsworth was able to see which CSF pillars the battalion was lacking in, and therefore, what areas needed improvement. Resiliency training was an area both Soldiers and families could benefit from.

“Resiliency training is teaching Soldiers and families how to manage and cope with the difficulties they face, and how to maximize the abundant aid and opportunities the Army provides for them,” said 1st Sgt. Pierre Mize, master resiliency trainer, or MRT, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde.

Based on URI results, a team — comprised of Mize; Chaplain (Capt.) Mark McCorkle, MRT; and 2nd Lt. Jymette Watrous, safety officer, all with the 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. — was established to tailor the battalion’s CSF program.

The team developed a plan that will bring Army opportunities to the doorstep of the battalion; this opportunity includes bringing in Military Family Life Consultants, financial advisors and medical personnel to speak with Soldiers and families on a regular basis. They also developed a new plan that will provide more training on the consideration of others and resiliency.

The battalion will continue focusing on spiritual events; fami-



Capt. Chris Ren | 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade., 8th TSC

Spc. David Alex, petroleum supply specialist, Forward Support Company, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, runs alongside students of Millani Uka Elementary, as they navigate an obstacle course, May 20. Physical and social events, when tied in with CSF, can help bring balance to Soldiers’ lives.

ly readiness groups; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation resources; and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers programs. These programs, resources and events will provide the balance that Soldiers and families need to navigate the challenges of Army life.

Armywide program advocates resilience through spirituality

NANCY RASMUSSEN

Army News Service

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — The words spiritual and spirituality mean many things to many people.

According to the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness spiritual fitness module, spirituality is the human spirit or the essential core of a person.

CSF, an Armywide program, offers assessment tools to help Soldiers, families and Department of Army civilians become resilient — not only physically, but in areas of emotional, family, social and spiritual fitness as well.

Based on the premise that spiritual fitness defines the deepest part of the individual, resiliency requires a conscientious strengthening of beliefs, principles and values, according to CSF.

“Not all people believe in God or any supreme being, but they still possess a spiritual being within them,” said Chaplain (Col.) Stephen Cook, garrison chaplain, here.

While everyone experiences situations that can test the human spirit, CSF suggests that these struggles can be a sign of strength and courage. These are opportunities to re-examine individual beliefs to redefine lives and, ultimately, become more spiritually fit and resilient during the most challenging times.

In this dimension, CSF considers spirituality as that which you value most deeply or hold sacred, or as spiritual struggles and the tension or conflict within yourself, with others or with a higher power about your deepest values or what you hold sacred.

“While we as chaplains see spiritual fitness to be a religious issue, spirituality transcends the day-to-day stuff of life and looks at something much deeper and meaningful and broader in scope,” Cook said. “I think spirituality allows

anyone to look at a bigger picture, instead of just the foxhole they are in. In all of this, if the spiritual nature of an individual is tapped, it should give hope for the future.

“Whatever enemy you may be fighting — a combatant, a bad memory or a problem back at home — your human spirit can sustain you,” he added.

The Army CSF spiritual fitness module aims to help strengthen an individual’s set of beliefs, principles or values to sustain beyond family, institutional and societal sources of strength, which ultimately results in a person becoming more spiritually fit and resilient during times of greatest challenge.

The CSF website suggests ways for individuals to build spiritual resiliency:

- Develop an attitude of gratitude.
- Learn the value of being part of something larger than self.
- Explore the benefits of being connected to a community.
- Look for and appreciate the positive things that happen.
- Learn why people tend to overemphasize the negative.
- Discover why and how to intentionally seek the good stuff.
- Practice journaling to increase awareness of the positive things life offers you.



The CSF Global Assessment Tool, featuring the confidential spiritual fitness module and feedback, is available at www.army.mil/csf.



A Hope Chapel praise team performs at a spring prayer breakfast for the 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC. The event was held at the K Quad dining facility, Schofield Barracks, May 18.

45th Sust. Bde. gets inspiration, focuses on power of prayer for spiritual fitness

Story and Photo by

SGT. CHRIS HUDDLESTON

45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sust. Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers and officers shared breakfast and fellowship during 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command’s spring prayer breakfast, May 18, at the K Quad dining facility, here.

Chaplain (Col.) David Neetz, command chaplain, 8th TSC, was the guest speaker for the event, delivering a sermon focused on the importance of prayer.

“The prayer breakfast provides Soldiers and leaders the chance to spiritually reflect and to have a moment of relaxation,” said Sgt. Jaimey Swafford, chaplain’s assistant, 524th Combat Sust. Support Battalion, 45th Sust. Bde. “This, in

turn, builds spiritual resiliency and sustainment.”

A Hope Chapel praise team provided musical entertainment during the event, performing a number of contemporary Christian songs and time-honored hymns, such as “Amazing Grace.”

“Our brigade is absolutely blessed by having the opportunity to have such a dynamic prayer breakfast,” Swafford said. “The Hope Chapel praise team adds so much spiritual energy.”

Prayer breakfasts and other chaplain-sponsored events provide Soldiers with a chance to maintain and strengthen their spiritual fitness, as well as meet other Soldiers who share their faith.

Events also help increase unit cohesion and readiness and provide Soldiers with a wider support structure.

Inaugural Air Assault School helps attendee overcome fears

Story and Photo by
SPC. MARCUS FICHTL
8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — It takes a village to raise a Soldier, but it takes a Soldier to graduate Air Assault School.

2nd Lt. Brett Brown, long-range plans officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, graduated from the inaugural Air Assault School, here, May 11.

The Air Assault School was once an active component of the training program on Schofield Barracks, but it was discontinued due to continued deployments in support of overseas contingency operations.

The last class held in the Schofield Barracks Air Assault School was in 2005. Because of the high operational tempo, the Air Assault School became a low priority and instruction was temporarily ceased — until now.

Toothpick thin, brand new to the Army and with a fear of heights, Brown was one of five people chosen from the brigade to go to Air Assault School, a 10-day course that teaches air assault techniques, including rappelling from helicopters and preparing sling-loads.

The course also includes a 12-mile march that tests both the physical and mental capabilities of its students.

Rumored to be one of the most physically-challenging, 10-day

schools in the Army, most Soldiers take months to prepare for the course.

“I was nervous and excited. I knew I only had 12 days to prepare, but this was my opportunity to challenge myself,” Brown said.

But failure and doubt were not options for Brown or the long-range plans shop he belongs to.

“Him being in our shop (and) me being air assault (qualified), there was no way he would fail,” said Staff Sgt. Marcus Mitchell, plans noncommissioned officer, HHC, 8th MP Bde. “If one of us is tackling a task, then we are all tackling that task.”

Mitchell said shop members taught Brown how to pass the obstacles smartly, emphasizing the use of legs, as the air assault cadre would employ push-ups and bear crawls in between obstacles to render the arms useless. They conducted multiple packing list inspections, and they emphasized that any opportunity to get extra help from instructors was an opportunity that Brown could not let pass.

“If it wasn’t for Mitchell, I wouldn’t have been going to Commandant’s Time — time where the cadre gave extra help — and could have easily been part of the 75 Soldiers who failed their rigging inspections,” Brown said.

But conquering a fear of heights, however, was all on Brown.

“One of the things they tell you to do (when you are preparing to rappel) is to look where you are going, and they’re yelling that you need to look down,” Brown said. “I was like, ‘Well, this sucks.’



2nd Lt. Brett Brown (right), HHC, 8th MP Bde., 8th TSC gets his air assault wings pinned on by Staff Sgt. Marcus Mitchell (left), HHC, 8th MP Bde., during his Air Assault School graduation, May 11.

This is terrifying for me, but I’m not going to quit.”

He didn’t quit. Finishing the road march in under three hours, with a third of his body weight on his back, Brown was one of the 130 Soldiers who passed the course, out of 240 who started.

“When he asked me (to pin him), it was an honor,” Mitchell said. “This is the first time I’ve been asked to pin wings on (someone).”



Sgt. Troy Halley (background), and 2nd Lt. Kyle Chamberlin, both with the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, wait in a landing zone for a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to land at PTA, recently.

65th: Air support training is crucial

CONTINUED FROM A-1

To practice the scenario, Soldiers from 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., 25th CAB, flew teams of eight to 10 Soldiers in UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Bradshaw Army Airfield, here, to the training site, which was suitable for close air support training.

Upon exiting the aircraft, the ground teams moved from the landing zone toward a mock-improvised explosive device cache. There, they took fire from an enemy target in the distance.

Having taken cover and established a security posture, the ground assault force called for close air support from two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters in its vicinity.

Within seconds, the Kiowas opened fire on the targets, engaging with both .50-caliber machine guns and rocket fire.

Once they had confirmed the enemy threat was destroyed, Soldiers of the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., moved back to

the landing zone and re-entered the Black Hawks.

The air to ground integration training was a valuable opportunity for Soldiers to observe and employ close air support assets.

“It was great familiarization training,” said 2nd Lt. Kyle Chamberlin, operations, 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. “Really being able to see what I had just called over the radio gave me confidence, should I need air support in the future.”

While Soldiers in garrison train for close air and artillery support on virtual simulators, there are no substitutions for field training events, such as these, in regards to air-ground integration training.

“We don’t get many chances to practice calling for air support in an environment where the birds actually show up,” Koprowski said. “It’s great training for our junior leaders and will pay dividends downrange.”

PTA’s expanse of mountainous terrain is an ideal location for close air support training.

Pilot’s skills benefit law mission

Story and Photo by
SPC. ELIZABETH COLE
9th Mission Support Command

HONOLULU — “Clear!” the pilot yelled, looking around.

He started the engine of the Cessna 172R, an airplane with a cockpit no larger than the inside of a sports car, in preparation for a short flight around the island of Oahu.

With his headphones secured tightly to his head, and the microphone kissing his lips, he looked down to read the preflight checklist in his lap.

Turning knobs and switching gauges, he was mentally checking one item off the list at a time.

Within minutes, the plane was soaring just below the clouds.

Being a licensed pilot and a practicing lawyer is all in a day’s work for Lt. Col. Jordan Clouse, deputy staff judge advocate, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve.

Recently, Clouse found a way to combine his love for flying with his everyday job. He and a colleague were called to Maui to help provide powers of attorney, wills and legal consultations to Reserve Soldiers. Clouse saw the mission as a chance to put his skills to good use.

“We had battle assembly that weekend, so we went to first formation at 6:30 a.m. and left straight from there to Honolulu Airport. We were

off the ground by 8:30 a.m.,” Clouse said. “We flew to Maui and were set up for work by 10:30 a.m. After we saw about 20 Soldiers, we were done by 1:30 p.m. and flew home.

The best part was, we still made it in plenty of time for our 4 p.m. final formation,” he added.

Clouse was able to support the mission about three-and-a-half hours faster and a lot cheaper than using commercial air — all in one duty day.

“I don’t think I did anything special,” Clouse said. “Basically, I saw a job that needed to get done, so I did it.”

Clouse began his lessons last June. By Sept. 2, 2010, he was on his first, supervised, solo flight.

He flew by himself for the first time, Sept. 11, 2010, and by Dec. 7, 2010, he was a licensed pilot.

“Those are very significant days in military history,” he said. “My supervised, solo (flight) was done on the anniversary of the end of World War II, Sept. 11 is the day we’ll never forget, and I was licensed on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. What better way to symbolize my experience?”

After more than 30 years in the Army, Clouse plans to retire no later than 2016. In the meantime, he is preparing for life after the military.

“I’m not sure what path I’m going to take after retirement,” Clouse said. “I have so many options. ... We’ll see what the future holds.”



Lt. Col. Jordan Clouse, deputy staff judge advocate, OSJA, 9th MSC, speaks to an air traffic controller after taking off for a flight over Oahu. Clouse, also a licensed pilot, combines his love for flying with his everyday job and uses the aircraft to carry out missions on other islands.

25th CAB sharpens safety skills to ensure mission readiness

Story and Photo by
CAPT. OZZIE SANTIAGO SMITH III

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Every Soldier is responsible for safety, and this fact is more than just words.

Safety is a way of life for members of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

As the brigade is preparing for the rigors of deployment through intense and focused aviation training, 25th CAB leadership has identified the need for aviation Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers to sharpen their ground safety skills and programs.

To ensure Soldiers are receiving proper training, the 25th CAB hosted the Ground Safety Officer Course, or GSOC, April 4-May 13, here, with help from a Mobile Training Team, out of the U.S. Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

GSOC trains Soldiers in the proper techniques needed to become certified as qualified safety personnel for the 25th CAB. GSOC is a six-week course that teaches composite risk management, explosives safety management, accident investigation, reporting, range safety, occupational safety and health standards.

25th CAB Soldiers who complete the course will have a skill identifier, highlighting them as safety experts.



Kai Laborte (rear, far left), instructor, GSOC, teaches 25th CAB, 25th ID Soldiers about pre-accident planning at the Digital Training Facility, Wheeler Army Airfield, May 6.

“There is no better way to help the command than by giving them a trained safety professional,” said Lee Helberg, course manager, GSOC. “They assist commanders in identifying safety issues and correcting problems.”

The GSOC trained and certified 32 safety officers and NCOs from the 25th CAB, who will assist leaders in accomplishing their mission in garrison and deployed environments safely. Safety officers are trained to examine operations and analyze hazards. GSOC graduates develop and recommend multiple courses of actions for commanders, to implement and improve safety and proficiency of their Soldiers.

“The GSOC is equivalent to college-level courses,” said Amy Cichowski, site manager, Digital Training Facility. “Much of its instruction is carried in college curriculums throughout the nation. All the students are fully engaged and very happy to be here.”

Additionally, GSOC increases current safety officers’ operational expertise.

“This is one of the better courses I have attended,” said 1st Lt. Amanda Allen, Company A, 209th Avn. Support Battalion, “Lobos,” 25th CAB. “The instructors are very thorough.”

Unit-level safety officers gained information during this training that will aid battalions, companies and platoons in safely complete training tasks as they prepare for deployment. The GSOC graduates, who will integrate their knowledge into day-to-day activities, understand they are key assets for their commanders.

MAR2 strives to eliminate ‘bog-down’ in procedures, processes

Story and Photo by
SGT. 1ST CLASS RODNEY JACKSON
18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Soldiers of the 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) received interesting information about upcoming changes to the military occupation specialty’s Medical Retention Board, or MOS/MMRB, during a briefing, here, May 18.

Col. Erin Edgar, commander, 18th MEDCOM (DS), and Army physician, briefed the unit on current procedures for the MOS/MMRB, and how the MOS/Administrative Retention Review program, or MAR2, will eliminate the “local installation system bog-down” that occurs during the process.

“The MAR2 system will be owned by Army Retention and will no longer be a (Human Resources’) process,” Edgar said. “The differences are slight, but I think they’re for the better. Instead of having a (bunch of guys sitting around the table) at the local installation, everything is sent to HR, and HR Command makes the determination.”

Under the MMRB process, there are four outcomes: retain the Soldier in the current MOS, reclassify to a new MOS, go in a probationary status or refer to the Medical Evaluation Board, or MEB.

The MEB outcome is either qualified or not qualified for retention, and the Physical Evalua-

tion Board, or FEB, is either fit or unfit for duty. During an FEB, a percentage of disability is given to a Solider.

“The threshold for medical retirement is 30 percent; the vast majority don’t meet that threshold,” Edgar said. “When Soldiers don’t meet that threshold, they are medically separated instead of medically retired. (They) receive severance pay, which equals two times their base pay times the number of years they’ve served.”

Under the MAR2 process, there are only three outcomes: retain in MOS, reclassify or refer to MEB. The threshold plateau is determined before the packet is forwarded to HRC, which eliminates the paperwork shuffle through local installations and to HRC, Edgar added.

“The outcome of most FEBs is unfit,” Edgar said. “If Soldiers really want to stay on active duty, and the chain of command backs them, the FEB weighs this input greatly.”

“I was one of those wounded guys that came through the Warrior Transition Battalion and had to do a lot to stay in the Army,” said Sgt. 1st Class

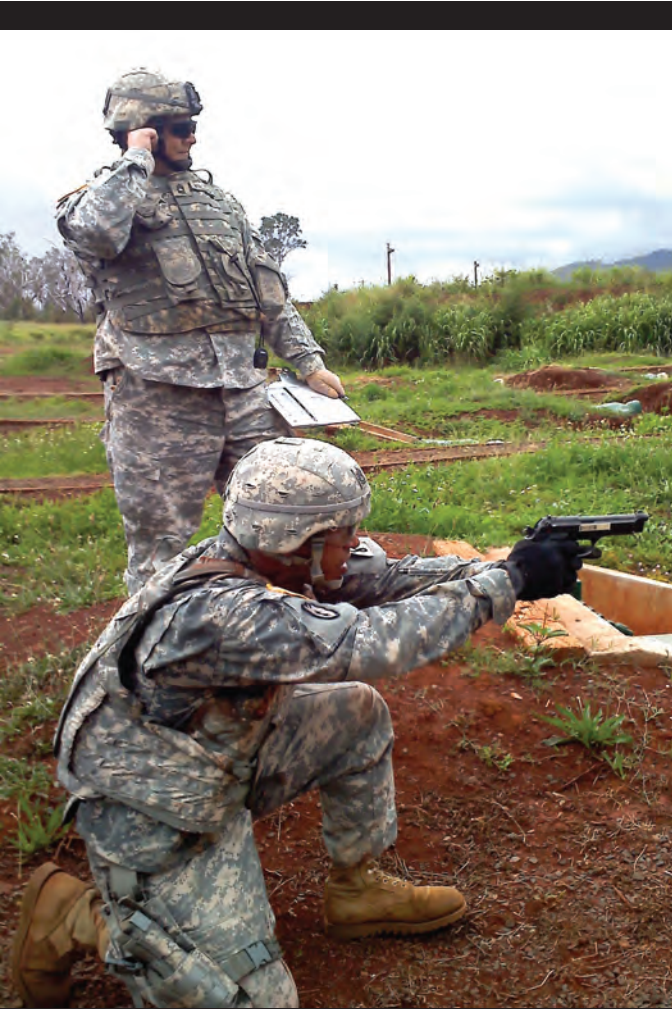


Col. Erin Edgar (rear, far left, standing), commander, 18th MEDCOM (DS), briefs the unit’s staff on upcoming changes to the Army’s MMRB process, in the command’s conference room at Fort Shafter, May 18.

James Lee, combat medic, 18th MEDCOM (DS). “If this happens to you, and you want to stay in the military, the military boards will work with you, but you have to work within the rules of the MEB and FEB processes.”

A roadside improvised explosive device hit Lee’s convoy during a deployment to Iraq, and he sustained life-threatening injuries.

“There are still things that I can’t do, so if my current condition changes at any aspect ... obviously they re-evaluate me, and I go back through the process,” he said.



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher E. Joshua | 196th Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army-Pacific

Charger Challenge

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers with the 196th Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army-Pacific, participate in the 2011 Charger Challenge Competition to determine the unit's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, here, recently.

The contest tests candidates' skills and knowledge against themselves, each other and the Army standards in today's contemporary operating environment.

Candidates faced rigorous tests that challenged their Soldier skills, qualities and abilities. Events included an Army Physical Fitness Test, an M4 qualification, five hands-on warrior tasks, day and night land navigation, a six-mile foot march, an M9 qualification, modern Army combatives, a written examination, an essay and a command sergeants' major board.

The winner of this year's Charger Challenge is Sgt. 1st Class, Brandon Cruz, 3rd Battalion, 196th Inf. Bde., who will represent the brigade in the USARPAC Warrior Challenge Competition.

196th Inf. Bde. puts emphasis on motorcycle safety with inspections

CAPT. ISAAC A. FLOYD

Support Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army-Pacific

FORT SHAFTER — The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration observes the month of May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The observance is a national safety initiative that focuses on getting motorists and motorcyclists to share the road with one another. It also promotes the thought that motorcycle safety is an issue for all motorists and not just motorcyclists.

Support Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army-Pacific, conducted vehicle inspections on all personally owned vehicles, or POVs, and motorcycles, here, recently, in honor of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The battalion has designated safety as a priority when it involves Soldiers' lives, and the event was especially important as more than 20 percent of Support Bn. Soldiers are motorcyclists.

Battalion leadership encouraged all motorcyclists to attend the Advanced Motorcycle Course, "Train as you Ride," to also reinforce safety. The course focused on cornering techniques and throttle control while turning. It also simulated road conditions and turn geometry typically found on Oahu, using realistic road speeds of 35-60 mph.

Each rider had the opportunity to ride more than 40 miles and practice more than 500 curves, all under the watchful eye of California Superbike School-trained instructors. If the instructors saw an unsafe riding technique or potential hazard, they would stop a rider along the course and correct him or her on the spot.

"As a licensed motorcycle rider and former owner of one, I will never apologize for being a stickler and over-cautious when it comes to motorcycle safety," said Lt. Col. Fletcher Washington, commander, Support Bn., 196th Inf. Bde. "I am always saddened by the many senseless POV and (motorcycle) accidents reported in the Army's daily preliminary loss reports.



Courtesy Photo

Leadership with Support Bn., 196th Inf. Bde., USARPAC, encourages its Soliders to attend motorcyle classes, like the one above, known as "Train as You Ride," to reinforce awareness.

"All POV and (motorcycle) operators must always keep in mind that there is no such thing as a 'minor fender-bender' when it comes to a (motorcycle) accident," Fletcher said.

With the increase in gas prices, spring session for school coming to an end and summer just around the corner, leadership expects to see more motorcyclists on the road.

For Motorists

- Look for motorcyclists:* Use your eyes and mirrors to see what's around you, and check your blind spots when you're changing lanes or turning at intersections. Look, and look again.
- Focus on driving:* Don't be distracted. Hang up the phone, put down the MP3 player, settle the passengers and drive.
- Use your turn signals:* Signal your intentions with ample time for everyone's safety. It's the law.
- Give motorcyclists some room:* Don't tailgate or pass too closely.
- Take your time:* Nothing is as important as the safety of your loved ones in your vehicle, as others with whom you share the road and as you, so slow down.
- Keep it in the car:* Don't throw trash and cigarettes out the window. Securely lash down cargo that can fall out on the road, as falling cargo can be a deadly hazard.

For Motorcyclists

- Get properly trained and licensed:* Take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation-approved rider course and get licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
 - Wear protective gear:* Gear should be worn all the time. Service members, however, do not have an option; they must wear gear all the time — on and off an installation. Gear needs to be bright and reflective, including a helmet manufactured to Department of Transportation standards.
 - Ride unimpaired:* Never drink or use other drugs before getting on a motorcycle.
 - Ride within your limits and obey traffic laws:* Stay within your personal limits, never riding faster or farther than your abilities can handle.
 - Be a lifelong learner:* Regularly attend refresher riding courses, as they break bad riding habits.
- Visit <https://safety.army.mil/> for more information.

USAG-O: Directorates will assume former responsibilities, roles

CONTINUED FROM A-1

enhanced Army and family readiness.

USAG-O had managed numerous programs and functions, such as the Shelter Management Program, the Installation Appearance Program, fundraising, land use, commercial solicitation, various community and advisory forms, the Juvenile Review Board, and reception and replacement operations for incoming installation Soldiers.

The Oahu garrison had also organized many special events, including the holiday tree lighting ceremonies at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter every holiday season.

All former USAG-O services have now been or will be assumed by USAG-HI directorates.

The inactivation of USAG-O has been a long process, taking many months and involving the transfer of numerous support functions and reassignment of civilian employees to other directorates within USAG-HI.

“You may worry that without (USAG-O) headquartered in the south that the garrison liaison support will diminish,” said Linda Keller, garrison manager, USAG-HI. “On the contrary, Debra Zedalis, regional director, Installation Management Command-Pacific, and (Mulbury), have established an Installation Coordinators Office at Fort Shafter to be a liaison for the south community.”

HUREX: Makani Pahili tests readiness, abilities

CONTINUED FROM A-1

In addition, Makani Pahili 2011 provides an opportunity for local, state and federal agencies to test their plans, readiness and abilities during the annual hurricane exercise.

“Makani Pahili also serves as a foundation for service components to review, update and continue to improve their plans and build their readiness capabilities,” said Mel Garcia, operations deputy, JTF-HD.

JTF-HD’s mission in Makani Pahili is to help direct military resources during a natural or man-made disaster. The organization generally plays a pivotal role in helping Hawaii and other mid-Pacific Island communities prepare and recover from disasters, and to coordinate requests for local governments for military assistance.

Weather and disaster experts predict that a Category 4 hurricane could cause billions of dollars worth of property damage and hundreds of deaths, if it were to zero in on populous areas of Oahu. It’s predicted that the recovery from such a storm would quickly overwhelm local and state resources, thus the requirement for federal assistance. That’s when JTF-HD would likely come into play, providing the coordination for help from military assets.

In the scenario, JTF-HD will likely use military services to play pivotal roles in assessing requests for aid and matching them with military assets and resources. Its primary mission will be to execute operations to provide civil support for hazards, including responding to and recovering from natural disasters, retaining key and critical infrastructure, and protecting the force within the joint operations area.

JTF-HD is a coordinating agency between DOD and civilian authorities in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

Social media spurs town hall participation

JACK WIERS

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Fueled by social media, the latest edition of the televised garrison town hall produced a fast-paced, 75-minute broadcast of information to Soldiers and their families from the Visual Information studio, here, May 18.

The first half of the town hall broadcast featured six “Army Ready”-themed briefings that ranged from hurricane season readiness to details about the new Warrior Ohana Medical Home in Kalaeloa.

Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, hosted the live broadcast, which was also shown live, via streaming video, on both the garrison’s webpage and through the garrison’s Facebook page.

“We’re learning that we have some powerful new communication tools to reach our Soldiers and family members,” Mulbury said. “We are just beginning to tap the new media’s potential.”

The broadcast also featured a half-hour question-and-answer segment, with questions gathered from both the garrison’s Ask the Commander email address and its Facebook page.

Subject matter experts addressed nearly 20 questions, ranging from requests for more crossing guards near installation schools, to housing assignment priorities, to requests for greater



Mulbury

military police support to stop illegal cell phone usage while driving on the installation.

“More people are taking advantage of the opportunity to submit questions in advance of the live broadcast,” said Stephanie Rush, digital media specialist, USAG-HI Public Affairs.

Community members received information on how to submit questions in advance through a number of promotional vehicles, including email blasts, postings on websites and electronic marquee displays.

One downside to the new reliance on social media was the reluctance of members of the garrison community to call in questions, live, on the telephone, said SMEs. Those numbers have diminished significantly, to a mere trickle, they said. Participants are choosing the Internet and social media as their preferred communication sources.

“We’re recognizing that people, in general, are becoming more reliant and comfortable with social media,” Mulbury said. “This is where our attention needs to be in the future.”

All questions submitted, regardless of whether they made the broadcast or not, will be answered, Mulbury added.

The TV town hall will be rebroadcast on installation channel TV2 for the remainder of May, and will continue to be rebroadcast throughout June, at noon and 7 p.m.

News Briefs

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

Today RAND Study — The Hawaii Chamber of Commerce is presenting a report on military spending and how it contributes to Hawaii’s economy, 8-10:30 a.m., June 1, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Registration deadline is May 27.

This in-depth report provides extensive information and statistics regarding the military’s economic impact in Hawaii. Cost is \$35; register at cochawaii.com.

2nd BCT Greeters — Anyone who is interested in greeting returning Soldiers at one or more of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division’s upcoming redeployments, throughout the month of June, is asked to contact the Blue Star Card program coordinator. Call 655-0112 or email Amanda.P.Montgomery@us.army.mil for more details.

Santos Dumont Construction — The major closure of Santos Dumont Avenue, Wheeler Army Airfield,

from Nakamine Street to Kawamura Gate, will continue through June 10 for drainline construction and road reconstruction. The section of Santos Dumont Avenue between Warhawk and Nakamine streets will be closed for road reconstruction until June 10.

Get more traffic updates at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil; click on “Post Information,” then “Traffic Updates.”

30 / Monday

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii will conduct an Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, 9 a.m., May 30, at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery to honor veterans who have died in support and defense of the country. Call 656-1331/0615.

31 / Tuesday

New DFAC Bus Hours — A free bus service will run from specific points on Schofield Barracks to the K Quad Dining Facility (Building 708), starting at 6:30 a.m., through May 31, for all available K Quad meals.

Call 271-5029. Pick-up and drop-off points are as follows:

- Between F and E quads (Foote Avenue and Lewis Street).
- Between E and D quads (Foote and Heard avenues).
- Between D and C quads (Foote Avenue and Flagler Road).
- B Quad, Building 156.
- Martinez Gym.

•K Quad DFAC (Building 708).

While the bus is intended for meal card holders, all Soldiers at Schofield Barracks can use the bus.

June

1 / Wednesday Change of Command — The 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) will host a change of command ceremony, 2 p.m., June 3, on historic Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. Col. Judith Bock will assume command of the unit from Col. Erin Edgar. Call 438-4737.

2 / Thursday Prescribed Burn — The U.S. Army Wildland Fire Program will conduct a prescribed fire at the Schofield Range, including ignition of 700 acres of primarily guinea grass.

The prescribed fire shall be conducted in the late spring months during cooler temperatures and increased relative humidity.

A contingency date is June 9, if there is rainfall and unfavorable weather two days prior to the target burn date.

Residents should not be alarmed if they see or smell smoke. Call 653-0209.

10 / Friday Army Commemoration — U.S. Army-Pacific invites Soldiers, Army civilians and

government contractors, retirees, ROTC cadets and family members to celebrate 236 years of Army tradition at the Army Commemoration, 6 p.m., June 10, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel’s Coral Ballroom, Waikiki.

The evening includes dining, dancing and entertainment. Tickets are \$70 each. Call 271-5561 or visit www.usarpac.army.mil/236birthday.

Attire for military is Army Dress Blues/Mess; for civilians, formal evening wear. Rooms can be reserved at the Hilton Hawaiian Village for \$149, plus tax. Call 949-4321 or visit www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com for reservations and ask for the “Army Birthday Commemoration.”

11 / Saturday Closure — The Paradise Shoppette, located at Schofield Barracks, is closed through June 11 for renovation. During renovation, the Schofield Car Care Center, located at Foote Gate, Schofield Barracks, will be open 24/7. Patrons can also shop at the Kolekole Shoppette and Sunset Mini-Mall, both at Schofield Barracks. Call 423-8632.

14 / Tuesday Army Birthday — In celebration of the Army’s birthday, several dining facilities will have a special menu for their lunch meal, June 14. The cost of the meal is \$7.

USACE begins chairlift project at National Memorial Cemetery

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS-HONOLULU DISTRICT
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District began construction of a recently awarded \$945,000 contract to install four chairlifts along the eastern side of the American Battle Monuments Commission's Honolulu Memorial, recently.

The memorial is within the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as Punchbowl, and the chairlifts will make the memorial compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Work began this week to clean the memorial's "Courts of the Missing's" upper and lower plazas, chapel building, flagpoles, statue, fountain, stairs and handrails, and to reseal the Courts of the Missing monument and staircase.

Access to various areas of the memorial and transient movement near and adjacent to the projects may be impeded. USACE-HD and ABMC asks for the public's indulgence and patience during construction and cleaning, including for any inconvenience projects may cause during the Memorial Day and Father's Day weekends.

"When completed, these projects will improve the appearance and provide access to all five levels of this magnificent tribute to American service and sacrifice," said Max Cle-

land, secretary, ABMC. "We regret the short-term inconvenience projects like this cause, but the visitor experience will be greatly enhanced in the future."

The Honolulu Memorial commemorates American service members missing in action from the Pacific, including 18,096 personnel from World War II; 8,200 Americans missing from the Korean War; and 2,504 Americans missing from the Vietnam War.

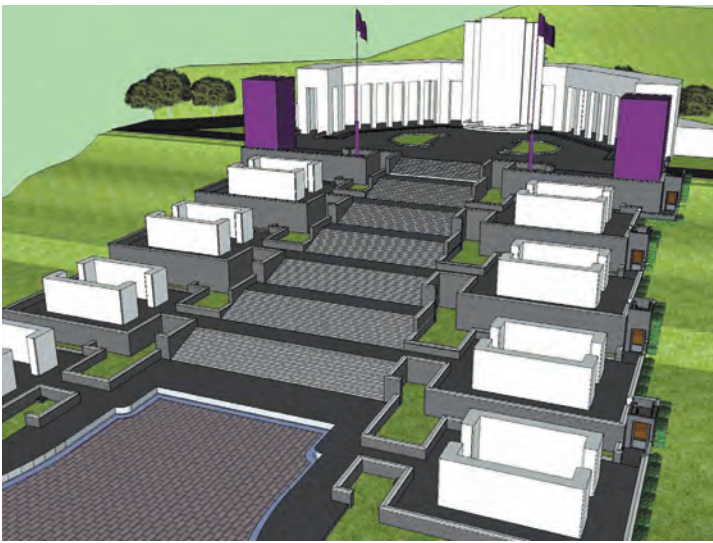
Galleries containing mosaic maps and descriptions of American armed forces' achievements in the Central and South Pacific regions in World War II and in Korea flank the memorial chapel.

ABMC plans to add Vietnam War maps and descriptions to the memorial in 2012.

Memorial Day

Military, local and state leaders will participate in the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, 8:30 a.m., May 30, at the National Cemetery of the Pacific.

The service will also include the Royal Hawaiian Band, the Sounds of Aloha Choir, a traditional gun salute and a "Missing Man" formation flyover. Call 768-3002, or see page B-2 for additional Memorial Day events.



Courtesy of Fung Associates Inc.

The diagram above shows USACE-HD's plan to install four chairlifts along the eastern side of the American Battle Monuments Commission's Honolulu Memorial, located within the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as Punchbowl.



Alfredo Mendoza | Defense Commissary Agency

Victoria Powers (right), a commissary store associate, replenishes chocolate covered nuts at the Schofield Barracks Commissary. Keeping shelves full and satisfying customers helped the commissary win first place in DeCa's Annual Best Commissary Awards, Tuesday.

Schofield Barracks places first in DeCA Best Commissary Awards

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
Office of Corporate Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency, or DeCA, announced that the Schofield Barracks Commissary won first place in the agency's most prestigious honors, the Annual Best Commissary Awards, Tuesday.

DeCA's Best Commissary Awards recognize overall excellence in commissary operations and service. Selection of nominees is highly competitive and is based on operations, performance and accountability.

"This recognition pays tribute to the DeCA team – employees and industry partners – who work so hard every day, worldwide, to serve our service members and their families," said Joseph Jeu, director and CEO, DeCA. "Just to be considered for a Best Commissary Award is an achievement worth noting."

Winners received their awards at the DeCA and American Logistics Association 2011 Training Event and Conference in Norfolk,

Va., Tuesday.

"We were very excited about being nominated," said Lynne Llanos, assistant store director, Schofield Barracks Commissary.

"(Winning) says that we have been doing a good job. Our sales are up, our inventory is good, and ... our customers are satisfied," she said. "This is very exiting for us, because now we are the best."

"When a store wins a best commissary award, the glory goes beyond that store's employees," Jeu said. "That store's customers share the wealth as recipients of the benefit from a commissary acknowledged as one of our best."

"It takes a tremendous amount of hard work and teamwork between our employees and industry partners to meet our basic standards for delivering the commissary benefit," Jeu added. "To exceed those standards, a store is truly representing a commitment to excellence."



Can you tell me how to get to SESAME STREET?



(From left to right) Rosita, Elmo, Katie and Grover sing a song about how to keep in touch with old friends after moving to a new post during the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families show on Schofield Barracks, Saturday. The show's characters also offered tips on how to make new friends.

Story and Photos by
LACEY JUSTINGER
Managing Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families brought two shows, here, Saturday, and one to Aliamanu Military Reservation, Wednesday, to help military parents and children talk, listen and connect with familiar characters and important issues.

"My family is moving to a new base, I'm going to miss this place, and I'm going to miss all of you," said Katie, a military-child character who only exists in this version of Sesame Street.

"The message for military families is to promote better understanding for kids that daddy is in the military," said Sameckia Edwards, a Navy family member who brought two children to the show.

USO and Sesame Street created the show, now in its fifth iteration, in 2008, especially to educate and entertain military families, according to Lonnie Cooper, tour producer/manager, USO.

In the current tour, Elmo, Grover, Rosita, Honker and Cookie Monster help Katie feel better about an upcoming move and offer tips to make new friends, while keeping in touch with old ones — all through the catchy songs and dances one would expect from Sesame Street and USO.

"We came the last time when the show was about deployment, and my husband was getting ready to deploy," said Melisa Mode, a family member with 552nd Military Police Company, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command. "This year it is about

(permanent changes of station, or PCS), and we will be PCSing soon. The timing is perfect.

"The show is helping the kids understand how the military works," Mode added, who brought her 5-year-old son, Benjamin, and 3-year-old son, Caden, to the show.

The Sesame Street gang offered many ways for children to feel better, stay in touch and stay friends, while singing that "change brings you something new."

"This is something for parents and kids to enjoy time together," Cooper said. "This project serves the families, gives a message and entertains."

Cooper added that it was especially important to bring the free shows to multiple venues throughout Hawaii, as Hawaii is an isolated location for military families without a lot of live entertainment tours.

Jessica Dekoekkoek, a family member with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Bde. Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, brought her 2-year-old daughter, Victoria, to USO's Sesame Street to help address upcoming military family issues like redeployment, and because Victoria is obsessed with the show.

Working with U.S. Army-Garrison-Hawaii's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, more than 1,550 family members attended the first two shows, receiving readiness and well-being messages with a lot of giggles, cheers and dancing feet.

"This is a good show; even the parents are singing and dancing," said Spc. Shandora Townsend, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th TSC, who volunteered for the event. "Plus, I got free toys!"

The half-an-hour show even offered opportunities for children to connect with their favorite characters, as they shimmed, swayed and sang out into the crowd.

Grover shakes hands with an ecstatic 5-year-old, Benjamin Mode, who attended the Saturday evening show with his brother, mother and aunt.



Right — Before the show begins, a military child plays with her new, free, Elmo spinner toy, which lights up.



Right — Katie, a military child who is moving to a new post, waves to all her friends in the audience.

Katie's character is only seen in the USO's version of Sesame Street.



Spc. Aisha Richardson (left), HHC, 8th TSC, a volunteer at the event, plays with dancing children and helps keep them from rushing the stage and Sesame Street characters during the show.

On The **WEB**

See additional photos from this event at www.flickr.com/usaghawaii.

Find out more about the Sesame Street and USO partnership, "Talk, Listen, Connect," at www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc or www.uso.org/sesame.



Today

Family Fun Friday – Enjoy free pizza and games, 6 p.m., May 27, at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-5698.

Arts & Crafts Contest – Compete for cash prizes against the best artist and artisans in the Army. Enter your 2-D and 3-D original art or craft works in this annual contest. Complete entry form at www.artscrats.fmwrc.army.mil. Call 655-4202.

Family Fun Fitness Festival – Don't miss the annual commissary case lot sale and fitness festival, 12-5 p.m., May 27. Get fitness tips, receive information on healthy eating habits and much more.

29 / Sunday

Spouses Appreciation – Army spouses can enjoy a free Sunday brunch, May 29, at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. Reservations are required; call 438-1974. Spouses must present a valid military ID card.

30 / Monday

Free Hula Classes – The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, welcomes all Soldiers and families to participate in free hula classes, Mondays, 5-7 p.m., at Army Community Service, Building 2091, Schofield Barracks. Beginner classes are 5-6 p.m.; advanced classes are 6-7 p.m. Classes feature the different types of hula, fundamentals of hula steps, movement and posture. Call 655-9694 or email nhliaison@gmail.com.

June

1 / Wednesday

Texas Hold'em – Get your poker face ready and stop by Hale Ikena, 6

p.m., June 1. Call 438-1974.

Army Birthday Golf Tournament – Register by June 1 to be a part of the U.S. Army Birthday Golf Tournament, noon, June 3, at Leilehua Golf Course. Active duty Soldiers, family members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees are eligible. A maximum of 20 teams can participate. Download application at www.himwr.com. Call 655-4653.

3 / Friday

Family Fun Friday – Enjoy free pizza and games, 6 p.m., June 3, at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-5698.

4 / Saturday

Learn To Swim – Register 9-11 a.m., June 4-5, for the Learn to Swim program at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks. All children must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services. Registration will be verified. Visit www.himwr.com or call 655-9698.

Ongoing

Free Fitness Classes – Soldiers and family members can attend a variety of free fitness classes at Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center. Visit www.himwr.com.

Computer Lab Hours – The computer lab for Soldiers and family members at Army Community Service Center, Schofield Barracks, will be open as follows:

- Monday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and
 - Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Computers include Internet access, Microsoft software and Skype. Call 655-4227.
- Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, also offers computer services, including Internet access and Microsoft software. Printing is available for a fee. Call 655-8002.

Newcomers Tour – Sign up for the free newcomers' island tour that departs from Schofield Barracks' Army Community Service, Building 2091, or Fort Shafter Flats' ACS, Building 1599.



Courtesy of Carol Dabney

Staying connected

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Kelley Jeans (pictured above), transitions coordinator, Hale Kula Elementary School, inspects the 138 lei she made for children who will be relocated in the next few weeks to other bases around the world.

The Hale Kula Elementary School hosted a "Staying Connected During Deployment" program, here, May 23.

Soldiers in 25th Infantry Division volunteered to help. Carol Dabney, author of children's book "Military Mommy," was the special guest on hand to read her book and sing songs related to military lifestyle. The book discusses separation issues military families experience and highlights Schofield Barracks, which is where her daughter is stationed. Other activities included a parent-child art project, "Paint a Pillowcase for Your Soldier."

Call 655-4227 or 438-4499.

TAMC Physical Fitness Classes

– Active duty Soldiers and their family members can show their military ID at Tripler Army Medical Center's Physical Fitness Center to sign up for free physical classes. Classes for Army civil-

ians are \$4 per class or \$25 per month. Call 433-6443.

Deploying Units – The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation can explain the Blue Star Card at pre-deployment family readiness group meetings. Call 655-0002.



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

Today

Teen Educational Fair – A Teen Educational Fair is 10 a.m.-1 p.m., May 27, at Bennett Youth Center, Schofield Barracks, to empower military youth with information on educational opportunities and prepare them for future employment. Army Community Service; Child, Youth and School Services; and Youth Sports will be some of the potential employers at the fair. Call Employment Readiness at 655-4227.

HUREX – To prepare for Hawaii's hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Dec. 1, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii will be conducting its annual hurricane exercise called Makani Pahili, or Strong Winds, through June 2.

This joint exercise involves the entire state and all armed services in Hawaii. All residents should expect to see and hear "Exercise-Exercise-Exercise" alerts and announcements from mass notification/giant voice systems, email and websites during the exercise. Do not be alarmed; the alerts will be part of the exercise. The installation asks for your patience, understanding and support during this important HUREX, which tests disaster preparedness.

28 / Saturday

"Metal Mana" – A first-ever "Metal Mana Motorcycle Rally and Music Festival" will run from 12 p.m.-10 p.m., May 28, in downtown Honolulu/Chinatown. This Memorial Day Weekend event will increase awareness and raise funds to support the Tripler Fisher House. The festival will include a bike rodeo, bike show, biker babe bikini contest and local biker build-off. Enjoy entertainment, food and prize giveaways. Get tickets at metalmana.com and GrooveTickets.com. Call 433-1291, ext. 28.

29 / Sunday

Army Polo – Come cheer on the Army Team, 1 p.m., May 29, at the Mokuleia Fields, North Shore.

RSVP to get choice seating and extras in the VIP area at 234-4024.

30 / Monday

Memorial Day – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii will conduct an Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, 9 a.m., May 30, at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, to honor veterans who have died in support and defense of the country. Call 656-1331/0615.

Punchbowl Ceremony – Military, state and local leaders will participate in the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, 8:30 a.m., May 30, at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. The service will also include the Royal Hawaiian Band, Sounds of Aloha Choir, a traditional gun salute and "Missing Man" formation flyover. Call 768-3002.

Pearl Harbor Observances – Come to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to honor veterans, May 30. Activities include the following:

- 7:30-8:00 a.m.: Survivor flag raising and bell ringing ceremony.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m.: Meet-and-greet with Pearl Harbor survivors.
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m.: Pacific War in Miniature exhibit.
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m.: USS Arizona Memorial public tours.

Call 422-3300 or visit www.nps.gov/vahr/.

Lantern Floating Ceremony – Thousands of people will gather at Ala Moana Beach Park for the Lantern Floating Ceremony, 6:30 p.m., May 30, at Magic Island, Ala Moana Beach Park, Honolulu. The ceremony remembers those who gave their lives in conflict, allows for reflection on the memories of loved ones and dedicates prayers for a peaceful and harmonious future. Visit www.lanternfloatinghawaii.com.

Memorial Weekend – Kapolei Shopping Center is honoring those who have served our country. Write a letter to U.S. service members overseas, get your face painted in patriotic colors and pick up a balloon creation, as you enjoy the music of Schofield Barracks' Home Front Brass Band, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., May 30. Also, throughout the weekend, participating merchants will distribute hand-held U.S. flags to shoppers, while supplies last.

31 / Tuesday

Free Yoga Classes – Yoga class-

es begin at 9 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, at the Wheeler Community Center, behind Wheeler Chapel, Wheeler Army Airfield.

Bring your own yoga mat and any blocks or straps. Classes are for all levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Call 275-3790 or 778-8696.

PWOC – The Protestant Women of the Chapel will host their Summer Fun Kickoff, 9-11:30 a.m., May 31, at the Main Post Chapel Annex, Room 212. Mark your calendar:

- June 6, there will be no PWOC due to Vacation Bible School's "PandaMania: Where God is Wild About You!" VBS is 9 a.m.-noon, June 6-10, Main Post Chapel. Email schofieldpwoc.watchcare@gmail.com.
- June 14-July 26, attend Summer Bible Study. Topic is "The Best Question Ever: Learning to Foolproof Your Life."

June

3 / Friday

Planet Ice – Pearlridge Center will be transformed into Planet Ice, the 14th annual free summer educational presentation for Hawaii's families, June 3. Giant animatronic early mammals and even human ancestors will overrun the mall, through July 31.

4 / Saturday

Music Festival – Waimea Valley Music Festival is 11 a.m.-5 p.m., June 4, 59-864 Kamehameha Highway. Kamaaina and military adult prices are \$10; children are \$6. Visit www.waimeavalley.net or call 638-7766.

O-bon Festival – Hawaii's Plantation Village is getting ready for the annual Japanese Buddhist ritual, which honors the ancestral spirits, 4 p.m., June 4, 94-695 Waipahu St., Waipahu. Dancers of all ages can enjoy the annual celebration. Call 677-0110.

6 / Monday

Teens 4 Animals – Hawaiian Humane Society will hold its inaugural "Teens 4 Animals Summer Experience" for high school students with an interest in animals and animal welfare. This opportunity will provide nearly 90 hours of hands-on time with animals. Students will be trained in a variety of animal welfare skills and exposed to a broad scope of animal careers. Sessions will run Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., June 6-July 15, or 1:30-5 p.m., June 13-July 22. Cost is

\$95. Registration forms are available at www.hawaiianhumane.org/teens4animals.html. Call 356-2206 or email bosaki@hawaiianhumane.org.

Feline Fix – Appointments are being accepted for the Humane Society's \$10 spay/neuter surgeries for outdoor cats, June 12. Donations will be accepted along with Humane Society wish list items, including canned kitten food, toys, nail clippers, kitty litter, shoe boxes and newspaper. Visit www.hawaiianhumane.org, call 356-2208 or email arueda@hawaiianhumane.org.

BayFest Emcee – Marine Corps Community Services is searching for talented military members to emcee the BayFest main stage, July 15-17. All active duty, reservists and National Guard members stationed in Hawaii are invited to compete in the Emcee Maniac Contest, 7 p.m., June 30, at Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The contest is limited to the first 20 registrants; sign up by June 27 at BayFestHawaii.com or call 254-7653.

Survivor Family Camp – Survivor Outreach Services and Operation Military Kids are hosting a family camp for all youth who have lost a parent in the military. This camp will give children the opportunity to meet other youth who have dealt with a loss, while being provided support and tools to help them during the difficult times in their lives. Also, youth and their parents/caregivers will learn about military and community resources to promote resiliency and well-being. The camp will focus on nurturing supportive relationships, self-esteem, stress management, resiliency and peer buddy-building. Campers will have access to hiking, archery and the Odyssey and Alpine Course, which allows for a fun and relaxing weekend in an educational and supportive environment. Location is Camp Erdman, Waialua, July 15-17. The deadline to apply is June 10. Spaces are limited. Call 438-1955/9285 or email jennifer.koranyi@us.army.mil or omk@cta.hr.hawaii.edu.

Exchange Drawing – Through June 16, military shoppers visiting the Schofield Exchange can register to win a Charbroil Trentino Deluxe Outdoor Fireplace, with a retail value of \$180. No purchase is necessary.

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
- FS: Fort Shafter 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 and FD
- 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, 12 p.m. 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)

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

Pagan (Wicca)

- Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

Protestant Worship

- Sunday Services
 - 9 a.m. at FD, FS, MPC and TAMC chapels
 - 9 a.m. at WAAF chapel, Lutheran/Episcopalian
 - 10 a.m. at HMR
 - 10:30 a.m. at AMR

Single Soldiers' Bible Study

- Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at SC. Lunch is provided.

Worship Service

- Sunday, 6 p.m. at SC.

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater

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

Scream 4

(R)
Fri., May 27, 7 p.m.
Wed., June 1, 7 p.m.



Hop

(PG)
Sat., May 28, 4 p.m.



Source Code

(PG-13)
Sat., May 28, 7 p.m.
Thurs., June 2, 7 p.m.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

(PG)
Sun., May 29, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Pacific region AFAP looks at child care, advocacy services

U.S. ARMY-PACIFIC
Public Affairs

FORD ISLAND — Delegates gathered from Alaska, Hawaii and Japan for the U.S. Army-Pacific’s Army Family Action Plan, or AFAP, Conference, here, May 2-5.

AFAP encourages the Army family to identify issues and offer recommendations that can improve the quality of life for the Army community.

The week began with opening remarks from Jeannine Wiercinski, wife of Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, USARPAC, conveying the importance of the work that delegates would accomplish. She also talked about all the changes the Army has undergone since she first became an Army spouse.

Pacific Region garrison-level AFAP conferences had submitted nine issues for USARPAC action.

Delegates then identified which issues to forward to the Department of the Army AFAP Conference.

Delegates represented single Soliders, married couples, active duty Soldiers, Army National Guard, retirees, wounded warriors, survivors, family members and Army civilians, said Capt. Alison Morse, program manager, AFAP, USARPAC.

During the USARPAC AFAP, delegates inspired robust discussions and brought to light concerns from across USARPAC.

Through their dedication and efforts, they addressed existing challenges and provided recommendations on how to resolve them, said Nancy Rice, well-being specialist, USARPAC.

The first issue addressed was recruiting and providing incentives for family child care, or FCC.

Delegates discussed homes to provide care for special needs children who may need attention beyond what center-based care provides.

Delegates recommended specialized training for FCC providers and incentives for those who receive training to care for special needs children.

The second issue involved expanding victim

advocacy services to children under the age of 18. Army regulations currently limit advocacy services to spouses only.

The recommendation is for victims under the age of 18 to be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, and to be assigned a child victim advocate.

The third issue addressed family victim advocates for dependents 18 years and older.

As with the second issue, only spouses are authorized advocacy services, so the recommendation is to provide victims, who are enrolled in DEERS and older than age 18, with victim advocate services.

“The delegates worked diligently over the week, and I believe that their efforts will positively affect the quality of life for the total Army family,” Morse said.

At the end of the conference, Lt. Gen. Wiercinski thanked participants for their hard work. He said issues will be forwarded for inclusion in the 2012 DA AFAP Conference.



Aileen Humphreys | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Three delegates participate in a working group at USARPAC’s AFAP Conference, held May 2-5, at Ford Island. Delegates included Soldiers, family members and Army civilians.



Sgt. Philis White | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Young artist

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Alex Bacon (foreground), a third grader at Wheeler Elementary School, displays the spoils he received from Maj. C. Jack Marks, special projects coordinator, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, after winning first place in OSJA’s Law Day Poster Contest.

Third grade students from Lindsay Vetter’s class at Wheeler Elementary School were invited on a tour of the Wheeler courtroom, which included a demonstration of a witness cross-examination.

All participants received Law Day bookmarks, pencils and pencil sharpeners.



Curly Pig (left), played by a teacher from Hale Kula Elementary School on Schofield Barracks, awaits his verdict during a mock trial for fourth- and fifth-grade students, May 16.

OSJA, Hale Kula students accuse Curly Pig of ‘conduct unbecoming’

8th TSC brings the courtroom to the classroom for Law Day

Story and Photos by
SGT. PHILLIS WHITE

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Members of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command performed a mock trial for students at Hale Kula Elementary School, here, May 16.

The theme of the trial was “The Big Bad Wolf v. Curly Pig,” in which Curly Pig was accused of attempted wolf cooking.

The trial was presented to the fourth- and fifth-grade student body to educate students about the legal system and their civil rights.

“Today, we are here to educate the children and get them involved to make sure that they become more educated about our legal system,” said Maj. C. Jack Marks, special projects coordinator, Office of Staff Judge Advocate, 8th TSC.

During the trial, lawyers presented valid arguments for the defendant, the wolf, and the accused, the pig.

After arguments were presented to the student body, students voted on whom they thought had been wrongfully accused.

“We are trying to bring a story that the kids are familiar with and trying to infuse the legal system into it,” Marks said.

Even though different verdicts were given by the fourth- and fifth-grade classes, students understood the court process.

“We wanted to involve everyone — from teachers to principals, to educators, to retirees — and we wanted to educate not only children, but adults as well,” Marks said. “It had them reflect on what they thought the legal system should be.”

“The trial was important, because at a young age, you want children to start to understand that they have rights, and that it is important for them to celebrate those rights,” said Capt. Erik Smith, operational law attorney, OSJA, 8th TSC. “With this type of thing, the lawyers have to be very careful to bring the concept down to a level that the children can understand and digest.”

Each year, the American Bar Association comes up with a different theme celebrating the country’s commitment to the rule of law. This year’s theme was “The Legacy of John Adam from Boston to Guantanamo.”

In essence, the Law Day observance recognizes due process rights under the U.S. Constitution, as well as the rights of the accused.

The mock trial aimed to teach students to stand up for what is right, even positions that may be unpopular.

“If only one thing sticks with the children, you can say that it was a success,” Smith said.



Attorneys from OSJA, 8th TSC, assist fifth-grade students from Audra Bradshaw’s class at Solomon Elementary School, as the class gets ready for a mock trial presentation, recently. Students also learned about the court system and how a case is adjudicated. Soldiers taught students that everyone in the U.S. has rights, and even someone like the Big Bad Wolf has the right to bring his grievances to a court of law.

Biggest Loser’s motivation was starting a family, deployment

VANESSA LYNCH
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — With her husband deployed and starting a family on her mind, Rebecca Clark decided to hit the gym — hard.

After three months of exercise and a lifestyle overhaul, Clark lost 32 pounds, making her this year’s Biggest Loser.

The Biggest Loser Contest, which ran January-April, is a program that is geared toward motivating individuals to live a healthier lifestyle. It provides motivation, healthy information and group activities.

This year, the contest was offered garrison-wide and boasted 95 participants who collectively lost more than 395 pounds.

“I started to notice a change in my body in mid-March,” Clark said, who averaged a weight loss of 10 pounds, per month, during the contest. “My clothes were getting looser, I had more energy, and I was becoming more productive.”

Since her husband deployed last year with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Clark changed her eating habits, added regular exercise to her routine and dropped 45 pounds, to date.

Although Clark’s husband, Spc. Danny Clark, Company A, 225nd Bde. Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, is aware of how much weight she has lost, she has kept him in the dark about her transformation.

“He knows I participated in the Biggest Loser and that I lost weight, but he hasn’t seen me since he came home for rest and recuperation in December,” Clark said. “I turned off the webcam and haven’t sent any new pictures.”

Clark will unveil her new body when her husband redeloys, here, next month.

“My advice to people who want to lose weight is to start slow and add on (different types of exercise) from there,” Clark said, who made the transition from no exercise to walking to running. “Start with something you know you can do everyday, and stick with it.”

Biggest Loser participants experienced initial, periodic and final weigh-ins throughout the three-month span of the program.

“The targeted audience was people looking for an incentive program and motivation to lose weight and increase their physical activity,” said Kalei Scoggins, special events coordinator, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “By using daily motivational newsletters, nutritional seminars and providing group exercise classes exclusively for Biggest Loser participants, participants were motivated to reach their weight-loss goals.”

Registration was \$15, and Blue Star Card patrons could enter for \$10. During the contest, participants received motivational emails, special prize challenges and a six-month subscription to the fitness journal.

As the winner, Clark received a two-night stay at the Hale Koa Hotel, in Waikiki, along with a myriad of other prizes, but she said her biggest prize was losing the weight.



Courtesy Photos

