

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

VOL. 40 NO. 50 | DECEMBER 16, 2011

Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawaii ★ www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com

INSIDE

Warrior Ohana clinic opens to families, retirees

PACIFIC REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND
Public Affairs Office

KALAELOA – It's no secret why patients love the Warrior Ohana Medical Home, or WOMH, a community-based primary care clinic, here.

At its heart, the WOMH is health care the way it should be – easy to access, patient centered, team based and quality focused. It's one of 21 community-based medical home clinics located throughout the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

Community-based medical homes are Army-run primary care clinics, located off post in communities where Army families live. The clinics are inspired by patients' ideas and suggestions about

Warrior Ohana Medical Home

Enrollment is open to families of active duty service members and retirees; however, retirees must have Tricare Prime coverage and be under age 64.

To enroll, family members should visit the nearest Tricare Service Center. Offices are located on both the Hickam and Pearl Harbor sides of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, at Schofield Barracks Health Center and at TAMC. Call (888) 874-9378. Service centers are open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

how health care should be. This concept of patient-centered health care is being adopted across both military and civilian health care systems.

For Jeanette Ayala, a Navy spouse whose husband is assigned to the USS Chosen, making the switch was a no-brainer. The year has been one of changes; Ayala and her husband moved here from Japan in March, and in July, their son Stephan was born.

"My family lives in Kalaeloa, so it's really convenient," she said, "but what I really like is the

SEE CLINIC, A-3

200+ come home

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE M. BATTLE
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – More than 200 Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, were reunited with families and friends during a ceremony, here, Tuesday, following a yearlong deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

This arrival marks the third wave of 25th ID's elements exiting Iraq as a part of a 2008 U.S. agreement to withdraw all U.S. troops by the end of 2011.

"They are the last U.S. Army division in Iraq," said Col. Matthew Kelley, deputy commander-rear, 25th ID. "Their mission was to oversee all forces

SEE 25th ID, A-7

Best Ranger tryouts challenge 'Warrior Bde.'s' best, brightest Soldiers

Story and Photos by

SGT. ROBERT M. ENGLAND

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Nine Ranger-qualified Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, "Warriors," 25th Infantry Division, competed in the Best Ranger Competition tryouts, here, Dec. 6-7.

"Candidates will be biking about 150 miles a week, running in excess of 60 miles a week, road marching 50 miles a week and swimming about 10 miles a week."

– Sgt. Maj. Henry Sitzler
Training and operations NCOIC,
2nd BCT, 25th ID

The tryouts yielded the Soldiers who will represent the division at the annual Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., in April.

The tryouts lasted more than 30 hours, testing the Ranger warriors' knowledge, stamina and mental fortitude in events ranging from swimming to an iron sight M4 qualification.

Tryouts started with a Ranger physical fitness test. Candidates completed two minutes worth of push-ups and sit-ups, a timed five-mile run and ended with chin-ups. From there, the candidates moved to a weapons range, here, for an M4 qualification using only standard sights fitted to their weapons.

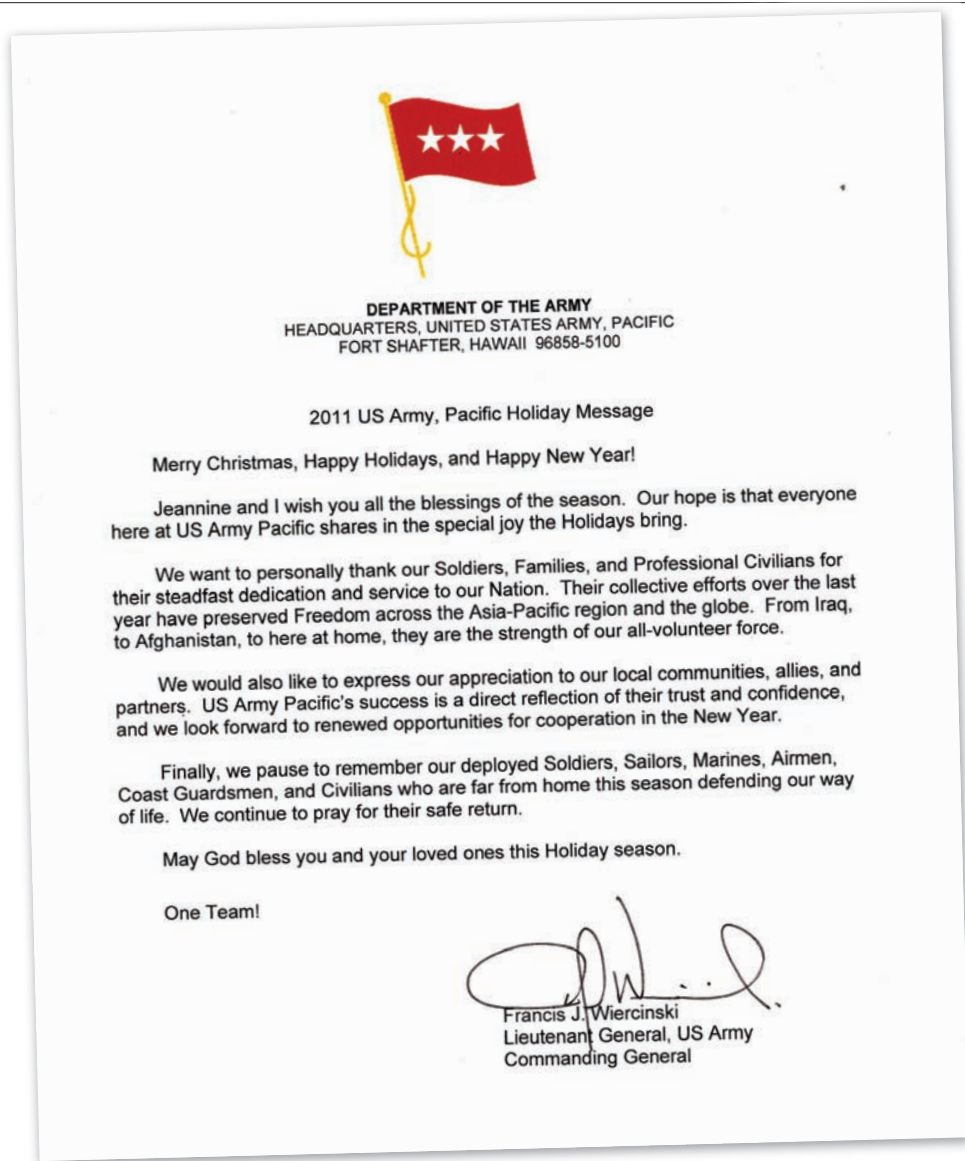


Steve Takekawa | Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Santa's here!

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Jaxon Artise (left), 17 months, and her brother, Kaleb, 10, visit with Santa at the annual tree lighting ceremony, here, Dec. 6. Santa is played by retired Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lokepa, Hawaii Army National Guard.

See more holiday stories on pages A-4, B-1, B-3 and B-5.



Stop the presses!

Subscribers will receive the Military Star News, Dec. 23 and 30, when the Hawaii Army Weekly takes its two-week hiatus.

'Iron Chefs'

25th CAB competes with Food Network's celebrity chefs.

A-7



Holiday Card Lane

Angry Birds takes over TAMC's Krukowski Lane.

B-1



Miami Marlins

Major League Baseball players interact with Soldiers and keiki.

B-4

This issue

Footsteps in Faith A-2

News Briefs A-6

FMWR B-2

Sports B-5

SEE 25th ID, A-4



Nine Ranger-qualified Soldiers from the 2nd BCT, 25th ID, begin the five-mile run portion of the Ranger physical fitness test during the Best Ranger Competition tryouts at Schofield Barracks, Dec. 6. The tryouts will yield the Soldiers that will represent the division at the annual Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., in April.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Diaz, noncommissioned officer in charge, Pre-Ranger Program, 2nd BCT, said that the candidates then road marched about 16 miles to East Range, here, for a day and night land navigation course.

After the land navigation portion, candidates completed the Air Assault Obstacle Course at East Range and

then moved on to the Ranger Stakes.

Diaz said that Ranger Stakes tested Soldier skills with disassembly and reassembly of the M240B machine gun, the M249 squad automatic weapon, the M14 rifle and the M9 pistol. Candidates also applied their

We want to hear from you...

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes articles from Army organizations, announcements from the general public about community events of interest to the military community, and letters and commentaries.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3488, or email editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is the Friday prior to Friday publications. Prior coordination is mandatory.

Articles must be text or Word files with complete information, no abbreviations; accompanying photographs must be digital, high resolution, jpeg files with full captions and bylines.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is an authorized newspaper and is published in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Hawaii.

All editorial content of the Hawaii Army Weekly is the responsibility of the U.S. Army, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857. Contents of the Hawaii Army Weekly are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is printed by The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written agreement with the U.S. Army, Hawaii.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is published weekly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 15,300.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, or The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, of the firms, products or services advertised.



Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii
Col. Douglas S. Mulbury
Director, Public Affairs
Dennis C. Drake
Chief, Internal Communication

Aiko Rose Brum, 656-3155
aiko.brum@us.army.mil
Acting Managing Editor

Vickey Mouzé, 656-3156
editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
News Editor

Vanessa Lynch, 656-3150
vanessa@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Layout

Nicole Gilmore
Web Content

Lacey Justinger, 656-3153
lacey@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

Advertising: 529-4700
Classifieds: 521-9111

Address:
Public Affairs Office
742 Santos Dumont Ave., WAAF
Building 108, Room 304
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5000

Website:
www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Nondelivery or distribution
656-3155 or 656-3488

19 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 12/15/11.

Top Cop

Pet owners need to adhere to ownership policies

COL. LA'TONYA D. LYNN

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

Welcome to Top Cop. The goal of this monthly column is to provide crime data to our military communities throughout U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and to increase awareness, which will aid in crime prevention.



Lynn

The Directorate of Emergency Services, USAG-HI, uses crime statistics to determine patrol distribution and to maintain safety and security within our communities.

Over the past month, there have been questions in reference to having pets on USAG-HI installations. USAG-HI Policy Installation-1, Section 4, Subsection F, and USAG-HI Policy #36 address having pets on Army installations in Hawaii.

According to the policies, owning pets that demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior is strictly prohibited. If the pet is seen to demonstrate this behavior, the individual and/or pet can be removed from on post housing.

Seven breeds are deemed aggressive or potentially aggressive, excluding certified military working dogs boarded by the handler or trainer.

These breeds include American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire bull terriers, English Staffordshire bull terriers, rottweilers, doberman pinschers, chows and wolf hybrids, or a mix of any of these breeds.

Dominant or aggressive behavior is described as unprovoked barking, growling or snarling at people approaching the animal, aggressively running along fence lines when people are present, biting or scratching people, and escaping confinement or restriction to chase people.

According to USAG-HI Policy #35, cats and dogs must be microchipped, and all pets 16 weeks or older must be registered with the Army Veterinary Treatment Facility. Dogs must also be registered with the city and county of Honolulu.

Island Palm Community's rules and policies regarding pets in housing communities can be found in

Crime Statistics

From Nov. 1- Nov. 30, the Schofield Barracks Provost Marshal Office, or PMO, reported a total of 132 cases for both areas of operation, or AORs. Outlined below is a listing of these cases.

Assaults

Those involving alcohol: 2
Service members apprehended: 13
Family members apprehended: 6

Larcenies

Insecure/unattended: 22
In housing area: 22
In public area: 7
Traffic accidents: 15
Involving injuries: 2
Damage to property: 10

Driving under the influence

Service members apprehended: 6

Traffic citations

Cell phone violations: 2
Speeding violations: 63
Failure to stop as posted: 13
No insurance: 7
Expired safety inspection: 60
Parking violations: 5
Improper turns: 2

No vehicle registration: 4
Failure to register: 2
Driving without a license: 4
Expired registration: 39
Defective equipment: 6
Failure to wear protective equipment: 2
Failure to display registration: 1
No seatbelt: 2
Revoked driver's license: 1
Suspended driver's license: 4
Limited backing: 1
Failure to control pet: 4
Failure to use turn signal: 1
Drivers view obstructed: 1
Permitting unlicensed driver to drive: 1
Open container: 2
Excessive noise: 5
Possession of 1 gram of marijuana: 1
No safety inspection paper: 1
Fail to yield right of way: 1
Obstructing sidewalk: 1
Disregarding red light: 1
Trespassing: 1

Report any suspicious behavior or witnessed criminal acts to law enforcement personnel at Schofield Barracks at 655-7114 or at Fort Shafter at 438-7114.

Section 4 of the Residents Guide and Community Standards Handbook.

The Schofield Barracks Animal Control section is responsible for the pickup, temporary guardianship and the processing of unattended domestic, stray or wild dogs and cats on USAG-HI installations. Animal control investigates reports of animal neglect or abuse and issues citations for pet policy violations and Hawaii state animal laws.

If a pet isn't microchipped and there is no means of identifying the owner, animal control will pickup and transport the animal to the Hawaii Humane Society. Only animal control officers are authorized to set traps.

If animal control isn't available, military police or Department of the Army civilian police, or DACP,

can issue citations for pet policy violations and Hawaii state animal laws. They can also, in a limited capacity, pick up found or stray animals.

MPs or DACPs will always be available to assist in any situation that is considered an emergency.

Pet Policies

For specific regulations on pets, read USAG-HI Policy Installation-1, Section 4, Subsection F, and USAG-HI Policy #35 and #36 at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on "Command Policies."

Letter to the Editor

I'm thankful for 'Steve'

Dear Editor,

There was a three-car accident up on the slopes of Kaukonahua Road, outside the town of Waiialua, leading to Wahiawa and Schofield Barracks, Nov. 28.

My wife was the one pinned inside our car. Following the accident, after I managed to step out of our car, I noticed a Soldier helping to direct traffic around the scene of the accident. Apparently, after he came upon the accident, he immediately stopped his car on the side of the road to see if he could help.

He showed much initiative and calmness as he voluntarily helped direct traffic around us before the ambulance, fire department and police arrived on scene.

All I can recall before my wife and I were taken from the scene by ambulance was his first name was Steve.

If you can, please pass our deepest gratitude to Steve and also to his commander for his outreach and caring of others. He is definitely an excellent representative and positive example of the U.S. military here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Lloyd O'Sullivan

Three Soldiers found guilty of various offenses



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

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

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, publishes the results of the following recent courts-martial.

A staff sergeant from Company A, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 516th Sig. Brigade, 311th Sig. Command, was found guilty of one specification of Article 112a, wrongful use of marijuana, and was sentenced to be reduced in rank to specialist and to be confined for 30 days.

A sergeant from Co. B., 307th Expeditionary Sig. Bn., 516th Sig. Bde., 311th Sig. Command, was found guilty of one specification of Article 129, assault, and was sentenced to forfeit \$750 pay, per month, for three months.

A specialist from 548th Transportation Detach-

ment, 302nd Terminal Bn., 303rd Maneuver Enhancement Bde., pled guilty to two specifications of Article 128, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The specialist was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of private, to forfeit all pay and allowances, be confined for two years, and to receive a bad-conduct discharge.

In addition to forfeiture of pay, either adjudged or by operation of law, confinement, and a punitive discharge, the Soldier will also have a federal conviction that the Soldier must report when filling out a job application. A federal conviction strips the Soldier of many rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and the right to vote.



Advent represents the hope that Christ brings to all during Christmas

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) THEODORE P. VALCOURT
30th Signal Battalion, 516th Sig. Brigade, 311th Sig. Command

Advent means "coming" or "arrival."

The entire season celebrates the coming of Christ in his first Advent, the babe in the manger. It is an important season for most Christians.

Advent represents the beginning of the church year, and it prepares us for the joy that will come; and that joy is Christmas or Christ.

Many of us are already preparing for Christmas. We are gathering food for our Christmas meal, we are looking for bargains in stores as we search for the perfect gift, and most of us have started sending Christmas cards to our friends and relatives.

Shopping malls are decorated, and Christmas music is being played on every radio station. Children are on their best behavior, and the Post Office is re-

ceiving tons of letters addressed to Santa Claus. Like the season of Advent, we are all preparing for the holidays.



Valcourt

Our churches are decorated, as well. The season of Pentecost, or ordinary time, is gone and the color green is replaced. Purple or royal blue is everywhere. Purple is the color of penitence and fasting. It is used to welcome the Advent or the coming of our king. Royal blue does the same.

During the season of Advent, choirs sing songs that focus on this theme, too. A popular Advent song is "O Come, O Come Emanuel." Scripture readings will also pro-

claim the coming of the Messiah.

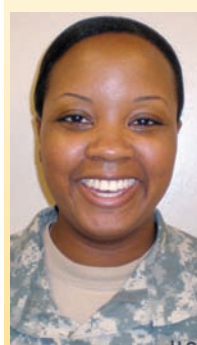
Winter may represent a time when there may be some gloom and darkness. The trees have lost their leaves, autumn is over and the sun sets much earlier.

In ancient times, however, people found hope in the things that winter could not vanquish. Plants and trees that were able to remain green all year became symbols of hope.

Mistletoe and evergreen trees, what we use as Christmas trees, still embody and hold a special meaning during this season.

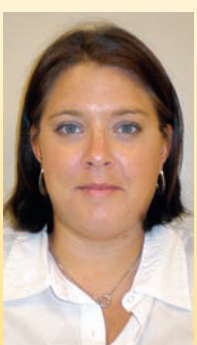
Advent represents the hope that Christ brings to all who are willing to wait and not lose hope. As we celebrate the season together, let us remember that Advent means hope and God will provide his hope for us all.

Voices of Ohana



"Santa would make me happy if he gave me the new iPhone 4S."

Sgt. Leslie Allen
25th ID Band



"I would like for someone to buy my house in Alabama."

Melissa Melendez
Parent Central Services
SLO, CYSS, DFMWR



"My wish is for a new sewing machine."

Brienne Omalza
Preschool Lead,
SLO, CYSS, DFMWR



"I am hoping for an HTC EVO Shift cell phone."

Elizabeth Winters Weddle
SLO, CYSS, DFMWR



"I asked Santa for a Barbie Princess Charm School doll."

Raina Young
Family Member

What do you hope to find under your Christmas tree on Christmas morning?

Photos by School Liason Office; Child, Youth and School Services; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

From the Army's Home Front

Caring exemplifies the spirit of the holiday season

LT. GEN. MICHAEL FERRITER
Commander, Installation Management Command

One of the world's greatest leaders was a gate guard who worked at the main gate of Fort Benning, Ga. What made him so great was that he knew his job was more than checking ID cards. With his awesome attitude, he conveyed that he cared to every person passing through his lane.

Somehow, he succeeded in making a difference just through his genuine message of "Welcome home!" I talked with many people who came into contact with him – Soldiers, parents visiting their Soldiers, civilians going to work, and visiting retirees who were stationed at Fort Benning years ago, and all agreed. He made a difference.

We've all seen this type of inspired leadership on every installation. Showing that we care exemplifies the very spirit of the holiday season.

The great thing about being part of the Army family is that caring goes beyond the holiday season. It is day-in, day-out, year-round.

Margie and I and our four kids have lived and grown as a family on Army installations around the world. In addition to the gate guard, we've met many whose sense of service far exceeded their job description – really dedicated people at a housing office, youth sports coaches and child development professionals, to

"Caring and selfless service is ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it."

— Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter
Commander, IMCOM



name just a few. My family's experience is not unique. Every Soldier and family member can point to service providers on our garrisons who go out of their way to help.

The same sense of caring is why so many Soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees volunteer their time and talents across the installation. Our volunteers welcome newcomers. They teach classes, mentor children and teens, and run play-groups for young mothers and toddlers. They plan outings for wounded warriors, build houses for disabled veterans, support survivors, help prepare families for deployment and throw welcome home parties.

Caring and selfless service is ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it.

"Army Strong!"

To everyone who has extended a helping hand this past year, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer, thank you. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference for Soldiers, civilians and families.

Let's all enjoy what the season offers, wherever we are, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones. As we celebrate, let's remember those who are deployed and extend extra support to their families at home.

Let's also be mindful of those around us who may find this time of year more difficult. For those who need assistance, our installations provide a number of Soldier and family support services. If you are unsure where to go, start with Army Community Service or the chaplain's office.

From my family to you and yours, we wish you safe and happy holidays and a blessed new year.

(Editor's Note: Ferriter assumed command of IMCOM at Joint Base San Antonio, Nov. 17. He is also the assistant chief of staff for Installation Management. IMCOM's mission is to provide Soldiers, civilians and their families with a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service.)

Department of Defense identifies 3rd BCT casualties

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
News Release

The Department of Defense announced the death of two Soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Tuesday.

Sgt. Christopher Muniz, 24, of New Cuyama, Calif., 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Bde. Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and Spc. Ronald Wildrick Jr., 30, of Blairstown, N.J., Company A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regiment, 3rd BCT; died Dec. 11, in Kunar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device.

Muniz's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service

Star, Global War on Terrorism Medal and Army Service Ribbon. His posthumous awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the NATO Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Muniz enlisted in the Army, Nov. 13, 2008, as a signal intelligence analyst. OEF was his first deployment.

Wildrick's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Basic Parachutist Badge.

His posthumous awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the NATO Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Wildrick enlisted in the Army, June 18, 2008, as an infantryman. OEF was his first deployment.



Muniz



Wildrick



Clinic: Staff goes the extra mile for patients

CONTINUED FROM A-1

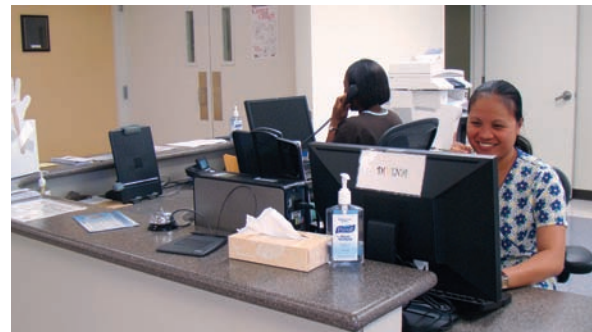
idea behind the medical home. It feels like I'm in my hometown clinic with one doctor for the entire family. I feel like the level of care is better because they know me better."

Each patient has a team of doctors and nurses who work with that patient to promote a spirit of health and wellness.

"We went to the clinic to kind of try it out, and the decision to switch was made almost immediately," Ayala said. "Everyone from the front desk personnel to the nurses to the doctor were patient and took the time to answer every question. They wanted to make sure we were knowledgeable about everything related to our care. You could just tell everyone enjoyed their job, cared about you and your well-being."

To better serve patients, the WOMH partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to operate a Keiki Waiting Room, a no-cost child care center for children ages 6 weeks-12 years old, in August.

"Patients expressed to me many times that this is a service they are accustomed to at both Schofield Barracks Health Clinic and Tripler Army Medical Center," said Mary Nilges,



Aiko Brum | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Care coordinators Divina Richardson (right) and Yolanda Richardson, both licensed practical nurses, manage the front desk at the Warrior Ohana Medical Home, recently.

group practice manager, WOMH. "(Our patients) have told me they would really appreciate it if we could have a waiting room, here, also. It is a much-needed service."



Scammers take advantage of holiday spirit

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND-PACIFIC REGION
Public Affairs Office

FORT SHAFTER — During the holiday season, many consumers will choose to buy gifts and services from online retailers.

Despite the economic downturn, Internet shopping may well hit record levels this holiday season, opening the door to a host of both new and well-practiced holiday scams.

The holidays are supposed to be a time of goodwill toward your fellow man, but for scammers, it's an opportunity to grab all they can and get away while people's defenses are down.

This season is prime time for scammers, and sadly, they're going to be busy — not just on the Internet, but at the mall, at the airport, at the register and even at your own front door, as they take advantage of seasonal hustle and bustle.

Scammers will try to take advantage of the increased volume of online consumers and try to exploit those who are unaware of cyber risks to gain access to their personal information.

Public and private sector organizations and individuals should remain vigilant when purchasing online.

Current threat trends include, but are not limited to the following:

- Phony profiles on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are claiming to be legitimate businesses. These fake profiles will look like their legitimate counterparts, but clicking on links in these profiles could allow malicious code to be installed on the victim's computer compromising the victim's security and privacy.

- Emails from hotels claiming that a "wrong transaction" has been charged to a credit card have also been reported. The hotel will claim to offer a refund if the victim downloads and completes a refund form. Unfortunately, the form is embedded with malicious code and downloading it installs malware onto the victim's computer.

- Emails that are actually phishing scams involving bogus courier services during the holidays. The fake courier will send an email saying a package is waiting for the victim and asking for personal information from the victim in order to retrieve data.

- Non-legitimate websites claiming to have the "hot" gift of the season when most legitimate retailers are sold out. The non-legitimate websites will tempt victims to order from them when they actually do not have the item and will steal victims' personal information and charge their credit card.

(Editor's Note: Vanessa Lynch, news editor, contributed to the content of this article.)

25th ID: Tryouts put Soldiers to the ultimate test

CONTINUED FROM A-1

knowledge of knot tying. The Ranger Stakes ended with disassembly and reassembly of the M4 carbine while blindfolded.

The candidates then moved to Richardson Pool, here, for the final portion of the tryouts: a revised combat water survival test, or CWST.

Sgt. Maj. Henry Sitzler, training and operations NCOIC, 2nd BCT, said the CWST consisted of a 250-meter swim in the Army Combat Uniform, called a "ditch and down." Candidates jumped into the pool with a front-load carrying vest and dummy M4 carbine and then discarded their gear before swimming to the side of the pool. The CWST concluded with a three-meter drop into the pool and then a short swim to the side of the pool.

Now that candidates have completed individual level tryouts, they will enter a training phase during January-March.

During the training phase, Sitzler said the candidates should expect a rigorous regiment that will test and hone their physical endurance and Soldier skills.

"Candidates will be biking about 150 miles a week, running in excess of 60 miles a week, road marching 50 miles a week and swimming about 10 miles a week," Sitzler said. "They will also be improving their Soldier skills pertaining to radio communication, first aid and demolitions."

The Armywide competition in April will be completed in two-man buddy teams. Sitzler said that the 25th ID's teams will be assembled near the end of the training phase. Personalities, character traits and areas of expertise will all be considered when putting the teams together.

"What we'll do is go through the training, and then we will pair them up based on their individual strengths and weaknesses," he said.

Once assembled, the teams will travel to Fort Benning, Ga., to compete with teams representing other units in the Best Ranger Competition.

Besides the prestige of participating in the Best Ranger Competition, Diaz said that the competition has another benefit besides prestige.

"The competition provides knowledgeable, physically fit platoon leaders and platoon sergeants at the ground level," Diaz said. "It also benefits the units' esprit de corps by building the morale."

He added, when "Soldiers see someone from their unit participating in one of the hardest competitions against other elite Soldiers Armywide, motivation, morale and esprit de corps soar."



1st Lt. Phillip Baweja (left), platoon leader, Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Inf. Regiment, 2nd BCT, 25th ID, jumps into the pool with a vest and dummy M4 carbine during the CWST portion of the Best Ranger tryouts at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 7.



Capt. Kyle Greer (right), executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, 25th ID, performs sit-ups for the Ranger physical fitness test portion of the Best Ranger tryouts, held at Schofield Barracks, Dec. 6.

Prevention strategy encourages responsible drinking

BETHANN CAMERON
U.S. Army Public Health Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The message is simple: zero drinks, if you're under the age of 21; zero drinks if you're driving; one drink per hour; and no more than three drinks of alcohol per outing.

A program called "0-0-1-3" is an alcohol abuse prevention program that promotes making responsible choices with regard to alcohol use.

The 0-0-1-3 effort is based on science and is defined as "responsible periodic drinking" by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Academy of Sciences.

The program supports the National Prevention Strategy that encourages national health by partnering with agencies that focus on substance abuse, mental health, and juvenile and criminal justice.

In 2004, Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, Wyo., developed the 0-0-1-3 program to address alcohol misuse. A basewide survey found that the average airman thought "unsafe" drinking began with eight drinks or more.

0-0-1-3

- 0 - Zero drinks, if you're under the age of 21
- 0 - Zero DUIs (driving while under the influence)
- 1 - One drink per hour
- 3 - No more than three drinks of alcohol per outing

Within the first year of implementing 0-0-1-3, alcohol-related incidents at Warren AFB declined by 74 percent with 81-percent fewer cases of underage drinking and 45-percent fewer cases of drunk driving.

The 0-0-1-3 program has expanded from the Air Force to schools, colleges and communities, as well as states nationwide with the goal of decreasing alcohol-related incidents. Also, the U.S. Naval Academy implemented the program in 2006.

Most people know that drinking alcohol can

be harmful. It can affect a person's health and well-being by causing illness and injury. It can also affect a military person's career by causing him or her to be passed over for promotion or lose time from duty.

The 0-0-1-3 program is about making responsible choices about drinking alcohol. It is not an excuse to drink every day.

If you're underage or driving, don't drink. If you are of legal age to consume alcohol, be responsible.

Think 0-0-1-3 before you drink.



Donna Klapakis | 599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs

Load 'em up

KALAELOA — Soldiers (above) from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, prepare UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters for a deployment to Afghanistan with the help of the 599th Transportation Brigade at Barbers Point Harbor, here, Dec. 7. This load out is the first time the 599th Trans. Bde. has used the harbor for operations in four years.

Right — Soldiers from the 25th CAB, 25th ID, prepare a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for the brigade's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, Dec. 7.



Department of the Army moves forward with civilian reductions

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

News Release

WASHINGTON — The Army is moving forward with plans to reduce the size of its civilian employee workforce.

In July, the Army announced a planned reduction of approximately 8,700 positions by Sept. 30, 2012. These cuts are based on Department of the Defense resource decisions as reflected in the fiscal year 2012 president's budget and require a reduction of Army civilian employees to comply with decreased funding levels.

The Army has identified 70 different locations affected by these reductions across eight commands and agencies with nearly 90 percent of the cuts taking place within Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, and Training and Doctrine Command.

Thirty-seven states will be affected by these "reductions with the majority of personnel cuts occurring in those states with the largest military and Army civilian populations.

"Army commands and agencies are continuing to take necessary actions to reduce their civilian on-board strength to meet funded targets established by the secretary of defense and reflected in the president's budget," said Thomas

Lamont, the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. "To the maximum extent possible, the Army will rely on voluntary departures to achieve these manpower reductions."

Commanders are responsible for shaping their workforce within their allocated budget and may use all available options to achieve reduction objectives while mitigating adverse impact on the workforce.

Voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive payment may be used to reduce the number of personnel to meet mission objectives.



Resources

Review IMCOM positions in IEPP at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/662838>.

Stay up to date on news and information within the Garrison at these sites:

- www.facebook.com/usaghawaii
- www.twitter.com/usaghawaii

Employee town halls to provide latest details

U.S. ARMY GARRISON HAWAII

Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii will hold significant employee town hall meetings the first week of January 2012.

Dates and times are forthcoming.

Personnel can get current information at the garrison's Facebook and Twitter sites, in community and USAG bulletins, in the "Hawaii Army Weekly" and from their supervisors.

At the employee town halls, Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI, "will cover our current situation, our internal garrison command processes and pending timelines," said Jim Duttweiler, deputy commander, USAG-HI.

Duttweiler explained IMCOM has directed its installations to reduce to fiscal year 2013 Table of Distribution and Allowances, or TDA levels, by the end of September 2012.

USAG-HI is using voluntary methods, to the

maximum extent possible, to reach TDA levels. Methods have included the hiring freeze, voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentives and workforce alignment.

Soon, garrison's Personnel Management Board will begin the process of matching "faces to spaces" for excess personnel, according to Duttweiler.

The deputy commander encourages personnel who are likely to be adversely affected by imposed structure and funding changes to review IMCOM's Enterprise Placement Program, or IEPP. This voluntary, online placement program "provides visibility of current IMCOM vacancies across the IMCOM organization" for personnel.

"Our garrison goal remains to place every impacted employee in a position where they are making a positive contribution to the garrison mission, and in which they can grow both personally and professionally," Duttweiler said.



Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade | Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

Purple Heart

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno (left) pins a Purple Heart medal on Cpl. Aaron Jacinto, in 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, during a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center, here, Dec. 5.

News Briefs

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

Today

Reverse Direction Spike Strips — Reverse direction spike strips will be installed during weekends in December at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter gates. Times and locations follow:

- Buckner Gate, Fort Shafter, Dec. 18.
- Foote Gate, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 23-25.
- Lyman Gate, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 30-31.

Exit traffic will be temporarily detoured to another gate/lane during the installation. Inbound traffic will not be impacted. Hours for other gates remain unchanged. Plan for additional travel time due to expected traffic congestion. Call 656-6751/6750.

17 / Saturday

Gate Changes— Starting Dec. 17, McNair Gate, Schofield Barracks, will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Starting Jan. 1, gate hours follow:

- Foote Gate, Schofield Barracks, 5 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- McNair Gate, Schofield Barracks, 5 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- Kawamura Gate, Wheeler Army Airfield, 5 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 5 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday.
- Patch Gate, Fort Shafter, 5 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

31 / Saturday

Free Overnight Hotel Vouchers — Active duty service members traveling to or leaving the U.S. can present their ID card and a copy of their official travel orders at the Honolulu International Airport USO to get a free overnight hotel voucher. This offer is good through Dec. 31. For a list of participating hotels, visit www.salutetosoldiers.com. Call 422-1213 or email elsmith@uso.org or btroegner@uso.org.

January

16 / Monday

Defense Employer Support

Freedom Award — Deadline is Jan. 16 for all Guard and Reserve members to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of their military service. Submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil.

Ongoing

PT Routes — Units are asked to observe authorized Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield physical training routes. Units are also asked to show courtesy while conducting formations and PT on installation fields adjacent to family housing areas. Details are outlined in USAG-HI Policy Memorandum "Authorized Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield (PT) Routes and Pedestrian Rights and Duties." Questions can be addressed with the USAG-HI command sergeant major at 656-1153.

Suspicious Activity — "iWatch Army" is a community program to help your neighborhood stay safe from terrorist activities. iWatch Army asks you to report behavior and activities that are unusual or seem out of the ordinary.

Report all suspicious activity to the Military Police:

- Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Airfield and Helemano Military Reservation: 655-7114.
- Fort Shafter, Aliamanu Military Reservation and Tripler Army Medical Center: 438-7114.
- Fort DeRussy: 438-2650.
- Pohakuloa Training Area: 969-2429.

Prevention Tool —

MyPrime is an online alcohol and substance abuse prevention and intervention training tool that provides Soldiers with the ability to self-assess their own high-risk behaviors and influence changes in attitude, belief and behavior. Modeled after the successful classroom-based training program and current Army Drug and Alcohol Prevention Training, PRIME for Life, myPRIME's online training enables the Army to better serve deployed Soldiers. Log in at <https://forums.army.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=1596430>.

USARPAC names Sgt. 1st Class Dubon as 2011 Career Counselor of the Year

Story and Photos by

SGT. GAELN LOWERS

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — U.S. Army-Pacific hosted its annual Career Counselor of the Year competition, here, Dec. 4-9, to determine who would move on compete at the Department of the Army level.

The competition was between one Soldier from each command under USARPAC: Sgt. 1st Class Joanne Blatchley, U.S. Army-Alaska (Reserve component); Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Dubon, 25th Infantry Division; Staff Sgt. Celeste Imel, 8th Theater Sustainment Command; and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Schack, USARAK.

Competitors

- Sgt. 1st Class Joanne Blatchley, USARAK (Reserve component)
- Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Dubon, 25th ID
- Staff Sgt. Celeste Imel, 8th TSC
- Sgt. 1st Class Steven Schack, USARAK

"It's just like anything in the Army," said Sgt. Maj. Scott Montgomery, retention, Reserve component sergeant major, USARPAC. "Competition is always good; it forces people to push themselves. As non-commissioned officers, we are bound and obligated to set certain standards, and those standards are all about honor."

The competition consisted of an Army physical fitness test, a written exam, warrior tasks and a board. The competition concluded with an awards dinner held at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki.

The winners of this year's competition were Dubon and Blatchley.

The winners will go on to compete at the DA-level competition during the week of Dec. 23.

"It's a pretty strenuous process that we go through," said Master Sgt. John Styles, retention operations, USARPAC. "Therefore, we weed out the ones that maybe wouldn't be a good representative, and we come up with the best career counselors."

Montgomery echoed Styles' statements.

"I feel it is one of the most needed careers in the Army," Montgomery said. "Career counselors are the ones that monitor and make sure we re-take the most qualified Soldiers for the Army at this point."



Staff Sgt. Celeste Imel, 8th TSC, evaluates and tends to a casualty during the warrior tasks portion of the Career Counselor of the Year competition at Fort Shafter, Dec. 4-9.



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Schack (left), USARAK, figures out a 9-line medical evacuation, while Sgt. 1st Class Andy Murdock, senior fire support sergeant, USARPAC, and evaluator for the 9-line test, watches during the Career Counselor of the Year competition at Fort Shafter, Dec. 4-9.

"By doing these competitions yearly, it lets everyone know, even the secretary of the Army, the importance of retention and what it does, and the part it plays in the Army as a whole," Montgomery concluded.

25th ID: Third wave redeploys

CONTINUED FROM A-1

as they were withdrawing and removing equipment from Iraq.

"That mission is just about accomplished," he added.

With the end of 2011 fast approaching, the leadership of 25th ID, currently deployed in Iraq, will also be able to make it home for the holidays. Senior leaders and key personnel have spent the last year serving as the command and control element for U.S. Division-Center.

A ceremony to mark the redeployment of the final U.S. division in Iraq will be held, here, Dec. 18.

Since late 2010, more than 700 HHBN Soldiers have served as the support element for 25th ID's headquarters.

The unit was responsible for leading the advise, train and assist mission throughout central Iraq. It's currently the last division headquarters under U.S. Forces-Iraq and responsible for overseeing operational-level detail, command and control needed until the completion of U.S. forces withdrawing from Iraq.

The remaining 25th ID Soldiers in Iraq are scheduled to return by New Year's Eve.

Leadership Returns

A ceremony to mark the redeployment of the final U.S. division in Iraq will be held at Wheeler Army Airfield, Dec. 18.



A Soldier from HHBN, 25th ID, reunites with his family following the unit's redeployment ceremony at Wheeler Army Airfield, Tuesday. Soldiers from HHBN deployed to Iraq for a year in support of OND.



Iron Chefs Michael Symon (left), Cat Cora (center) and Masaharu Morimoto pose for pictures prior to the filming of Iron Chef America at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 4.

25th CAB specialist competes with 'Iron Chefs'

Story and Photo by
SGT. KARL WILLIAMS
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — The Koolau Mountain Range served as a scenic backdrop for a friendly competition between service members from across Hawaii as they competed in the "Iron Chef America" culinary contest, here, Dec. 4.

Culinary teams were assembled pitting Iron Chef Michael Symon and Spc. Oscar Alvarado, food service specialist, Headquarters Support Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Avn. Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, against Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto and Lance Cpl. Eva Castillo, food specialist, Headquarters Bn.; and Iron Chef Cat Cora and Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Downey, culinary specialist, Navy Region-Hawaii and Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Alvarado said this contest was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase his abilities.

"I love cooking," Alvarado said. "I told myself one day I would be cooking on television, but I never thought it would happen so soon, and not in my wildest dreams did I ever imag-

ine it would be cooking with Michael Symon. It was by far the best part of the experience for me. Not many people get that opportunity."

Hosted by Food Network personality Alton Brown, this episode of the show is tentatively scheduled to air next season on the Food Network.

After unveiling the secret ingredient, which will remain a secret until the show airs, Mark Dacascos, or "The Chairman" as he is known on the series, kicked off the program with his familiar line: "So now America, with an open heart and an empty stomach, I say unto you in the words of my uncle, 'Allez cuisine!'"

Teams received an hour to prepare three dishes using the secret ingredient, plus the use of anything from the stocked food pantry.

Alvarado, who won the 2011 U.S. Army-Pacific Cook Off, said cooking on an open grill outside presented additional challenges.

"With the smoke and heat from the grill, and the flames licking out and singeing the hair on my arms, I would not have wanted to be anywhere else," Alvarado said.

As the minutes ticked by, chefs and sous chefs raced back and forth

across the Marine Corps's flight line — near Hanger 101, which served as "Kitchen Stadium" — to gather ingredients or seasoning they hoped would lead their teams to victory.

Judges Daniel Dae Kim, star of Hawaii Five-0; Sunny Anderson, host of the Food Network's show "Cooking for Real"; and Simon Majumdar, a judge on the network's show "The Next Iron Chef," sampled each dish and judged them on taste, originality, presentation and use of the secret ingredient.

During the judging, Brown questioned Alvarado about being paired up with Michael Symon.

"Today was a great opportunity for me to learn from Chef Michael," he said. "Watching the way he went about preparing and plating each dish with such elegance was by far, one of the best lessons I could have asked for."

Whatever the outcome, Alvarado believes his military brethren enjoyed themselves.

"It was a great competition that enhanced the camaraderie between service members from different branches of the U.S. military," Alvarado said.



Sgt. Chris Huddleston | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sust. Command

Passing the guidon

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Col. Jeffrey Drushal (center left), commander, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Mark Faria, commander, 303rd Ordnance Battalion, 45th Sust. Bde., during the unit's change of command ceremony, Dec. 9, at Hamilton Field, here.

The passing of the guidon signifies transferring the unit's legacy to the new commander as a building block for future achievements.

Dec. 7, 1941, gets remembered

JACK WIERS

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – Seventy years ago, Dec. 7, 1941, America changed forever.

What's often overlooked in the history books is the likelihood that the first bombs that catapulted the U.S. into World War II were dropped, here.

That morning, shortly before 8 a.m., Cpl. Amos Peterson experienced history first hand as he was attempting to enter the Wheeler Mess Hall, now known as the "Wings of Lightning Inn" dining facility at 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Even then, it was the primary DFAC of Wheeler's aviators.

An explosion that morning kept the door from opening.

"I remember being squeezed together like a pop bottle and tossed about," said Peterson, now 89 years old.

A blast across the street at Hangar #3 ignited millions of rounds of stored munitions. It also shook the nearby mess hall and blew out windows. The door Peterson was attempting to open very possibly saved his life from an onslaught of glass and shrapnel.

"I was thrown into the stairways, knocked unconscious," Peterson recounted. "When I opened

my eyes and saw light, I knew I was alive."

Hangar #3 proved to be ground zero of the Army's greatest destruction that day. The Japanese military's primary targets that day were the Army airplanes on the field, munitions storage and the pilots' barracks. All took direct and lethal hits.

Oral history relays that the pilots of the Japanese planes were flying so low that eye-to-eye contact could be made.

Peterson received a Purple Heart after suffering permanent hearing loss, as well as a concussion and eye damage. He will turn 90 years old in February and returned to Wheeler, Dec. 6, with family members from his home in southwest Wisconsin.

The former member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 18th Pursuit Group, partially recovered. He still suffers from permanent hearing loss.

He remembered being called upon to help identify several of the 37 who died that day.

"It brings back hard memories," he said.

The now retired dairy farmer and his family toured remnants of bomb craters from the attack on the apron of the airfield that still exists today.

During his walk through history, Peterson received an ample dose of hospitality from Soldiers currently serving with the 25th CAB.



Dennis Drake | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Amos Peterson (center) poses with two 25th CAB, 25th ID, food service specialists during his tour of Wheeler Army Airfield, Dec. 7. Amos was on his way to "Wheeler's Mess Hall" when Japanese planes bombed the airfield 70 years ago.

CSM Leota brings his uncle's remains home after more than six decades

STAFF SGT. CASHMERE JEFFERSON

U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – The journey has taken more than six decades, but a U.S. Soldier is finally home.

Remains of a Soldier who was captured during the Korean War were escorted home to his family, Nov. 22, by his nephew, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota, senior enlisted leader, U.S. Army-Pacific.

Leota's family received the call from the U.S. Army's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, just days after Leota and Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler III visited JPAC, located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"We were given a detailed brief at JPAC on how the remains were identified and were told that in the next 48 hours, 19 families would be notified that their loved ones have been found," Leota said.

"JPAC has been able to make an identification of a lost family member

every two and a half days," said Steve Thompson, external relations officer. "More than 1,743 members have been returned to their families, thus far – Leota's uncle being among them."

"Within 48 hours, my phone was ringing off the hook," Leota said. "At 3 in the morning my cousin said, 'Uncle Jimmie has been found.'"

Pfc. Jimmie Gaitan was a medic with Clearing Company, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. He was taken prisoner while tending to his wounded comrades in South Korea, Feb. 13, 1951. He died while in prison, May 24, 1951.

"My aunt, Ruth Gaitan, has been waiting 60 years for her husband," Leota said. "She's 83 years old. They were married for only a short time before he left for Korea. Now she's waiting for me to bring him home."

"It's truly an honor for my family to ask me to bring the remains of my uncle home," he added.

Escorts have to complete computer-



Courtesy Photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota, senior enlisted leader, USARPAC, helps secure the remains of his uncle, Korean War POW Pfc. Jimmie Gaitan, as part of JPAC's chain of custody procedures, Nov. 22.

based training and meet with a mortuary affairs officer who provides them the latest details concerning their mission, said Terrence Hudson, director, Human Resources.

Leota went to JPAC/MIA and received custody of his uncle's remains and secured them in a green blanket, a tradition that dates back to the Civil War.

The military escort must ensure that the remains are loaded on the plane prior to boarding. The escort is usually the last passenger to enter the aircraft and the first to exit, Thompson said.

Leota escorted the remains of his uncle from the Honolulu International Airport, Nov. 22, to San Antonio, where Gaitan was buried with full military honors, Nov. 26, at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander, Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Regional Medical Command, inducted Gaitan as an honorary member of the Order of Military Medical Medal of Merit. The posthumous award recognizes Gaitan's service to the Army Medical Department while on the front line under tremendous hardships.

"Thanks to the efforts of those who have worked tirelessly to identify my uncle, one more family finally has answers, and one more American can finally come home," Leota said.



TAMC Holiday Card Lane welcomes Angry Birds

STEPHANIE BRYANT

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

HONOLULU — The Department of Social Work took first place in this year's Annual Holiday Card Lane with a festive version of Angry Birds, here.

Second and third place went to Troop Command and the Department of Surgery, respectively.

While the three top-placing cards can be viewed at the Oceanside entrance of the hospital, remaining cards can be viewed as drivers exit on Krukowski Lane. Cards will be in place through Jan. 1.

Sgt. Chloe Wells, Department of Social Work, was in charge of her department's card this year. She said despite the fact that their card inspiration came last minute, the department enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the event.

"We are excited that we have taken first place for the second year in a row," Wells said. "No one likes being stuck in traffic at the end of the day, and this time of year the cards make that drive off post a little easier."

"The card lane gives the departments

an opportunity to work together in a creative capacity and also promotes a little healthy competition," Wells explained.

The top three winners were announced at TAMC's 62nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, here, Nov. 29.

This year both first and second place entries created similar holiday card ideas and were both inspired by the game Angry Birds.

Sgt. Maj. Carl Dwyer, senior enlisted advisor, Troop Command, said although he has never played Angry Birds, he is very proud of the creativity of the Troop Command staff.

"The Holiday Card Lane is a symbol that the holiday season has arrived," Dwyer said. "It is a special time of year and the holiday cards act as a daily reminder for you to enjoy the season."

Since the 1990s, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii has continued the Holiday Card Lane tradition. Cards are also on display at Chapel Field, across from Richardson Theater on Fort Shafter, and at Macomb Gate, Schofield Barracks, until Jan. 6.

Soraya Robello | Tripler Army Medical Center

Winners of TAMC's Holiday Card Lane entries follow: (top to bottom): Dept. of Surgery, third place; Dept. of Social Work, first place for the second year in a row; and Human Resources, Troop Command, second place. These cards, along with remaining entries, will be on display through Jan. 1. Also, check out the cards at Fort Shafter's Chapel Field and Schofield Barrack's Macomb Gate through Jan. 6.

North, south communities celebrate holidays

Fort Shafter holds annual tree lighting event at Palm Circle

U.S. ARMY-PACIFIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

FORT SHAFTER — Santa Claus and the Junior ROTC Punahou High School Cadets welcomed the holiday season with entertainment, songs and the annual tree lighting ceremony on historic Palm Circle, here, Dec. 8.

The Junior ROTC variety show consisted of five acts: a singing duet, pianists, hula, violinists and a contemporary band that played traditional Christmas carols.

"The cadets did a great job in pulling together a variety show with very little preparation and rehearsal time," said retired Lt. Col. Bob Takao, senior Army instructor, Punahou High School.

Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, addressed the crowd. "I wish everyone a happy holiday and a safe and prosperous New Year," he said. "Take time to remember our deployed Soldiers during the holidays."

Staff Sgt. Adam Robles' family assisted with the tree lighting. Robles is currently deployed with Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Yanette Robles and her daughter DeAndrea



Russel Dodson | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Gabriel (left), son of Maj. Karl Pfuetz, 25th ID, meets Frosty the Snowman during the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 8, at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle.

waited for the countdown. The crowd chanted as the Robles pulled the large candy cane that triggered the lights on the tree.

Santa Claus and his elves arrived next amid flashing lights and sirens, pulling up in

a fire truck fully protected by Fort Shafter's Fire Department.

Santa greeted the many children as they lined up to take a picture with him. Mrs. Claus and the elves handed out candy canes.

"I hear he'll be joining us very soon."

Soon the oncoming darkness was confronted with a growing and vocal gathering, which chanted in unison. Being summoned, the Artise family quickly came to champion the lighting effort with technical support.

Ten-year-old Kaleb Artise, with 17 month-old Jaxon sleepily watching nearby, was the surprise technical wizard when he pressed the power button at just the right moment. Suddenly the field was transformed. Colored lights framed the mammoth 90-foot Schofield Barracks tree, accompanied by a roar from the big gathering.

Kaleb's father, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Artise, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, "Wolfhounds," 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, beamed with pride. Home for the holidays from Afghanistan, he and his family basked in the holiday spotlight. Mission accomplished.

Moments later, as darkness gave way to the glow of the Christmas tree, the youthful crowd received yet another surprise. The hoped-for big man wasn't riding a sleigh. Instead, he was arriving on a Schofield Barracks fire truck.

"Santa Claus!" shrieked hundreds of children as they dashed towards the unmistakable bearded man decked out in red.

At the same time, as if by magic, the Protestant Worship Team from the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel opened their iPads and began sharing holiday music.

Elves from the garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation appeared with cookies and hot chocolate.

The holiday season had arrived with the Schofield Barracks holiday tree lighting ceremony to a field full of happy children. One-by-one, they greeted the big man with hugs and tales of hoped-for holiday treasure.

Visit from Santa delights Schofield community, too

JACK WIERS

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The atmosphere at General's Loop was thick with anticipation, and rain, here, Dec. 6.

The big man's expected arrival was uncertain.

More than 500 people bravely, yet enthusiastically, dodged intermittent rain and rapidly approaching darkness buoyed by good cheer and a clear sense of occasion at the annual tree lighting ceremony, here.

As darkness approached, the clear need for additional lighting was evident.

Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, thanked those in attendance and offered a measure of hope.

"I've been looking for him, too," he said.

The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Religious Support Office will offer the following holiday services:

South Community

- **Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel**
Dec. 24, 4 p.m., Children's Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., Christmas Service (Protestant & Gospel combined)
Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m., New Year's Eve Service (Protestant & Gospel combined)

• **Fort DeRussy Chapel**

- (Across the street from the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki)
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Christmas Concert (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Service (Protestant)
Jan. 1, 5 p.m., New Year's Eve Mass (Catholic)

• **Tripler Army Medical Center**

- Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Vigil Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 11 a.m., Christmas Mass (Catholic)
Jan. 1, 11 a.m., New Year's Day Mass (Catholic)

North Community

- **Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel**
Dec. 18, 7 p.m., Wiccan Yule Celebration (Pagan)
Dec. 19, 6 p.m., Christmas Concert (Protestant)
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Children's Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Candlelight Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., Christmas Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 25, 12 noon, Christmas Service (Gospel)
Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Watch Night Service (Gospel)

• **Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel**

- Dec. 24, 10 p.m., Christmas Vigil Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Service (Lutheran-Episcopal)
Dec. 31, 5 p.m., New Year's Eve Mass (Catholic)

• **Soldiers Chapel**

- Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Service (Lutheran-Episcopal)

• **Helemano Military Reservation Chapel**

- Dec. 24, 4 p.m., Christmas Caroling (Protestant)
Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Protestant)
Dec. 25, 10 a.m., Christmas Service (Protestant)





MWR Briefs
Serving America's Army in Hawaii

Today

Friday Night Entertainment Series – Enjoy live entertainment each Friday night at Kolekole Bar and Grill, Schofield Barracks. From Latin and hip-hop to open mic night, something's available for everyone. Call 655-0664.

18 / Sunday

Adventure Surfing – Surf with Outdoor Recreation, 6:30-11:30 a.m., Dec. 18. To register, call 655-0143.

19 / Monday

Basketball Court Closure – The basketball court at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks, will be closed Dec. 19 so its hardwood floors can be resurfaced. Other areas of the gym will remain open and be available for use. Racquetball courts, weight rooms and the Nautilus room will remain open for use. Call 655-8006.

21 / Wednesday

Kids \$1.99 Meal – Every Wednesday night, children under 10 can enjoy delicious and healthy food for \$1.99 at Kolekole Bar and Grill, Schofield Barracks, or at Mulligan's Bar and Grill at Fort Shafter.

22 / Thursday

Texas Hold 'em – Test your poker playing skills at Texas Hold 'em at the Tropics Warrior Zone, Schofield Barracks, 6 p.m., Dec. 22. Enjoy food and drink specials while playing for prizes. Call 655-9698.

31 / Saturday

New Year's Eve Bash – Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter bowling centers. Reserve lanes by calling Schofield at 655-0573 or Fort Shafter at 438-6733.

Leilehua Golf Pro Shop – The golf pro shop's holiday sale, through Dec. 31, offers 10-50 percent off all merchandise, including sale and clearance items (excludes special orders). Call 655-4653.

January

3 / Tuesday

Free Hula Classes – Hula classes will resume Jan. 3 at the AMR Community Center and Jan. 9 at Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.



Brig. Gen. James Dickinson (left), commander, 94th AAMDC; and his wife Angie read "Crow Call" to students at the Fort Shafter Elementary School, Nov. 30. The MCEC sponsors the "Tell Me A Story" program for military keiki.

Students listen to story of 'Crow Call'

Story and Photo by
SGT. LOUIS LAMAR
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – More than 40 parents and children packed into the Fort Shafter Elementary School's cafeteria, here, to listen to the book "Crow Call," read by the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's commander, here, Nov. 30.

The Military Child Education Coalition's, or MCEC's, "Tell Me A Story" event was organized by the Schofield Barracks Parent to Parent team. It featured Brig. Gen. James Dickinson, commander, 94th AAMDC, and his wife, Angie, as guest readers.

"This event was very family-orientated," said Master Sgt. LaVaughn Brown, mobility noncommissioned officer, Logistics Office, U.S. Army-Pacific. "This was a great opportunity to sit down with my kids and relax while enjoying a story."

"Crow Call," by Lois Lowry, is a story about the author's experience of connecting with her father who has just returned from war.

"I really enjoyed listening to the story and enjoying the family time," said Teresa Vaughn, Coast Guard spouse.

After the story, students created crows out of black paper bags. They also discussed the story to make sure that had listened and comprehended.

"I liked the arts and crafts with the crow," said 4-year-old Rebeca Vaughn, a student at Navy Hale Keiki School.

The Dickinsons said they enjoyed the event because it reminded them of the times when they had read books to their children.

The "Tell Me A Story" program empowers military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience, strong peer and parent connections, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and a caring community.

The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, USAG-HI, welcomes all Soldiers and families to participate in its free hula classes. Beginner classes are 5-6 p.m.; advanced classes are 6-7 p.m. Call 655-9694 or email nhliaison@gmail.com. Classes are held the following days and locations:

- Mondays, Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.
- Tuesdays, AMR Community Center.

4 / Wednesday

Texas Hold 'em – Test your poker skills at Texas Hold 'em, 6 p.m., Jan. 4, at Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. Enjoy food and drink specials all while playing for prizes. Call 438-1974.

6 / Friday

Right Arm Night – Right Arm Night with food, games and prizes is Jan. 6 at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door. Call 655-4466.


Basketball and Indoor Soccer

– Deadline is Jan. 6 to sign up for indoor soccer and men's and women's basketball. Indoor soccer dates are Jan. 17-March 16; basketball games are Jan. 17-March 30. Call 655-0856.

Holiday Parades
(For a complete listing, visit www.honolulu.gov.)

The U.S. Army Hawaii community of Soldiers, family members, retirees and civilians are encouraged to enjoy seasonal celebrations in diverse communities.

Dec. 17, Ewa Beach/Lions Club Holiday Parade – From 10 a.m.-noon, starting by Ilima School parking lot to Fort Weaver Road, to Kuhina Street, to Hanakahi Street, and ending at Ilima Intermediate School parking lot.



Community Calendar

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

Today

Honolulu Gift Fair – Features more than 300 booths at Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, 777 Ward Ave., Honolulu. Dates and times follow:

- Dec. 16, 3-9 p.m.
- Dec. 17, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Dec. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Operation Best Wishes

Military personnel and families can create a free, 10-minute holiday webcast message to family members back home or deployed loved ones, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Dec. 16, Hawaiian Tel Federal Credit Union, 1129 Wright Ave., Building 102, WAAF. Sessions are limited; register today at www.operationbestwishes.com. Call 624-9801.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

Select an angel from the tree and fulfill the wish of a child or senior citizen in need by purchasing a requested gift and returning it unwrapped, with the lower portion of the card, to the Angel Tree. Locations follow:

- Windward Mall: Through Dec. 16, 1 to 8 p.m., Theater Wing, upper level.
- Pearlridge Center: During mall hours through Dec. 19, Uptown, first level fronting Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour.

17 / Saturday

Pancake Breakfast with Santa – Military keiki can have breakfast with Santa, 9-11 a.m., Dec. 17, Armed Services YMCA, Building 122, 1262 Santos Dumont, WAAF. Cost is \$5 and includes a photo with Santa and a gift; keiki and babies up to 4 years

old, free; adults, \$3.

"Merriest Hawaiian Christmas"

– The Honolulu Boy Choir presents its annual concert, Dec. 17, Central Union Church, 1660 S. Beretania St., Honolulu. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. No admission charge. Prelude music by the St. Louis School Band. Color guard presentation by U.S. Marine Forces Pacific. Open to the public. Visit www.honoluluboychoir.org and click on "Upcoming Events."

19 / Monday

Gingerbread Display – View the creative gingerbread works of the employees of the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, Dec. 19-24, 2335 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu. The public is invited to enjoy the gingerbread works of art at this annual event. Free and open to the public.

21 / Wednesday

Hawaii Ohana Holiday – Celebrate the holidays Hawaiian-style at the IPC Kalakaua Community Center from 5:30-8:30 pm. Enjoy holiday movies under the stars on a 17-foot high screen. Bring your blankets, decorate yummy cupcakes and make & take-away holiday crafts, vote for your favorite holiday stocking and/or wreath, and take a picture with a Hawaiian Santa. Don't forget to bring your camera.

22 / Thursday

Holiday Hula Show – With Na Kupuna o Koolau halau, 10-11 a.m., Dec. 22, in the lobby of the Outrigger Reef on the Beach, 2169 Kalua Rd., Honolulu. Free and open to the public.

23 / Friday

Toy Drive – Sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii-Waianae. Drop-off times are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., weekdays through Dec. 23, at 85-165 Plantation Rd. Toy donations will be distributed to

Schofield thrift store closed for winter break; sale to follow

Spouses' store to reopen Jan. 5

ALICIA PARTRIDGE
Hui O Na Wahine

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Store, here, is closed for its winter break.

The store will reopen Jan. 5 with a New Year's sale.

The Hui O Na Wahine all-ranks spouses club operates the Thrift Store. The store generates revenue that supports the club's mission to support the local community through scholarship and welfare grants. By purchasing, consigning, donating and volunteering, the Hui can give profits to those in need. Last year, \$130,000 was distributed in the form of welfare grants and scholarships.

"Without the Thrift Store, the Hui would not be able to serve our community to the extent that we do," said Jennifer Kelling, president, Hui O Na Wahine, adding that the store is 100-percent volunteer-supported.

All gently used items are accepted during regular business hours. Mattresses or dirty, broken, soiled items won't be accepted. Consignment services are also offered during regular business hours.

The Hui O' Na Wahine, formed in 1931, serves the 25th Infantry Division and the Schofield Barracks community.

Hui membership is extended to all spouses of active duty soldiers, retired military and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Hui O Na Wahine Thrift Store

To learn more about the Hui O Na Wahine Thrift Store or to volunteer, call 624-3254. Hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and the first and third Saturday of the month.

For information about the Hui O Na Wahine Spouses Club, email huionawahine@gmail.com or visit www.schofieldspousesclub.com.

children and youths living in transitional shelters. Call 696-2754.

24 / Saturday

Single Soldiers' Holiday Party – Single Soldiers can eat a free dinner and win prizes at this annual event, 3 p.m., Dec. 24, Tropics Warrior Zone, Schofield Barracks.

Holiday Exchange Refunds

– For items purchased through Dec. 24, Schofield Exchange shoppers can return or exchange items through Jan. 31. If requested with a sales receipt, a refund will be made in the original tender used. Without a sales receipt, the refund amount will be loaded onto an Exchange gift card. Call 423-7694.

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 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, 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)

- 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, 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

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Memorial Theater
Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aaef.com under realtime movie listing.

Puss in Boots

(PG)
Sat., Dec. 17, 4 p.m.



Tower Heist

(PG-13)
Sat., Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

Johnny English

(PG)
Sun., Dec. 18, 2 p.m.



A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas

(R)
Wed., Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

- Calendar abbreviations**
- 8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command
 - 25th ID: 25th Infantry Division
 - ACS: Army Community Service
 - AFAP: Army Family Action Plan

- AFTB: Army Family Team Building
- AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation
- BCT: Brigade Combat Team
- BSB: Brigade Support Battalion
- Co.: Company
- CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services

- EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program
- FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- FRG: family readiness group
- HMR: Helemano Military Reservation

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

Sleigh full of gifts delivered to 'Toys for Tots'

Story and Photo by
STEPHANIE BRYANT
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

HONOLULU – Soldiers from the Warrior Transition Battalion, Schofield Barracks, gathered together, Dec. 2, to collect toys to fill a sleigh, here.

Master Sgt. Charles Owens, 9th Mission Support Command, originally built the sleigh in 2004. He tows it behind his motorcycle.

Every year since 2004, except for last year, when he was deployed, Owens has rounded up contributions for the "Toys for Tots" program.

Owens was injured during his deployment last year and is now serving in the WTB.

"This is year is very special because I am in the WTB and it is the wounded warriors stationed in Hawaii who are donating and giving," Owens said. "I think that is special. They (wounded warriors) are so used to having people take care of them. This is their opportunity to give back to the local community."

Toys being donated will go to children, here,

SEE TOYS, B-5



Sgt. Luke Harvey, WTB, helps load and organize a sleigh full of toys at Headquarters, WTB, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 2. WTB Soldiers enough load toys to fill a sleigh created by Master Sgt. Charles Owens, WTB. Owens hitched the sleigh onto his motorcycle and delivered the toys to the "Toys for Tots" program in Honolulu.

Annual toy donation makes holiday special for military keiki

ALLISON PERKINS
Operation Homefront

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Santa's elves wore camo. His sleigh arrived via Walmart.

More than 1,000 toys were provided to military children from around Oahu as part of Operation Homefront's annual toy giveaway, here, Dec. 8.

The national nonprofit organization partners with businesses each year to provide gifts to children of junior service members. In Hawaii, Walmart donated more than 1,000 toys for tots from newborn to 12 years old.

Fisher Price, Barbie, Lego and the Razor scooter were just a few of the brands Walmart donated.

"We could not have done this without their help," said Ashley Matta, president, Operation Homefront of Hawaii. "We were able to have the event because of a grant Walmart gave us."

Volunteers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, unloaded the toys. They also helped military spouses pick two toys per

child, a combined minimum value of \$50.

As moms and dads browsed the aisles, some had a difficult time choosing from the wide selection.

"Does this help? Oh yeah," said Army spouse Michelle Browning, whose husband deploys in January. She said, without the donation her family would have had a much smaller stack of presents under the tree.

"My kids are going to be really happy," she said.

Army spouse Annette Marlow and her family arrived on Oahu recently and had to cut back on gifts to cover many of the additional expenses associated with their move.

"This really helped us financially to get presents under the tree," Marlow said.

Operation Homefront sponsors a holiday toy giveaway every year in all of the 23 chapters it operates across the U.S. Each fall, the chapters also provide thousands of military children with backpacks full of school supplies.

During the year, the organization's main mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to military families. In 2010, Operation Homefront

helped 167,348 military families across the country with everything from paying utility bills to providing free housing to wounded warriors, all through donations from its sponsors.

Locally, chapter organizers said families have asked for help purchasing groceries.

Once a family fills out the appropriate paperwork with the local chapter, and its need is verified, volunteers can quickly fill the family's kitchen. The financial help is a donation, and families are not asked to pay back any amount.

Eligible service members must be staff sergeant (E-6) or below in rank. However, wounded warriors of any rank can receive assistance.

Operation Homefront

To learn more about Operation Homefront, visit www.operationhomefront.net.

Technology is focus of event

SGT. GAELN LOWERS
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

AIEA – Soldiers of the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, continued their commitment to Webling Elementary School by participating in its annual walk-a-thon for technology, here, Dec. 2.

The event promotes the school's Technology Department and has been going strong for more than 10 years, said Sherry Yamada, principal, Webling Elementary School.

"We had the kids get pledges from their families and friends," she said. "So far, we've raised more than \$8,000 for our Technology Dept."

More than 25 Soldiers from the 8th STB were on hand to show their support, walk with kids, give them water, and run the misting stations.

"The Soldiers support us in every program we have," Yamada said. "They are always here and eager to work with us."

8th STB Soldiers are more than happy to come out to the school and help out, said Spc. Quinton Booker, command team driver, 8th STB.

"The Soldiers love it," he said. "You can look around and see the smiles on their faces and the fun they are having playing with the kids."

Besides funds that the benefit is raising, the walk is helping to boost children's morale and good health.

"We want the kids to grow up and not have the problems that come with being overweight," Booker said. "We want all of them to have a fun, proactive life."

8th STB Soldiers are promoting good health in other ways, too, with a physical education program and other PE-type events.

"We push our motto: 'Healthy bodies, healthy minds,'" Yamada said.

8th STB Soldiers love visiting the school and participating in community events, Booker said.

"They love to see us come here, it gives us both something to look forward to, and like I always say, we are in the military, but still part of the community," Yamada said.

Miami Marlins visit, put on baseball clinic

Story and Photos by
SGT. GAELN LOWERS
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Soldiers with the Warrior Transition Battalion, here, and military keiki received a treat when three players from the Miami Marlins baseball team and three members of the Miami Marlins Mermaids dance team visited, here, Dec. 11. The Marlins and Mermaids signed autographs, posed for photos and conducted baseball and dance clinics.

This year is the fourth consecutive one that the Marlins have donated their time during the holidays to visit with Soldiers and their families.

Brett Hayes, catcher; Bryan Petersen, outfielder; and Mike Stanton, right fielder, along with three Mermaid dancers, came to show their support.

“We have fans and military members come out every game to support us, so we feel it is our duty to try and return some of that support,” Hayes said. “What they do on a daily basis is something we can’t repay. They sacrifice their lives for our freedom. This is the least we can do.”

First on the Marlins’ agenda was to visit the WTB, where they signed autographs and ate lunch.

“I’m a big baseball fan and it’s my first time meeting a major league player being from the islands,” said Spc. Victor Fernandez, WTB. “It’s a great experience. It’s nice to see people visit us other than other Soldiers. We really appreciate their visit.”

Afterward, players and dancers moved to Ralston Field, here, to



Brett Hayes (left), catcher for the Miami Marlins, gives some tips on how to throw a baseball during the Miami Marlins baseball clinic at Ralston Field, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 11.



The Miami Marlins Mermaids, along with mascot Billy the Marlin, show off their moves during the Miami Marlins dance clinic.

conduct a youth baseball and dance clinic for all Army-affiliated children between the ages of 9-14.

More than 30 kids showed up to learn from the pros and get a chance to meet the team’s mascot, Billy the Marlin.

“It’s important to put action to words,” Petersen said. “We all say that we’re so thankful for these guys and girls that serve and make our lives safe and easier. But, it’s important to come out here and shake hands and tell them personally that we support them.”

All players and dancers said they loved their visit and hoped to come back again.

CYSS holds grand opening celebration for Fort Shafter’s new Youth Center

Story and Photo by
VANESSA LYNCH
News Editor

FORT SHAFTER – The usual sounds of sneakers squeaking on the new gym floor and the swish of basketball nets at the Youth Center, here, took a back seat to the sounds of music and dance, Dec. 7.

Parents, staff and distinguished guests were treated to a medley of songs and dances as the children of the Youth Center showed their appreciation for their new building during the center’s grand opening ceremony – which was a long time coming.

“The original building dates back to 1945 and Child, Youth and School Services took it over in the 1980s,” said Mark Maddox, transition specialist, School Support Services, CYSS, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, in his opening remarks. “This is a beautiful building

with state-of-the-art facilities, and the wait was well worth it.”

Construction of the Youth Center, here, began in 2010 and was completed in May at a cost of \$10 million. The staff and children moved in Sept. 1.

School-age children entertained the crowd with their talents, and at one point, got some audience members on their feet dancing alongside them.

When guest speaker, Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI, took to the podium to give his remarks, he asked the children, “Do you guys like your new building? If you do, raise your hands and cheer.”

The children’s replies echoed off the gym’s walls. Their response was a resounding “yes.”

“We are very blessed and fortunate to have this facility in the south community,” Mulbury said.

After a final performance by all the Youth Center’s children, and a



Col. Douglas Mulbury (left), commander, USAG-HI, and Michael Amarosa (right), director, DFMWR, get some help untying the maile lei, signifying the official opening of the facility from two Fort Shafter Youth Center’s children, Dec. 7.

Hawaiian blessing by Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson, Mulbury and Michael Amarosa, director, DFMWR, with the help of two of the center’s children,

untied the maile lei, signifying the official opening of the facility.

The new center contains indoor space for administration offices, a

Youth Center

To see more photos from the event visit, www.flickr.com/photos/usaghawaii.

training room/staff lounge, a commercial kitchen, a stage area and a snack bar. A culinary arts area has been included for food projects and cooking demonstrations outside of the kitchen.

Also, the center boasts separate program rooms for homework and computer technology, an arts and hobbies room, a multipurpose gym, and space for kindergarten children.

A teen lounge is available with state-of-the-art gaming equipment, a pool table and meeting space.

Outdoor areas include a teen lanai, a playground structure, a lighted outdoor basketball court, and a stairway down to the elementary school.

Yoga gives senior NCOs a different perspective on PT

SGT. GAELN LOWERS

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

KAILUA – Staying fresh and innovative is a challenge for anyone.

But it's a challenge that the senior noncommissioned officers of the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, readily took on during their senior NCO physical training day at Kailua Beach Park by practicing yoga, here, recently.

Sgt. Maj. Jason Geier, military intelligence sergeant major, 8th TSC, wanted to show the senior NCOs something new and hopefully get their creative juices flowing.

"Not only do we want to build cohesion, but we want to get out there and visit different venues for physical fitness," Geier said. "We also wanted to do different fitness activities, not just the normal push-ups and sit-ups routine.

"This all has an underlying effect," he added. "A different venue, different exercises, and they become creative and innovative. Then they push that energy and philosophies down to their junior NCOs, who, themselves, come up with creative and innovative ways to go about tasks."

Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual discipline originating in India. The overall goal of yoga is varied from person to person. Some practitioners try to attain a state of perfect spiritual insight and tranquility. Others see it as a way to increase their muscle strength, endurance and flexibility, while improving their overall health.

"I've done yoga a couple of times, and the times that I have done it, it was a great workout," Geier said. "It worked different muscles, muscles that you are not used to using. It's something that challenges you mentally and physically."

Geier went on to say that, because of the overwhelming positive response to the yoga training, this would not be the last time the unit practices yoga.

"It went off without a hitch," he said. "There are several senior NCOs who have come to me afterward, including the (8th TSC) command sergeant major, and said that they would be excited to do it again. It's something that was supposed to expand the horizon of our senior NCOs, show them something new, and I think we will be seeing the results of it soon."



Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

NCOs with 8th STB, 8th TSC, practice strength and balance during their yoga session at Kailua Beach Park, recently. Yoga can strengthen an individual's physical, mental and spiritual discipline.

Choosing age appropriate toys helps reduce injuries

LISA J. YOUNG

U.S. Army Public Health Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – This season, choose toys that will make the holiday season a safe one.

Toys should be a source of fun and learning for children. Too often toys with poor design, toys that are too old for a child, or toys in bad repair can lead to serious and or fatal injuries.

When choosing a toy, make sure to match the toy to the child's abilities. A toy that is too advanced or too simple for a child may be misused which can lead to injury.

Keep in mind these handy tips when shopping for holiday toys:

- Think "big" when choosing toys. All toy parts should be larger than the child's mouth to prevent choking and other injuries. Never give any toy with small parts to a child under the age of 3, and keep small parts away from older children who still put toys in their mouths. Make sure small parts of larger toys cannot break off.
- Keep deflated or broken balloons away from children. Suddenly, if inhaled, they can cause suffocation.
- Read the instructions before buying a toy. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Hold noisemaking toys next to your own ear to determine whether it will be too loud for a young child.
- Look for sturdy toy construction. The eyes, nose and other small parts on soft toys and stuffed animals should be securely fastened.
- Avoid toys with sharp edges. Ensure that tips of arrows and darts are blunt, made of soft rubber or plastic, and securely fastened to the shaft.
- Reserve hobby kits, such as chemistry sets, for a child older than 12. Provide proper supervision for children ages 12-15.

Safety Recalls

For information on recent recalls and product safety news, visit U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website at www.cpsc.gov or the American Academy of Pediatrics' website at, http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/collection/health_alerts.

Toys: Donated gifts go to local families

CONTINUED FROM B-5

in Hawaii.

The sleigh that Owens and his wife, Joanie, built this year is a renovated version of the original sleigh from 2004. This year's sleigh has more than 500 lights on it and is decorated in honor of the holidays.

Owens, who has been in the Army for 27 years, said when he drives down the road, he gets a great response from others.

"People honk and wave at me as they drive by," Owens said. "I think seeing the sleigh really gets people in the holiday spirit."

However, more important are the toys that fill the sleigh. This year Owens has asked for toys for teenagers. He believes children between the ages 12-15 can be overlooked, so he's making an extra effort to buy gifts geared toward that age group.

"The holidays are very important to me," said Sgt. Luke Harvey, WT. "I come from a big family. I know what it is like to go without, and there is no greater gift than giving. Just to know that the money I donated will buy a toy that will put a smile on some child's face makes it all worth it."

Owens filled his sleigh with the donated toys for his ride in the 37th Annual Street Bikers United Toy Run, Dec. 4. Marines were collecting for Toys for Tots at Kapiolani Community College.