

INSIDE

Yama Sakura 59 kicks off in Japan



Eyes wide open

124th Med. Det. trains for its upcoming deployment.

A-6



Sharp turns

94th AAMDC strives to make motorcycle riding safer for everyone.

A-7



Strong Bonds

Single Soldiers learn how to pick a partner for life.

A-7



NFL invasion

Children and families participate in several Pro Bowl festivities.

B-1, B-4

This issue

Footsteps in Faith	A-2
Deployed Forces	A-3
News Briefs	A-5
FMWR	B-2
Housing	B-3



Courtesy Photo

Commanders inspect U.S. and JGSDF service members during the YS 59 opening ceremony, Jan. 27, at Camp Kengun, Japan.

SGT. CHRISTOPHER M. GAYLORD
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP KENGUN, Japan — Yama Sakura 59, a scenario-based bilateral training exercise focused on improving military-to-military relationships and interoperability, officially began Jan. 27, during opening ceremonies, here.

The command post exercise underscores America's commitment to Japan's defense, in accordance with a mutual defense treaty that was implemented in 1951 and revised in 1960.

The premier bilateral training event for U.S. Army-Pacific, YS 59 enables U.S. Soldiers to collaborate with units from one of five regions in the Japan Ground Self Defense Force, each year.

This year, USARPAC and the JGSDF's western army will respond to a simulated scenario in which Japan must counterattack an enemy

SEE YAMA SAKURA, A-4

SIGINT Co. deploys as force multiplier in Philippines

Story and Photos by
SGT. 1ST CLASS SHERYL L. LAWRY
500th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A team of Soldiers from Company D, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, recently deployed to help combat terrorism.

The company's destination is the Philippines, where Soldiers will support the Marines' 3rd Radio Bn.

Co. D is a tactical ground Signal Intelligence, or SIGINT, organization with the mission of collecting, processing, using and disseminating intelligence to support an Army warfighting commander. The unit creates and deploys smaller teams to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines and anywhere else they are needed.

"SIGINT plays a critical role in the fight on terror," said Capt. Justine Wong, commander, Co. D., 715th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde. "With communications capabilities rapidly expanding throughout the world, and terrorists acquiring access to all forms of communication, maintaining a strong SIGINT force keeps the warfighter engaged at all echelons and well informed on terrorist activities."

That is where her company's deployable teams come in.

"Diamondback" Soldiers are a highly valued force multiplier," Wong said. "Their skills help lead troop commanders on the ground to discovering everything from weapons caches to improvised ex-



Soldiers with Co. D, 715th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde., work together to set up their Field Training Exercise, or FTX, area of operation. Co. D Soldiers conducted cross training with Marines from the 3rd Radio Bn.

plosive device factory locations, to sought after criminals who have killed innocent people."

Wong said that a key component to her Soldiers' success is that the seasoned leaders and Soldiers within the unit, who have deployed, have shared their experience and knowledge during pre-mission training.

"The Co. D leadership does an exceptional job of planning and executing both technical and battle-focused training,

which enables our Soldiers to be immediate combat-ready force multipliers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dayron Vargas-Soler, command sergeant major, 715th MI Bn. "Due to the diversity of each mission within the (areas of responsibility), this is not an easy task, but (Soldiers) do it extremely well, and the results show it."

Cross training with Marine Corps counterparts was incorporated into the unit's December field training exercises to simulate real-world scenarios that tested and

improved the skills of each Soldier.

Marine Capt. Tyson Ackermann, 3rd Radio Bn, said the relationship between the Marines and the 715th Bn., and the work the 715th does are a vital part of the mission.

"We both support real-world operations, and that's why it's important to train together. When we are deployed, we interact closely throughout the day,"

SEE SIGNIT, A-7

25th CAB competes in annual culinary arts competition

Story and Photo by
SGT. DANIEL SCHROEDER

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Army competitions are held to determine who will be selected to join select groups of Soldiers. One of these elite competitions is the 36th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.

After tryouts, eight Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, will be participating in this year's upcoming competition.

The U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition tests food service specialists' skills and knowledge about cooking and food presentation within the guidelines set forth by the American Culinary Federation.

According to Master Sgt. Derek Rivers, food services manager, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th CAB, the teams competing are representing installations, not just units. Rivers said competitors are chosen by their superiors based on their dedication to the job and the level of basic skills demonstrated in their



SpC. Kathy Nguyen, food service specialist, Co. E, 3rd Bn., 25th GSAB, 25th CAB, 25th ID, slices meat for her main dish, during the 36th Annual Culinary Arts Competition tryouts at the B Squadron DFAC, Jan. 20.

respective dining facilities.

Wheeler Army Airfield's dining facility won the 2010 Thanksgiving competition for best display and food on Oahu, so competitors were chosen from that

SEE 25th, A-6

9th MSC activates 303rd MEB

Concurrently, 657th RSG becomes inactivated

9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND
News Release

FORT SHAFTER FLATS — A significant warfighting capability was officially added to the U.S. Army Reserve in the Pacific, as the 9th Mission Support Command activated the 303rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, here, Jan. 22.

In the activation ceremony, Soldiers lined the parade field and watched as the teal blue and yellow flag of the 303rd MEB was uncased. Brig. Gen. Michele Compton, commanding general, 9th MSC, presented the flag to Col. Randy Hart, signifying Hart's assumption of command.

Two subordinate, organic units were also activated, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the 829th Signal Network Support Co. The HHC will provide direct administrative support to the brigade headquarters, and the 829th will provide the MEB with global communications capabilities. The 63rd Brigade Support Battalion remains to be activated.

Simultaneously, with the activa-

tion of the 303rd MEB, the 9th MSC inactivated the combat-decorated 657th Regional Support Group, which was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for its significant achievements in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2006-2007.

"It is truly an honor to host today's ceremony," Hart said, reflecting on his experience as the 657th RSG's last commander, and on his outlook on the future of his new command responsibilities. "It was a privilege to command the 657th RSG and to retire its colors today ... I can unequivocally say, it was one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs I have ever had in my military career."

According to Compton, the 303rd MEB is designed as a multifunctional command and control headquarters that conducts support area operations, maneuver support operations, stability operations and consequence management to assure the mobility, protection and freedom of action to the maneuver divisions and above.

The 303rd MEB is uniquely designed to manage terrain and hold ground. The multifunctional aspect of the 303rd MEB relates to its ability to bridge functions — such as

SEE 303rd, A-6

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 e-mail 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.

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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
Managing Editor
Lacey Justinger, 656-3488
editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
News Editor
Vanessa Lynch, 656-3150
vanessa@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Pau Hana Editor
Vickey Mouze, 656-3156
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Layout
Nicole Gilmore
Web Content
Stephanie Rush, 656-3153
stephanie.anne.rush@us.army.mil
Advertising: 529-4700
Classifieds: 521-9111
Editorial Office: 656-3155/3488
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 problems in Army Hawaii Family Housing areas? If so, call 656-3155 or 656-3488.

129 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 2/3/11.

USO turns 70, celebrates with a tailgate party

STEPHANIE RUSH
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Service members and their families traveling to and from the isle on Super Bowl Sunday have something extra special to look forward to while en route: the local United Service Organization's tailgate-themed birthday celebration.

"We at the USO are humbled and proud to have the privilege of serving America's finest military and their families and to be able to bring them a 'home away from home,'" said Thomas R. Kolstad, vice president, USO Pacific Region. "Mahalo to all the service and family members for all you do."

USO Hawaii locations at the Hickam Airport on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and the Honolulu International Airport will serve chili, hot dogs and snacks, Sunday, starting at noon. The game will be broadcast within the USO lounges.

As of its birthday, the USO has been meeting the



evolving needs of service members and their families for 70 years.

By order from President Franklin Roosevelt, six organizations mobilized to support the growing military to form the USO: the Salvation Army, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

While the programs and services may have changed, the USO's mission hasn't changed since its inception in 1941: to provide emotional support for troops.

Currently, the USO supports service members in more than 130 locations, worldwide, with 44,000 paid staff and volunteers. In recent years, USO centers have

been opened in Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan to support current engagements. Whether in times of peace or war, the USO connects the military with the public by providing support, entertainment and recreational services to military members serving at home and abroad.

"Through the years, the USO has stayed in tune with the needs of our military members," said Eva Laird Smith, director, USO Hawaii. "USO has remained focused on their welfare, and on delivering goodness to those who serve our country best."

(Editor's Note: Information used from the USO's website, www.uso.org.)

Become a USO Volunteer

Volunteers play a crucial role at the USO by providing hundreds of thousands of hours of service, from welcoming home deployed troops to providing support for individual service members and their families at USO centers. Find out more information at www.uso.org/ways-to-volunteer.aspx.



Vanessa Lynch | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Open for business

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Col. Douglas Mulbury (left), commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and Capt. Chase Allen, Legal Assistance attorney, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, pause for a snapshot after giving the opening remarks signifying the official opening of the Tax Center, located in Building 648, next to the Sgt. Smith Theater, here.

Neighborhood Board 25 honors Army's contributions toward land preservation

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

MILILIANI — The U.S. Army received an award from the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25, for its financial contribution to protecting Hawaii's aina, or land, Jan. 16.

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii accepted the award on behalf of the Army's Compatible Use Buffer program that has resulted in the preservation of Waimea Valley, Moanalua Valley and Pupukea-Paumalu.

"Neighborhood boards give awards to people who do significant things for our community," said Ann Freed, member, Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25. "This is the best act of Army philanthropy I have seen yet."

Through the ACUB program, the Army contribut-

ed significantly to the purchase and preservation of these natural areas.

The Army's most recent partnership with the Trust for Public Lands, and other conservation partners, resulted in the permanent protection of the Honouliuli Preserve, a 3,592-acre forest on the eastern slope of the Waianae Mountains, and also home to 35 threatened and endangered species, according to Freed.

"The Army helped us purchase Waimea Valley," she said. "Without the Army's help, it would have been developed into luxury homes, and we don't need any more of those in Hawaii. We need to protect our open spaces."

The Army's contribution was more than \$2.6 million toward the total \$4.3 million purchase price of the preserve.



From left to right, Richard Poirier, chair, Neighborhood Board 25; Alvin Char, chief of Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-HI; Ann Freed, member, Neighborhood Board 25; and Dennis Drake, chief of Public Affairs, USAG-HI, display the Army's awards for helping to protect the environment.

Communication helps to resolve differences

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) JEFFREY BOTSFORD

U.S. Army Garrison North Community Family Life Chaplain

I truly love having the opportunity to work with couples and individuals concerning their marriage.

First and foremost, couples differ in communication. The typical female (I'm stereotyping) is better verbally than her husband. Her vocabulary is more than double her husband's.



Botsford

Most men are talked-out by 2 p.m., so it's hard for them to verbally communicate when they get home. And sometimes, men don't quite know how to express themselves.

It's not that men don't love or desire to talk; they just have nothing to say. That is how they're wired, so guys, give your wife the chance to talk, and ladies, it's okay if he doesn't talk.

Men also have something women don't have: a nothing box. Men enjoy seemingly brainless things like fly-fishing. Most women cannot do that. Women typically are multitaskers; they do many things at once. Men can't.

So, when a husband is just starting at the TV and doing nothing else, that's OK. And when a wife has four or five projects going while she is watching TV, that's OK too. That's how she is wired.

So, when a woman needs to give her husband vital information, make sure he is listening. Get his attention; make sure he's looking at you. Men can do one thing well, and if he's reading the paper while you are sharing with him, he won't remember anything you said.

One of the biggest areas men and women are different in is in the area of sex. Dr. John Gray writes in his book, "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus," that the two genders are far apart in their interest and desire in this area.

I also heard someone explain these differences well using a jet plane and dirt bike: Men are like dirt bikes. Turn on the gas, kick-start the bike and you're off and running. Women are like a jet plane. It takes a long time to warm up, a long time to taxi and then a long time to take off.

Many couples don't understand these differences; many believe that their spouse is just like them in the romance department. For example, the husband may think his wife should be as interested in sex as he is, and the wife may think that sex is all her husband thinks about and she's just not as interested.

How do you handle these situations?

I like what Kevin Leman wrote in his book, "Sex Begins in the Kitchen," about how men need to love their wives all day — and not just when they are interested in evening romance. Romance begins, he explains, in the kitchen, helping with the kids' breakfast, cleaning up after the kids, changing diapers, doing housework, playing with the kids, and taking your wife out to lunch. Romance is doing things with and for the family. Husbands should try this type romance sometime and see what happens.

I have seen many couples who are having challenges in their relationship. Most of their issues are about not understanding why their spouse acts or does the things he or she does.

The best way to begin to make your good marriage a great one is to talk with your spouse about the issues you are struggling over. Each person needs to really listen to what the other person is saying and make the necessary changes. If you listen, your relationship with each other will become sweeter and more fulfilling.

I like what Bernard R. Brickner said, "Success in marriage does not come merely by finding the right mate, but through being the right mate."

Voices of Ohana



"Get rid of the beret."

Capt. Nicole Knapper
Battalion signal officer, HHC, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



"Do more sports for physical training."

Warrant Officer 1 Brianna Love
Property book officer, HHC, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



"Hold everyone to a higher standard of personal accountability."

Spc. Eric Rohr
Technical engineer, HHC, 130th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



"If you can max the Army Physical Fitness test, then you can do PT on your own."

Pfc. Joseph Schillaci
Light-wheel mechanic, FSC, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



"We should all get government-issued cars."

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Stepanoff
Motor sergeant, FSC, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC

If you were in charge, what changes would you make?

Photos by 84th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command



Lt. Col. Jeffery Carter | 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 45th Sust. Brigade., 8th Theater Sust. Command

The “Road Masters,” members of the 25th Trans. Co., 524th CSSB, 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, do what they do best: drive trucks. The transportation company hauled supply loads in support of the 3rd BCT, 25th ID, during its NTC rotation, Jan. 2-Feb. 2, at Fort Irwin, Calif.

‘Road Masters’ roll out support to 3rd BCT

CAPT. BRENT A. SOHN

524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 45th Sust. Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — When the Army needs equipment, supplies or personnel moved in Hawaii or in a combat theater across the globe, the 25th Transportation Company “Road Masters,” stay “ready to roll.”

The 25th Trans. Co. responded with the spinning tires of trucks rolling out, when the call came to fill a transportation need for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, during the brigade’s National Training Center rotation, Jan. 2–Feb. 2, at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The Road Masters, part of the 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 45th Sust. Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, provided all transportation support for the 3rd BCT and its 5,600-Soldier task force, comprised of nine battalions and approximately 16 attached units, including special operations forces, said Maj. Benjamin Dennard, chief of Support Operations, 524th CSSB, 45th Sust. Bde.

“I am very impressed with the conduct and support of the 25th Trans. Co.,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Elder, command sergeant major, 524th CSSB, 45th Sust. Bde., who visited NTC with Lt. Col. Jeffery Carter, commander, 524th CSSB, 45th Sust. Bde., to see the Road Masters in action.

Elder praised the unit’s preparation, professionalism and execution.

“The leaders and Soldiers of the Road Masters should be commended for representing themselves, their company and the 524th CSSB in an exemplary fashion,” he said.

According to Dennard, the Schofield Barracks-based transportation company helped sustain every level of the 3rd BCT’s training — everything from squad and live-fire training exercises to full spectrum operations — by moving more than 193 pallets, 74 containers and 53 flat racks containing subsistence, equipment, and medical and maintenance supplies.

The Road Masters lived up to their name as the Soldiers logged more than 7,000 miles while delivering supplies to five different forward operating bases scattered across the sprawling training area.

Every mile driven in the rough terrain of the California desert prepares unit leaders and Soldiers for the austere combat conditions in southwest Asia.

“The 25th Trans. Co.’s NTC rotation with the 3rd BCT has a two-part objective: first, to support the BCT’s mission readiness exercise, and second, to continue to train the unit towards (its) transformation from a medium-truck to a palletized-load system (or PLS) truck company,” Carter said. “This rotation for (the Soldiers) has been extremely resourceful in achieving both goals.”

Col. Dianna Roberson, commander, 45th Sust. Bde., cites 25th Trans. Co.’s performance at NTC as an indicator that the unit is on the right track in its transition to a PLS truck company.

“The 25th Trans. (Soldiers’) success in a tough, realistic training environment ... is a testament to their commitment to excellence in customer support,” Roberson said. “The support provided to 3rd BCT was simply outstanding and provided a great opportunity for training.”



Maj. Vance Fleming | Operations Group Public Affairs, National Training Center

CSA brief

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — A Soldier with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, “Broncos,” 25th Infantry Division, briefs Gen. George Casey (far left), Army chief of staff, during Casey’s visit to the National Training Center, here. The Broncos trained at the NTC to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The Hawaii Army Weekly wants to hear from you!

Are you interested in submitting content to the HAW? Do you have an interesting photo or story idea?

Please e-mail content, story ideas, comments and photos to editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com, or call 656-3488 to find out how to get your voice heard.

Yama Sakura: Exercise underscores continuous relationship

CONTINUED FROM A-1

force that plans to isolate Kyushu, the country’s most southern island.

During YS 59’s opening ceremony, Lt. Gen. Shunzo Kizaki, commander, JGSDF western army, stressed the importance of the annual exercise in collaborating best practices between the two forces.

“I believe Yama Sakura is the best venue for us to improve joint and bilateral operations capabilities with the well-experienced U.S. forces,” Kizaki said.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander, USARPAC, agreed.

“Since its inception in 1982, Yama Sakura has focused on the development and reinforcement of bilateral planning, cooperation and interoperability of the (JGSDF) and the U.S.,” Mixon said. “Now in its 29th year, this bilateral exercise improves mutual capabilities, reinforces ties and strengthens mutual support and friendship.

“This exercise also underscores a continuous commitment by the U.S. and Japan to work shoulder-to-shoulder as dedicated partners in support of the U.S. and Japan security alliance, and for peace and stability,” he added.

Kizaki said for the operation to be a success, he expects JGSDF troops to “share mutual understanding and build confidence with each other to accomplish our mission as one team.”

Yama Sakura is designed to enhance America’s and Japan’s combat readiness and interoperability, while strengthening bilateral relationships and demonstrating America’s resolve to support the security interests of friends and allies in the region. U.S. and Japanese forces exchange ideas, techniques and military experiences during Yama Sakura.

Roughly 1,500 U.S. and 4,500 JGSDF Soldiers will participate in the exercise.

U.S. units include USARPAC – the largest Army Service Component Command, which provides a cost-effective and powerful headquarters that supports Asia and Pacific forces.



Courtesy Photos

U.S. and JGSDF service members stand in formation during the Yama Sakura 59 opening ceremony, Jan. 27, at Camp Kengun, Japan.



Members of USARPAC’s Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion model authentic Japanese kimonos during Yama Sakura 59, an annual bilateral training exercise.



Command Sgt. Maj. Mary Brown (right), command sergeant major, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, USARPAC, puts together a floral arrangement during a class on Japanese flower arranging, Jan. 21, at Camp Kengun, Japan.



Japanese schoolchildren teach visiting Soldiers — (left to right) Sgt. Valery Valtrain, I Corps (Forward) and U.S. Army-Japan; Sgt. Rene Blackgoat, 376th Human Resources Co., U.S. Army Reserve; and 1st Sgt. Myra Austin, first sergeant, HHBN, USARPAC — a singing game at the Hello Kindergarten daycare in Kumamoto, Japan, during Yama Sakura 59.

Yama Sakura participants visit Japanese kindergarten classroom

Story and Photo by

MAJ. JOHN H. ALDERMAN IV

124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Georgia National Guard

UMAMOTO, Japan — Three Soldiers participating in exercise Yama Sakura 59 visited a day-care facility for children of Japan Self-Defense Force, or JGSDF, members, here, Jan. 25.

“This is the best thing I’ve done since I’ve been here,” said 1st Sgt. Myra Austin, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army-Pacific. “It’s great to see how kids are the same everywhere.”

Cultural exchanges, such as this one, contribute to the cultural understanding between U.S. and Japan forces, she said.

Soldiers participating in YS 59 are provided opportunities to participate in cultural exchanges with JGSDF counterparts and visit local sights.

Schoolchildren at the Hello Kindergarten daycare sang songs and played Japanese games with

Soldiers. As well, Soldiers sang “Itsy Bitsy Spider” and played games like “London Bridge is Falling Down.”

“They really took on to ‘Duck, Duck, Goose,’” said Sgt. Valery Valtrain, U.S. Army-Japan and I Corps (Forward), Camp Zama, Japan. “Building relationships is always fun.”

“They were excited to have us there and show us what they can do,” said Sgt. Rene Blackgoat, with the Army Reserve’s 376th Human Resources Company. “Basically they’re like kids all around the world: They love to show what they can do.”

Yama Sakura is an annual, bilateral exercise with Japanese forces and the U.S. military. This year’s exercise is a simulation-driven command post exercise and the 29th iteration of the Japan-based exercise series.

This year, about 1,500 U.S. personnel and 4,500 JGSDF western army soldiers are participating in the exercise at Camp Kengun, Japan.

News Briefs

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

Traffic Updates

(For the latest traffic updates, visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on “Post Information,” then “Traffic Updates.”)

Today

Free Training — Seats are still available in the free “Winning Through Customer Service” and “Growing Leaders” courses offered through the Workforce Development Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

To register, send in an SF-182 “Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training” application and UWSP supplemental form through your respective directorate training point of contact to stephanie.ponciano@us.army.mil. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis; courses are limited to 25 employees per class. Call 655-9032.

Taxes — The Schofield Barracks Tax Center is open to all ranks, family members and retirees for free assistance in organizing and completing 2010 income tax forms, on a walk-in basis, between 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, Building 648.

The Fort Shafter Tax Center is slated to open Feb. 7. Its tentative location is the Aloha Center and its hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Fort Shafter Tax Center is by appointment only. Soldiers, family members and retirees can schedule their appointments at 655-1040.

For an update on wait times, search for “Hawaii Army Tax Centers” on www.Facebook.com.

Ongoing

Tax Season — Taxpayers have until April 18 to file their 2010 tax returns and pay any taxes due because Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, is April 15. District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do; therefore, all taxpayers will have three extra days to file this year.

Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Oct. 17 to file their 2010 tax returns.

Visit www.IRS.gov, call (800) 829-1040 or visit a taxpayer assistance center.

Soldier Support Center

— Portions of the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, 673 Ayers Ave., are currently undergoing construction from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., weekdays, through April 9.

The parking lot adjacent to the building will have barricades during normal business hours throughout the construction period. Call 655-8276/1105.

ACAP Center

— Army Career and Alumni Program Center briefings and workshops have temporarily moved to other locations or been cancelled through May, due to construction noise at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, 673 Ayers Ave., Schofield Barracks.

Call 655-1028 for class changes and locations.

Online Traffic Safety Classes

— Army Hawaii Soldiers and civilians can request traffic safety classes by using their Army Knowledge Online account at <https://airs.lmi.org>. Select “View Available Courses;” “Pacific” Region and garrison “Hawaii;” then select the desired course. Call 655-6455.

Counseling Sessions

— Military OneSource offers non-medical behavioral health counseling sessions for service members and their families. The counseling sessions apply to face-to-face counseling through affiliate providers, short-term solution-focused telephonic consultations and online consultations. Authorization is on a case-by-case basis. Visit www.MilitaryOneSource.com or call (800) 342-9647.

Suicide Prevention

— The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a free, 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at (800) 273-TALK (8255), as well as an online service at

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The services are available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, to include all military members and their families.

Recall

— Precision Xtra test strips with certain lot numbers have been recalled. Visit www.precisionoptiuminfo.com/EN/lookup.php to check the lot number on test strips.

Call the Tripler Army Medical Center pharmacy at 433-7880, or the manufacturer at (800) 448-5234.

Temporary Office Move

— The Inspector General Office, U.S. Army-Pacific, has moved to a temporary location at Buildings 870 and 871, Rice Street, Fort Shafter, behind the Bowling Alley. Call 438-1692/2857.

AER Assistance

— Army Emergency Relief has added new categories for assistance, including relocation travel funds for Soldiers who filed for advance pay and haven’t received requested permanent change of station travel entitlements. Call 655-4227.

Stress Reduction

— Contact the Employee Assistance Program office, Building 2091, Schofield Barracks, for help and ideas for dealing with stress or any other issues affecting job performance. Call 655-6047 or 655-6046.

Financial Readiness Program

— To register for one-on-one personal financial counseling and the Financial Peace University, call 655-4227

ID Card Appointments

— Customers needing to make, change or cancel ID card appointments at Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter can do so online.

A computer system is available in ID card offices for walk-in patrons to make or change appointments, as necessary.

Appointment hours are 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Visit <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil> to make, change or cancel ID card appointments.

Call 655-6884 or 438-1757 or visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on “Services,” and from the drop-down menu, select “ID Card Services.”



Staff Sgt. Justin Talbert, team leader, 706th EOD Co., 303rd EOD Bn., 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, aims the Percussion Actuated Neutralizer at the suspected IED to defeat the device from its intended purpose of detonation.

706th EOD maintains mission readiness

Story and Photos by

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOSEPH E. GARCIA

706th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 303rd EOD Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 706th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company has a hand in eliminating danger to the public when a suspected bomb or unexploded ordnance is disarmed.

That helping hand extends to both military and civilian communities in Hawaii and beyond.

Soldiers of the 706th EOD Co., 303rd EOD Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, serve as subject matter experts in EOD training and emergency responses for all the islands of Hawaii. They also support the Honolulu Police Department.

In 2010, the company responded to reports of 95 unexploded ordnance and unidentified explosive devices, in cooperation with the FBI, Secret Service and other local and foreign authorities. Additionally, 706th EOD Co. Soldiers trained nearly 1,500 foreign EOD specialists and more than 530 U.S. EOD specialists.

“I am proud of my Soldiers as they execute their mission,” said Capt.

Thomas Vail, commander, 706th EOD Co., 303rd EOD Bn., 45th Sust. Bde. “Wherever it takes them, they perform their duties with distinction and professionalism.”

Soldiers of the 706th EOD Co. are expected to respond within a moment’s notice and to fly anywhere within the Pacific theater. Soldiers use their valuable skills to assist operations across three continents and nine countries, including India, Germany, China and Malaysia. On average, each EOD Soldier will spend 10 weeks of temporary duty throughout the year performing missions to train military units and police departments.

This role of training other teams and reacting to real situations, requires the 706th EOD team to train relentlessly to conduct real-world operations and to ensure that every threat is neutralized.

Staff Sgt. Justin Talbert, team leader, 706th EOD Co., 303rd EOD Bn., 45th Sust. Bde., said a successful mission begins with paying attention to the details during preparation.

“Every call is different and every situation is unique,” Talbert said. “You have to use creative thinking to diffuse the situation.”



Staff Sgt. Justin Talbert, team leader, 706th EOD Co., 303rd EOD Bn., 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, prepares to attach a rope to a suspected IED, so he can gain better access to X-ray the potential threat.

25th: CAB focuses on a win

CONTINUED FROM A-1

facility to try out for the team.

“Cooking for me is like basketball for Michael Jordan,” said Spc. Antawn Dansbury, food service specialist, Co. E, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th CAB. “I was excited to get selected for the team. This is a big step in my career, and to me, (it) shows my seniors’ confidence in me to nominate me for tryouts.”

Even though the competition’s goal is to recognize those who excel in the food service workplace, the competition’s objective is to encourage a competitive environment between food service specialists. Its focus is also to improve the overall quality of Army food service, provide training for Soldiers, give recognition for excellence in culinary skills and provide an incentive for

competitive food service programs of major Army commands.

“Cooking for me is like basketball for Michael Jordan.”

— **Spc. Antawn Dansbury**
Food service specialist, Co. E,
2nd Assault Helicopter Bn.,
25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID

The competitors will be tested in several categories during the event, including pastry, showpieces, knowledge exams and team competitions.

The competition will be held at the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence in Fort Lee, Va.



Sgt. Brooks Basilius | 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the 657th RSG stand at parade rest during an inactivation/activation ceremony at Fort Shafter Flats, Jan. 22. The 657th was inactivated and the 303rd MEB was activated.

303rd: MEB supports Army

CONTINUED FROM A-1

chemical engineering, civil affairs, air defense and military police – with the brigade combat teams.

Compton noted 23 MEBs are stationed within the Army, and only

three are within the U.S. Army Reserve.

“I look forward to working with my staff and the Soldiers of this new command, as we stand up while continuing to support the 9th MSC and the U.S. Army,” Hart said.



Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson | 18th Medical Deployment Support Command Public Affairs

Sgt. Anthony Curbelo (left), optical lab technician, 124th Med. Det, 18th MEDCOM, trains Sgt. Tiffany Cogburn, combat medic and certified paraoptometric technician, TAMC, on lens machines during the units field training exercise that ran Jan. 19-20, to evaluate the unit’s equipment and training for upcoming exercises and a deployment to Afghanistan later this spring.

124th Med. Det. preps for deployment

124TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 18TH MEDICAL DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT COMMAND
News Release

FORT SHAFTER FLATS — The 124th Medical Detachment, 18th Med. Deployment Support Command, held a field training exercise, here, Jan. 19-20, which evaluated the deployment readiness and mobility of the unit’s equipment, and allowed the unit to train for upcoming exercises and a deployment later this spring.

During the exercise, team chiefs provided deployment-focused training, and eye technicians and optical fabrication specialists performed cross training to ensure they could perform each other’s mission during the deployment.

“We are a highly deployable unit, because we can split into two teams to perform two separate operations,” said Maj. Debra McNamara, commander, 124th Med. Det., 18th MDSC. “We can rapidly deploy and provide

eye care for full-spectrum operations.”

The unit edged and inserted 40 lenses, updated 20 medical profiles and completed 15 comprehensive eye exams during the exercise.

Each team has the capability to provide ocular examinations to detect, prevent, diagnose, treat and manage ocular-related disorders, injuries, diseases and visual dysfunctions on the battlefield. They also provide spectacle fabrication, frame assembly and repair services to brigade and non-brigade units in the area of operations.

“We add the finishing touch to the optometry experience,” said Sgt. Anthony Curbelo, optical lab technician, 124th Med. Det. “We make sure the Soldier has the right glasses and frame in order to see.”

The 124th Med. Det.’s mission is to provide optometry care and optical fabrication to deployed brigade-sized combat units, stability operations and

support operations. The medical detachment consists of six personnel who can be divided into two teams.

Each optometry team consists of one team chief – a doctor of optometry who supervises and conducts eye examinations and patient diagnosis, and manages eye injuries; one combat medic – an optometric technician who supervises and performs routine and specialized diagnostic tests, assists in the care of optometry patients and ensures the assembly, maintenance and repair of optical equipment; and one optical lab technician – who supervises, assembles, repairs and fabricates spectacles, and operates edging machines and other optical fabrication equipment.

Before deployment, the unit will also be adding a certified paraoptometric technician from Tripler Army Medical Center, who can help perform minor surgical procedures and work on minor eye injuries in theater.

94th AAMDC combats motorcycle accidents with a safety ride

Story and Photo by
SPC. ASHLEY M. OUTLER
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – Riding a motorcycle can be one of the most beautiful and liberating methods of transportation, but it also has the potential of being one of the most dangerous experiences.

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s Motorcycle Mentorship Program took proactive measures to reduce this danger during a group safety ride from Fort Shafter to the Nuuanu Pali lookout, Jan. 21, with the intentions of promoting safety, familiarizing riders with road conditions and building camaraderie.

“Motorcycling will always be a high-risk mode of transportation and pastime activity,” said Sgt. 1st Class Edmundo Salero, spectrum manager, 94th AAMDC. “Even experienced motorcyclists become complacent on all-around aspects of motorcycling, especially if they haven’t ridden for awhile.

“Army Motorcycle Safety programs help mitigate that level of risk and number of casualties,” he added.

According to U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center statistics, motorcycle accidents and fatalities have been on the incline, which have made motorcycle training a top priority for the Army this year.

“Motorcycle accidents are a serious issue in the Army, and a way to decrease them is through education, responsibility, experience and thorough leadership,” said Sgt. 1st Class Damion Johnlouis, noncommissioned officer in charge of Human Resources, 94th AAMDC.

Motorcycle Mentorship Programs are part of a 2008 Army-

wide initiative to decrease the amount of accidents and fatalities among Army motorcyclists.

“Motorcycle riders are still a small demographic with potentially (high) catastrophic risks,” said 1st Sgt. Oubrinyah Stonewall, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th AAMDC. “The more that we get together to demonstrate how to ride safely, the more it will combat some of the cultural stereotypes of how bikers are supposed to ride.”

The safety activity included a thorough inspection of each bike and protective equipment, a briefing on proper distance and formation for group rides, and information on how to identify possible road hazards and traffic considerations, which was all put into practice during the group ride.

“The activity was a good reminder and review of pre-ride inspections and how thorough you have to be to prevent accidents,” Salero said. “Also, it was good situational awareness for motorcycling in Oahu, compared to the mainland, because it is an island congested with many vehicles.”

The route from Fort Shafter to the Nuuanu Pali lookout was chosen because it challenged riders with diverse road conditions, weather and traffic, Stonewall said. It also gave the riders opportunity to experience a historically beautiful part of the island.

“Having rides like this gives everyone a chance to share experiences, techniques and ... other pertinent information on riding,” Salero said. “It also promotes group riding – two or more bikes – for leisure riding, which provides greater visibility and safety on the road.”

“It is a good program that should remain mandatory to all riders of different skill levels and experience,” he said.



Maj. Adam Scherer (left), deputy of logistics, 94th AAMDC, and Capt. Tyrone Ballard (right), operations officer for logistics, 94th AAMDC, maneuver a turn during a group safety ride from Fort Shafter to the Nuuanu Pali lookout, Jan. 21.



Pfc. Nicholas Lilley-Hawkins, with Co. D, 715th MI Bn., 500 MI Bde., sets up the cable to a satellite during the company’s quarterly FTX.

SIGNIT: Relationship helps communication

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Ackermann said. “We work the same target set, providing information to U.S. forces (on the battlefield).”

Ackermann said that training together and having a close relationship during deployment prevents miscommunication.

“It is a (mixing) of tactics, techniques and procedures,” echoed Wong, noting the slight differences between the services. “(The training) allows you to identify communication gaps and come up with solutions. There is always a solution.”

Soldiers, who are not deployed right now, continue to train and prepare for upcoming missions under the watchful eye of a proud company commander.

“The missions (our Soldiers) prepare for are diverse, and they have faced many obstacles, but no matter the obstacle, they always accomplish the mission to the best of their ability and often set the bar for a higher standard in the SIGINT community,” Wong said. “I am extremely proud of everything my Soldiers have accomplished.”

Singles in 8th MPs build ‘Strong Bonds’

Story and Photo by
MAJ. SHEA A. ASIS
8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

WAIKIKI – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and 71st Chemical Co., 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, participated in Single Soldier Resiliency Training, at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, here, Jan. 28-30.

The Strong Bonds Single Soldier program helps single Soldiers establish relationship goals and gain essential skills to help them make good choices prior to picking a partner for life.

“Single Soldiers are looking for their lifemate, and the resiliency training gives them those skills to make an informed decision and helps them in a lasting relationship,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Muller, 8th MP Bde.

The event started with a breakfast at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel. After breakfast, Soldiers moved to a conference room where Muller set the tone for the retreat.

After formal introductions, the group participated in an ice-breaking event.

“This is my second single Soldier retreat, and the ice breaking event is always something to look forward to. I always learn something new about my fellow Soldiers,” said Capt. Ronal Holman, long range planning officer, 8th MP Bde.

The formal classes went over basic principles of relationship building and ways to identify if the person that a Soldier is dating is “the one.”

To put things into perspective, the group used the Relationship Attachment Model as a physical way of seeing a current or future relationship in terms of five basic principles: know, trust, rely, commit and touch.

“I believe the RAM model is good because it helps you judge your relationship and where it should go,” Holman said.

The day concluded with a group dinner at the hotel, where Soldiers created new friendships and were able to enjoy the Waikiki nightlife.

On the second day, Soldiers got into the heart of the training and identified characteristics that attract a mate. With open discussion and skits, everyone was able to interact freely.

“I was able to put into play the type of person that I’m not attracted to, and it made me clearly see why I’m not attracted to that type of person,” said Sgt. 1st Class Judith Atkinson, Equal Opportunity advisor, 8th MP Bde.



2nd Lt. Cody Greene and 2nd Lt. Brett Brown, both from 71st Chemical Co., 8th MP Bde., 8th TSC, take personality tests during the Single Soldier Resiliency Training held at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, Friday.

At the conclusion of the three-day training, Soldiers took a personality test to see how to respect and view other people’s personalities.

“It’s a good tool for you to understand who you are, and – if, as they say, ‘opposites attract,’ then – it’s a tool you are able to use to find that opposite person,” Atkinson said.

As the Soldiers departed the hotel, Muller said he hoped that some of the participants use what they learned and apply it to their current or future relationships. Muller’s already working on the next event and hopes more Soldiers come, as he believes the training works.

“If we can get some preventive work on the front end, (then) we don’t need so much on the back end, and people are at least marrying compatible, healthy (and) committed individuals,” Muller said.



NFL Play 60

Kids **PLAY** with the pros

VANESSA LYNCH
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — More than 200 children converged on Stoneman Stadium, here, to meet and play with National Football League All-Star football players and cheerleaders, Jan. 27, during the NFL's Play 60 Challenge.

Players and cheerleaders ran football and cheerleading clinics, while the Chicago Bears' mascot, Staley da Bear, and the Baltimore Ravens' Poe, led warm-ups and kept spectators and volunteers entertained.

"When I found out this was coming here, I got really excited," said Micheal Tori, 10. "I really wanted to meet some of the players."

The NFL and the American Heart Association teamed up to create the NFL Play 60 Challenge — a movement for an active and healthy generation that encourages kids to play for 60 minutes every day to tackle childhood obesity.

"We had a lot of great volunteers, and the kids had a great time," said Kalei Scoggins, special events coordinator, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "We filled out a quota of 150 children for the football clinic and 70 children for the cheerleading clinic within a week and a half."

Besides visiting Schofield Barracks, play-



Sgt. 1st Class David Wheeler | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

AFC cheerleaders taught Play 60 participants parts of their Pro Bowl dance routines at Stoneman Stadium, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 27.

ers, cheerleaders and mascots also visited Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Tripler Army Medical Center.

"The players were really generous," Scoggins said. "Joe Thomas (defensive tackle with the Cleveland Browns) and Michael Turner (running back with the Atlanta Falcons) took the jerseys off their backs, signed them and donated them to us."

Thomas and Turner were joined, here, by Eric Dickerson, NFL Hall of Fame; Alex

Mack, center, Cleveland Browns; Zack Miller, tight end, Oakland Raiders; and Mike Smith, National Football Conference Pro Bowl and Atlanta Falcons coach.

"Being on the military base and getting an opportunity to interact with the kids was a lot of fun," Miller said.

While the football players ran clinics and obstacle courses, cheerleaders gave the participants, here, a sneak peak into their Pro Bowl performances and also taught them parts of their routines.

American Football Conference cheerleaders who participated in the event, here, were Jamie Andreozzi, Baltimore Ravens; Tessa Caccavallo, Indiana Colts; Liz Digrilamo, Kansas City Chiefs; Katie Laczmarek, Buffalo Bills; Mandisa Norward, New York Jets; Sunny Pari, Cincinnati Bengals; and Megan Wessels, Houston Texans.

"The best part about doing this is getting to talk to all the girls," Laczmarek said.

Fellow AFC cheerleader Andreozzi, echoed Laczmarek's comment.

"Just seeing how enthusiastic the kids are to see us and learn from us is why I do events like this," she said, while signing autographs.



Vanessa Lynch | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Karson McKinney, 2, runs the ball during the NFL's Play 60 event at Stoneman Stadium, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 27.



Families enjoy Ohana Day at Aloha Stadium

Story and Photos by
VANESSA LYNCH
News Editor

AIEA — After a one-year hiatus, the National Football League's Pro Bowl returned to Hawaii, making a lot of fans and players happy.

Something just didn't seem right about having the Pro Bowl at Sun Life Stadium in Miami. After all, the NFL Pro Bowl had been held in Hawaii every year since 1980, adding to the game's popularity.

Keeping with the island theme, the NFL Pro Bowl hosted a free Ohana Day, Saturday, for families at Aloha Stadium. The event included prize drawings, a chance for kids to go on the field for contests, a chance to watch players from the American Football Conference and National Football Conference practice, as well as a sneak peek of the pre-game and halftime shows.

"I couldn't stop smiling when they picked me to go on the field and make the tunnel that the (American Football

Conference) players ran through," said Seth McLaney.

"I couldn't breathe after I got to high-five Peyton Manning," said his sister, Makayla McLaney.

The NFL paid for free transportation from military bases throughout Oahu, which allowed the Army to provide two buses departing from Fort Shafter and nine buses from Schofield Barracks, to transport military families to the event.

"We had a little over 500 people take advantage of the free transportation to the stadium," said Kalei Scoggins, special events coordinator, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "Everyone was really excited to see the players and hopefully get a chance to meet

some (of them)."

In between practices and press interviews, NFL mascots, cheerleaders and players took the time to meet their fans.

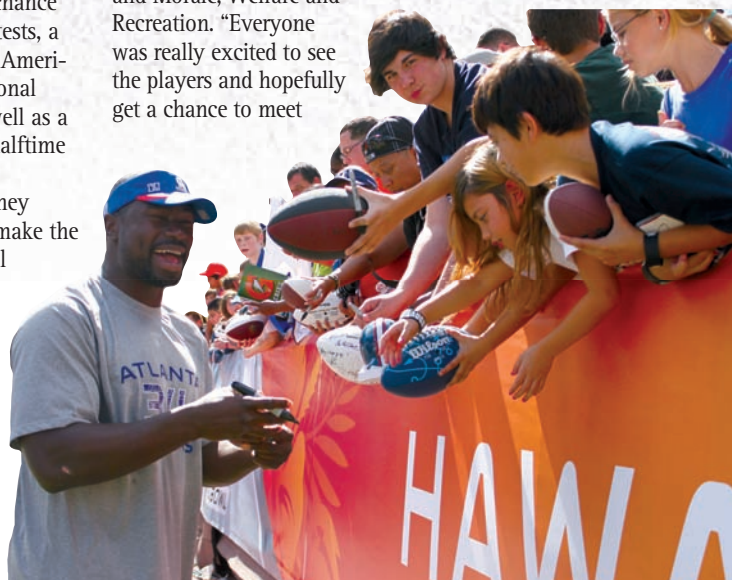
"Being picked to get down on the field is right behind the birth of my son," said Pfc. Warne Jeremy, 39th Military Police Detachment, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, about getting to participate in one of the on-field contests. "Being able to be so close and get autographs from some of my favorite players was pretty surreal and something I will never forget about my time here in Hawaii."



Julieanna Asmus, 7, shows off her pom-poms during the bus ride from Fort Shafter to Aloha Stadium for Ohana Day, Saturday.



For more photos of Ohana Day and Play 60, check out the HAW's flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/usag-hi/sets/.



Ovie Mughelli, fullback, Atlanta Falcons, signs autographs for fans.



Seth McLaney (left) and his sister, Makayla McLaney, show their aloha for the NFL.



Today

Right Arm Night — Enjoy fun, food and entertainment at Right Arm Night, 4:30 p.m., Feb. 4, at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door. Right Arm Night is an adult event.

Call 438-1974.

Valentine's Day Crafts — Create a Valentine craft while enjoying free pizza at Family Fun Friday, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks, 6 p.m., Feb. 4.

Call 655-5698.

5 / Saturday

Read to the Dogs — Keiki can sign up for a 15-minute session to read to a dog at Aliamanu Military Reservation Library, from 9-10:15 a.m., Feb. 5, Call 833-4851 to reserve a session.

Valentine's Day Workshop — Keiki can make a personalized card at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center, 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 5. Cost is \$12 per session and includes all supplies. Call 655-4202.

Free UFC 126 — Watch Ultimate Fighting Championship 126 with middleweight titleholder Anderson Silva versus Vitor Belfort, 5 p.m., Feb. 5, on the jumbo screen at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks.

Live Atomic Aftermath — Watch mixed martial arts fighters Tasi "The Tyrant" Edwards versus Jason Guida live, 7-11 p.m., Feb. 5. Tickets are on sale now at the Information, Tickets and Registration offices at Schofield Barracks: \$30 pre-sale and \$35 at the door. Call 277-1371.

6 / Sunday

Super Bowl Sunday — Enjoy pre-game activities, food specials, prizes and giveaways at Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks, 11 a.m., Feb. 6. Stay for the Super Bowl kickoff at 1:05 p.m.

Call 655-5698.

7 / Monday

Hula Classes — Learn hula at free classes sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. Soldiers and families can participate in the classes, Feb. 7, at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. A beginners' class starts at 6 p.m.; an advanced class is at 7 p.m. Classes feature the different types of hula and fundamentals of steps, movement and posture. Remaining classes this month are Feb. 14 and 28. E-mail nhliaison@gmail.com or call 655-9694.



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

Today

Survey — Submit your ideas and comments today about the Hawaii Army Weekly. Is the HAW your main source for what's going on? Do you use Facebook or Twitter? Let the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs Office know what you think. Take our quick HAW survey at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil by clicking on the link. Call 656-3153.

8 / Tuesday

Parent Participation Preschool — This program is for children ages 3-4, and helps preschool children make a smooth transition into the structure of kindergarten. Preschool days are 12-2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Wheeler Armed Services YMCA, Wheeler Army Airfield. Cost is \$40 per month. Call 624-5645 to register.

9 / Wednesday Technology and Industry Day — The annual Technology and Industry Day is set for 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Feb. 9, Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Exhibits include laptops, peripherals, cybersecurity/information assurance and systems engineering. Cost is free; register at www.fedpage.com.

Running Club — All levels of runners and walkers can join the free Hawaii Running Project Wednesday Run Club at Schofield Barracks, which meets Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Bowman Field, at the end of Lyman Road. The

8 / Tuesday

Free Fishing Lessons — Instruction is provided by Outdoor Recreation, 5-7:30 p.m., Feb. 8, with equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143 to register.

9 / Wednesday

Lt. Dan Band — Deadline is Feb. 9 for Blue Star Card holders to register at bluestarcardhawaii.com for reserved seating at the free Lt. Dan Band concert, 7 p.m., Feb. 12, Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Blue Star Card holders can pick up their wristbands for reserved seating the day of the concert by presenting their valid Blue Star Card at the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent. By registering, entrants will vie for a chance to meet the band. Before the concert, the community is invited to check out the Rock' N Wellness health and fitness expo starting at 5 p.m., Feb. 12, Sills Field.

Soul Food — Enjoy soul food every Wednesday during February at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Lunch and dinner plates are \$7.50.

Call 655-5698.

10 / Thursday

Theater Thursday — Teens can learn the basics of stage acting at Sgt. Yano Library, 4-5:30 p.m., Feb. 10. Call 655-8002 to register; walk-ins are also welcome.

12 / Saturday

Super Saturday Child Care — Free Super Saturday Child Care for Blue Star Card holders is set for 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 12, at Petersen Child Development Center and the School Age Center, both at Schofield Barracks. Families can use this benefit starting 30 days before deployment, during deployment and up to 90 days after deployment. Super Saturday Child Care doesn't count against the 16 free hours of child care provided through the Army Family Covenant.

Space is limited; register by calling 655-5314 or 833-5393.

17 / Thursday

Ice Skating — Blue Star Card holders can skate, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Feb. 17, at the Ice Palace in Honolulu. This event is family friendly. Round-trip transportation will be provided from Schofield Barracks. Space is limited; RSVP by Feb. 11 by calling 655-0112 or e-mailing amanda.p.montgomery@us.army.mil.

21 / Monday

Holiday Pool Hours — Tripler and Richardson Pool will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Presidents Day (Feb. 21).

Ongoing

No-Show Policy — The Blue Star Card program has started an event no-show policy. Blue Star Card holders who

club runs loops around the base of Kolekole Pass; workouts can be customized from two to eight miles. Go green and bring your own water bottle. E-mail mary.siegel@amedd.army.mil or call 655-9123.

10 / Thursday

Great Aloha Run — Register for the Kaiser-Permanente Great Aloha Run, taking place Presidents Day weekend. The GAR offers four days of events highlighting family, health, fitness and charity. GAR features the following:

- A three-day Sports, Health and Fitness Expo, Feb. 18-20;
- The Silverstreaks Sunrise Walk, Feb. 19;
- The Keiki Fun Run, Feb. 19; and
- A 8.15-mile foot race, Feb. 21.

Military divisions in the foot race include DoD civilians; the Sounds of Freedom formations consist of active military units running in formation. Cost for the footrace is \$45 cash or with credit card at the GAR Expo. Visit www.greataloharun.com.

Deadline for Army personnel to enter the Sounds of Freedom run was Feb. 3; however, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard entrants have until Feb. 10 to submit applications at the Fort Shafter Fitness Center. For Sounds of Freedom details, call 438-0823 or 285-3713 or e-mail santrel.mcclusky@us.army.mil.

Ongoing

Hawaii Military Child Survey — Visit www.hawaiikids.org to fill out the Hawaii Military Child Survey. This survey focuses on Hawaii military service personnel and their school-age children. The study explores a range of issues related to schooling and education, such as academics; expectations, such as what people had heard about Hawaii schools, life in Hawaii and edu-

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Expo

Physical • Social • Spiritual • Family • Emotional

Get Fit, Stay Fit

Receive valuable information and participate in fitness activities on

February 12, 2011
Sills Field, Schofield Barracks
3:00 - 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome!

Activities Include:

- Running Form Analysis
- Pull Ups & Jump Rope Contest
- Army Recruiting Table Rock Wall

Kiddie Bounce House

- FREE Health Assessments (body composition & blood pressure)

Agencies:

- Family and MWR activities
- Behavioral Health
- Public Health Nursing & Nutrition
- ASAP
- FOCUS
- TriWest
- MFLC
- Military One Source
- Operation Homefront
- Hale Koa
- Crossfit Oahu
- BOSS

Great Prizes & Giveaways - Guitar Hero, Lexmark Printer, Weekend Stay at Hale Koa, Arbonne Spa Kit and much more!!

For more information please call 655-1670

www.mwrarmyhawaii.com

Courtesy of Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Got fitness?

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Before rockin' out at the free Lt. Dan Band concert, 7 p.m., Feb. 12, Sills Field, here, stop by the Rock' N Wellness fitness expo, from 3-7 p.m. Activities include free prizes, bounce houses and healthy foods. The community is invited to both events; Blue Star Card holders can get free, reserved seating for the Lt. Dan Band concert by registering at www.bluestarcardhawaii.com.

register for an event and can't attend need to cancel the reservation by 12 p.m., the day before the event. Without cancellation, BSC holders will be considered no-shows, resulting in being placed on a wait-list for the following month's events. E-mail amanda.p.montgomery@us.army.mil.

Adult Sports — Men and women can register for intramural racquetball, basketball, volleyball and triathlons. Women can also register for soccer. For intramurals, call 655-8056; for All-Army Sports, call 655-9914. Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

Biggest Loser — Enter this weight loss contest at the Fort Shafter or Schofield Barracks Physical Fitness Center. Winners will be selected based on the percentage of body fat lost throughout the contest period, which ends April 1. Call 438-1152 or 655-8007.

Newcomers Island Tour — Sign up for the free newcomers island tour

that departs from Schofield Barracks' Army Community Service, Building 2091, or Fort Shafter Flats' ACS, Building 1599. Call 655-4227 or 438-4499.

Arts and Crafts — Visit the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center for creative fun:

- Make lei, 12-2 p.m., every Thursday. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$10. Call 655-4202.
- Join Mom and Tot Crafts and create a fun project with your 3-5-year-old, 10-11 a.m., every Thursday. Cost is \$3 and covers class and supplies. Call 655-4202.

Homeschool PE Classes — Army Youth Services offers physical education for the homeschooled child, 10-11 a.m., at Aliamanu and Fort Shafter; call 836-1923. Schofield, Helemano and Wheeler Army Airfield classes are Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 655-6465.

Twitter — Follow FMWR on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FMWR_Eddie.

of a service member who died while on active duty or while receiving military retirement pay, can apply. Pick up applications at any military commissary or visit www.militaryscholar.org. Call (856) 616-9311 or e-mail militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com. The Defense Commissary Agency sponsors the \$1,500 scholarships.

Troops to Teachers — Troops to Teachers directly supports military members who have chosen teaching as a career. This program provides direct resource support, including hiring, and allows up to a \$10,000 bonus for teaching in high-need schools. Call 586-4054, ext. 409.

Children's Waiting Room — The Armed Services YMCA children's waiting rooms offer on-site child care for healthy children, while their parents or siblings have medical appointments in any of the Schofield clinics or at Tripler Army Medical Center. No fee is charged for this service, but donations keep the programs running. Monday-Friday hours for the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic Children's Waiting Room are 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m.; Tripler hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 624-5645 for SBHC, or 833-1185 for TAMC.

Schofield Chapel Family Night — Sessions for deployed spouses about marriage and finances are conducted Wednesdays at the Schofield Barracks Main Chapel. Youth group and Bible clubs also meet then. Meals are served at 5:30 p.m., with sessions starting at 6 p.m. Child care for keiki up to 4 years old is free with RSVP. Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel's Family Resilience Nights are Tuesdays. Call 655-6645 or e-mail ktfaamaoni@hotmail.com. Find out more at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. Click on "Religious Support," under the "Directorates & Support Staff" menu. Call 655-6644 or 833-6831.



Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on "Religious Support Office" under the "Directorates and Support Staff" menu).

- AMR: Aliamanu Chapel
- FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel
- FS: Fort Shafter Chapel
- HMR: Helemano Chapel
- MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
- PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor
- SC: Soldiers' Chapel, Schofield Barracks
- TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel
- WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Buddhist Services
•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
•Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

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

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

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

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

Pagan (Wicca)
•Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

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

Single Soldiers' Bible Study
•Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at SC. Lunch is provided.

Worship Service
•Sunday, 6 p.m. at SC.



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



The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

(PG)
Fri., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 5, 4 p.m.



How Do You Know
(PG-13)
Sat., Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

Yogi Bear
(PG)
Sun., Feb. 6, 2 p.m.

Tron: Legacy
(PG)
Wed., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Utility mock billing update planned for IPC town halls

ISLAND PALM COMMUNITIES
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The residential utility program, otherwise known as “mock billing,” will be discussed at two upcoming town halls hosted by U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and Island Palm Communities.

Dates for the discussions are 6:30 p.m., Feb. 16, at Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, and 6:30 p.m., Feb. 17, at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks. All residents are encouraged to attend.

“I strongly encourage families to attend and to have any questions or concerns they have answered and addressed,” said Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI. “We’ve received great ideas from residents at these meetings. A great suggestion was made at a recent town hall to include a home’s profile in energy statements, and we were able to make it happen.”

Monthly mock utility statements depict a home’s actual energy usage and then compare that amount to an average amount of electricity used by families living in similar homes.

Mock billing is helping Island Palm Communities residents prepare for a Secretary of Defense policy that requires a reduction in energy use throughout the Department of Defense.

Mock Billing Town Halls

- Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m., Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel
- Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks

“The mock billing period helps to make sure our families understand the Department of Defense program, and (that they) are provided with the information they need to be responsible consumers of electricity,” Mulbury said. “It’s really a win-win

program for our families and the Army. Money saved through reduced energy consumption will be used to enhance services and amenities, and support other needs of families living in Island Palm Communities.”

When actual utility billing begins, families that use less than the average amount of electricity will receive a monetary credit. Likewise, families that exceed the average will owe money.

Most Army garrisons in the U.S. have implemented the utility billing program. USAG-HI will begin actual billing this year; however, local Army leadership hasn’t identified a date, yet.



Education fair promotes lifelong learning

ISLAND PALM COMMUNITIES
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – A free education fair, “Live and Learn,” will run 3-6 p.m., Feb. 17, at Porter Community Center, Schofield Barracks.

Lifelong learning is important for everyone. Whether someone is employed, seeking employment or caring for family, the changing needs of society require everyone to gain new skills and knowledge throughout his or her life.

Lifelong learning can be acquired from various resources and experiences, and Island Palm Communities is bringing these resources to its residents. The education fair will feature a variety of life-skills building activities and workshops.

Residents can ask experts about physical fitness, nutrition and overall well-being for the entire family. Employment professionals will conduct workshops on a variety of topics, such as resume writing, interviewing techniques and how to find resources for job-seekers. Outdoor Recreation will host demonstrations, including tae kwon do, Zumba, yoga, mountain biking and paddle boarding.

The Schofield Teen Center band will provide entertainment.



Visit www.islandpalmcommunities.com to learn more about “Live and Learn.”



Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl L. Lawry | 500th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

Continuing the ohana

WAIALUA — Randiann Porras-Tang (left), principal, Waialua High and Intermediate School, and Col. Patricia Frost, commander, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade, sign the new Hawaii School Partnership Program Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA continues the partnership that began in October 2008. The partnership has encouraged Soldiers to volunteer as teachers’ aides, participate in the schools’ homecoming parade and mentor students.

Wahiawa Elementary offers support to military keiki

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
News Release

WAHIAWA – A group of Wahiawa Elementary students meets, here, weekly, to have lunch and discuss their lives as military children.

“Wahiawa Elementary recognizes the challenges students may have with a parent who is deployed or working on the mainland or abroad,” said Lisa Okazaki, the school counselor who facilitates the support group.

The group “...provides students with a safe and caring environment to talk about their experiences and thoughts, as well as to feel supported at school,” Okazaki said.

Currently, 22 students in kindergarten through fifth-grade participate and share personal stories. They discuss topics ranging from deployed parents to moving to Hawaii from another duty station and changes in their lives. The group supports one another and any student who has a parent in the military.

The military support group at Wahiawa Elementary is just one way the community can support family members of deployed Soldiers. For example, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s School Liaison Office supplies deployment activity books and letter-writing kits to Wahiawa Elementary and any other school or family readiness group that requests these resources.

The Families OverComing Under Stress, or FOCUS, Project provides resiliency training and consultations to community members, including teachers or counselors, on topics such as a child’s behavior changes during deployment or reintegration. The group also holds workshops that give children the tools they need when their parent deploys.



Courtesy of Wahiawa Elementary School

Military youth who attend Wahiawa Elementary School join their parents and community members at the Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade in November. Wahiawa Elementary invited the groups to the parade.

Operation: Military Kids Deployment Briefing

Adults who have children or work with children who are affected by deployments are invited to a free deployment briefing, 9 a.m., Feb. 18, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Chapel. Visit www.operationmilitarykids.org. Register at 655-9818.

Learn about other resources focusing on children and deployment:

- Call the Wahiawa Elementary School military support group at 622-6393,
- Call the FOCUS project at 257-7774,
- Visit www.focusproject.org, or
- Contact the School Liaison Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, at 655-9818.

New Hawaii law may affect child custody plans for deploying parents

CAPT. S. CHASE ALLEN
8th Theater Sustainment Command &
U.S. Army Garrison Legal Assistance Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – A growing number of deploying parents are facing a battle, not against insurgents or improvised explosive devices, but the possible consequences of a deployment on their child custody arrangement.

For too long, going off to war has meant losing the custody battle back at home; however, a new Hawaii law aims to change all that.

The new law took effect in Hawaii, in 2010, with the express purpose of requiring “special consideration in custody matters involving deploying parents.”

The Hawaii law applies in most cases to Soldier-parents who already have a Hawaii court order regarding custody, whose children have lived in Hawaii for at least six months,

but have never received a court order from any state.

The new law allows the court to expedite custody cases involving deploying parents. It requires cooperation and communication between the deploying parent and the other parent. It also requires that the custodial parent inform the noncustodial parent of the impending deployment.

The most significant provision in the new law protects Soldiers from having their deployments used against them in determining custody.

In the past, Soldiers may have lost custody as a direct result of their deployment. After redeploying, they had to go back to court to try to have the previous custody arrangement put back in place.

The new law expressly states deployment can’t be the sole factor in making a custody

award. More significantly, even if a deployment does result in a modification of custody, it will only be a temporary modification, which will expire upon redeployment and revert back to the previous custody order.

Another law provision allows deploying parents to request that the family court delegate their custodial or visitation rights to another person for the duration of their deployment. For example, a Soldier has two children from a previous marriage, he now lives with his new wife, they enjoy weekend visits with both children, and the visitation is consistent with the Soldier’s Hawaii divorce decree that entitles him to reasonable visitation. Under the new law, if the Soldier deploys, he can request that his visitation rights be transferred to his wife during the deployment. His wife can now continue to participate in the weekend visits with her stepchildren.

Learn more about the new Hawaii law

If you are deploying and believe the new law may affect you, call the Legal Assistance Office at 438-6725, 655-8607 or 433-5311.

However, a court will only delegate visitation or custody rights if two requirements are met: First, the individual receiving the visitation rights must be either a family member or spouse of the deploying Soldier, or a person with whom the Soldier cohabitates. Second, the person must have an “existing close and substantial relationship with the child.”

In all cases, the court will continue to consider the best interest of the child before making decisions.

‘Gold Rush’ cheerleaders visit 728th MP Bn.

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — San Francisco 49ers “Gold Rush” cheerleaders visited Soldiers assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, to witness the final battalion muster before the unit deploys to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, here, Jan. 29.

While many of the other cheerleaders were looking forward to sleeping in or going to the beach, cheerleaders Elizabeth Dubach, Jasmin Linares, Rachel Marks, Jennifer Hayes and Chris Rhyu jumped at the opportunity to find a deeper experience.

They volunteered to visit Soldiers. “We were sitting at dinner, and we got an e-mail asking for cheerleaders to support deploying Soldiers,” Marks said. “We said immediately, ‘sign up, sign up!’”

“There was no question about it; we were available,” Hayes said. “Within one minute of us being asked, we were all ready to go.”

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. David Phillips, MP regimental general, presented medals and coins to the Soldiers. Also, the battalion named Maj. Robert Green, commander, Training Command, Honolulu Police Department, as an honorary 728th MP Bn. “Warfighter.”

The cheerleaders said they felt like honorary warfighters during Green’s speech, when he thanked the battalion for the honor.

“I felt like he was talking about me, and (I) related with him in every way,” Marks said.

“They play the national anthem at the start of every game; it’s a link that everyone has to each other,” Rhyu said, about how the national anthem was played at the beginning of the ceremony.

The cheerleaders gathered around one Soldier as he took re-enlistment vows during the muster.

After the ceremony, the cheerleaders and Soldiers took group photos, signed battalion posters and wished each other well.

“I told everyone I knew that cheerleaders came out to support us before we deployed; (I told) my mom, my brothers and my friends,” said Spc. Louis Williams, HHD, 728th MP Bn., 8th MP Bde. “Some were surprised, some were jealous, but they all told me how awesome and great the cheerleaders’ support was.

“That they took time out of their day to support us before we deployed was awesome,” Williams continued. “All I can say is ‘thanks.’”

“For a lot of our fans, it’s ‘wow I got to meet a cheerleader,’ but when we came out here, it’s the opposite. It’s ‘wow we got to meet Soldiers.’ It’s special for us,” Rhyu said.

“You could see and feel the camaraderie of everybody, when the Soldiers were doing little things like saying ‘hooah’ in unison,” Linares said. “I felt something (special).”

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Marks said. “We’ve never had this experience before, and I don’t know many who have.

“It was just awesome and an honor that we were able to come,” she added.



Sgt. Maj Clayton Sneed, operations sergeant major, HHD, 728th MP Bn., 8th MP Bde., 8th TSC, interacts with San Francisco 49er cheerleaders — (left to right) Elizabeth Dubach, Rachel Marks, Jennifer Hayes and Chris Rhyu — as they sign the battalion’s recruiting poster, Saturday.



NFL cheerleaders participate in an impromptu re-enlistment ceremony after the HHD, 728th MP Bn., 8th MP Bde., 8th TSC’s last muster at Schofield Barracks, Saturday. HHD will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NFL Pro Bowl brings mascots, ohana to military family members



Maj. Jeff Parker | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Staley da Bear, mascot for the Chicago Bears, interacts with crowds during a meet-and-greet at Stoneman Stadium, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 27.

HONOLULU — At right, Sir Purr, mascot for the Carolina Panthers, gives the shaka during Ohana Day at Aloha Stadium, Saturday.



Vanessa Lynch | Honolulu Star-Advertiser



Courtesy Photo

WAIANAE — Soldiers from Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, assist Nanaikapono Elementary School students with planting a tree, Jan. 26. The tree planting, part of a sustainability program, was one of many events taking place during Pro Bowl week for youth and adults.



Pvt. Stephen Charlie, HHC, 25th CAB, 25th ID, conducts an audio test on a student at Mililani Uka Elementary, Jan. 26.

25th CAB partners with schools to give hearing tests

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

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Soldiers with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, are helping to protect the hearing of students at local elementary schools.

In 2009, the 25th CAB first teamed up with the Mililani Lions Club and Mililani elementary schools to help screen first-through third-graders for hearing impairments. They have continued this partnership, whenever possible.

“The Hearing Screening Program for School-Aged Children is a signature project for the Lions Club and the State of Hawaii,” said Shannon Ching, an audiologist with the Waikiki 2000 Lions. “We mostly cover the Mililani area, but we are trying to increase the number of schools covered.”

The hearing tests help to identify signs and risks of hearing loss early in childhood, which may interfere with education, health or communication.

“It’s good to give back to the community,” said Spc. Nicholas Thompson, intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th CAB. “This is my first time volunteering. No doubt, I would be more than happy to volunteer again.”

“I just enjoy the reaction of the students to the Soldiers; it helps them not to be afraid of the military,” said Norma Tansey, facilitator, Parent Community Network Center, Mililani Uka Elementary.

The audio tests were a success with the aid of the CAB Soldiers, according to Ching.

“We had good cooperation from the 25th CAB during the audio testing,” Ching said. “The community supports the program and lets us come back to continue the audio tests.”

“Every chance you get to help out the community, take it,” Thompson said. “This is a great way to help out with something that is bigger than yourself.”



Vickey Mouzé | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

In honor of loved ones

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Adults and children release balloons, at Sills Field, here, Saturday, some with handwritten messages for their fallen heroes who had served in the military. The ceremony was part of a seminar in the Tragedy Assistance Program for adult survivors and for children attending Good Grief Camp. For many, releasing the balloons was a way to connect with their family member or friend.

CYSS, UH helps military kids with deployments

Story and Photo by
LAURA BRATCHER
Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

HONOLULU — The Stan Sheriff Center hosted Utah State’s men’s basketball team and one very large group of military youth, here, Saturday.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Child, Youth and School Services chaperoned more than 300 children as they watched the University of Hawaii’s Rainbow Warriors play against Utah State’s Aggies.

The children are involved in CYSS programs, including Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel, or EDGE; HIRED; Youth Sports; and Middle School Teens programs. CYSS helps provide programs for children who are dealing with deployments.

“These are opportunities that we love to encourage, because with deployment, it means a lot to the kids,” said Brendyn Agbayani, manager, Youth Sports and Fitness, DFMWR, “but mostly for the families that are dealing with (the) stress of loved ones being away serving our country.”

For some children, the game was a welcome respite from dealing with the loneliness of a having a deployed parent. For all, the event was a chance for encouragement and inspiration.

Kids crowded the halls, waiting for a chance to greet UH players as they sprinted onto the court. Some of the children’s cheeks were even painted with UH logos to support the team.

Many of the children are on basketball teams themselves. For example, Nate Vanos, in his second year of basketball, plays with the Schofield Heat.

Vanos said he had “never, ever seen a college basketball game or stadium,” explaining the game was “real special” for him.

Coaches from some of the Youth Sports basketball teams chaperoned the event. For them, the game was a teaching opportunity.

“This gives the kids the experience of seeing older kids and how they play,” said Kevin Pearson, who coaches the Heat’s Termite division. “It helps us coach them and hopefully, someday, get them to that level.

“Watch, because the stuff they’re doing is the same stuff we’re teaching you all,” Pearson said, to the team during a timeout.



Military youth greet a UH Rainbow Warrior at the game against the Utah Aggies at the Stan Sherrif Center, Saturday. The DFMWR’s CYSS program sponsored the field trip.