



USAG-HI

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25th ID

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Pfc. Marcus Fichtl | 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Super strength

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Spc. Jonathan West (above), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, pushes a tire while Staff Sgt. Marcus Mitchell (right), HHC, 8th MP Bde., drags a stretcher during the brigade's Soldier of the Quarter competition endurance test, here, April 6. West took top honors and was named Soldier of the Quarter.



April 30 is National Prescription Take Back Day

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

HONOLULU — Prescription drugs that languish in your home medicine cabinet can be highly at risk to misuse and abuse. To deter mishandling and support a drug-free community, National Prescription Take Back Day, April 30, will provide the opportunity for anyone to turn in unused or expired prescriptions for proper disposal.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Adminis-

tration initiated National Prescription Take Back Day, Sept. 24, 2010. Last year, the American public turned in more than 121 tons of pills during the inaugural collection, held at nearly 4,100 sites across the country.

As in past years, the Department of Defense is helping to raise awareness and to maintain combat readiness by hosting collection sites at numerous locations in

SEE Rx, A-7

Drug Facts

- Prescriptions provided by a doctor can be just as dangerous as taking illegal drugs.
- More than 7 million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, and they are the second leading cause of accidental death.
- Pain killers now rank second, only behind marijuana, as the nation's most prevalent illegal

drug problem.

- According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, abuse of prescription drugs has become increasingly prevalent among teens and young adults. Each day, approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time.
- For more information about National Prescription Take Back Day, visit www.justice.gov/dea/index.htm.



Command Sgt. Maj. George Duncan (left), outgoing senior enlisted leader, 8th TSC; Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry (center), commander, 8th TSC; and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Hunt, incoming senior enlisted leader, 8th TSC, salute the flag while the national anthem plays during the change of responsibility ceremony, April 13, at Palm Circle, Fort Shafter.

8th TSC says aloha to senior enlisted leaders

Story and Photos by
SGT. PHILLIS A. WHITE
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The 8th Theater Sustainment Command welcomed a new senior enlisted leader during a change of responsibility ceremony, April 13, at historic Palm Circle, here.

Command Sgt. Maj. George Duncan, outgoing command sergeant major, 8th TSC, passed the non-commissioned officer sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Hunt, incoming command sergeant major, 8th TSC, during the ceremony.

“Always more concerned with being a caring leader than being a feared one ... Sergeant Major, I thank you from my heart for a job well done,” said Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 8th TSC.

Duncan had served as 8th TSC's command sergeant major since 2008, and he will continue his career at III Corp, Fort Hood, Texas. Duncan thanked and bid farewell to members of the 8th TSC, friends and guests in his remarks.

“It's been my honor to serve you, (and) it's been my privilege to have known you. I hope I haven't disappointed you,” Duncan said. “Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.”

Hunt comes to the 8th TSC as the top enlisted leader of the 9th Quartermaster Regimental Command, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Va.

Hunt expressed his happiness to be here and his excitement in accepting the responsibilities set forth for 8th TSC.

“As a senior leader, I have always considered myself a servant, and as a Soldier, I work for the Soldiers, the leaders and the civilians in the organization, not the other way around,” Hunt said.

He entered the Army in September 1983 as a petroleum supply specialist and has held numerous positions throughout his 28-year military career. He has served as the senior enlisted advisor in a wide range

SEE 8th TSC, A-4

‘Lobos’ lieutenant awarded Purple Heart

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

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The words, “Let it be known that he who wears the Military Order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland, and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen,” can be found on the Order of the Purple Heart.

1st Lt. Dave Biemer, transportation officer, Headquarters and Support Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, “Lobos,” 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, received the Purple Heart, here, April 13, for wounds he sustained during combat on a Marine deployment near Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003.

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who have been wounded, killed or died of wounds suffered as a result of enemy action, while serving on or after April 5, 1917, with the U.S. military.

“My company was on a convoy southeast of Baghdad when we were surrounded by a group of the last unified opposition of enemy forces in Iraq,” Biemer said. “We quickly set up defensive positions, as we received rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms fire. During the fight, a

SEE 25th ID, A-7



Col. Frank Tate (left), commander, 25th CAB, 25th ID, pins the Purple Heart on 1st Lt. Dave Biemer, transportation officer, HHC, 209th ASB, “Lobos,” 25th CAB, on Wheeler Army Airfield, April 12, for wounds received in action while serving in Baghdad, Iraq, April 8, 2003.

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.

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Nondelivery or distribution problems in Island Palm Community housing areas? If so, call 656-3155 or 656-3488.

206 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 04/21/11.

Voices of Ohana



"I support the Special Olympics because I enjoy working with the kids."

Staff Sgt. Emmett Haldane

Food service specialist, HHC, 8th STB, 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC



"I enjoy working with my mother to help Soldiers and their families."

Celia Hindbaugh
Volunteer



"I'm an Army Family Team Building instructor to educate Soldiers and spouses to survive the Army lifestyle."

Tracey Koast
AFTB instructor, ACS



"My main goal is to strengthen families because (they are) the strength of the Army."

Nicole Paradiso
FRG leader, 643rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



"I'm involved with a faith-based mothers of preschoolers group because it's very fulfilling."

Melissa Vail
FRG leader, 706th EOD Co., 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC

Straight Talk

DES Neighborhood Watch returns in full swing

DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Residents becoming familiar with their communities and taking steps to protect them is the basis of a successful and effective Neighborhood Watch.

In the first few weeks of implementing the Schofield Barracks Neighborhood Watch Program, Gordon Wiborg, deputy chief of police, Area-North, Directorate of Emergency Services, introduced Mindy Dye as the official community relations officer for Schofield Barracks communities.

Dye has attended the resident advisory panel, or RAP, for each community within Area-North. RAP meetings are an important venue for residents to directly voice concerns to a police officer.

Through the Neighborhood Watch Program, a few concerned Porter Community residents are setting up an official meet-and-greet, so other residents can see what the Neighborhood Watch Program consists of and how the program can benefit everyone.

The official start date is still in the works, but the goal is to host the meet-and-greet in early May.

In addition to the Porter Community meet-and-greet, one of the first Neighborhood Watch Program events being planned is "Walk Around Your Community with a Cop."

Concerned residents will get an opportunity to meet with a police officer and to take a walk through their neighborhood to learn ways of preventing crime through environmental design.

This walking classroom will include tips to keep

homes and neighborhoods from falling victim to crimes, such as theft. Not only is this program a way for residents to learn to protect themselves and their property, but it's also an excellent way of getting to know neighbors and becoming familiar with surroundings.

From these personal connections and information, concerned residents will be able to recognize signs of potential, unwanted activity within their community.

Neighborhood Watch

For more information, email mindy.s.dye@us.army.mil or gordon.wiborg@us.army.mil.

Chaplains help families cope with deployment separation

Story and Photos by

1ST LT. BRIGIDA SANCHEZ

65th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers from the 82nd Engineer Support Company, 65th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, filled the pockets of their cargo pants pockets with experience, knowledge and the desire to do great things in Iraq before deployment.

The wives and husbands of service members who are left behind also have a great responsibility to stay focused and positive for their Soldiers, children and, most importantly, themselves.

Chaplain (Capt.) John Sedwick, 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., said spouses, children and families all handle the stresses of deployment life in their own ways, but quite a few ways can help families cope with separation.

The first step is establishing good communication, learning how often to call, when to call and how much information is exchanged during a call.

The second critically important step is to maintain connections with family on the mainland, the unit family readiness group and its chaplain.

The third is step is to pay close attention to children. Keep them occupied in sports and a variety of activities to help them deal with the emotions and anxieties that they are experiencing.

Sedwick also said that families should not forget a spiritual connection.

"It has definitely been a bit of a roller coaster ride," said Keith Kilburn, married to Spc. Tina Kilburn, maintenance platoon, 82nd Eng. Support Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. "The first four days were the hardest for me. I just wanted to shut out the world. The door would



Spc. Michael Olney (left), 82nd Eng. Support Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, holds the guidon, while 1st Sgt. Luis Guiterrez (center) and Capt. Joshua Long, also with the 82nd Eng. Support Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., encase the company's colors during their recent deployment ceremony on Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks.

open, I would turn around, or even hear a noise, and expect to see Tina."

The 82nd Eng. Support Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., has been gone for almost a month now. Slowly, its families are learning how to cope with the distance, emotions and frustrations that come with deployments.

"This is my husband's second deployment, and I knew it was going to be different," said Damarys Ramirez. "Our youngest son, Ivancito, was just a baby when he deployed the first time, and his daddy's safety was not of his concern at all. Now Ivancito is 9 (years old) and is well aware of all the danger his father can be exposed to. He is more emotional, curious and asks questions that sometimes I would prefer not having to answer."



Families of the 82nd Eng. Support Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, gather around for a final benediction, before deploying to Iraq.

Trial held for Velez case at Wheeler Army Airfield

Q:
A:

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

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.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

HONOLULU — General court-martial proceedings concluded in the case of U.S. versus Spc. Beyshee Velez.

The trial was held at the Wheeler Army Airfield Court Room, April 12-13, with a sentencing phase that had begun April 1.

Velez was charged in September of 2009 with fleeing apprehension, reckless homicide and aggravated assault of three men.

Pursuant to his pleas, Velez was found guilty for the murder of Lucas Vinson, a Kellogg Brown and Root contractor, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, when he recklessly pointing his loaded M4 car-

bine at Vinson.

Vinson died when Velez discharged his weapon, Sept. 13, 2009.

Velez was also found guilty of assaulting three other contractors when he pointed a loaded weapon at them, and of fleeing apprehension from authorities.

The presiding military judge, Lt. Col. Kwasi Hawks, sentenced Velez to a sentence of 26 years, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade of private, total forfeitures of pay and a dishonorable discharge.

Velez is currently confined at the Naval Brig Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, but he will be remanded to the U.S. Army Corrections Command.

FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

Easter brings us hope, eternal joy

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) STEPHEN BROADUS

516th Signal Brigade, 311th Sig. Command

Our Army has been at war for almost 10 years, and the signs of strain have been evident on our families and Soldiers for many years.



Broadus

It is not a secret that marital difficulties and severe levels of stress have been obvious within the lives of those who serve.

A multitude of programs have been created and funded in recent years to help combat these issues, but the problems continue to stubbornly exist. However, the hope our families and Soldiers need does not exist in a new million-dollar program, a counseling session or a PowerPoint presentation.

Our hope is found in the life-changing power of something we can find during the celebration of Easter.

Hope is the answer.

Hope is found in knowing that the future will be better than today. This belief

in power can be found during Easter.

Sure, programs and counseling may give temporary relief to a marriage or a person in crisis, but will this hope fade with time or be subject to circumstances?

God never promised us a life without problems or trials, but he did give us the avenue to have a hope that can last. I want a hope that brings me joy in the midst of trouble, and I am sure that is what you are looking for in your own life as well.

An old song has the words "there is a joy unspeakable." I want that joy, a joy so amazing that no matter what is going on around me, I can rejoice in the fact that God loves me.

A hope that brings joy to us everyday is available to all those who believe and put God first in their lives.

Joy is not happiness. Joy is not dependent on circumstances. You and I can have a divine ability to have an unspeakable joy in the face of trials and difficulties, a joy that is indescribable.

So, look forward to Easter every day of your life and find the hope and joy you are seeking. Give your life to God and allow him to show you the path to a hope that brings eternal joy.

April is National Volunteer Month

What types of volunteer activities do you partake in and why?

Photos by 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

66th Eng. Co. clears path for force protection

Story and Photo by
CPL. ROBERT ENGLAND
2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq — Even while concentrating a majority of their efforts on advising, training and assisting Iraqi Security Forces during Operation New Dawn, U.S. forces still focus on the safety of U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi citizens living on and around military bases across Iraq.

Soldiers of 66th Engineer Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion, “Task Force 225,” 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, performed a controlled burn along a stretch of perimeter fencing, here, April 6.

“It contributes to the protection of our forces and the Iraqi people when we clear the overgrown brush causing obscuration, so that the force-protection barriers, the fence line and the guard towers can provide us with that protection throughout (OND),” said 1st Lt. Andrew Schmidt, platoon leader, 66th Eng. Co., 225th BSB, 2nd BCT.

Schmidt said the need for a clear field of vision brought about the plan to conduct a controlled burn to clear the overgrown brush to better protect American troops and contractors here.

“We do not have a torch or flamethrower as part of our standard-issue equipment to burn the undergrowth, so we had to acquire that from another unit,” Schmidt said.

Soldiers with the 66th Eng. Co. combined resources with the 617th Eng. Bn., based out of Joint Base Balad, to acquire a terra torch — a specialized flamethrower designed for clearing operations.

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, bringing clearing experience from past deployments to help train younger Soldiers, immediately went to work researching the equipment and studying the training manual.

Training, planning and preparation precedes a clearing operation that involves the use of a fire. Moisture and humidity may hinder the burning



Soldiers from the 66th Eng. Co., 225th BSB, 2nd BCT, “Warriors,” 25th ID, clear brush along a fence line during a controlled burn operation at COB Warhorse, Iraq, April 6. Bulldozers were also used to clear patches of vegetation to supplement the natural firebreaks along a creek and nearby roadways.

process, while high winds increase the risk of the fire spreading, Schmidt said.

“Before we come out to burn, the first thing we do is check the weather ahead of time,” Schmidt said. “Then, we select an area to start the pre-burn process.”

Prior to starting the actual burning process, engineers established firebreaks to provide a last line of defense that cuts off the flame’s fuel supply, in the event that a controlled burn spreads faster

than expected.

In this case, Soldiers used bulldozers to clear away patches of vegetation to supplement the natural firebreaks along a creek and nearby roadways.

“This gives us a nice, confined space in which we don’t have to worry about the fire getting out of control,” Schmidt said.

All the safety precautions paid off as Soldiers of the 66th Eng. Co., 225th BSB, 2nd BCT, conducted the controlled burn without incident and cleared

overgrown areas around the base’s perimeter.

Schmidt said force protection remains a critical element to the brigade’s mission while preserving safety for U.S. Soldiers and the Iraqi public, and this clearing operation served to raise that protection level.

“It’s important for us, as U.S. forces, to ensure not only the protection of the forces on this base, but also the Iraqi civilians around the outside of the base,” Schmidt said.



1st Lt. Dale Aebischer, fire support officer, Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., “Wolfhounds,” 3rd BCT, 25th ID, talks with IA soldiers while distributing aid to Iraqi children in Tikrit, April 7.

Needy Iraqi youth receive aid from ‘Wolfhounds’

Story and Photo by
SGT. COLTIN HELLER
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Less-fortunate children received supplies of clothing and blankets at a police station in Tikrit, here, April 7.

Soldiers assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, made the distribution in collaboration with Iraqi army soldiers.

The 2nd BCT is just one of the brigades in U.S. Division-North that received supplies. The Wolfhounds had begun planning their distribution back in January.

Civil Affairs had purchased \$350,000 worth of supplies — from clothing and jackets to blankets and shoes — to be distributed through the brigades. Civil Affairs serves as a bridge between Iraqi civilians and U.S. forces, informing commanders on the status of local populations, as well as assisting those populations by coordinating infrastructure renewal projects and delivering supplies and aid, such as clothing and blankets.

Wolfhound Soldiers linked up with Iraqi army soldiers and transferred the seasonal wear and blankets to two large IA vehicles to be delivered to the police station.

Fifty Iraqi children gathered around as the brightly colored blankets and brand-new shoes were unloaded and passed out. Children toted their gifts away, beaming from ear to ear.

“I’m very thankful for all the clothes and blankets,” said Saife, an Iraqi teen who received several blankets and a new pair of shoes during the humanitarian event, here.

A large portion of the aid remained after the event, as fewer children than anticipated showed. The remaining shoes and clothes were reloaded and taken down the road to an orphanage.

25th ID Band rocks out at FOB Hammer

Story and Photo by
SGT. ISOLDA MCCLELLAND
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — At Forward Operating Base Hammer, the usual sounds of the day are the booms emitted from the various training ranges.

Recently, however, the booms didn’t come from the ranges, but rather the small stage area on the FOB.

The booming sounds of drums hammering away and the low rumble of bass guitars meant that Show of Force, the 25th Infantry Division Band’s rock band ensemble, was warming up and getting ready to bring together a crowd of Soldiers and civilians to the stage.

This nine-member group started off the day, here, playing acoustic rock tunes inside of the Hammer Dining Facility during lunch. The evening show, however, contained a hard-rock style of music that featured widely-known American artists such as Metallica, Paramour, Disturbed and Tool, just to name a few.

While the band does not focus on typical ceremonial music, the music it does play is meant to uplift the morale and spirits of deployed service members.

“We’re trying to integrate rock bands and what we call ‘popular music ensembles’ as the primary focus, especially in a deployed environment where we are playing for 25-year-old Soldiers,” said Sgt. Brendan Owen, senior instrumentalist, Show of Force. “They do not want to hear John Philip Sousa, or ‘Mustang Sally’ for that matter. They want modern music, and that is what we are giving them.”

Playing for deployed troops also lifts the morale of the band members.

“You know, you may go about a typical Army day ... and that one hour we play, you see that one guy singing along with you, it’s awesome,” said Staff Sgt Christopher Stone, lead vocalist, Show of Force.

Many in the audience were pleased with the selection of music played.

“It was absolutely fantastic, a lot of great classics from back home. And this gives our (Iraqi partners) a taste of Americana,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Wiedner, Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Inf. Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

Since deploying, the band has played more than 50 shows to outlying FOBs throughout Iraq.

“This is real important,” Wiedner said. “We’re really isolated (from the other USO-sponsored shows), out here east of Baghdad, so whenever we get a chance to break up the monotony of daily operations, it’s good. And it’s a great stress reliever for our troops.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Stone, lead vocalist with the Show of Force, 25th ID rock band ensemble, sings a song during the concert at FOB Hammer, Iraq, recently.

“From what I saw, the guys really enjoyed themselves,” Wiedner continued. “Everybody seemed like they had a great time, and I am glad that (the band) took the time to come out here and play for some of our Soldiers.”

45th Sust. Bde. provides last-minute logistical support during Balikatan 2011

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

CAMP AGUINALDO, Philippines — It’s said that in military operations, the line between disorder and order lies in logistics.

If that saying is true, credit members of the 45th Sustainment



Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Johnson (left), noncommissioned officer in charge of transportation, 524th CSSB, 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, and Maj. Stephanie Garvin, support operations, 8th TSC, discuss a logistics plan during Balikatan, held in the Philippines, April 1-15.

Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, for providing logistical support and order during the annual Balikatan Exercise, here, April 1-15.

The 45th Sust. Bde’s staff successfully provided logistics for all aspects of the exercise without limiting capabilities of units to train in the field with their Filipino counterparts. The logistics headquarters got the job done, even though its participation in BK11 was not part of the original plan.

When the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster happened in Japan, the 10th Area Support Group, the unit originally pegged for BK11, was called back to Japan to help with logistical support, there. The 10th ASG is based in Japan and is part of 8th TSC.

As a result, the 45th Sust. Bde. received the mission to help with the exercise.

Within a week of receiving orders for BK11, members of 45th Sust. Bde. arrived in the Philippines and quickly assumed their command post.

“We were excited to be a part of Balikatan 2011, and we did not mind the short notice because we were excited to come to the Philippines,” said Spc. Javan Mortimer, chaplain’s assistant, 45th Sust. Bde.

Taking on the mission called for detailed planning, as the exercise takes part in several different areas of the country. The brigade’s goal was to provide the best support to service members in the field.

For Maj. Ceasar Bergonia, deputy of communications, 8th TSC, providing consistent communication to remote field sites was a daunting task.

“I have five sites that I maintain, and to send someone out there for a trouble call (can) sometimes ... be difficult, especially when we have to have security elements with them (during the call),” Bergonia said.

Bergonia said his team would take on any task, even if it required them to travel four or five hours. He said the team got the job done because it understood the importance of communication, here.

It was the job of Sgt. 1st Class Sterling Tracy, noncommissioned officer in charge of support operations, 524th Combat Sust. Support Battalion, 45th Sust. Bde., to ensure the Joint Operations Center had everything it needed to function.

“With the 45th Sust. Bde. filling in for the 10th ASG, we had to do some changes in order to get things the way we needed them,” Tracy said. “We had to be creative with how we got some of our supplies, but the bottom line is that we got what we needed and helped to support the exercise.”

RELATED STORY

•Read more about 8th TSC and U.S. Army-Pacific’s involvement in BK11 activities and events on page A-5.

130th Eng. Bde.'s elite compete in Best Sapper contest

2ND LT. LAURA BETH BEEBE & 2ND LT. KYLE SUCHOMSKI
130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — It is one of the most grueling events in the Army: 56 hours of nonstop mental and physical tests to determine who can earn the bragging rights as the Army's best in the engineer field.

The Best Sapper Competition kicked off, April 7, here, with a nonstandard physical fitness test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a three-mile run, where competitors donned individual body armor and small arms protective insert plates.

The participants competed in buddy teams of their choosing. Out of the 37 teams competing, the 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, sent two teams, one from the 65th Eng. Battalion and one from the 84th Eng. Bn.

"It was a world-class event," said Capt. Emily Hannenberg, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. "I was surprised to see how well run and resourced it was, and I was really honored to be a part of it."

The yearly competition is open to any engineer Soldier or any Sailor, Airman or Marine who has earned the Sapper tab by successfully completing the 28-day Sapper Leader Course, which has a 50-percent attrition rate.

Soldiers boarded a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for the helocast, where they jumped from the helicopter for a bitter, 54-degree swim.

Day one continued with seven challenges that took competitors more than 15 miles, while carrying approximately 75-pound rucksacks. The teams then went without sleep to complete a six-hour land navigation course through wooded terrain.

By day two, only the top 20 teams remained to complete Sapper Stakes, a series of eight events tested a variety of engineer skills needed in combat. The evening brought another road march, but the mileage for the road march and a run the



Nicole Black | Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs

Competitors jump from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in the helocast event during the 2011 Best Sapper competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

following morning were kept secret from the competitors.

"(This final) ruck march was the hardest event," said 1st Lt. Robert West, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. "Without any sleep for two days, a 50-pound ruck and not knowing how much further we had to go ... it was difficult."

"It was far more difficult than I expected it to be, but I feel we were well prepared," Hannenberg said, as one of only two female competitors in the competition. "Everyone was real professional. Our team wasn't treated any differently than anyone else."

"We were all evaluated on the same measuring stick," she continued. "I just really appreciate the support from the command. They didn't have to let us go and compete, but they supported us all the

way through."

Hannenberg and West finished in 11th place, and Capt. Dusty Turner and 1st Lt. Thomas Bazemore, both from the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., finished in sixth.

Col. Jeffery Milhorn, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Ward, senior enlisted leader, 130th Eng. Bde., said they were exceptionally proud of both teams that competed in the competition this year. They added that each team exemplified courage and strength during periods of extreme fatigue. The leaders said the teams performed heroically throughout.

(Editor's Note: Beebe is with 84th Eng. Bn. Public Affairs, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, and Suchomski is with the 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC.)



Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Hunt, incoming senior enlisted leader, 8th TSC, assumes responsibilities in the passing of the noncommissioned officer sword during the change of responsibility ceremony, April 13, Palm Circle, Fort Shafter.

8th TSC: Hunt named new CSM

CONTINUED FROM A-1

of logistics units and was previously assigned as the sergeant major of the U.S. Forces Command's 82nd Sust. Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The senior noncommissioned officer comes to the 8th TSC with awards and decorations, from several deployments, schools and trainings.

Hunt's military education includes Airborne School, RECONDO (Reconnaissance and Doughboy or Commando) School, jungle warfare training, Jumpmaster School, the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Combat Lifesavers Course, the Basic NCO Course, and the First Sergeants Course.

Hunt is a graduate of Class 1952, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy and the Command Sergeant Major Course.



1st Lt. Thomas Bazemore
65th Eng. Bn.,
130th Eng. Bde.

I enjoyed the helocast event, (but) not the cold swim after. I learned my body can go through a lot, and we really need teammates that can help us out.



Capt. Emily Hannenberg
84th Eng. Bn.,
130th Eng. Bde.

I enjoyed the reflexive fire range and the demo range. It was good to brush up on those skills. I learned I was able to push myself a lot further than I could imagine.



Capt. Dusty Turner
65th Eng. Bn.,
130th Eng. Bde.

I enjoyed working with my partner. We made up for each other's gaps in knowledge and were able to encourage each other when things got difficult. I learned we still have a lot to learn.



1st Lt. Robert West
84th Eng. Bn.,
130th Eng. Bde.

I enjoyed the reflexive fire range with the M4, M9 and shotgun, and the helocast. I learned my body can be pushed a lot further than I expected.

News Briefs

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

30 / Saturday National Prescription Take Back Day — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the Pacific Regional Medical Command are supporting this observance. The event encourages

everyone to turn in unused or expired medications for safe, anonymous disposal. Along with USAG-HI's Army Substance Abuse Program, the military community — Soldiers, family members and civilians — can dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs, April 30, at two locations on USAG-HI, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

- Schofield Barracks' Main Pharmacy waiting area, Building 676.

- Tripler Army Medical Center's Main Pharmacy waiting area, 4th floor, Mountainside.

The off-post population can also participate at four loca-

tions on Oahu. See full story on page A-1.

May

3 / Tuesday Days of Remembrance

— Guest speaker for this annual event is Carol Danks from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 516th Signal Brigade, is the event sponsor. Call 438-4161.

Dates and locations follow:

- May 3, noon, Building 1554, Fort Shafter Flats.

- May 4, 1 p.m., Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

4 / Wednesday

Advisory Meeting — The PXmarket and Hale Ikena Advisory Meeting for the Oahu South community is set for 10:15-11:15 a.m., May 4, at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. All Oahu South community members are invited. Call 438-0428.

Ongoing

New DFAC Bus Hours

A free bus service will run from specific points on Schofield

Barracks to the K Quad Dining Facility (Building 708), starting at 6:30 a.m., April 28-May 31, for all available K Quad meals.

Pick-up and drop-off points on Schofield Barracks are as follows:

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

- Martinez Gym; and
- K Quad DFAC (Building 708).

While the bus is intended for meal card holders, all Soldiers at Schofield Barracks can use the bus. Call 271-5029.

AER Annual Campaign

— The Army Emergency Relief annual campaign is underway now through May 15. Voluntary contributions allow AER to fulfill its mission of helping Soldiers in times of distress and misfortune. Call 655-7132.

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Forces find gift of giving humbling during Balikatan

Deployed Forces

MASTER SGT. COHEN A. YOUNG
Army News Service

CLARK FIELD, Philippines – U.S. service members joined members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or AFP, here, April 8, in making donations to four villages in the Philippines, as a show of goodwill during the annual exercise Balikatan.

U.S. service members and their AFP counterparts identified villages that were in need of some support.

“It feels great to be out here with anyone that is in need,” said Master Sgt. Carlos Cano III, 8th Special Troops Battalion, 45th Sustainment Bde., 8th Theater Sust. Command. “We tend to take some things for granted, and here, you realize, something as small as a used toy means so much to the children.”

U.S. forces collected donated material and, with the help of the AFP, passed out 39 goodwill boxes consisting of clothes, toys, bedding, towels and housewares to each of the villages, according to 1st Lt. Fernando Isip, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army-Pacific.

For many of the U.S. service members, to see the appreciation of the donations firsthand was a humbling experience. The children were happy and eager at the chance to acquire a new toy.

“A smile on a child’s face is always a good thing,” Cano said.

“This has personally been a humbling experience for me, because I grew up about an hour from here,” Isip said. “To be part of the U.S. forces, lead this community event and witness how we assist the Philippine government – whether training the Philippine Army or doing humanitarian relief – is truly a great experience for me.”

Balikatan is a regularly scheduled exercise focusing on interoperability of forces, training and assistance in humanitarian and civic assistance operations.

U.S. service members and members of the AFP have been training and working side by side for this exercise and have benefited from it greatly. AFP members were happy to work with the U.S. forces, but even happier to help their more remote communities.

“I’m happy to be out here to show our love and compassion for our remote (villages),” said Lt. Col. Cupid Ortiz, AFP. “I believe the people will appreciate the men in uniform for this effort. This exercise has been great because both U.S. and AFP troops have been encouraged to mingle together as part of increasing our interoperability experience.”



Lance Cpl. Tyson T. Dalgai | U.S. Marine Corps

Pfc. Jermaine Clay (left), 643rd Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, and Sgt. Jared Material (right), 355th Engineer Co., Republic of the Philippines Air Force, paint metal beams to be put on the roof of a classroom under construction at Pundakit Integrated School, Zambales Province, Republic of the Philippines, March 16, for Balikatan 2011.



Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young | Army News Service

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and members of the AFP unload donated items in Armeni village, in the Tarlac region of the Philippines, during Balikatan 2011, April 8.



Maj. Timothy Haylett | U.S. Army

Soldiers from the 505th Quartermaster Bn., 10th Area Support Group, 8th TSC, unload a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from a cargo ship at Subic Bay, Philippines, during port operations for Balikatan 2011.



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, U.S. Army-Pacific, speaks with Rosario Baglig, a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Wiercinski was among the distinguished visitors to place a wreath at the base of Capas National Shrine in remembrance of the Bataan Death March, April 10, while he was in the Philippines for Balikatan 2011.

Balikatan means "shoulder-to-shoulder" in Tagalog, the official language of the Philippines.



Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Robert Clowney | U.S. Navy

Members of the joint Philippine-U.S. Army team pose in front of the completed two-classroom schoolhouse during a dedication ceremony at the Angel C. Manglicmot Memorial Elementary School, Zambales, Philippines, April 12. The construction of the new building was part of Balikatan 2011’s engineer civic action project between the U.S. Army’s 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, and the 355th Aviation Engineer Wing, Philippine Air Force.

Balikatan is a bilateral military exercise between the Philippines and the U.S., providing humanitarian assistance and training activities that enable Filipino and American service members to build lasting relationships, train together and provide assistance in communities where the needs are the greatest.



Lance Cpl. Alejandro Peña | U.S. Marine Corps

Students of the Pundakit Elementary School perform a dance routine during the dedication ceremony, Zambales, Philippines, April 12. The U.S. Army’s 643rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, and the 355th Aviation Wing, Philippine Air Force, built the two-classroom addition.

USAG-HI fellows learn about PTA’s natural, cultural resources

Story and Photos by
VICKEY MOUZÉ
Pau Hana Editor

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA – The heavy, pop-pop, whirring sound of two Black Hawks deepened as the helicopters prepared to land on the heat-cracked runway at Bradshaw Army Airfield, here, April 12.

The Black Hawks carried 13 civilians who had flown from Wheeler Army Airfield to learn more about Pohakuloa Training Area, or PTA.

PTA, one of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s 22 installations, is the largest military training area in the state of Hawaii. Its extensive, high-altitude, maneuver area replicates the harsh conditions that Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division and Hawaii Army National Guard will encounter in Afghanistan.

Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, also sharpen their combat skills, here.

The civilians are in the USAG-HI Fellows Program. Overseen by USAG-HI’s Workforce Development Division, the 12-month Fellows Program grows leaders, supervisors and staff. Fellows visit USAG-HI directorates and activities, each month, to learn more about the garrison’s mission of supporting Soldiers and their families.

Dr. Peter Peshut told the fellows about PTA’s natural resources. Peshut, a biologist, here, works for the Natural Resources Section, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-PTA, and is also a fellows candidate.

PTA is located on the saddle between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea volcanoes. The 132,000 acres or 210 square miles that makes up the military’s training area here is home to one of the world’s rarest ecosystems: a tropical, sub-alpine and dryland ecosystem.

Peshut and the PTA Natural Resources staff identify, manage and protect 15 threatened and endangered plant species while maintaining a cultivation and planting program.

The same emphasis placed on identifying and preserving PTA’s fragile environment is given to PTA’s cultural resources. Dr. Julie Taomia, PTA’s archaeologist, Cutural Resources Section, Environmental Division, DPW, USAG-PTA, told the fellows about the efforts she and six full-time contract archaeologists conduct.

The Cultural Resources Section manages more than 300 state-registered archaeological sites. They also periodically monitor more than 35 archaeological sites for effects from troops and hoofed mammals, or ungulates, such as pigs and goats.

She said carbon dating shows that native Hawaiians spent time in the area as far back as the 1400s-1600s. These ancient visitors left behind cultural shrines, habitation caves, burial sites and pictographs.

Fellows also visited several of PTA’s 26 training ranges and then took an aerial tour of the training facility.

Robert Musgrove said in an email that the aerial tour put PTA’s size in perspective. He had visited PTA “many years ago,” but had only seen a small portion. Musgrove is an architect at the Master Planning Division, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-HI.

“I developed a better understanding of the cultural remnants that we are trying to preserve, as well as a better understanding of the importance of PTA to the Department of Defense in the Pacific,” Musgrove said. “Understanding what the Soldiers must endure while training at PTA helps me to appreciate the commitment and sacrifice they must make.”

Unlike Musgrove, Aimee Chong Wond had never visited PTA. She, too, was surprised, at PTA’s enormity. Wond is a training coordi-

nator for USAG-HI’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. She said in an email that she learned about the “...importance of the training area to our Soldiers’ mission as the ‘walking’ stage in preparing the Soldiers for deployments.”

Another fellow, Michele Santos, said in an email that PTA needs

better support (funding and personnel) that will ensure Soldiers and Marines get the best “hands-on, live-fire training,” Santos is an auditor at the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office.

“We are all here to support our warfighters; (we) need to ensure that they have what they need ... before they deploy,” she said.



Marines from the 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regt., from MCBH, Kaneohe Bay, engage in individual weapons training, April 12. The firing range was one of the areas on the USAG-HI fellows’ PTA tour.



Dr. Peter Peshut (right), biologist, Natural Resources Section, Environmental Div., DPW, USAG-PTA, briefs candidates in the USAG-HI Fellows Program from Schofield Barracks, as Marine Gunnery Sgt. Andrew Yellope looks on, April 20.

Leaders gather to discuss health engagement issues

CHRISTINE MORRICE

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE-HAWAII – Sixty-five senior-level strategy and medical military officers from U.S. combatant commands, including U.S. Pacific Command, gathered to discuss the Department of Defense’s health engagement strategies at the Combatant Command Strategic Health Engagement Forum, here, April 12-14.

PACOM and the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance organized the forum.

“I think this is the first time we’ve been able to talk like this ... in a group that cuts across all the COCOMs,” said Air Force Lt. Gen. Daniel Damell, deputy commander, PACOM, in his opening remarks.

Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, presented the U.S. Army-Pacific’s Strategic Health Engagement Program at the forum.

“(TAMC) is a peacetime hospital, but it does take casualties from the war zone,” Gallagher said.

“As we engage with these countries ... our guys will go over there and work in their (military) hospitals and they, in turn, will come and observe us in our hospitals,” he added, in reference to relationships that USARPAC is building with partner nations in the Pacific area of responsibility. “These things go a long way to building capacity and relationships. We learn from them, and they learn from us.

“The most important thing is establishing and nurturing relationships and keeping them strong after we leave,” Gallagher continued. “Support them in the future.”

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs and the director for Tricare Management Activity, emphasized the importance of health engagements in reducing the load of the military in building goodwill abroad.

“Our job is to lighten the load of our military,” he said. “Whatever missions, policies or engagements we undertake need to ensure that we enable our young men and women (in the military) with the least stress as possible.”

A number of health engagement activities were discussed during the conference, including Medical Civic Action Programs that occur with overseas exercises, such as Cobra Gold in which Soldiers from USARPAC participate. The response to the recent tsunami/earthquake disaster in Japan, from which some of the participants had recently returned, was also discussed.



Frank Diaz (center), anti-terrorist instructor, 25th ID, throws a prize to Sgt. Joseph Castro (right), from Guam's 368th Military Police Company, for correctly answering a question during an anti-terrorism class, March 30.



Photos Courtesy of 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

2nd Lt. Adam Ferree (left) and Staff Sgt. Askia Dugger (center), both of 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., "Cacti", 3rd BCT, 25th ID, and 2nd Lt. Benjamin Arbitter, 2nd BCT, 25th ID, rate the threat from terrorists to the division's headquarters building during an MTT course on anti-terrorism, March 30.

3rd BCT learns anti-terrorism measures for upcoming mission



Chief Warrant Officer Scott Munger (left), Headquarters and Headquarters Bn., 25th ID, and Staff Sgt. Brian Ohmann, 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, assess the vulnerabilities of the division's headquarters building on Schofield Barracks, March 30.

SPC. HILLARY RUSTINE

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, hosted a level two, anti-terrorism course, here, March 28-April 1, to prepare for its upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The course focused on reducing the threats from outside sources through assessing factors such as vulnerabilities, insider threats and entry control points, just to name a few.

Those who finished the course will be considered subject matter experts in the anti-terrorist field and will be relied upon to advise the command about threats and how to counter them.

Jerald Mraker and Steven Stoltz, anti-terrorist course instructors, Mobile Training Team, traveled from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to teach command advisors how to set up and maintain security on forward operating bases and combat outposts.

"It's a good class, learning and expanding

my understanding of physical security, which will help me the most downrange," said Staff Sgt. Derrik Mersiovsky, 2nd Battalion, 27th Inf. Regiment, "Wolfhounds," 3rd BCT.

Outside contractors, as a potential threat, was one of the biggest topics highlighted during the course.

"We don't necessarily know who they are or where their alliances lie," Mraker said in the class, adding that these are key points when defending deployed troops in a hostile environment.

Frank Diaz, anti-terrorist liaison, 25th ID, arranged to bring the MTT to the 3rd BCT outside of the normal cycle. This occasion was only the second time that MTT instructors had agreed to teach the course when it was not scheduled.

"I like that it's an (MTT), so I can spend more time with my family," said Staff Sgt. Luis Castro, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., "Cacti," 3rd BCT.

The Soldiers learned valuable skills that will be used to their fullest extent when the Soldiers are deployed.

Rx: USAG-HI disposes medication

CONTINUED FROM A-1

the continental U.S., Hawaii and Alaska.

Locally, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, part of Installation Management Command, and the Pacific Regional Medical Command, are supporting National Prescription Take Back Day. Along with USAG-HI's Army Substance Abuse Program, the military community – Soldiers, family members and civilians – can dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs at two locations, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

- Schofield Barracks' Main Pharmacy, Building 676.
 - Tripler Army Medical Center's Main Pharmacy, 4th floor, Mountainside.
- The off-post population can also participate in National Prescription Take Back Day at four locations on Oahu:
- Mililani Town Center (bandstand area), 95-1249 Meheula Pkwy., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 - Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 - Kahala Mall (Kilauea Avenue end of mall), 4211 Waiialae Ave., Honolulu, 8 a.m.-noon.
 - Windward Mall (center court area), 46-056 Kam. Hwy, Kaneohe, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Participation in National Prescription Day is free and anonymous. No questions or requests for identification will be made, and law enforcement personnel will make no effort to count, inventory or log medications. Participants can freely dispose of expired, unwanted and unused tablets, capsules and all other solid dosage pills. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain in their sealed, original container, and the depositor should ensure that caps are tightly sealed on liquid medications to prevent leakage.

No intravenous solutions, injectibles or syringes will be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. Also, illegal

How do I dispose of medications on a regular basis?

Generally, flushing is not recommended for the vast majority of medicines. Unused or expired medicines can be disposed of safely in the household trash by these methods:

- Mix them in with something that will hide the medicine or make it unappealing, such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds.
- Place the mixture in a container, such as a sealed plastic bag.
- Throw the container in your household trash.

The FDA recommends flushing as a means of disposal for a limited number of medications to prevent danger to people and pets in the home. Find a list of these medications at www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/default.htm.

substances, such as marijuana or methamphetamine, are not a part of this initiative. Illegal drugs should not be placed in collection containers.

Participants may dispose of medications in their original container or by removing medications from containers and disposing of items directly into disposal boxes. If an original container is submitted, individual participants should remove any identifying information from prescription labels.

Participants must retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process. Law enforcement personnel will not handle the medications at any time, but they will remain at disposal locations to keep custody of and safeguard the pharmaceutical products.

At the conclusion of National Prescription Take Back Day, law enforcement personnel will seal drug disposal boxes, and each box will be turned over to the DEA.

fore joining the Army, shows how proficient and devoted he is to his job," said Capt. Joaquin Dequintanaroo, brigade adjutant, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 25th CAB. "He is one of the most upstanding Americans and Soldiers I have ever met."

The Purple Heart is the oldest award that is still given to members of the U.S. military. However, the Purple Heart was not always known by this name; George Washington, then commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, first established it as the Badge of Military Merit, Aug. 7, 1782.

The Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not recommended for the decoration; rather, he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.

To date, more than 800,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded.



Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

Teaming with 'Hawaii Five-O'

KAILUA — Sgt. Jeffrey Ingram (left), crew chief, Company C, "Dustoff," 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Battalion, 25th Combat Avn. Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, acts in a scene with Daniel Day-Kim, an actor from the television show, "Hawaii Five-O," at Kahana Valley State Park, here, recently. The 25th CAB provided a UH-60A Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter for two scenes during the show's taping.



Sgt. Daniel Schroeder | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

Presenting gratitude

HONOLULU — Soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Battalion, "Hammerhead," 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, salute the Joint Service Color Guard during the transfer of the colors at the 69th Araw ng Kagitingan, or Day of Valor, Ceremony. The ceremony honors the Filipino-American veterans of World War II and was held on the anniversary of the fall of Bataan, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, here, April 4.

25th ID: Biemer honored for actions

CONTINUED FROM A-1

(rocket-propelled grenade) landed close to my position, and I received shrapnel wounds to my hands.

"We fought through the opposition and reached our destination," he said. "It was only after we stopped that I realized that I had sustained wounds."

"We brought everyone back that day," Biemer continued. "It was all thanks to my past non-commissioned officers that helped me learn the essential tasks for combat survival, and the teamwork needed to pull together under life-threatening conditions."

Biemer progressed to the rank of gunnery sergeant before leaving the Marine Corps and becoming an officer in the Army.

"The fact that he made E7 in the Marines be-

I. A.M. S'TRONG



10%
of victims are men

Illustration courtesy of www.rainn.org

- If you feel you are in danger, attract help any way you can.

them to a safe location," Cordoni said. "If there's an immediate threat to their safety, call 911 right away. If not, contact the appropriate victim advocates. If they need medical attention, escort them to the emergency department."



Today
Bottom Fishing — Join Outdoor Recreation, 3-11 p.m., April 22, for Adventure Night Bottom Fishing. Cost is \$35 and includes equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143 to register.

AMR Clothing Swap — This event is 4-5:30 p.m., April 22, at Aliamanu Military Reservation. Call 833-4851.

23 / Saturday
Fun Fest — The 17th Annual Fun Fest and Information, Ticketing and Registration Office Travel Fair event is 9 a.m., April 23, Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. An Enchanted Character Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m.; tickets are \$8. Family-friendly games, rides and Easter activities start at 9 a.m. Call 655-0111/2/3.

Ceramic Mold Pouring — This session is 9 a.m.-noon, April 23, Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$25. Call 655-4202 to register.

Drawing Lessons — “Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain” happens for teens and adults, 10-11 a.m., each Saturday, through April 30. Cost is \$45 and includes supplies. Call 655-4202 to register.

Tropics After Dark — Don’t stay in on a Saturday night. Enjoy live music and food and beverage specials, 6 p.m., April 23, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-5698.

24 / Sunday
Easter Sunday Brunch — Times and locations follow:
•April 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Nehe-lani, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$27, per person; call 655-4466 for reservations.
•April 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. Cost is \$33.50, per person; call 438-1974 for reservations.

25 / Monday
Free Hula Classes — The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, welcomes all Soldiers and families to participate in free hula classes, Mondays in April, 5-7 p.m., at Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks. Beginner classes are 5-6 p.m.; advanced classes are 6-7 p.m. Classes feature the different types of hula, fundamentals of hula steps and movement and posture. Call



Kayla Overton | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Olympian muscle power

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Weighing in at only 92 pounds, Amara Coon from the Kauai Wailua Imua delegation, squats 115 pounds during the Special Olympics powerlifting competition at Martinez Gym, here, April 17. The event also included squat and bench press competitions. The Special Olympics-Hawaii softball competition is set for 9 a.m., April 23, at Wheeler Army Airfield softball field.

655-9694 or email nhliaison@gmail.com.

Blue Monday — Army Community Service staff will wear blue to support child abuse prevention, April 25. Call 655-4227.

26 / Tuesday
Information Table — Army Community Service will set up an information table supporting Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., April 26, Fort Shafter PX. Call 655-4227.

BSC Keiki Night — This Month of the Military Child, Blue Star Card holders can enjoy free keiki meals at Keiki Night, throughout April, for children 10 and under. Show valid BSCs to receive the discount. Call 655-0002.
Keiki nights are 5-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, or 5-8 p.m., Wednesdays, Kolekole Bar and Grill, Schofield Barracks.

MOMC PT in the Gym — Month of the Military Child fun is scheduled for 6:30-7:30 a.m., April 26, at the Fort Shafter gym. Participants should bring towels. Afterward, Blue Star Card children can have their photo taken with Eddie the Eagle. Call 655-6465.

Free Lei Workshop — Get ready for Lei Day (May 1) and learn to make your own lei. This workshop includes a history of the craft. All materials will be provided. To register, email nhliaison@gmail.com or call 655-9694. The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office is hosting the event.
Dates and times follow:

- April 26, 5:30-7 p.m., Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center.
- April 27, 5:30-7 p.m., Fort Shafter Library.
- April 28, 6-7:30 p.m., Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks.

27 / Wednesday
BOSS Movie Night — Single Soldiers can pick a movie of their choice, courtesy of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, 6 p.m., April 27, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-1130.

28 / Thursday
Free Poker Tournament — This last qualifying game of the Tropics annual tournament is 6 p.m., April 28, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. The final game is May 5. All ID cardholders 18 and older are welcome; play is free with no buy in. Register at www.mwrarmyhawii.com or call 655-5698.



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

Today
Bluegrass in the Koolaus — This event features homemade bluegrass and traditional music at the Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe, April 22-25. The event, hosted by the non-profit Bluegrass Hawaii Traditional and Bluegrass Music Society, is free, though donations are welcome. Visit www.bluegrasshawaii.com/bluegrassinthekoolaus.html for schedules and other details. Call 206-3459.

23 / Saturday
USO Easter Egg Hunt — The USO in Hawaii celebrates April’s Month of the Military Child with an Easter Egg Hunt for keiki whose parents are E-5 and below. This free event is 2:30-3:30 p.m., April 23, Hickam Officers Club, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
To register on a first-come, first-served basis, parents need to email rsvpusohawaii@gmail.com or call 422-1213 between 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents need to show their military ID when they arrive. Donations of Easter eggs, candies, treats and toys can be dropped off at the Aloha Reception Desk, Navy Exchange, JBPHH, through April 23.

28 / Thursday
Temporary Closure — The Wheeler Army Airfield Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 113, Santos Dumont Ave, is closed through April 28 for repairs to the gymnasium floor. The center is projected to reopen on April 29. Call 656-8161.

May
1 / Sunday
Marathon — Support your fa-

vorite runner at the first-ever North Shore Marathon, 5:15 a.m.-noon, May 1, starting in historic Haleiwa town. The marathon will wind through Haleiwa’s back roads, through Mokuleia and finish at Haleiwa. Email 808race@gmail.com.

Soldiers from the Special Operations Recruiting Battalion, Medical Recruiting Brigade and the local Army Recruiting Station will be located at the finish line, with information about Soldier and civilian career opportunities. Call 655-4397 or visit www.bragg.army.mil/sorb.

Scholarship — Wives of service members can apply now through May 1 for the 2011 Saban Military Wife Educational Scholarship. Fifteen \$8,500 scholarships and five \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded for tuition for vocational training in the medical field. Two \$30,000 scholarships will be awarded for tuition for vocational nursing programs. Visit www.operationhomefront.net/scholarship.

4 / Wednesday
Golf Tournament — Deadline is April 29 to register for the Society of American Military Engineers Scholarship Golf Tournament, May 4, at the Pearl Country Club. The tournament, co-sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, funds scholarships for local students pursuing their education in engineering, mathematics and the sciences. SAME membership isn’t required to participate. Call 833-3711, extension 581.

11 / Wednesday
May Day Program — Parents are invited to this event, 9 a.m., May 11, at the Hale Kula Elementary School, Schofield Barracks. Call 622-6380.

Ongoing

Kids Serve Too — Celebrate the Month of the Military Child by sending a free personalized eCard with a message of support and thanks to a military child. Visit www.militaryfamily.org, click on “Get Involved,” then “Kids Serve Too.”



Easter and Holy Week Services

The U.S. Army Hawaii community is invited to attend various Easter celebrations now through April 24. The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Religious Support Office offers services in north and south Oahu areas.

Preregistration is required for child care services at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (836-4599 or 833-6831) and Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel (655-9307).

April 22, Good Friday
2 p.m., MPC Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
3 p.m., AMR Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
5 p.m., FD Good Friday Service
7 p.m., MPC Good Friday Service (Protestant and Gospel)
7 p.m., WAAF Liturgical Good Friday Service

April 23, Holy Saturday
7 p.m., MPC Easter Vigil Mass
10 a.m., HMR Children’s Easter Egg Potluck at Alii Beach Park in Haleiwa; RSVP at 653-0702 and leave a message.

April 24, Easter
6:15 a.m., National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Easter Sunrise Service with Royal Hawaiian Band.

Gates open at 4:30 a.m. For information about the service, call 384-8701; for information about the band, call 922-5331.

6:30 a.m., Battleship Missouri Memorial Joint Services Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m., MPC Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m., AMR Easter Sunday Mass
9 a.m., WAAF Easter Liturgical Service, followed by potluck
9 a.m., FD Easter Sunday Service
10 a.m., HMR Regular Service
10:30 a.m., MPC Easter Sunday Mass
10:30 a.m., AMR Chapel Protestant Service at Hickam Harbor Foster’s Point
Noon, MPC Gospel Service’s Children and Youth Easter Program
12:30 p.m., AMR Gospel Service

Legend
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel
HMR: Helemano Military Reservation Chapel
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Worship Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Red Riding Hood

(PG-13)
Fri., April 22, 7 p.m.
Wed., April 27, 7 p.m.

Rango

(PG)
Sat., April 23, 4 p.m.
Sun., April 24, 2 p.m.



Mars Needs Moms

(PG)
Sat., April 23, 7 p.m.

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never

(G)
Thurs., April 28, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.



2nd Lt. Laura Beth Beebe | 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Soldiers from the 643rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, construct a gazebo at the Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center during March.

Engineers construct gazebo at Fisher House

1ST LT. AMIE FOSTER

84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

HONOLULU — Guests and volunteers at the Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center now have a gazebo to visit, thanks to the 643rd Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

The gazebo was officially opened April 12 for Fisher House volunteers and occupants to use.

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 8th TSC; Lt. Col. James Horton, deputy brigade commander, 130th Eng. Bde.; Lt. Col. Jerry Farnsworth, commander, 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde.; Fisher House occupants; a small detachment from the 25th Infantry Division Band; and the Soldiers who built the gazebo attended the ceremony.

Theresa Johnson, manager, Fisher House, expressed her thanks during the ceremony for the gazebo that she had been wanting built for years.

“I didn’t realize how difficult it would be to have a gazebo built,” she said, “but thankfully, when I mentioned it to Gen. Terry, he told us it wouldn’t be a problem, that his engineers could get the job done.”

Soldiers of the 643rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., finished the project sooner than expected, working through all types of weather.

“After three years of waiting for the project to get picked up by someone, the 643rd Engineers had it built in less than a month,” Johnson said.

The squad-level mission allowed each Soldier to exercise carpentry skills and to contribute to the project and directly interact with the project’s end users.

“The Soldiers really liked being part of a small crew because they were each able to use and showcase their skills during the project,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Nelson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the project, who cut the lei-like ribbon with a pair of shears. “It really pays off when you know the project you are working on is making a difference in people’s everyday lives.”

TAMC certificates of appreciation and challenge coins were presented to the Soldiers.

The event also included a Hawaiian prayer dedication, song and hula.

Progress made on local AFAP issues

Local community’s recommendations to be forwarded to USARPAC’s AFAP

VICKEY MOUZÉ

Pau Hana Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Status updates on community issues raised at the 2011 Hawaii Army Family Action Plan Conference were presented to U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii leadership, March 23, here.

During the conference, here, Feb. 8-11, five workgroups had tackled 88 community issues ranging from survivor outreach services to community services.

Each of the workgroups then selected two or three top issues and presented their recommendations to senior leaders and subject matter experts.

Issues were later studied and categorized as either “active,” “closed,” or “unattainable.”

Additionally, three issues have been forwarded to U.S. Army-Pacific and will be presented at its Mid-Level AFAP Conference, May 2-5, at Ford Island.

Active issues forwarded to USARPAC

•Issue 1: Presentation of an Army heirloom chest to the surviving family retroactive to 9/11.

Recommendation: That the Army retroactively present an heirloom chest to surviving families whose Soldier died while on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 28, 2007.

•Issue 2: No child victim advocacy program within the Army.

Recommendation: That a child victim advocacy program be created within the Army. Professionals with experience and training should provide victim advocacy services for children younger than 18 years of age.

•Issue 3: Individualized exceptional family member child care.

Recommendation: That current regulations be amended to allow for one-on-one or lower ratio care for children with special needs in Child, Youth and School Services, which should be funded through CYSS.

Active issues at USAG-HI

Four issues have been categorized as active, meaning that action plans have been developed and are currently being worked at USAG-HI.

•Issue 1: Security within USAG-HI housing communities.

Recommendation: Neighborhood Watch has been reinstated. Also, police officers will be assigned to north and south communities.

•Issue 2: Housing assignment prioritizations.

Recommendation: That Island Palms Communities remove the temporary lodging allowance as a consideration when assigning quarters.

•Issue 3: No recreation center at Fort Shafter for single Soldiers.

Recommendation: That a recreation center, similar to the Tropics Recreation Center at Schofield Barracks, be available at Fort Shafter.



Upload quality of life issues at www.myanmarmyonesource.com, click on “Family Programs and Services,” then “Army Family Action Plan Issue Management System.” Call 655-4227 to learn more about AFAP.

•Issue 4: Child care service at fitness centers:

Recommendation: That low-cost hourly child care be provided on-site through CYSS for fitness center patrons.

Closed issues

The following three issues were categorized as closed, meaning that either an issue has a completed action plan and/or is resolved:

•Issue 1: Authorize all surviving family members the option to purchase the Delta Dental Plan. This option already exists.

•Issue 2: Access to Exchange and Military Clothing Sales stores for surviving next of kin without an ID card to replace items such as ribbons and awards. This recommendation has been approved; the Survivor Outreach Office will coordinate requests.

•Issue 3: Hawaii Board of Education bus fare refund policy is misleading. Recommendation was that the Hawaii BOE revise the bus transportation application and website to include a statement of the current policy authorizing prorated refunds for military families forced to move due to circumstances beyond their control. Concerned parents can contact the School Liaison Office for questions concerning refunds.

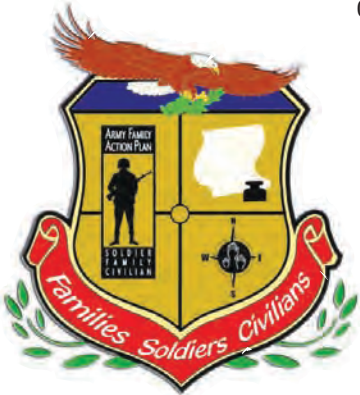
Unattainable issues

Three issues were marked as unattainable, meaning that an issue either failed to meet issue criteria or cost effectiveness:

•Issue 1: Rental rates categorized by grade category for military housing within USAG-HI. Recommendation was that the Residential Communities Initiative rent collection policy be changed to authorize collection of full basic allowance for housing, or BAH, only when entitled quarters are available.

•Issue 2: Detailed leave and earnings statement at mid-month. Recommendation was that detailed information be included on the mid-month LES. There are current plans to do so.

•Issue 3: Calculation of service members’ child support payments. Recommendation was that federal legislation be created to govern the calculations of child support payment requirements for service members based on pre-determined standards. However, this issue is unattainable since laws governing child support are made at state level.



Schools get funds for AP classes

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Campbell, Leilehua, Mililani and Radford High Schools are among the 32 public high schools nationwide that will receive financial funding to support advanced placement, or AP, courses in math and science.

Specifically focused on schools and areas with high military populations, this special funding is spearheaded by the National Math and Science Initiative in partnership with the Military Child Education Coalition and the Military Impacted Schools Association.

The funds will be disbursed at the start of school year 2011-2012.

The funding supports “Joining Forces,” a new initiative, as of April 12, led by first lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. The initiative will bring attention to the unique needs and strengths of America’s military families.

Obama and Biden want to draw attention to the service, sacrifice and needs of military children. Joining Forces “promotes and supports higher education institutions and programs that expand education opportunities,” according to the White House website.

Federally Connected Pupils data for school year 2009-2010 counted 81 military students at Campbell, 546 at Leilehua, 185 at Mililani and 463 at Radford. However, these numbers fluctuate as military students are moving in and out throughout the school year.

These schools will get additional training for

their AP teachers and support with building high-level math and science AP programs. Students will have access to rigorous college-level courses, and AP classrooms will receive computers, science equipment and other needed materials.

Also, these schools expect to see increased AP enrollment, since enrolled students will be eligible for financial incentives.

Hawaii is unique with the presence of all military branches. Many of Hawaii’s military students have had at least one parent deployed, multiple times, to Iraq and Afghanistan, due to operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



Resources for Joining Forces

Learn more about special funding for AP classes:

- School Liaison Office at 655-9818.
- Joining Forces at www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces.
- National Math and Science Initiative at www.nationalmathandscience.org.
- Military Child Education Coalition at www.militarychild.org.
- Military Impacted Schools Association at www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org.



Pfc. Marcus Fichtl | 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

The spirit of volunteerism

FORT SHAFTER — Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and his wife, Cathy (left), present Tracey Koast the Volunteer of the Quarter award, here, April 15. Koast is an instructor for the Army Family Team Building Program. As the 8th TSC VOQ for the 1st Quarter 2011, she will be eligible for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award in April 2012.

Programs ease transition for military youth when moving to new schools

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Army youth relocating to Hawaii can ease into their new schools through the transition centers and Army Youth Sponsorship Program, or AYSP.

Army youth can find other students who have experienced military moves and deployments of parents.

Military children are often confronted with many challenges. For example, for Bailey Gilbert, who is currently a junior at Leilehua High School, transitioning to another school was bittersweet.

“It was difficult to leave old friends and make new friends,” she said. “When I came to school, I was terrified of being unable to make friends and being alone all through high school.”

Child, Youth and School Services oversees AYSP, and the program focuses on relocation, adjusting to a new school and life transitions through permanent changes of station and de-

ployments.

“As a military kid from the beginning, I have lived in eight different states and been to six schools,” said Kaitlyn Hawley, who is a junior at Leilehua High School.

“The most difficult transition that military children and youth experience is school transition, i.e., changing schools,” according to the U.S. Army’s Secondary Education Transition Study.

Lakedra Yarborough, a student at Radford High School, sponsors new students through AYSP. She makes new students feel at ease and provides relocation support like peer information about the schools, academics and sports through email or text messaging, months before their arrival.

“It’s fun to help out other teens transitioning to Hawaii,” she said.

“When I found out that our family was moving to Hawaii, I really felt unhappy at first, but that all changed when I got a youth sponsor from the (Aliamanu Military Reservation) AYSP,” said

Jasmine Moody, a student at Aliamanu Middle School. “I had a friend waiting for me, and I wouldn’t be completely alone.”

Moody continues to be involved with AYSP and assists other transitioning youth.

“I was so impressed with the program that I am now a sponsor,” she said. “It makes me feel grateful that by sponsoring other teens, I am helping them and increasing our enrollments at the teen center.”

Radford High School’s “Malama I Na Hau- mana,” which means caring for the students, and Leilehua High School’s Aloha Ambassador’s Transition Center provide additional support for new students and develop students’ leadership skills.

In the past, youth facilitators in these programs have briefed Catherine Terry, spouse of Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command; Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, deputy commander for support, 25th Infantry Division; and Becker’s wife, Sherri, about the program.

“I am very impressed by the program and the involvement by the students in reaching out to help others,” Catherine said. “Empathy and leadership is clearly demonstrated in their efforts, and it is wonderful to see how it is encouraged and nurtured.”



Army Youth Sponsorship Programs

Learn more AYSP by calling School Support Services at 655-9818 or by visiting www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

Call the Transition Centers at Radford High School at 421-4200 or Leilehua High School at 622-6550.

BOSS offers outlet for single and unaccompanied Soldiers

Single Soldiers help improve quality of life, volunteer in community while in program

CAPT. STEPHEN ROBINSON

130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Single and unaccompanied Soldiers in 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, who are looking for volunteer opportunities or on-post activities can find both through the unit’s Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS.

The BOSS program is a morale, welfare and recreation program, that assists single Soldiers in identifying and planning recreational and leisure activities. Activities are offered at the beach, outer islands and off-post entertainment venues. Activities, including parties, are held at the BOSS Lounge located at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. The Lounge offers a big screen TV and table games. BOSS also gets discounts and free passes to shows and sporting events. Meetings are held bimonthly at Tropics.

The brigade’s BOSS gets involved with the local community. Past events include participating in the annual NFL Pro Bowl, March of Dimes and Special Olympics. These events provide an opportunity for single Soldiers to participate and contribute to their respective communities and give the individual Soldier a sense of responsibility and involvement.

BOSS is vital to overall mission accomplishment and serves as

a unified voice for single Soldiers.

Sgt. Mark Williams, the 130th Eng. Bde.’s BOSS representative, encourages Soldiers to learn more about their unit, the installation program and the community.

“Informing Soldiers about BOSS-related events on a weekly basis ensures we are ready to assist in events like helping volunteer for the Special Olympics of Hawaii Bowling Competition,” Williams said.

BOSS also makes recommendations that can improve the 130th Eng. Bde.’s quality of life for its 1,000-plus single and unaccompanied Soldiers. Quality of life issues directly or indirectly influence or enhance Soldiers’ morale, living environment or personal growth and development.

Dining facilities, education, fitness centers, Soldiers’ living quarters, medical and dental care, the commissary and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are among the quality of life issues that BOSS has addressed. These issues are then directed to the appropriate command or staff agency for resolution and are resolved at the lowest level.



To learn more about your unit’s BOSS program, visit www.mwarmyhawaii.com, click on “Rec and Leisure,” then “BOSS”; or call 655-1130.



Spc. Jordan Bierce | 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Gene Kuroiwa (left), a Special Olympics-Hawaii athlete, poses with Sgt. Mark Williams, BOSS representative, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, at a recent bowling event at the Schofield Barracks Bowling Center.

‘Bulldogs’ dig in to clean up Mililani Uka Elementary School campus

2ND LT. BRYANT WATROUS

84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

MILILANI – Soldiers bearing shovels, wheelbarrows and an eagerness to work helped beautify a local elementary school, here, April 2.

Soldiers with the 523rd Engineer Company, “Bulldogs,” 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, joined in Mililani Uka Elementary School’s Campus Beautification Day.

Throughout the day, Soldiers, administrators, teachers and students spread topsoil and mulch, cleaned up playground equipment and repainted hopscotch areas.

The Soldiers worked with students, parents and other volunteers from the community to improve the play areas for the students.

Volunteers from Hope Central Church were also on-site, and together, they were able to replace plants and mulch in areas that had been neglected.

Members of the local community were pleased to see the Bulldog Soldiers helping local schools with such enthusiasm.

“I value this opportunity to work with the engineers; they are hard workers. ... They know how to get something done,” said Coz Spofford, a community volunteer and a former service member.

He said that the Soldiers had “the most motivation and heart (I’ve) seen in a long time.”

Mililani Uka faculty were pleased with the large amount of support from the 84th Eng. Bn. and the local community, as well.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Laura Beth Beebe | 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Soldiers from the 523rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, work alongside community volunteers, April 2, at Mililani Uka Elementary School campus.

“I am always amazed at what a few people can accomplish when they work together,” said Norma Tamsey, volunteer coordinator, Mililani Uka. “It was great to see the Mililani Uka community come together. The ‘before’ and ‘after’ pictures of the different areas are incredible.”

Tamsey added that she is “deeply appreciative of the efforts and cooperation of our military partners.”



1st Sgt. Richard Crichton (left), 523rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, and Jared Yamaguchi, a local youth pastor, prepare to plant and lay mulch at Mililani Uka Elementary School, recently.



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Koprowski, leader for the 65th Eng. Bn. family readiness group, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, addresses the unit's volunteers at Schofield Barracks before beginning the Walk for Autism up Kolekole Pass, April 6.

Community treks up Kolekole for autism

1ST LT. BRIGIDA SANCHEZ

65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — More than 200 members of the community participated in a Walk for Autism organized by a family member, here, April 6.

Jennifer Koprowski — wife of Lt. Col. Dan Koprowski, commander, 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command — organized the walk for the Autism Awareness Month that is held each April.

She chose the climb up Kolekole Pass, here, to demonstrate the challenges faced by those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders, or ASD. Koprowski wanted a walk that was challenging, but “achievable.”



To learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorders, visit www.autism-society.org, www.autism.com or www.autismspeaks.org. Military families can also check out www.stompproject.org or www.operationautismonline.org for information more specific to the challenges of autism and military life.

“Kolekole seemed like a natural choice,” she said.

While Koprowski originally planned the walk for 65th Eng. Bn. spouses, the event grew to include nearly 100 family members from the battalion and the 130th Eng. Bde., as well as dozens of members of the community who have children with autism.

“When I got a call from Rose Brown at the (325th Brigade Support Bn., 3rd Bde. Combat Team “Broncos,” 25th Infantry Division), I knew the walk had really taken off,” Koprowski said. “They arrived with 100 walkers of their own, all decked out in blue, the Autism Awareness Month color. It was great to have their support.”

“The participation in the walk was great,” said Bridget Shiohita, family readiness support assistant, 65th Eng. Bn. “(Koprowski’s) focused on raising awareness within the community and reaching out to families with autistic children.”

The military has dramatically increased its support for families of children with ASD in the last decade, largely because of the advocacy efforts of parents and community members, according to the Koprowskis.

“When our son was diagnosed 13 years ago, there were no services designed for autistic kids,” Dan Koprows-

ki said. “It’s been a long road, but what the military has done to address the needs of these kids and their families has been invaluable.

“Moving from place to place with a child who requires a complex set of educational and medical supports is extremely challenging,” he continued. “I think, in many cases, the programs the military offers have made it possible for Soldiers with kids on the spectrum to stay in the service.”

The walk, besides raising awareness, challenged many community members who had never been up to Kolekole Pass. For many, touching the stop sign at the top of the hill was a real achievement.

“There were all kinds of people getting their pictures taken at the top, saying that their husbands were deployed and wouldn’t believe they were up there,” Koprowski said.

“Thank you for today,” said Mackenzie Godfrey, 65th Eng. Bn. family member, in a post on the battalion’s Facebook page. “My son and my family appreciated the walk. I really enjoyed hearing your speech about how people need to stop and help if they see a child having a fit, or to stop and ask questions instead of judging.”

Tricare covers autism therapy

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

PHOENIX — Today, autism in children has become more prevalent than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS — combined.

That’s according to Autism Speaks, a national autism science and advocacy organization that defines autism as “a group of complex developmental brain disorders.”

Today, about one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism.

April is Autism Awareness Month, an observance that’s been celebrated by the Autism Society since the 1970s, according to its website. Autism Awareness Month highlights the growing need for concern about autism and its potential treatments.

Many different types of treatment exist for an autistic individual.

One of the more prominent techniques that’s gained recent notoriety is Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, therapy. According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, ABA may help reduce problem behaviors associated with autism and teach vital new skills.

As part of the growing recognition of ABA therapy, Tricare now covers this type of treatment for eligible beneficiaries.

It’s part of Tricare’s Autism Services Demonstration, an enhanced benefit under the Extended Care Health Option, or ECHO, program. ECHO is Tricare’s benefit for individuals with disabilities.



To learn more about ASD, visit www.triwest.com/autism.

To be eligible for ECHO, a family must first enroll into its service branch’s Exceptional Family Member Program. Each service branch has a point of contact to help families enroll. After enrolling, the family needs a referral to register for ECHO, which can be obtained from a provider or even a self-referral. After families get registered in ECHO, they can check their eligibility for the Autism Services Demonstration.

Children eligible for the Autism Services Demonstration must have a diagnosis that falls along the autism spectrum. In addition, they must have an active duty sponsor, be living in the U.S., be 18 months or older, and be enrolled in the ECHO program through their Tricare regional contractor.

The Tricare Autism Services Demonstration covers ABA treatment and other types of therapies that fall under the umbrella of “Educational Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorders.”

The providers who implement these therapies must be Tricare-authorized for the treatments to be covered.

Each month, families pay a “cost share” for services they receive under ECHO. This monthly cost share depends on the sponsor’s pay grade.