

INSIDE Veterans Day

Service members are honored for their sacrifices.

A-2, B-4



EFMB

8th TSC and 25th ID compete to earn one of the Army's most coveted skill badges.

A-4



NBC training

500th MI Bde. puts its masks to the test.

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Recycling

Residents are urged to participate in America Recycles Day, Nov. 15.

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Lifesavers

25th ID completes lifeguard certification.

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Maj. Gen. Dorko reviews civil and military projects

JOSEPH BONFIGLIO

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited the USACE-Honolulu District and reviewed numerous projects and facilities that benefit Soldiers, Monday.

Dorko said he was impressed by the variety of missions the district has from civil works to military construction, and he said he was equally impressed by the complexity of the projects.

“You want to make the barracks better for the Soldiers because they deserve that quality of life,” Dorko said. “That’s our compact with them. It’s a sacred duty we have to take care of our Soldiers.”

Honolulu District staff briefed Dorko on the future U.S. Army-Pacific Command and Control Facility at Fort Shafter, took him to visit the district’s Regional Visitor Center at Fort DeRussy and reviewed the new barracks complex at Schofield Barracks.

While at Schofield Barracks, Dorko also visited the historic quads, the recently renovated Soldiers Chapel, and the under-construction Battle Area Complex. He took windshield tours of the Child Development Center, Grow-the-Army sites, the Stryker Brigade Combat Team motor pool, the Battle Command Training Center and Information System Facility, and the Warriors in Transition facility.

Dorko was particularly interested in the historic E Quad, where he met with Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

“It’s interesting when we talk to the Soldiers who are in (E Quad),” he said. “I think they have an appreciation of the history where they live right now, and the lineage and Army units that have been here.”

The quads were strafed Dec. 7, 1941, and history shows that men living in the quads from the 11th

SEE USACE, A-9



Spec. Brandon D. Bolick | 982nd Signal Company, Combat Camera

Star treatment

DIYALA PROVINCE, Iraq — U.S. actor Jason Biggs talks with U.S. Soldiers during a visit to Forward Operating Base Warhorse, here, Oct. 17. The USO sponsored visits by Biggs and actress Rachel Leigh Cook, to boost morale of deployed service members.

DoD identifies 311th Signal casualty

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

News Release

The Department of Defense announced the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Oct. 25.

Staff Sgt. Aracely Gonzalez O'Malley, 31, of Braw-

ley, Calif., died Oct. 22, in Homburg, Germany, of injuries sustained in a noncombat incident, Oct. 12, at Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan.

He was assigned to the 307th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion, 516th Sig. Brigade, 311th Sig. Command.

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

PTA

84th Engineers support 25th ID, Marine Corps at PTA



Pvt. Jesse Sheehan (left), Spec. Cody Botts (middle) and Pfc. David Guzman, all from 523rd Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, spray soil adhesive on the airstrip to harden its surface. Soldiers from the 523rd Eng. Co. repaired Cooper Army Airfield, at PTA, Oct. 7, in support of 3rd BCT, 25th ID's UAS operations.

Story and Photos by
2ND LT. ANDREW CAMMACK

523rd Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — For nearly three weeks, Soldiers from the 523rd Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, honed their construction skills by repairing runways and roads, here, on Hawaii’s Big Island, Oct. 5-24.

“It’s more like Afghanistan than any other training area I’ve seen,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Atencio, noncommissioned officer in charge, 523rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., referring to the unforgiving terrain of the training area.

Soldiers in the company’s 3rd Platoon, the “Regulators,” repaired Cooper Army Airfield’s Unmanned Aerial System, or UAS airstrip, and constructed and repaired more than three miles of combat trails in the Keamuku Training Area, here.

Within four days, runway repairs were complete, allowing the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, to incorporate UAS operations into its fire support coordination exercise, here. Unmanned aircraft are used to increase situational awareness and targeting capabilities of commanders on the ground.

The airfield repairs required skilled equipment

SEE 523rd, A-6

‘Wolfhounds’ learn their past, welcome new members in WIC

SPEC. HILLARY RUSTINE

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — With veteran “Wolfhounds” looking on, the newest Soldiers to join the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, graduated from the “Wolfhound Indoctrination Class,” or WIC, Oct. 29.

The Wolfhounds are said to have one of the richest and longest histories in the Army. The unit was established in Siberia in 1918, and because of its rich history, the Wolfhounds hold WIC to teach its newest Soldiers about their past.

“There is a culture that ‘good enough’ is not good enough,” said Maj. Richard Sugg, who has led two different companies within the Wolfhounds, both here and in Iraq. “Being a Wolfhound means knowing that your comrades will not let you down. Only a lucky few get to be Wolfhounds ... and once a Wolfhound, always a

Wolfhound.”

Pvt. Benjamin Trueax, a newly indoctrinated Wolfhound, noted his new sense of pride.



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

Soldiers from 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, listen to Maj. Richard Sugg (at podium), guest speaker at the WIC graduation, Oct. 29.

“I feel a lot of honor and respect for the unit,” Trueax said. “It opened my eyes to how other people see the Wolfhounds.”

Lt. Col. Daniel Wilson, commander, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, spoke to the new Soldiers about joining the ranks of the Wolfhounds.

“In everything we do, it must be apparent that we are the best,” Wilson said, “but we are humble professionals.”

Wilson went on to speak about what sets the Wolfhounds apart, stating that the personnel in the regiment make for an atmosphere of distinction and tradition.

“Hopefully, we have instilled what it means to be in this regiment,” he said.

Veterans and new Soldiers alike reveled in their unit pride, especially when welcoming the new generations of Wolfhounds.

“I have never been prouder to serve in a unit as I am here,” concluded Wilson. “We are going to write tales of glory together.”

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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38 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 11/4/10.

What makes a veteran unique?



Ernestine Pratt
U.S. Army
20 years of service
Persian Gulf



Sgt. Joseph Lollino
U.S. Army

War on Terror (Afghanistan)

Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



Sgt. Maj. Sterling Cale
U.S. Navy

World War II

Pharmacy Mate during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

DENNIS DRAKE

Director, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Veterans are unique for many reasons – first, for having joined a profession committed to the defense of their country, which could require the sacrifice of their own life, if necessary.

They selflessly left loved ones behind and deployed throughout the world, often in harm's way. They often endured endless days in austere field conditions in cold, rain or desert heat. Yet, they came back for more.

During their military service, they packed up house and home and moved to far-flung locations. These moves can be traumatic; many civilians only move a few times in their lives, if at all. Veterans and their families, often have moved many times. Each move meant finding new schools for children, new doctors and dentists for the family, a new church and new friends. Yet, they moved again and again.

Veterans did all of this and more – not for the money – as certainly, more lucrative jobs could have been found in the private sector. They did it for the flag and for each other.

The most common expression among those who were once in uniform is, “I miss the camaraderie.” No other profession, either in the private sector or in government, shares the unique bond that is felt through the military services.

Whether one has served for three or 30 years, veterans are a family. When veterans encounter strangers and discover each other's former service, a knowing and understanding come to both. They've been there. They know the lingo, the travel, the sacrifices, the hardships and the dangers.

They've known that special feeling of being part of something much bigger than themselves – the pride of serving one's country – and the camaraderie of taking care of one another, through the good times and the bad. And, after looking back, wishing it never had ended.

That's what makes veterans unique.



Lt. Gen. Tom Rienzi
U.S. Army

35 years of service
World War II and Vietnam



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Priela
U.S. Navy

5 years of service
War on Terror (Kuwait)



Sgt. Maj. Su-Lang Sarver
U.S. Army

23 years of service

War on Terror (Afghanistan)



Lt. Col. Eugenio Garcia
U.S. Army

17 years of service
War on Terror (Afghanistan)

Veterans Affairs aims to reach out to local heroes

Retirees urged to apply for unclaimed benefits

DON DEVANEY

U.S. Army Retiree Council-Hawaii

HONOLULU — Literally hundreds of veterans' organizations are available here, and nearly all of them participate in the parades and observances at various landmarks, towns and military bases to salute all service veterans on this unique and special day.

With the abundance of historical military bases here on Oahu, Veterans Day observations are more solemn here than at other locations.

Veterans Day is a time to reflect and recognize some of our local heroes and to promote awareness of the services available to them. For example, the VA, here, serves our veterans and provides the homeless with clothing, food coupons, showers and all kinds of other assistance.

Also, each year, the services host a Retiree Appreciation Day. This year, approximately 400 people attended the Army's event at Schofield Barracks, Oct. 9. Flu shots and health care screenings were available to attendees, and veterans' organizations set up displays and tables for retirees and their families to get the latest information and resources available to them.

In addition, Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commanding general, Tripler Army Medical Center, gave a presentation about military health care and retiree benefits.

Although primarily an informational event, Retiree Appreciation Day is

also a celebration of the military retiree community and the strong support provided by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, here. It is a special, camaraderie-boosting event, which helps retirees still feel connected to and remain knowledgeable about the Army.



Devaney

conditions evaluated since they left the service.

Further, a significant number of retirees have VA ratings for disabilities, but for one reason or another, they have never applied for combat-related special compensation. As a result, billions of dollars remain unclaimed for many veterans who would have received this extra, tax-free, monthly check, and in some instances, retroactive pay from July 2003 – simply because they did not apply for it.

Veterans need to take this time and check out the benefits and services they are entitled to and deserve.

As we get ready to observe Veterans Day 2010, we reflect on all the heroes, who day in and day out, did all they could for their country.

It is only fitting that veterans avail themselves of the benefits they earned.



God offers rest for the weary

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) RONALDO PASCUA

Rear Detachment Chaplain, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division

We all get tired and weary from our labor of good works and fighting the good fight, but there is rest for us. The Lord says “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

As caregivers, supervisors and parents, we often make tough decisions and put forth a lot of effort to do the right things. Scripture says, “Do not grow weary in doing good,” as it's easy to take shortcuts from doing the right thing, to give in to temptation and to allow our feelings and wrong desires to run our life and influence our decisions.

If you've been trying to be patient, kind, forgiving or honest, you've been laboring and sacrificing your time and energy to help others. If you feel weary from this good work, the Lord says, “Come to me ... and you will find rest for your soul.”

But the Lord says something else that is interesting to the weary and burdened. He said, “Take my yoke upon you.” A yoke is a wooden frame that fits over the shoulders of working animals harnessing them to each other, enabling them to pull together. Now, if you are already burdened, why would you want to put on a yoke?

Being yoked to the Lord means that we are connected to him. If you are yoked to him, when he turns right, you will turn right. If he stops, then you will stop. Having the Lord's yoke upon you means that he is with you through every circumstance and situation in your life. You are not going through this trial or

difficulty on your own. He is with you.

He will lead you in the right path. He said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.” As you follow the Lord, you will be guided to make the right decisions that will give you rest for your soul. Following the Lord is not about legalistic or overly disciplined striving, but more of a joyous fellowship, as he said, “My burden is light.”

What does that mean? It means that “burdens” are all about attitude, like in the story of a boy who was carrying his sick brother on his back. When asked if it was hard for him, he said, “No, this is my brother.” When we are in fellowship with the Lord, serving and doing right is not a chore.

You can tell when people have not been yoked to the Lord. They tend to criticize, complain a lot, are irritable and easily frustrated. But when they spend time in devotion with the Lord, through the Bible and prayer, the evidence is clear. They are strengthened and more at peace with themselves and others. They find rest that allows them to continue on in good service.

How much time in the past week did we spend going to the Lord and learning about and from him? The Lord invites you to come to him and learn of him, if you are weary of life's circumstances or from the labor of giving care and doing good. He will give you rest.



Pascua

What makes our veterans special?

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



“Veterans laid the forefront for how we serve today, and remind us of those who have served and passed on before us.”

Lt. Nathaniel Balough
Executive officer, HHC, 3rd BCT, 25th ID



“Veterans Day is a time to sit back relax, and think about all who have served their nation proudly, past and present.”

Master Sgt. Ramond Benton
Stability Training Team, HHC, 3rd BCT, 25th ID



“It's a time of remembrance of our Soldiers who have given their lives, and the Soldiers who are currently serving to protect our freedom and way of life.”

Staff Sgt. Gregory Gober
Chaplain's assistant, HHC, 3rd BCT, 25th ID



“Veterans are a constant reminder of the men and women who served our country to fight for the rights and freedoms we, as Americans, are able to enjoy (today).”

Capt. Ashley Leach
Brigade Aviation Element, HHC, 3rd BCT, 25th ID



“Veterans have served overseas in a time of war, and have put their lives on the line for (this) country, placing all others before (themselves).”

Lt. Joshua Underwood
Plans assistant, HHC, 3rd BCT, 25th ID

Voices of Ohana

Deadline for ‘Stop Loss’ special pay approaches

KAREN PARRISH
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Department officials are working to remind veterans and current service members who were involuntarily retained in the military under the so-called “Stop Loss” program, to apply for special pay before the Dec. 3 deadline.

Military members whose service was involuntarily extended or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, are entitled to a retroactive payment of \$500 for each month of extension.

By law, service members who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting or extending their service are not eligible for the special pay, officials said, but they strongly urge people who even think they may be eligible, to submit an application before the deadline.

About 65,000 of 145,000 eligible claims have been paid, and \$243 million has been disbursed of the \$534 million appropriated, officials said.

President Barack Obama released a video message Sept. 15, urging eligible service members and veterans to apply.

“You served with honor,” he said, in the message. “You did your duty, and when your country called on you again, you did your duty again.

“Now, it’s time to collect the special pay that you deserve,” the president said.



Information on the special pay and links to the application are available at www.defense.gov/stoploss.



Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young | Defense Media Activity-Hawaii

Talking strategy

HONOLULU — U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses Hawaii-based military and civilian leaders, members of the East-West Center, and students from the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University, Oct. 28, at the Kahala Resort and Hotel, here. Clinton visted Hawaii Oct. 27-28, as her first stop in conjunction with visits to Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

Clinton arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oct. 27, where she was greeted by Adm. Robert Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and other Hawaii-based military leaders.

Following her landing, Clinton held bilateral talks with Seiji Maehara, Japanese foreign minister, and Willard. Topics of discussion included the Japanese-American alliance, the role of U.S. forces in Japan and the secretary’s overall Asia-Pacific strategy.

CSA says Army will see more of the same deployment rotations

Story and Photo by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Soldiers can look forward to increased time at their home station when the Army has all but completely pulled out of Iraq, leaving a larger pool of units free to do rotations in Afghanistan.

But those rotations will continue for some time, said the Army’s top Soldier.

“This war is a long-term ideological struggle against violent extremism, and our job is not done, yet. This war is a long way from over,” said Gen. George Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army.

Casey spoke during the “Eisenhower Luncheon” at the Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition.

The chief spoke to an audience of several thousand Soldiers, civilians and foreign military members.

He used the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the Army, including efforts to put the force back in balance and what Soldiers will be doing back at home when they are not deployed.

By 2012, the chief said, the Army will have enough Soldiers available to train for missions beyond counterinsurgency. They will be able to return to training and preparing for full-spectrum operations.

“We’ll have about as many brigades available, but not earmarked for Iraq and Afghanistan, as we will have deploying,” he said. “Those that will not be deploying for 12 months will not be sitting on their duffel bags in the barracks. Those not going will be given a training focus for a combatant commander and be avail-



Gen. George Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, speaks at the Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition, Oct. 26. He used the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the Army, including efforts to put the force back in balance and what Soldiers will be doing back at home when they are not deployed.

able to them for engagement or exercises.”

It’s both the drawdown in Iraq and growth of the Army that will enable it to give Soldiers more time at home, more time with family and more time to train, he said. The Army has grown by about 95,000 Soldiers since 2007, including some temporary growth,

RELATED STORIES

- Read more about the Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition on A-8 and B-3.

Casey said.

For about five years, he said, the Army deployed at one year out and one year back. “That was absolutely unsustainable,” he said, adding that it takes 24-36 months to recover from a one-year combat deployment. “When you turn faster than that, the cumulative effects build up faster.”

Soldiers freed from grueling deployment cycles to Iraq and Afghanistan under the Army’s Force Generation model will be readying themselves for other conflicts that involve a different array of enemies and capabilities, Casey said.

“The combatant commanders outside of Central Command have been waiting for you, and you will be received with open arms – and used,” he said.

Casey also said that after nine years of war, the Army may have changed, and that it needs to understand those changes to go forward.

“The impacts of war have changed us as individuals, as professionals, and as a profession in ways we don’t yet fully appreciate,” he said. “For us to succeed as an Army ... it is imperative we gain an understanding of how a decade at war has affected us personally and professionally.”

The general said he has asked the director of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command to conduct a study to find what has changed in the Army as a result of two wars spanning nearly a decade.

Hawaii District Court rules on Makua Military Reservation

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Hawaii District Court released its ruling on cross motions for summary judgment in the case of Malama Makua versus Robert Gates, secretary of defense et al, Oct. 27.

The issue before the court was whether the Army’s subsurface archaeological and marine resources studies complied with the provisions of the 2001 and 2007 settlement agreements. Both parties filed motions for summary judgment on these two remaining claims.

The court ruled that, with respect to the subsurface survey claim, summary judgment was granted in part to each party.

To the extent Malama Makua seeks a better subsurface survey of Areas 1 to 3, the court found that the settlement agree-

ments do not require the Army to conduct any particular type of survey, and that the Army’s survey of those areas was sufficient to meaningfully satisfy its obligations.

The court found that, to the extent the Army failed to conduct any subsurface survey of Areas A to F, the Army violated its agreement to survey all areas of the Company Combined Arms Assault Course.

On Malama Makua’s claim that the Army violated its marine resource survey obligations, summary judgment was granted in part to each party.

Summary judgment was granted in favor of the Army with respect to the 2001 settlement agreement, and on Malama Makua’s claim that the general procedures used in the marine resource survey were deficient because “the settlement agreements did not require any particular marine resource survey; they required only that such a survey be done.”

Summary judgment was granted in favor of Malama Makua on its claim that the Army’s survey did not test background contamination of limu, and it did not determine whether the arsenic detected was harmful to human health.

“On the remaining issues raised by the motions, summary judgment was denied to both parties, given the numerous questions of fact surrounding the Army’s obligation to test marine resources on (the) area residents rely (on) for subsistence,” the ruling said.

The U.S. Army will abide by the court’s order and carry on its responsibility to serve as a good steward of the natural environment.

The Army continues to demonstrate this commitment by investing millions of dollars annually in programs that enable the Army and its Soldiers to minimize, and in some cases eliminate, the effects of its operations on the environment, while carrying out the ongoing national defense mission.

News Briefs

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

Today OCS Board Schedule

– Officer Candidate School application packets are due no later than Nov. 30 to the Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources, for the Dec. 14 board.

The next local board is set for May 18, 2011; deadline for packets is May 4. Call 655-4511 for an appointment or samples of OCS application packets.

Employer Support Freedom Award – The nomination season for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is open through Jan. 17, 2011, at www.FreedomAward.mil.

National Guard and Reserve service members and their families are encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees above federal law requirements.

8 / Monday Mock Utility Billing

– Mock utility billing will be the topic at upcoming town hall meetings for residents. Meet-

ings will be held at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., and at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and representatives from Island Palm Communities will update residents and answer questions about mock utility billing.

"Hawaii Army Weekly"

Survey – What is the best way we can reach our military community? Is the HAW your main source for what’s going on? Do you use Facebook or Twitter?

Let the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs Office know what you think and take our quick HAW survey online Nov. 8-26. Visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil and click on the survey link.

Look for our mobile survey crew as we go out and about to get your opinion. For more information, call USAG-HI PAO at 656-3153 or Customer Management Services at 655-9033.

9 / Tuesday Fort Shafter PXmarket Meeting

– The next Fort Shafter PXmarket Meeting for the Oahu South community is scheduled for Nov. 9, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. All Oahu South community members are

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-8



Loran Doane | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

A Black Hawk helicopter conducts an aerial operation over Makua Military Reservation, recently.

‘Wings of Lightning’ compete, earn EFMB

Story and Photos by
STAFF SGT. MIKE ALBERTS

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — More than 140 Soldiers began the grueling competition to earn one of the Army’s most coveted skill badges. By graduation day, only 20 remained, and were recognized for their accomplishment as they received the Expert Field Medical Badge on Schofield Barracks’ Sills Field, Oct. 22.

The purpose of the EFMB is to provide qualified medical personnel with tough, realistic training, and to recognize those who demonstrate the highest degree of professional skill in warrior tasks and various medical skills in a simulated combat environment.

1st Lt. Alex Burns, Schofield Barracks Acute Care Clinic, Company C, Tripler Army Medical Center, was the officer in charge of a combat training lane one, for tactical combat casualty care, or TCCC.

She explained that to earn the EFMB, candidates must pass an Army physical fitness test, qualify with their assigned weapon, have a current life support certification, pass 11 of 14 tasks for TCCC, pass eight of 10 tasks for evacuation of the sick and wounded, pass 10 of 13 warrior skill tasks, pass four of five communication tasks, pass a comprehensive written examination, pass a day and night land-navigation course, and complete a 12-mile foot march in three hours.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Johnson, Co. B, TAMC, helped Burns eval-

uate candidates at the TCCC lane. Johnson earned his badge several years ago and has witnessed the competition become more operationally oriented.

“The candidates are no longer simply given a series of tasks to accomplish, like applying a tourniquet,” Johnson said. “At each lane, Soldiers are (confronted) with a series of combat-based scenarios. At the TCCC lane, each candidate will treat patients, but the lane includes (everything) from loading vehicles and maintaining weapons, to using communication equipment and moving tactically, while reacting to direct fire.”

Among the candidates were five 25th Combat Aviation Brigade “Wings of Lightning” Soldiers, all assigned to Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Bn., 25th CAB, 25th Infantry Division.

Of these candidates, only 1st Lt. Michael Sudweeks, Forward Support Medical Team, earned the badge.

Capt. Tirzah Eskew, FSMT, made it to the land navigation course; Capt. Zachary Mauss, FSMT, and Sgt. William Lyman, FSMT, advanced to the TCCC lane; and 1st Lt. Hayden Piscal, FSMT, fell just one minute and five seconds short of earning her

EFMB during the 12-mile foot march.

“Personally, it’s rewarding to be a first-time ‘go,’ achieving a badge that has a (less) than 20-percent passing rate,” Sudweeks said. “Professionally, I hope it demonstrates that I’m willing to put in extra work and effort, which is important, especially when I get to a unit that has a bunch of qualified medical personnel.

“The EFMB shows that I am willing to learn, which is not just good for me, but I hope good for the unit,” he said.

“Our Army is an Army that values its medics and appreciates the extraordinary contribution that medical members of the team make, and that is real-

ly why the badge was created,” said retired Lt. Gen. James Benjamin Peake, former secretary of Veterans Affairs and the 40th Army surgeon general, to the Soldiers who earned EMFB.

“The complexity of the tasks, the fog of battle, the stress of combat and the physical demands are all built into the challenges of this competition and represent all the challenges you will face on the battlefield. (You have) truly earned the (EFMB) ... and I am proud of what you will do on the battlefield to take care of our Soldiers,” Peake said.



Above — Capt. Tirzah Eskew (right), team leader, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 25th GSAB, 25th CAB, 25th ID, assesses a casualty after a simulated improvised explosive device detonates during the EFMB competition, Oct. 18.

Left — 1st Lt. Michael Sudweeks, UH-60 pilot and assistant team leader, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 25th GSAB, 25th CAB, 25th ID, moves a casualty to safety for evacuation during the EFMB competition at the East Range field training facility at Schofield Barracks, Oct. 21.

8th TSC pursues medical excellence during EFMB testing

Story and Photo by
CAPT. STEPHEN ROBINSON

130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Ten Soldiers from the 130th Engineer and 45th Sustainment brigades, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, along with 137 other medical Soldiers from across the island, attempted to qualify for the Expert Field Medical Badge, in a challenge held at Area X and East Range, here, Oct. 17-22.

After a grueling two weeks of training in soggy-terrain, only 20 Soldiers were awarded the EFMB during a ceremony on Sills Field, here, Oct. 22.

Spc. Christopher Nettles, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Bde, was one of the 20 Soldiers to receive the EFMB.

“My biggest motivators, which helped me to make it through this competition, (were) the inspiration my family and peers gave me and the support I got from my unit’s chain of command,” Nettles said, about receiving the badge on his first try. “But the bottom line is that I knew I had to look in my peers’ faces when it was all over ... and that I was also promised a four-day pass if I finished strong.”

The EFMB challenges the professional competence and physical endurance of a Soldier-medic. The competition entails military occupational specialty-qualified medical personnel, officers and enlisted to display professionalism, commitment, courage and compassion. These attributes must remain constant for the participants to complete the EFMB course.

“Statistically, the (EFMB) is one of the toughest badges a Sol-



EFMB candidates are required to perform a variety of different tasks on combat training lanes. In this scenario, the candidate tries to successfully place a neck brace on the driver of a vehicle hit by an improvised explosive device, on the training lane, Oct. 22.

dier can earn. Only the best-of-the-best ever get pinned,” said Capt. Henry Schnedler, EFMB test control officer, Army Medical Department of the U.S. Army Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The competition is designed as a special-skill award for excep-

tional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel.

During the EFMB competition, the candidates spent the first week in lane standardization, and they started the second week with a day and night land-navigation course.

“Testing also included, but was not limited to, three total combat lane testing sites, ranging from evacuating a casualty, negotiating rough terrain with a litter and (setting) up radios to call a nine-line medical evacuation,” said Master Sgt. Roberto Rosales, noncommissioned officer in charge of a combat training lane, 25th Infantry Division. “Candidates must receive eight of 10 tasks correctly to pass the event.”

The demands of the competition test and gauge the medic’s competence in using medical skill sets in unexpected situations, which occur on and off the battlefield.

“The evaluators made sure all candidates understood that the same guidelines applied across the board, and everyone is graded according to the same standards,” Rosales said.

The EFMB testing culminated with a punishing 12-mile foot march.

“My toughest challenge was during the first two miles into the road march,” Nettles said. “Because of muscle fatigue, I started having a little tingling over my body. Even though this put negative thoughts in my head of possibly not going another 10 miles, I overcame those thoughts. I drove on and finished.”

The EFMB was approved by the Department of the Army, June 18, 1965, and more than 96,000 personnel have competed for the EFMB since 1986.



Photos by Staff Sgt. James Sterling | 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC

Soldiers from the 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, review their mission at East Range, Schofield Barracks.

Engineers prepare for light-skills combat

2ND LT. BRIGIDA SANCHEZ

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – For Soldiers of the 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, training means everything, and they recently conducted a platoon-level situational training exercise, at East Range, here, which focused on preparing themselves for light combat.

This training was integral to train Soldiers on the possible changes in the company’s area of responsibility for their next deployment. The exercise reinforced tasks previously used downrange, introduced essential tasks for future missions and increased cohesion within the company.

“Because we are a route clearance and combat unit, being in the field as much as we can definitely sharpens our edge,” said Spc. Devin Sanders, 4th Platoon, 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. “The days that we get the chance to do that, builds more confidence and moral for the unit.”

Capt. Casey Jones, executive officer, 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., explained why it was important for the company to train on unfamiliar tasks.

“We incorporated missions as if we were in Afghanistan or Indonesia, training on the light skills rather than the mounted skills that we used while we were deployed in Iraq, using more of a light Sapper/Ranger type of training,” Jones said.

Exercises such as dismounted and night patrol, deploying command posts and small unit leadership tasks were the focus of the platoon STX training.

Staff Sgt. Jose Rodriguez, squad leader, 4th Platoon, 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., worked to ensure his Soldiers fully comprehended their mission essential task list, or METL.

“My Soldiers had a good grasp on the tasks, on what they were given,” he said. “It was the physical part of the training that was difficult because we had new Soldiers. We needed to get them trained up in foot marching with a full pack of around 65 pounds; carrying their weapon, plus the ammo



1st Lt. Christopher Davis, platoon leader, 95th Eng. Co., 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, reviews movements with his platoon on an improvised sand table at East Range during the brigade’s STX.

for their weapon; their tripod; and (the) traversing and elevating mechanism.”

As time passes and the 95th Eng. Co. continues to “train as they fight,” its new Soldiers will continue to build the endurance for physical challenges, train until new tasks develop into muscle memory and certainty, and have confidence that their leaders will give them the increased capacity to tackle any obstacle they may encounter while deployed in the future.

NBC training is still relevant during overseas missions

SGT. 1ST CLASS SHERYL L. LAWRY

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,
205th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The relevancy of nuclear, biological and chemical training was questioned, here, recently.

When Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 205th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, were prepping for NBC training, which included testing masks in the mask confidence chamber, here, questions arose.

Sgt. Elin Reed, NBC noncommissioned officer, HHD, 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde., responded to two shocking conversations about the NBC pertinence.

“A Soldier on the convoy said, ‘NBC is not relevant anymore. The enemy isn’t thinking about NBC, they don’t know what they’re doing, (and) they wouldn’t know how.’” Reed said, explaining she was totally dismayed by the Soldier’s viewpoint.

As a school-trained NBC NCO, all of Reed’s knowledge about the dangers of NBC flooded her head.

“When I was at (Advanced Individual Training), I was scared by all I learned,” Reed said. “I told him, I don’t think we saw that the enemy would know how to create (improvised explosive devices), but they did. Don’t underestimate that the enemy will not evolve and find deadlier ways to kill us.”

That was her first conversation. Her second shocked her even more.

A different Soldier asked her why the group even needed to conduct the training at all, saying they “didn’t need to test their masks.”

Her reply was, just as the Soldier would train on his M-16, he should train with his mask in the same way.

“You count on (your M-16) to work and save your life ... you should count on that mask to save your life in the same way,” she said.

Luckily for the Soldiers in the unit, their first sergeant, like Reed, knows firsthand what an asset the mask is.

While assigned to a former unit, Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Moore, first sergeant, HHD, 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde., experienced a situation when a large amount of sulfur was in the air. The entire unit needed to don masks to continue working until the situation was taken care of. Moore’s



Staff Sgt. Daniel Williams | HHD, 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde.

An HHD, 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde. Soldier stands in the background checking his mask, as gas fumes rise from the mask confidence chamber ventilation can.

confidence in the ability of the mask to work made a big difference in his ability to do his job. It’s that same confidence he wants his HHD Soldiers to have in their masks to help them perform better in a combat environment.

“This training was to prove that their masks will work in an NBC situation,” Moore said, about his Soldiers going through the mask confidence chamber. “They saw that they could breathe with the mask and that it fit well.”

As for the questions from the younger Soldiers who believed the training was inconsequential, Moore understood where they came from.

“In 2003, the Army’s focus changed,” he said. “I think it happened because the NBC threat in Iraq diminished, but we have to get back to the NBC portion of training because you never know what will happen. You’re going to still need these masks.”

To make the training as realistic as possible within the chamber, Reed said she used two to three caps per 10 people. Soldiers felt the sting and experienced the struggle to breathe.

“It was a good effect,” said Pfc. Colin Burgess, HHD, 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde. “It built my confidence in my ability to protect myself.”

Reed couldn’t be happier about the outcome of her training, but she still felt the need to caution Soldiers.

“Don’t underestimate the enemy’s capability,” Reed said. “Be sure you’re proficient in NBC tasks and drills.”

DPW releases important information about drinking water on post

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION, DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII

New Release

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – The Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, through the Preventive Medicine Activity at Tripler Army Medical Center, routinely monitors Aliamanu Military Reservation, Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks and TAMC water systems for bacteriological quality of drinking water.

Residents and employees at these locations are very lucky to enjoy some of the highest quality drinking water on Oahu.

The Army is required to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis.

Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not the drinking water meets health standards.

The TAMC laboratory for the garrison’s water systems recently failed to comply with a required testing procedure.

Even though this instance was not an emergency, DPW customers have a right to know what happened and what was done to correct the situation.

TAMC has incorporating additional quality control checks to prevent this instance from re-occurring.

This finding is not an emergency or urgent concern, and residents and employees do not need to take any precautionary measures.

The instance was an oversight on the part of the laboratory.

AMR

During March, the laboratory did not follow proper procedures for the analysis of total coliform bacteria, and as a result, did not complete all testing for total coliform bacteria.

Because of these procedural errors, DPW cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water during that time.

The AMR water system is required to analyze three samples every month.

During March, 10 samples were collected, and no samples were properly analyzed.

Fort Shafter

During March and April, the laboratory did not follow proper procedures for the analysis of

For more information, call the DPW Clean Air/Safe Drinking Water Program manager at 656-3103, or visit the Environmental Division Office, 947 Wright Ave., Wheeler Army Airfield.

total coliform bacteria, and as a result did not complete all testing for total coliform bacteria.

As with the AMR water system, DPW cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water during those months.

The Fort Shafter water system is required to analyze three samples every month.

During March, five samples were collected, and zero samples were properly analyzed.

During April, five samples were collected, and two samples were properly analyzed.

Schofield Barracks

Like Fort Shafter’s water, during the months of March and April, the laboratory did not follow proper procedures for the analysis of total coliform bacteria, and it did not complete all testing.

DPW cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water during that time.

The Schofield water system is required to analyze 30 samples every month.

During March, 34 samples were collected, and 18 samples were properly analyzed.

During April, 34 samples were collected, and four were properly analyzed.

TAMC

During March and April, the laboratory did not follow proper procedures for the analysis of

total coliform bacteria, and it did not complete all testing.

Because of these procedural errors, DPW cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water during those months.

The TAMC water system is required to analyze four samples every month.

During March, six samples were collected, and no samples were properly analyzed.

During April, six samples were collected, and two samples were properly analyzed.

What is total coliform bacteria?

As water passes over the earth’s surface and percolates into the ground, it may dissolve naturally occurring minerals, radioactive material and substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Therefore, drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

The EPA, however, sets limits on the amount of a contaminant present in drinking water.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment. They are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

CFC extended into November

NAVY REGION HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM – Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Combined Federal Campaign executive agent, recently extended the 2010 CFC fundraising drive through Nov 15.

To date, the campaigned has raised \$784,361 toward its goal of \$6,306,832.

Agencies are encouraged to use the additional time to ensure that all employees have been contacted.

With the extension, solicitations for donations will end no later than Nov. 15, and all key-person envelopes must be postmarked by Nov. 24. Agencies are still encouraged to turn in their materials as early as possible.

This year’s slogan is “iCARE: iContribute, iAssist, iRenew and iEnrich,” and hundreds of charities are benefiting from the efforts of many CFC volunteers.

“In these difficult financial times, federal employees are in a great position to truly make a difference,” said Cmdr. Jeanene Torrance, 2010 CFC project officer. “The (CFC) makes that possible.”

“Each year (more than) 183,500 people in Hawaii struggle with hunger. Sadly, over 55,000 are children,” said Polly Kauahi, director of development for the Hawaii Food Bank, which works to combat hunger and malnutrition. “Your generous support of the (CFC) provides meals for many of those needy families.”

The CFC currently supports more than 2,200 local, national and international charities. These organizations provide services and assistance to people in nearly every walk of life.

“For many years, (CFC) donors have helped the kids of Make-A-Wish, Hawaii, cope with their illness, by caring and sharing,” said Lyn Brown, executive director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Hawaii. “We want everyone to know how important these gifts (are) to us, and how much we appreciate them. Approximately 30 percent of our wish kids are civilian and military dependents, and CFC donations fully sponsor their wishes.”

Only through charitable donations, like CFC, can many of the organizations sustain their efforts.



For more information, visit www.cfchawaii.org.



Soldiers from the 523rd Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, repair combat trails in the Keamuku Training Area, Oct. 15, in support of future Stryker training at PTA. In the background (from left to right), Pvt. Jesse Sheehan operates the roller, Spc. Joe Garcia (right) hauls rock in the dump truck. In the foreground (from left to right), Staff Sgt. Christopher Atencio supervises, as Pvt. Frederick Avery operates the grader.

523rd: Unit finishes construction mission

CONTINUED FROM A-1

operations directed by experienced construction supervisors, a mission well suited for 3rd Platoon’s Soldiers and non-commissioned officers, who have completed similar engineer missions both in and out of combat.

In addition to the airfield repairs, the Regulators worked for two weeks on the Keamuku Loop Trail and other combat trails in the training area.

“Construction of the Keamuku Loop Trail enhances PTA’s readiness to support Stryker training in the future,” said Dave Faucet, restoration ecologist and Integrated Training Area Management supervisor for PTA.

The training area is designed to support Stryker and Marine Corps Amphibious Assault Vehicle maneuver training.

The creation of the Keamuku Loop Trail is the first step toward further improvements to the training area, because the rough terrain limits off-road movement, and the trail promotes dust abatement on heavily traveled routes.

“Keamuku was an important pathway from the coastal areas to the natural resources of Mauna Kea,” said Kaleo Kualil, on-site cultural monitor.

The trail also supports the Army’s efforts for good stewardship of the culturally- and environmentally-sensitive Keamuku area.

The Army is able to provide better training for Army and Marine Corps maneuver units, while working closely with trained cultural and archeological advisors to maintain good relations with the local community and improve the Keamuku Training Area.

USAG-HI aims to promote recycling, conservation

COL. DOUGLAS MULBURY
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — America Recycles Day is Nov. 15, and all U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Soldiers, residents, civilians and supported units are encouraged to drop off their recyclables at the Kaena Community Center, here, from 9–2 p.m.

Recycling helps sustain our mission and meet our installation strategic goals of 50-percent reduction in our municipal solid waste. Recycling also benefits the installation monetarily. Proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials are credited back to our installation's recycling program, and some of the funds may be used to sponsor family events.

I ask that you lead by example.

Help promote conservation practices and limit the initial amount of disposable material coming onto our installation. Buy products made with recycled materials, and make our recycling program bigger and better by recycling all that you can.

I encourage everyone to support this national campaign by participating in this event orga-



Mulbury

nized by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division.

During the event, people will be able to recycle computers, printers and monitors (no government property); cooking oil; cellular phones; printer cartridges; used eyeglasses; used hearing aids; plastic bottles and caps; newspapers; plastic bags; telephone books; magazines; batteries of all kinds; cardboard egg cartons and trays; usable clothing and household items; white paper; glass; aluminum; and incandescent lights. Two light bulbs may be exchanged for two compact fluorescent light bulbs, per person.

Also, free shredding of documents is available from 9 a.m.-noon.

DPW will not accept air conditioning units, appliances, fire extinguishers, hazardous waste of any kind, microwaves, motor oil, paints, scrap metal and tires.

For more information, call 656-5411 or e-mail marcus.brundage@us.army.mil.



Liana Mayo | 311th Signal Command Public Affairs

Traditions honored

WASHINGTON — Mitsuo Onozaki demonstrates an ancient technique of Japanese martial arts at the U.S. Army-Pacific booth during the Association of U.S. Army's 2010 Annual Meeting and Exposition, Oct. 26, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, here.

During the performance, Onozaki cut two pieces of thick tatami mats with a Japanese sword, and broke a baseball bat with his leg. His performance represented U.S. Army-Japan. See related AUSA stories on A-3 and B-3.

This collaborative effort will provide a wide variety of resources to address challenges at all stages of deployment.

Classes can be coordinated through unit family readiness support assistants or chains of command. To view available classes and workshops, visit www.mwrmilitaryhawaii.com.

Education Study — Parents or youth between 10-18 years of age are eligible to fill out the Military Child in Hawaii Longitudinal Study. Youths who complete the survey are eligible to win iTunes cards,

MP3 players and a flat-screen TV. The study is located at www.hawaiikids.org.

Sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, the study examines attitudes of military families in Hawaii regarding educating their children in public, private or homeschools.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response — The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program addresses the serious issue of sexual assault through prevention and response training. Brigades are re-

quired to have one deployable sexual assault response coordinator and two unit victim advocates per battalion.

Call 655-1718. The SAPR Program gives training Tuesdays, at 3 p.m., for incoming Soldiers.

AER Referral — All Army Emergency Relief requests from commanders should be submitted Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Requests can be picked up the same duty day between 2-3:30 p.m. Requests submitted after 1 p.m. will be ready the following duty day between 2-3:30 p.m. Call 655-4227.

News Briefs

CONTINUED FROM A-3

invited to attend. Call 438-6996.

Military Family Appreciation — The 45th Sustainment Brigade is sponsoring a Military Family Appreciation event at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 9. All Soldiers and families of the 45th Sust. Bde. are invited to attend. RSVP at 397-9492.

10 / Wednesday
CIF Closure — The Central Issue Facility will be closed Nov. 10-12, due to interior remodeling. Emergencies will be accommodated through coordination by calling 655-8120, 655-1223 or 656-0817.

11 / Thursday
Holiday Schedule — The Directorate of Emergency Services Installation's Access Pass Office and the Vehicle Registration Office at Fort Shafter and

Schofield Barracks will be closed for holidays and administrative duty days:

- IAP Office, Leilehua Golf Course, Schofield Barracks will be closed Nov. 11, 12, 25 and 26, and Dec 24 and 31.

The IAP will also operate on a half-day schedule Dec. 23 and 30, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

- The Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Vehicle Registration offices will be closed Nov. 11, 12, 25 and 26, and Dec. 24 and 31. Vehicle Registration offices will operate on a half-day schedule Dec. 23 and 30, 7:30-11:30 a.m. Call 656-6750.

15 / Monday
USAG-HI Recycles — America Recycles Day is Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Kaena Community Center, Schofield Barracks. For a complete list of items that will be accepted, visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on "Post Information," then "Post Events." Call 656-5411.

23 / Tuesday
Native American Heritage Observance — A Native American Heritage Observance is Nov. 23, 10 a.m., Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Bar-

racks. Sponsored by Team EEO Hawaii and the 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, the event will feature Billy Mills, Olympic gold medalist, the second Native American ever to win an Olympic gold medal.

Ongoing

Rosetta Stone Languages — Military versions of Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Arabic (Iraq), Swahili and Bahasa Indonesia have been added to Rosetta Stone, which is an on-demand foreign language training resource available at no cost to all active Army, National Guard, Reserve and Army civilian personnel worldwide, through Army e-Learning.

Log onto www.us.army.mil, click on "Self Service," "My Education," then "Army e-Learning."

Users must have an AKO account.

Family Strong Series — Army Community Service, Tripler Army Medical Center and the chaplains have teamed up to form the Family Strong Series.



Owen Ogata (right), project engineer, Honolulu District, briefs Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko (center), deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations, USACE, about construction techniques being used in the new Soldiers Barracks Complex at Schofield Barracks, as Lt. Col. Douglas Guttormsen (left), commander, Honolulu District, looks on.

USACE: Ranges support units

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Field Artillery Regiment shot down one of the 29 Japanese planes that were downed on that day. Author James Jones lived in the quads at the time, and his classic 1951 novel, “From Here to Eternity,” is set in prewar and wartime Schofield Barracks and Oahu. In 2008, the Historic Hawaii Foundation presented U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii with a Preservation Honor Award for the garrison’s rehabilitation of Schofield’s historic C and E Quads. Dorko added that the Honolulu District doesn’t just provide quarters where Soldiers live; it also provides the supporting facilities and ranges they use.

“When you bring Soldiers here, you want to

give them a quality environment to work in, and you have also got to give them a quality environment to train in (to maximize) the precious time that units have back here,” Dorko said. “Anything we can do to take pressure off the Soldiers and off their families, and (to) create a more conducive environment for them to bond in the time that they have together while the (Soldiers are) preparing for the things that they have to do ... that’s what we’re all about,” he added. Dorko rounded out his visit at the Big Island’s Pohakuloa Training Area and the formerly used defense site at Waikoloa Maneuver Area. He honored several district employees with commander’s coins for outstanding service while in Hawaii.

Leadership, families must help to reduce Soldiers’ accidental deaths

MASTER SGT. DOUG SAMPLE
Director of Army Safety, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

WASHINGTON – The number of accidental deaths in the Army has dropped dramatically in recent years, from 299 deaths in 2005 to 179 in 2010. However, those grim numbers still trouble Brig. Gen. Bill Wolf, director of Army Safety, whose primary responsibility is reducing risks and keeping Soldiers safe. “We are winning this fight and bringing the numbers down over the ... years, but its still a continuous war,” Wolf said, during a recent interview while attending the Annual Association of the U.S Army’s Meeting and Exposition. It’s a war that Wolf – who also serves as commanding general of the Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center – said the Army is fighting with a three-tiered approach: a more engaged leadership, better trained Soldiers and the support of family. “I attribute the fact that our numbers are coming down to a lot of factors,” Wolf said. “Our leadership has gotten (more) engaged, both at the junior officer and noncommissioned officer level, all the way up to the top. Our leadership has always been engaged, but absolutely now more than ever, everyone understands the issue of trying to protect our most precious resource – our (Soldiers).” Wolf also emphasized the role many Soldiers are taking to reduce the accidental death toll. He said Soldiers today are smarter and better trained to understand risky behavior through composite risk management, a program the Army designed to teach Soldiers how to identify hazards, reduce risk and prevent both accidental and tactical loss. Also, Soldiers are taking the Army’s Warrior Ethos to task and looking out for each other. “Soldiers today have embraced the idea of looking out for each other, the battle buddy, the band of brothers and sisters,” Wolf explained. “They understand it clearly while on duty, but we have to contin-

ue that thought process while off duty as well.” The general was referring to Army statistics that show most Army accidental deaths occur while Soldiers are off duty. In 2010, there were 129 off-duty accidental fatalities compared to 50 while on the job. Sixty-five percent of off-duty deaths occurred while Soldiers were operating privately owned vehicles, he said. “The biggest challenge we have as leaders is trying to keep them safe when they



are off duty, away from their formations and making bad decisions,” Wolf said. “We’re trying to get ahead of that, and trying to ensure that they understand the risk, whether it be wearing a seat belt or putting on the proper protective equipment, and making the right decisions.” But perhaps the Army’s best ally in mitigating risks and accidental deaths is on the home front, Wolf said, as family and community support for Soldiers is helping reduce the numbers as well. “Our families are getting more engaged and they can make a difference in our Soldiers’ lives,” he said. “So we’re trying to continue engaging them, to make sure they help along the way in trying to help and protect our Soldiers.”

JULIE SHELLEY
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – The fall seasons are full of opportunities for celebrating. Football games, holidays and extended vacations from work all offer ample time for fun, food and fellowship. For many people, tailgates and parties wouldn’t be the same without a splash or two of their favorite alcoholic beverages. However, while social gatherings offer a perfect opportunity to let loose, Soldiers, family members and civilians must be extra vigilant and have a plan if they choose to drink – regardless of the time of year. “Adding alcohol only further impairs your ability to think, react and recover,” said Ben Bailey, safety specialist, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Driving Task Force. Accident reports show drinking and driving are a lethal combination for Soldiers year-round. Between the start of fiscal year 2008 and close of fiscal year 2009, 71 Soldiers died in alcohol-related vehicle crashes. At least 14 Soldiers were killed in drinking and driving incidents in fiscal year 2010, with additional reports pending at the end of the year. During those three years, another 149 Soldiers were injured in privately owned vehicle crashes, in which alcohol was reported as a contributing factor. Statistics prove the dangers of alcohol impairment do not stop at driving: Walking while drunk can be just as deadly. On average, the Army loses approximately two Soldiers every year to alcohol-related pedestrian accidents. “Walking versus driving sounds like a good plan, but an intoxicated pedestrian is at tremendous risk,” Bailey said. “A plan is only as good as the planner. If your thoughts are clouded by the effects of alcohol, you might not have planned for every challenge.” Both party hosts and their guests have special responsibilities for ensuring everyone makes it home safely.

Hosts

- Collect car keys from guests as they arrive and return them only to guests who are not impaired.
- Offer alcohol-free beverages and



Information on impaired driving, POV safety and many other safety topics is available by visiting <https://safety.army.mil>.

plenty of food, so guests have alternatives to alcohol.

- Ensure guests leave sober or with a sober designated driver, and call a cab for guests without a ride.
- Keep alcoholic beverages off limits to all guests under the age of 21.

Guests

- Make a plan. Designate a nondrinking buddy and give him or her the keys, prearrange a taxi or have the numbers for local cab companies programmed into a cell phone.
- Use the buddy system. Rotate designated driver responsibilities. If no one else volunteers, offer to stay sober.
- Be honest and remember that even a slight buzz can significantly weaken perceptions and abilities. If you are out on your own and know you are impaired, stay with the host until you are sober, or call a friend or taxi for a ride.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember when celebrating is that no matter the situation, drinking and driving is never the right answer. Engagement on all fronts – for leaders, Soldiers, family members and civilians – is critical to ensuring everyone in the Army family understands the dangers of impaired driving. “Risk taking often ends in needless fatalities,” Bailey said. “Our Army needs each and every one of our Soldiers. We must continue teaching our Soldiers to think about their decisions and the consequences of risky behavior.”



Sgt. Randy Ojeda, 3rd Bn., 25th Combat Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, scans his sector of water.



Spc. Joseph Spiggle, 3rd Bn., 25th Combat Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, rescues a swimmer who is playing the part of an accident victim with a suspected spinal injury.



Students rescue a swimmer who has a simulated injury.

Staying afloat

'Tropic Lightning' swims its way to lifeguard certification

STAFF SGT. AMBER ROBINSON

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Sixteen 25th Infantry Division Soldiers completed a two-week lifeguard certification course at Richardson Pool, here, Oct. 29.

Soldiers strengthened swimming skills and learned water rescue methods, cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid.

Candidates first took a swim test to assess their swimming skill levels. Out of the 33 swimmers who entered the class, 16 remained throughout the entire course and graduated.

"We usually lose about half the original class every time," said Domingo Arroyo, main instructor for the course. "A lot of Soldiers think, if they are strong, then, they can make it in this course; but it's about being strong and proficient in the water."

"The people who make it in this course usually love and are comfortable in the water," he continued. "It takes a special type of person to be a lifeguard."

Each training day usually starts with a warm-up swim, consisting of 300 or more meters of several different strokes. The course then moves into swimming drills, followed by rescue drills.

Water rescue drills include scenarios in which a victim is either on the surface of the pool or submerged up to 15 feet, responsive or unresponsive, or injured with a head, neck or back injury. "Victims" are other class participants who simulate various levels of drowning and injury.



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

Domingo Arroyo (right), primary instructor for lifeguard certification at Schofield Barracks, prompts a student who is simulating emergency life support on an infant.

"It was a challenge to have to rescue someone who is about twice my weight, off the bottom of the pool," said Spc. Joseph Spiggle, a CH47 Chinook crew chief with 3rd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, who has a history of competitive swimming, coaching and lifeguarding. "It was a much more intense course than what I have taken in the past

as a civilian. I didn't think it would be this challenging, so it surprised me, but in a good way."

"You learn what your limits are and how you can push past them," said Sgt. Randy Ojeda, 3rd Bn., 25th Combat Avn. Regt., 25th CAB. "You learn to hold your breath longer, to go and get submerged victims. You learn how to swim with added weight."

"After the first day, I told myself this was going to be tough, and I'd have to stay focused and not let my guard down," Ojeda added.

Candidates learned to navigate the challenges of water rescue and first aid, and they learned lifeguarding is a job requiring diplomacy.

"Lifeguarding is all about multitasking," Spiggle said. "You have to remain alert and (be) ready to save someone's life, but then you may also need to be ready to dissolve an argument or calm an upset patron."

As part of graduation requirements, candidates took a written and a skills exam. They were tested on CPR and different types of res-

cues, including a complex rescue that simulated a spinal injury in deep water. Graduates then completed 16 hours of volunteer time at Richardson Pool to receive certification cards.

"Soldiers learn to stay calm and make solid decisions based on their training," Arroyo said. "What they definitely get is the confidence ... to keep people safe in the water."



Today

Employment Orientation – An employment orientation is Nov. 5, 9-10:30 a.m., Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. The State of Hawaii’s Oahu Worklinks, operated by a partnership of co-located employment training and job services, will be featured. Call 655-4227.

Hawaiian Food Workshops – RSVP now for the free Hawaiian food workshops at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield, Nov. 16; and Aliamanu Military Reservation Library, Nov. 17. Times for both events are 5:30-7 p.m. Call 655-9694 or e-mail nhliaison@gmail.com.

Family Fun Friday – Enjoy great, friendly fun at Family Fun Friday, 6-9 p.m. The activities for Nov. 5 include giant games and board games. Free pizza is served on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 655-5797 or visit www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com.

Right Arm Night at Hale Ikena – Right Arm Night is Nov. 5, 4:30 p.m., at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. Cost is \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. Call 438-1974.

6 / Saturday

Adventure Hiking I – Hike around the island with Outdoor Recreation, Nov. 6, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks is available. Cost is \$10. Call 655-0143.

NFL Pro Bowl Tickets – Presale tickets for the NFL Pro Bowl game, Aloha Stadium, Jan. 30, go on sale Nov. 6, 9 a.m., at the Information, Ticketing and Reservation office, Schofield Barracks. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. First day of sale tickets are limited to four, per person. Purchasers must have a military ID and be 18 years of age or older. Seating charts are available at the ITR office. Call 655-9971.

8 / Monday

Hula Classes – Learn hula at free classes sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. Soldiers and families can participate in the classes, Mondays, Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks. A beginners’ class starts at 6 p.m.; an advanced class begins at 7 p.m. Classes feature the different types of hula and fundamentals of hula steps, movement and posture. E-mail nhliaison@gmail.com or call 655-9694.

Mock Utility Billing – Mock utility billing will be the topic at upcoming town hall meetings for residents. Meetings will be held at the Aliamanu



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

Spookfest

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Contestants play a game at the Spookfest Halloween party at the Armed Services YMCA, here, Oct. 29. Besides games, the festival offered face painting and arts and crafts.

Military Reservation Chapel, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., and at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and representatives from Island Palm Communities will update residents and answer questions about mock utility billing.

9 / Tuesday

Award-Winning Reads – “Million Dollar Putt” by Dan Gutman will be discussed Nov. 9, 6-6:45 p.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, at the book club for children in grades four through six. Call 655-8002.

10 / Wednesday

“Black Widow” – Jeanette Lee, an award-winning professional billiards player, will be at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. A black-and-white after-party will be held. This event is for adults only. Call 655-5697.

12 / Friday

“Snowman Cookie Plate” – Create a cookie plate at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The \$25 cost includes supplies. Call 655-4202.

13 / Saturday

Discover Scuba – Experience scuba for free, Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m. Learn about scuba diving and certification. Class is held in a controlled, pool environment. Call 655-0143.

8 / Monday

Free Family Camp Weekend – Nov. 8 is the deadline to apply for the free Family Camp Weekend, held Nov. 19-21, at Camp Erdman. Pick up applications at 1262 Santos Dumont Ave., Building 122, Wheeler Army Airfield, or via e-mail at wheeler@asymcahi.org.

The target audience is families whose sponsor is a junior-enlisted Soldier. Families will be notified of their acceptance starting Nov. 9.

The camp is hosted by the Armed Services YMCA in conjunction with the Sierra Club, and is geared for school-age children. A cabin, three meals a day and activities are provided. Call 624-5645.

13 / Saturday

Gifts for Wounded Warriors – Shoppers at Windward Mall can donate holiday gift items to wounded warriors and their families, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Co-sponsored by USO-Hawaii and Windward Mall, this event will be hosted by comedian Frank DeLima. The one-day targeted appeal for wounded warriors consists of gathering gift items that shoppers purchase at Windward Mall. Call 422-1213 or e-mail btroegner@uso.org.

22 / Monday

FRG Town Hall Meeting – The 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, is hosting a family readiness group town hall meeting, Nov. 22, 6-7:30 p.m., Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. All Soldiers, family members and the public are invited. Door prizes will be awarded. Call 221-9753.

Newcomers Island Tour – Sign up for the free newcomers island tour that will depart from Schofield Barracks’ ACS, Building 2091, at 8 a.m., the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Call 655-4227.

Tours depart the Fort Shafter Flats Army Community Service, Building 1599, Nov. 20, 8 a.m. Once the tour is full, names will be put on a waiting list. Call 438-4499.

18 / Thursday

Federal Jobs – “Ten Steps to a Federal Job” will be held Nov. 18 and 19, 9-10:30 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Registered guests have priority seating. Call 655-4227.

Teen Theatre Thursday

Learn the basics of stage acting in the ongoing theater program for teens ages 12 and up. Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, from 4-5:30 p.m.

Learn stage presence, acting skills, improvisation techniques and the varying types of theater techniques. Call 655-8002. Walk-ins are welcome.

25 / Thursday

Civilian Resumes – A civilian resume writing class will be held Nov. 25, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service. Registration is not required. Call 655-4227.

29 / Monday

Christmas Softball Tournament – Deadline for applications is Nov. 29 for the Christmas Softball Tournament scheduled Dec. 13-17. Turn in applications at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center or the Schofield Barracks Sports Office. Call 655-0856.

Ongoing

All Army Sports – Applications are being accepted through Dec. 1, for the following sports: men’s and women’s boxing, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s triathlon, and men’s and women’s cross-country. Call 655-9914.

EDGE! – This program is free for Blue Star Card holders the first week of every month. EDGE! offers out-of-school opportunities for children and youth, ages 6-18, to participate in cutting-edge art, fitness, life skills and adventure activities.

Normal cost is \$30 per week for first- through fifth-graders, and is free for sixth- through 12th-graders. Visit www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com or call 656-0095.

SOAR – Student Online Achievement Resources is a free online program offering testing and tutorials in reading and mathematics for grades 3-12. E-mail SoarHawaii@hotmail.com or call 655-9818.

Red Cross Service Center – The American Red Cross Service Center office on Schofield Barracks has reopened in the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Ayers Ave. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 655-4927.

Making the Grade – Students can cash in on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s “You Made the Grade” program. This reward program is designed to recognize above-average academic achievement.

Qualifying students will receive a coupon booklet that includes free admission to an AAFES Reel Time Theater, a complimentary slice of Anthony’s Pizza with drink, and a free magazine, as well as other coupons.

To be eligible for a booklet, students must present a valid military ID and proof of an overall “B” or better average to their local post exchange.

Operation Kid Comfort – Comfort, create, unite with Operation Kid Comfort, which creates comfort quilts and pillows for children of deployed service members and offers an opportunity for America to unite in support of military families. Contact the Armed Services YMCA at 473-3398 or e-mail pearlharbor@asymcahi.org.

Military Order of the Purple Heart – Are you on active duty or a veteran that has been wounded in combat? Have you been awarded a Purple Heart for those wounds? If so, you are invited to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Oahu chapter meets the second Saturday of every month. Visit www.purpleheart.org or call 433-0428 or 772-1963.

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
- 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

- Tuesday & Thursday, 8 a.m. at AMR
- Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC and WAAF chapels
- 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

community Calendar

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

Today

Arbor Day – Hawaii will celebrate Arbor Day 2010, Nov. 5. The best way to celebrate Arbor Day is to plant trees. To find out which trees grow best in Hawaii, visit www.arborday.org/treeinfo. While National Arbor Day is held the last Friday in April, several states, including Hawaii, observe the holiday at a time best suited for tree planting for their residents.

“Just Jazz” – Purchase tickets now for the “Just Jazz” competition, Blaisdell Concert Hall, Nov. 20, 6 p.m. Tickets for this USO event are \$30 and can be purchased at the Blaisdell Box Office, Ticketmaster and all Walgreens. Visit http://affiliates.uso.org/hawaii, or call 422-1213 or 591-2211.

6 / Saturday

Makahiki – Personnel with base access can attend the Makahiki at Hickam Harbor Beach, 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 6. Attendees will learn native Hawaiian culture and protocol at this Hawaiian festival of thanksgiving. This event is sponsored by Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in partnership with the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Call 473-2926.

Ongoing

Military Order of Foreign Wars

– The Military Order of Foreign Wars is establishing a command in Hawaii. Commissioned and warrant officers from all armed services who served overseas during foreign wars (and their hereditary descendants) are eligible. E-mail HI_MOFW@army.com.

Civil Air Patrol

– Civil Air Patrol’s Wheeler Composite Squadron meets every Tuesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Wheeler Army Airfield. The squadron regularly accepts new members, ages 12-18, who are interested in aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and character development. Call 386-1374 or e-mail tony4atmos@aol.com.

MyCAA – The Department of Defense has resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account. Military spouses currently enrolled will be able to receive tuition assistance. Until new accounts can be created, Military OneSource spouse education and career consultants will continue to be available to provide education and training, career exploration, assessment, employment readiness and career search assistance. Call 655-4444.

Recycling Plastic

– Plastic bottle caps and lids can now be recycled at Kapahulu, Maunapuna and Wahiawa Goodwill locations. The project aims to reduce the amount of plastic in the ocean and helps save endangered birds. Caps and lids made from No. 2, 4 and 5 type plastics are recyclable. Call 393-2168 or 656-5411.

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater

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



The Town

(R)
Fri., Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 11, 7 p.m.



You Again

(PG)
Sat., Nov. 6, 4 p.m.

Nanny McPhee Returns

(PG)
Sun., Nov. 7, 2 p.m.

The Expendables

(R)
Wed., Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Sacrifices, courage of military families are honored

NEAL SNYDER

Installation Management Command

SAN ANTONIO — November marks the return of Military Family Appreciation Month.

Throughout November, the Department of Defense and the nation will honor the commitment and sacrifices made by the families of the nation's service members.

More Soldiers have families, today, than at any other time throughout U.S. history. According to the latest report by the Office of Army Demographics, 58 percent of Soldiers are married, and another 6.7 percent are single with children. The Army counted more than 850,000 family members.

These families, already used to a life of deployment and separation, are seeing the effects of more than nine years of persistent conflict.

"Never before in the history of our Army have we asked so much of our families," Gen. George Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, has noted, on several occasions. "They are serving side-by-side with our Soldiers, enduring their hardships, providing the unconditional love and support that truly makes our Army strong."

This year's theme for Military Family Appreciation Month is "Army families – We honor your faithful commitment, strength and resilience."

"To be effective, we have to make sure we are taking care of those things that the Soldier truly cares about," said John McHugh, secretary of the Army, at the recent meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army. "One of the first things every Soldier brings up is how much they care about (and) how concerned they are for the welfare of those loved ones they left behind.

"The last thing we want Soldiers to be worried about ... is whether or not their families are being taken care of," he said.



The Army Family Covenant represents the Army's promise to provide Soldiers and their families a quality of life commensurate to their sacrifice to the nation, said Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, commander, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

"We believe, that if we take care of our families, our Soldiers will do what our nation asks

them," Jones told the AUSA audience.

The covenant is built upon five core commitments from Army leadership:

- 1) Standardize and fully fund family programs and services.
- 2) Increase accessibility and quality of health care.
- 3) Improve Soldier and family housing.
- 4) Ensure excellence in Child, Youth and

Military Family Appreciation Month Events

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, has planned the following events:

- Families can create a Thanksgiving apple turkey, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m., at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter.
 - The Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center will host an open house, Nov. 19, 4-8 p.m. Health assessments and professionals will be available. Call 655-9650.
 - Tropics Recreation Center will host a Harry Potter-themed Family Fun Friday, Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m.
- Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com for events.

School Services.

5) Expand education and employment opportunities for family members.

Even in tight economic times, the Army "is not going to walk away from fully funding the Army Family Covenant," said Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, Installation Management Command. "I am dedicated to deliver on the Army leadership's promise to continue to provide the best care and quality of life possible to Soldiers and their families.

"Our commitment to delivering the Army Family Covenant is nonnegotiable," Lynch said, in the fall issue of the "Journal of Installation Management."

"We will not depart from this commitment," he added.

"Military families are proud, patriotic Americans," said Michelle Obama, first lady, in a July 4 message. "They are some of the most selfless people that I've met. I want to thank those families for their dedication, sacrifice and service."

Leaders at Family Forum pledge to continue improving programs

ELIZABETH M. COLLINS

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Proving that they're the toughest members of the Army, spouses and family readiness group leaders hammered the secretary of the Army, the chief of staff and other top leaders with questions, concerns and compliments at the first Family Forum of the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition, here, Oct. 25.

"In order to be effective, we have to make sure that we are taking care of those things that the Soldier truly cares about," said John McHugh, secretary of the Army, to the standing-room-only crowds at the forum.

"One of the first things every Soldier brings up, is how much they care about (and) how concerned they are with the welfare of those loved ones they left behind: their spouses (and) their family members," McHugh said. "We view this as a moral responsibility.

"As part of the Army family, we in leadership

owe you the kinds of programs and initiatives that take care of your Soldiers, but also take care of you ... I know that for all of our good efforts,



Casey

sometimes we come short," he said.

It fell to Gen. George Casey Jr., Army chief of staff, to find out exactly what is and isn't working from the hundreds of family members at the forum, by conducting the third annual vote on the Army Family Covenant, giving both sides a rare opportunity for total frankness.

"I'm not going to stand up here and tell you all the great things we've done under the Army Family Covenant," Casey said. "I need to understand how it's impacting on you all."

He added that the current spending level of \$1.7 billion on family programs will be sus-

tained during the next five-year spending plan, but asked that family members help identify redundancies in those programs, so that the money can be used even more effectively, "in programs we really need."

The goal Casey announced a few years ago, of standardizing family programs across installations, received mixed reviews from the audience, while Army OneSource and family readiness support assistance were wildly cheered and applauded.

Access to quality health care was both booed and cheered, and seemed to vary by installation, as did respite care for exceptional family members, housing and education. One mother explained that the quality of high schools near installations was especially bad, an issue Casey said the Army is working on closely with state and local government officials. He pointed out that millions have been spent on child care, but the mothers present mostly booed that, as well.

"OK, I can hardly wait for the last one – ex-

panding education employment opportunities for family members? Actually, that was a pleasant surprise," Casey said, after receiving a mixed reaction to changes to Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, commonly known as MyCAA, a program that provides job training-funding for spouses.

To stay solvent, MyCAA recently had to drastically limit eligibility.

During the question and answer period following Casey's remarks, another spouse expressed a concern about whether spouses were actually being discriminated against in the Army civilian hiring process, instead of receiving preference. The chief immediately said an inspector general investigation may be in order.

"We will keep working on this ... we think we've made progress, but you never stop, and your feedback is very important," he said. "The only way that we can fix things, is to keep shining a spotlight on them."



Paul D. Prince | Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs

About 470 U.S. Army Forces Command family readiness group leaders ready themselves for the opening session of the 2010 Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition, Oct. 25. After the opening session, FRG leaders listened and took notes during the first AUSA Family Forum. Keynote speakers were John McHugh, secretary of the Army, and Gen. George Casey Jr., vice chief of staff of the Army.

Family programs won't be source of 'budgetary savings'

C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army leaders promised to leave family support programs intact when looking for ways to lean out the service's massive budget.

"We want to ensure that the family programs we're operating are run well and efficiently, and if we need to make adjustments, so they can be more so, that's fine," said John McHugh, secretary of the Army, "but what we won't do, particularly as a first reaction, is look to those programs as a source of budgetary savings."

During the Oct. 25 opening presentation at the 2010 Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition, here, McHugh discussed the Army's challenge of operating in a constrained-budget environment, as well as efforts to modernize the Army. He and Gen.



McHugh

George Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, went into more detail during a press conference immediately following that ceremony.

In regard to a challenge by Robert Gates, secretary of defense, to the military services — to find ways to trim some \$100 billion from the defense budget during the next five years — the Army's two senior leaders said they won't look to family support programs. They said these programs are important to supporting the all-volunteer force. Instead, they will look to things like restructuring commands and doing portfolio reviews of Army capabilities.

"A lot of what we're finding is coming out of capability portfolio reviews and it's basically redundant programs or nonperforming programs," Casey said, also adding the Army is looking at force structures.

The secretary said a task force is working and will provide a report within 90 days, though he is getting updates on their progress. He also said a good budget policy starts with people.

Joint Services Conference honors Hawaii's military spouses

LANCE CPL. TYLER L. MAIN

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — In the pursuit of knowledge, friendship, resources and enrichment for military spouses, Marine Corps Base Hawaii hosted a Joint-Spouse Conference, here, Oct. 23.

More than 50 presenters, 90 workshops, 40 volunteers and about 300 spouses attended.

"I think these conferences are important because it gives us an opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and be motivated to try something new," said Karen Broadmeadow, this year's director and a Marine spouse.

The JSC host rotates among the services each year, and the theme of this year's conference was "Partners in Paradise." The title recognizes the partnership military spouses have between friends, colleagues, family members, the military and local communities that help spouses be successful.

Spouses went on a historic tour of the base and saw military working dog demonstrations, the Combat Convoy Simulator, waterfront operations, explosive ordnance disposal unit demonstrations, the endangered bird population and the Nuupia Ponds habitat. They also attended various workshops and an information expo.

"It's great that we helped spouses identify resources that they may not have known were available," Broadmeadow said.

The information expo was a buffet of knowledge. Local companies and organizations' representatives set up display tables and talked with spouses, answered questions and provided informational pamphlets.

Among the 26 organizations in attendance were Operation Homefront, Big

Brothers Big Sisters, Hawaii Pacific University and Military OneSource.

"This is, overall, a fantastic way to honor spouses," said Allison Stanton, a workshop co-chair for the JSC. "Every single organization presented for free."

The conference relayed the importance and appreciation of military spouses, and it was an opportunity for spouses to attend diverse learning opportunities.

Many workshops were offered throughout the day, including "Successful Photography in Paradise," "Tablescaping and Event Planning" and "Space-A Travel Tips and Tricks."

"Partners are everything," said keynote speaker Susan Page, an entrepreneur and writer who founded a modeling company after the death of her first husband, a Marine pilot. "Don't be afraid to lead. Follow and go arm and arm with someone. Don't be afraid to get in step with someone. Don't be afraid to dance."

Broadmeadow agreed that camaraderie was an essential part of the event.

"It brings together spouses from all of the services and helps reinforce camaraderie and the purpose we all have as spouses," she said.

Child care and breakfast were provided, and an early evening wine tasting closed the day-long event.

Next year's event will be hosted by the Air Force at Joint Base Peal Harbor-Hickam, and spouses are encouraged to visit the JSC Hawaii

website at www.jschawaii.com for more information.

"People should come join in the celebration of being a military spouse, and take the opportunity to participate in workshops that are enthusiastically presented by the military and local communities," Broadmeadow said.

"It's great that we helped spouses identify resources that they may not have known were available."

— Karen Broadmeadow

Joint-Spouse Conference director

Volunteers participate in Waipahu, JBPHH’s ‘Make a Difference Day’ cleanup

Story and Photo by
PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS ROBERT STIRRUP
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM – Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilians participated in the Pearl Harbor “Make a Difference Day” cleanup at Pearl Harbor and Waipahu, Oct. 23.

Sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu’s Adopt-a-Stream/Adopt-a-Block Program, in partnership with Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the event organized volunteer efforts.

Volunteers removed trash and debris, and they planted native Hawaiian plants at Kapakahi Stream in Waipahu.

“You can see the difference immediately when you look at this site before and after the cleanup,” said Iwalani Sato, community relations specialist, Department

of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu, adding that approximately 100 volunteers supported the event.

“I feel it is very important that we show our support to the community by participating in events like the one today,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Zikiya Watters-Bonnett, assigned to JBPHH.

“We are thankful for their help” said Barbara Tom, interim chair for the Waipahu community coalition.

Adopt-a-Stream, sponsored by Environmental Services’ Storm Water Quality Branch, is a step that residents can take to help improve the quality of streams.

The hands-on Adopt-a-Stream program allows residents and local businesses to make a commitment to keep the city clean and to improve the quality and condition of Oahu’s communities by keeping pollutants off city roads and bodies of water.



Soldiers and Sailors participate in the Pearl Harbor “Make a Difference Day” cleanup at the Kapahaki Stream in Waipahu. The event was hosted by the City and County of Honolulu’s Adopt-a-Stream/Adopt-a-Block program.

Veterans Day parades, events scheduled

Veterans Day, the annual American holiday honoring military veterans, is observed Nov. 11, the anniversary of the end of World War I’s major hostilities.

Following are scheduled events.

6 / Saturday

Waianae Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 6, 9 a.m., starting at the Waianae Boat Harbor. The parade will follow Farrington Highway until Waianae Mall, where the Hoolalea and JROTC drill meet will be held. Spectators and participants can enjoy food, crafts, entertainment and information booths. Call 255-8669.

Big Island Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m., Hilo, Hawaii.

11 / Thursday

Wahiawa Lions Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11, along Cal-

ifornia Avenue, Wahiawa. The parade begins with a joint service color guard at 10 a.m. The grand marshal will be Shigeru Kawamoto, a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion. Call 306-1876 or e-mail rmansho@schn.com.

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, 10 a.m., hosted by Oahu Veterans Council.

Governor’s Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, 1 p.m., Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, 45-349 Kamehameha Hwy., Kaneohe. Gov. Linda Lingle will give remarks.

Kilauea Military Camp Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Big Island. In case of inclement weather, event will be held at the KMC Theater. Park admission

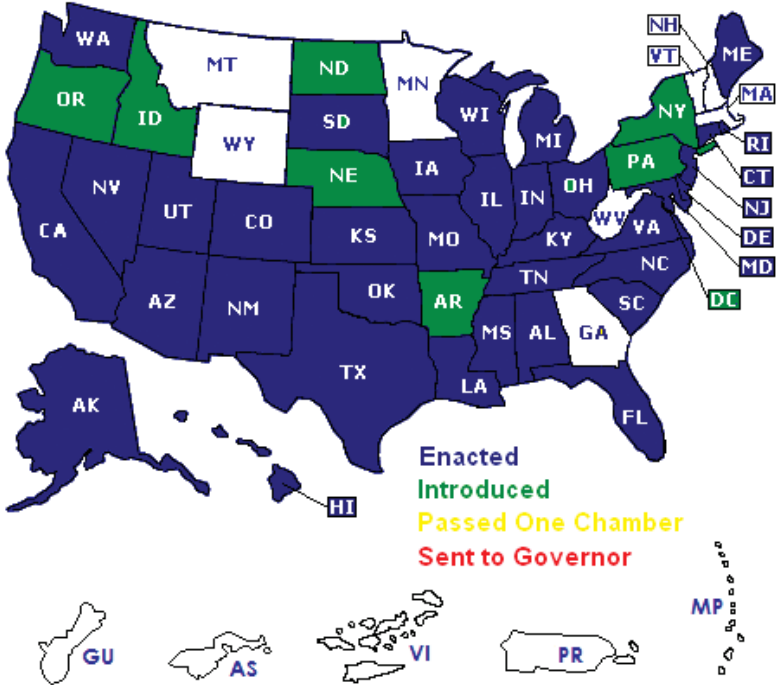
is free on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. All U.S. active duty personnel, retirees and veterans who attend the KMC Veterans Day ceremony can enjoy a free Veterans Day buffet.

Eligible attendees who plan to attend the dinner must register in advance by calling 967-8371.

Battleship Missouri Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony, Nov. 11, 4:45-5:45 p.m., free and open to the public, with advance reservations. Call 455-1600, ext. 222, or visit www.ussmissouri.org.

13 / Saturday

Patriot Run/Walk, Nov. 13, 8 a.m., at the Waterfront at Puuloa. All proceeds will benefit the U.S. Vets Initiative in Kalaeloa for homeless veterans. Early registration deadline is Nov. 6. Late race entries will be accepted on race morning. Visit www.patriotrunhawaii.com.



States that participate in the ICEOMC are denoted in blue, including Hawaii. They help military students while transitioning in between public schools located in the states.

ICEOMC supports, eases transitions for military children in local schools

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Since June 2009, Hawaii joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, or ICEOMC, and continues this agreement to support the needs of military families.

The compact is an agreement among member states that addresses certain public school transition issues, including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.

The compact doesn’t impact curriculum nor require a state to waive its exit exam or any state standards.

Children of active duty service members, and National Guardsmen and reservists on active duty orders, can receive assistance under the compact.

Children of service members who die on active duty or service members who are medically discharged or medically retired for one year are also covered under the compact.

For example, the compact says that parents may request unofficial records, such as class schedules, grades and test scores from their child’s sending school. The receiving school then must accept the unofficial records and program that student into appropriate classes.

The sending school, if a member of the compact, must send the official records 10 days after the receiving school makes request for the records.

“The goal of the compact is to ensure consistency in the transitioning of military students, in every school district of all states who choose to join,” said Darren Dean, military family education liaison, Hawaii State Council.

Dean is also a board member of the ICEOMC. Board members include senior military leaders of all service branches, as well as state legislators and Hawaii Department of Education administrators. Dean’s primary focus is to educate DoE administrators, DoE personnel and parents on the Interstate Compact.

“The Hawaii Department of Education has a long history of accommodating the special needs of transitioning military students, so the compact rules are really just some of things they already do,” said Dr. Kathy Berg, a retired Air Force brigadier general, who is the vice chair of the national commission.

(Editor’s Note: Portions of this article contain information from the ICEOMC website.)



To learn more about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, visit www.mic3.net or call 655-9818.

All Army basketball adds 205th MI’s Herrera to roster

SGT. 1ST CLASS SHERYL L. LAWRY
500th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Spc. Lauren Herrera is not your average basketball enthusiast.

She knows the sport inside and out, and plays a mean point guard on the court.

So, it wasn’t too surprising that her love of the game would lead her to become a member of the gold medal-winning 2010 All Army Women’s Basketball, or AAWB, team.

Herrera, a signal intelligence analyst for the 205th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, was just 5 years old when her father introduced her to the sport.

He had tried to spark her interest in tennis, but tennis “wasn’t aggressive enough” for his daughter. Basketball was.



Courtesy Photo

Spc. Lauren Herrera (right), a signal intelligence analyst for the 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Bde., poses with her mother.

“Basketball was my life before the Army,” Herrera said. “I played year-round. It kept me busy and out of trouble; it allowed me to stay in good physical shape, which has kept me pretty healthy.”

In high school, she was playing varsity basketball and later made the Bethel University, Tenn., basketball team.

After graduating, however, Herrera thought her days of playing organized basketball were over.

One reason she joined the Army was because she missed being on a team.

“Playing ball my whole life, I was always part of a team,” she said.

“When I graduated college, I was lost because I wasn’t part of anything. The Army fills that void; now I have many teammates.”

Yet, Herrera still longed to play organized basketball. She had heard about the AAWB, so when she arrived at the 205th MI Bn., she asked the unit’s first sergeant about the team. He then helped her with the application process.

“I supported her because I believe in the total Army concept,” said 1st Sgt. Benjamin Lemon. “When called to war, you train ... to the highest standard. However, when not directly involved (in combat), I believe Soldiers should have every opportunity to take advantage of what the Army has to offer, from college to sports.”

To prep for tryouts, Herrera created a rigorous training program.

“I went to the gym at 5 a.m., to get some shots off, did (physical training) from 6:30-7:30 a.m., and then (did a) weights workout and one basketball-specific workout, later in the day,” she said.

Lemon explained, “She formed her own program and stuck to it, showing up to camp in better shape than most of the other women.”

“She always puts 110 percent into everything she does; I don’t think anything was going to stop her from making that team,” he added regarding Herrera’s training regimen.

Her hard work paid off.

“I was very excited to see my name on the list,” Herrera said. “Not many people get a chance to have this experience. It meant another means of playing the sport I love and representing the Army. I learned a lot, and I am very grateful.”

This past August, Herrera and her AAWB teammates shut out the Navy to win the gold medal during the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament.

Hoping to repeat this year’s success, she plans to apply for next year’s team too.



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

Costume camaraderie

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers of the 142nd Survey and Design Detachment form the “Ostrich Calvary” during the battalion run and costume contest judged by Lt. Col. Jerry Farnsworth (right), commander, 84th Engineer Bn., 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, during the battalion’s costume run, Oct. 29.

AAFES ‘Operation Be Fit’ encourages healthy lifestyles

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

DALLAS — Soldiers and family members can learn how to improve their health through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s “Operation Be Fit.”

Operation Be Fit is part of AAFES’ total health initiative focused on improving the health of mind, body and soul of every member of the military family.

Healthy nutrition options, fitness programs, family activities and overall wellness information are just a few of the tips provided on the website, which is easy to use, and provides health information for all levels, from novice to expert.

“(AAFES’s) commitment to this issue goes beyond the supplements and running shoes found in our stores,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Helm, enlisted senior advisor, AAFES. “Providing fitness tips and nutritional informa-

tion is just one of the many ways we strive to meet the needs of our patrons.”

Operation Be Fit features events that promote a healthy lifestyle. One example is the Great American Smoke Out day, set for Nov. 18.

AAFES will partner with www.UCanQuit2.org to promote smoking cessation. The smokeout is an event aimed at aiding participants who pledge to go smoke free for a day, on the road to a smoke-free life.



Visit www.opbefit.com to get more information and resources about living a healthy lifestyle.