



Ranger-like event pushes 3rd BCT

1ST LT. ZACHARY KOHL
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, participated in light infantry training at locations across Oahu, including here, at Kahuku Army Training Area and at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Jan. 14-26.

The training mimicked some of the most grueling conditions the Army has to offer.

Lt. Col. Dave Zinn, battalion commander, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd BCT, described it as being like a week from the last phase of Ranger School. Many leaders described the training as one of the most realistic exercises in recent memory.

Soldiers operated as a company and functioned on extremely limited sleep; they moved over miles of difficult terrain and wore heavy body armor up to 22 hours a day, all while facing an evolving enemy that forced their leadership to adapt and integrate intelligence into their strategy.

“We want to train Soldiers in the toughest of conditions,” said Zinn.

The exercise was designed to not only stress Soldiers physically, but to also force their leadership to make decisions in a mentally challenging environment.

“Everybody starts the same, but not everyone has the same ending. What you do in one scenario leads into the next,” said Capt. Sara Webb, squadron intelligence officer, 3-4th Cav., responsible for much of the planning

See 25th A-5

Staff Sgt. Cashmere Jefferson |
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs; 25th Infantry Division

Pfc. Adam Barnwell, 3rd Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, heads back to base during the unit’s situational training exercise, Jan. 24.

(This photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

Dempsey allows women in combat

Integration will strengthen joint force align and enhance with opportunities

CHERYL PELLERIN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Rescinding the policy that has excluded women since 1994 from serving in direct ground combat positions will strengthen the military, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, here, Jan. 24.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey joined Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta at a Pentagon news confer-

ence to announce the decision and to sign a joint memorandum that sets the process in motion.

“Today we are acting to expand the opportunities for women to serve in the United States armed forces and to better align our policies with the experiences we have had over the past decade of war,” Dempsey said. “Ultimately, we’re acting to strengthen the joint force.”

As part of the new policy, the services are reviewing about 53,000 positions now closed by unit, but which will be open to women who meet standards developed for the positions.

According to senior defense officials, the services are also reviewing

about 184,000 positions now closed by specialty, but which will be open to women who meet the standards.

Gender-neutral occupational standards are specific requirements for anyone who wants to qualify for a specific job, an official explained.

If any of the services recommend that a specific position be closed to women, the secretary of defense must personally approve that recommendation, the official said. Panetta directed the military departments to submit detailed implementation plans by May 15 and to move ahead to integrate women into previously closed

See WOMEN A-5



Col. Kevan Jacobson, staff judge advocate, U.S. Pacific Command, gives a speech to Soldiers assigned to the Hawaii Army Tax Center about the great service they are providing fellow Soldiers and their families during the center’s opening ceremony, Friday.

Tax center opens for ‘13

Story and photo by
SGT. MATTHEW RYAN
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — It’s that time again, when people start getting stressed over money.

The time to prepare your 2013 tax returns has arrived.

With all of the new tax laws and the increase in taxes that started with the new year, the process can seem overwhelming to even the experienced do-it-yourself tax preparer.

Hawaii Army Tax Centers, with locations at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter, are the largest on the island, with more than 40 Soldiers from different units across the island trained to provide Soldiers with the best service. Each completed extensive training to obtain required Internal Revenue Service certifications.

Plenty of commercial tax centers will prepare your taxes for a

fee, but the Army tax centers are free for all service members (including Reserve and Guard), Department of Defense civilians, family members and retirees.

The tax center held its opening ceremony, Jan. 25, and opened for business, Monday.

“Soldiers learned a valuable skill that will help other Soldiers and their families save a great deal of money. The training will also remain with them for future years,” said Col. Kevan Jacobson, staff judge advocate for U.S. Army-Pacific Command and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

“Almost 4,000 clients were served, close to a million dollars saved in preparation fees, and over \$10 million in refunds were given back to the Soldiers,” said Jacobson, referring to the numbers set by the tax center last year.

See TAX A-5



Erin Kirk-Cuomo | Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta (right) hands Army Lt. Col. Tamatha Patterson a document, which he just signed, lifting the ban on women in combat roles during a press conference at the Pentagon, Jan. 24. Panetta discussed the new directive with Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It opens all military occupations to females, removing the almost-20-year ban of women serving in combat on the front lines.

New system for OERs | A-2

Mature system to be replaced with new.

From Iraq to DC | A-4

Chic shoes admired down-range lead an 8th TSC NCO to President Obama’s 2nd Inaugural Ball.



Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium | B-1

Football and tailgating are at their Hawaiian finest.



NFL & Ohana | B-2, B-4, B-5

Post schools, Soldiers and families score with football fun.



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New Army OER system keeps best officers

Story & photo by
SGT. MATTHEW RYAN

25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Army is in the process of changing the way it evaluates officers, according to Maj. Gen. Richard Mustion, commander, Army Human Resources Command, during a briefing at the main post chapel, Jan. 23.

HRC is engaging with the Army to discuss some major changes in policies and procedures, such as the new Army Officer Evaluation Reporting system, scheduled for implementation December 2013.

The current system is mature and works, but it is just not in line with current Army doctrine.

The new OER will help accurately evaluate the performance and potential of Army officers, to create a more transparent process for officer assignments and selection.

“The new OER system will help better align with current Army leadership doctrine,” said Mustion.

Three specific grade plates will be used to refer to the different groups of officer ranks. The first version is for officers in the rank of captain and below, the second for field grade officers and chief warrant officers, and the last for colonels and brigadier generals.

The current system allows raters to give all of their subordinates top marks. The new form will only allow raters to give top marks to less than 50 percent of their rated officers.

“Previously, there was not an account-



Maj. Gen. Richard Mustion, commander, Army Human Resources Command, discusses major issues and upcoming changes involving the Officer Evaluation Reporting system during a briefing at the Main Post Chapel, Jan. 23. Mustion met with captains through colonels to talk about the new OER system and how it will help the Army maintain the best and most-qualified officers for future leaders.

ability measure to identify the top performers of our officers,” said Mustion. “The system we are trying to implement will help identify our very best performers, those who truly excel,” he said.

HRC is implementing measures for core accountability by making sure that the rater is within the officer’s chain of command.

“The rater is exclusively focused on performance, and the senior rater is exclusively focused on an officer’s potential,” Mustion said.

BACKTObASICS

B2B returns to garrison

SGT. MAJ. GUY FARR

311th Signal Command (Theater)

We hear a lot these days about the Army getting back to the basics, learning how to function as a garrison Army, caring for Soldiers, and more.

The reasoning goes that insufficient opportunities have been available for Soldiers to learn to function as a garrison Army, due to the high operational tempo we’ve experienced since we were attacked on 9/11.

On average, these new Soldiers have spent less time in garrison and more time in combat zones than did anyone the 10 years prior to 9/11. For them, it’s not a matter of going back to the basics. It’s a matter of learning for the first time how to function for long periods in a garrison setting. I’ll call it “Forward to the Basics.”

How do we go about bringing garrison skills back into the Army equation? In past years, I’ve seen company, battalion and brigade commanders resort to UCMJ action, both non-judicial and courts-martial, but I don’t see this fixing the problem. In many cases, the problems were small enough to take care of at a much lower level: a squad leader, platoon sergeant, noncommissioned officer in charge, first sergeant, sergeant major or a command sergeant major who could have turned the Soldier around at an early stage.

As NCOs, we need to be more involved with the Soldiers under our care, and mentor not only those for whom we are directly responsible, but Soldiers at all levels in the command. We also need to keep issues at the lowest level to show Soldiers that the NCO support channel is viable for them.

Pride in our surroundings was instilled in the past by grumpy old men and women with lots of stripes. A Soldier wouldn’t dream of walking past trash on the ground or dropping a cigarette butt in a parking lot, for fear the first sergeant or sergeant major would see them.

We, as NCOs, need to ensure that

we lead by example. If you see trash, pick it up. If there’s a weed growing in the sidewalk, pull it. Take pride in your post, and take ownership of your area’s cleanliness.



Farr

A decade of contracted post maintenance seems to have bred a “not my job” mentality. Area beautification and post cleanup details have never been the favorite pastime of any Soldier, but now Soldiers seem to feel they are being punished unfairly if they have to pick up a piece of trash that they didn’t throw down.

Before contractors, Soldiers mowed lawns, picked up litter, swept sidewalks and pulled weeds as a regular part of a duty day. As overseas contingency operations spin down and dollars dry up, more Soldiers are in a garrison assignment, and fewer dollars will be budgeted for contractors. Soldiers will again take over area maintenance.

In the 311th Signal Command, Soldiers perform building maintenance now. Soldiers take pride in their surroundings when they are responsible for the upkeep of those surroundings. Ignoring trash on the ground draws the ire of those senior NCOs in the area, so Soldiers are beginning, again, to take pride in area maintenance.

As senior NCOs, we also relish the role of mentoring enlisted Soldiers, NCOs and junior officers, ensuring that Army traditions are passed on to the next generation.

As senior NCOs, we are responsible for all training in our respective units.

Therefore, it is incumbent on us to pass on our values and traditions, so that garrison Soldiering skills are not lost to future generations.

(Editor’s note: Farr is the senior enlisted leader, Military Intelligence, 311th SC(T).)

FiRSTSTEPS in FAITH

Marriage benefits from eight humbling words

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DONALD EUBANK

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

One of the privileges of being a chaplain is performing wedding ceremonies.

Most chaplains meet for several premarital counseling sessions before committing to performing a wedding. During those premarital counseling sessions, chaplains attempt to help couples consider their roles in some of the most challenging issues for husbands and wives, including finances, couples communication, deployments, children, in-laws, dating, intimacy, expectations and responsibilities.

I always challenge couples to consider what I call “the eight most valuable words” — “I’m sorry; I was wrong. Please forgive me.”

One of the hardest things we ever face as humans is admitting we were wrong. Humbling ourselves to apologize is so difficult, especially for men. No wonder, so many wives are frustrated by their husbands! We have such a hard time admitting we are wrong, even when it is obvious. We’d just rather drop the issue, forget it and move on.

My freshman philosophy professor shared a story that dramatizes our struggle as men about how his pride kept him from listening to his wife. It was 1942, and Hammond in Denver, Colo., needed to make a trip to Los Angeles.

The highways in those early post-war years were not the well-marked freeways we enjoy today. After a zero-dark-thirty departure the second day of driving, the Hammonds stopped for a late breakfast at a roadside restaurant.

“I think we’re headed the wrong way,” said his wife, about 30 minutes after leaving the restaurant.



Eubank

Ralph insisted that he was headed west and asked his wife to relax. A few hours later, Mrs. Hammond demanded that her husband stop the car. Thinking his wife felt sick, Hammond pulled over, and she got out of the car.

“I am not getting back into the car until you turn around,” she said. “I know we’re going the wrong way!”

Hammond finally consented to turning the car around to appease his wife, even though he was certain he was right. Half an hour later, he stopped to ask a farmer for directions, and the farmer confirmed he was now headed west. Ralph realized he’d spent half the day driving the wrong direction.

“Students, my wife and I ate dinner at the same restaurant where we ate breakfast that day, all because I was too proud to listen to my wife and admit I was wrong!” Hammond told us.

What a gift we men can give ourselves when we let go of the relentless need to always be right — and what a gift to our families. Admitting our mistakes and asking for forgiveness are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of deep strength. It takes a real man to humble himself and admit he was wrong.

Asking for forgiveness frees those we have offended with our pride from being angry with us. Letting go of our denial, we empower those close to us to forgive us, and our relationships can heal and truly move on. It is only through humility and forgiveness that relationships are restored.

We could all tell a story, or two, about how our stubbornness and refusal to apologize nearly destroyed a relationship with someone we really cared about. I encourage you today to practice these eight valuable words.

As parents, we can model this to our children, and teach them how important it can be to say “I’m sorry; I was wrong. Please forgive me.” The payback is amazing.

Ask any parent how they felt when they were able to offer their love and forgiveness to a repentant child.

Voices of Ohana

“What is your reaction to the DOD’s decision to lift the direct combat exclusion rule for woman in the military?”

Photos by 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs



“Don’t care, as long as they are held to the same physical training standards and test.”

Spc. Jonathan Greene
Combat engineer
34th Sapper Co.,
65th Eng. Bn., 130th
Eng. Bde., 8th TSC



“I was actually expecting that it was going to change, because society is moving in a new direction.”

Sgt. Malorie Latus
Generator mechanic
Co. E, 2nd Bn.,
27th Inf. Regt.,
25th CAB, 25th ID



“I agree with the decision, and believe we are all one team.”

Tua Misi
Retired disabled
veteran



“I say yes. Women have been serving, and I have my wonderful daughter-in-law serving, and I know she wants to be all she can be.”
Martha O’Connor
Homemaker



“I believe we are an additional power to the force. There may be those who will doubt. We just have to prove them wrong!”

Spc. Johanny Poirier
Human resources
specialist, HHC,
2nd SBCT, 25th ID



Maj. William Hannan (left), commander, FEST-A, hugs daughter Caroline for the first time in nine months as William Hollingsworth, Department of the Army structural engineer and FEST-A team member, gets a hug and a kiss from his wife, Col. Kimberly Rapacz, following a redeployment ceremony, Jan. 24.

District welcomes home 565th Eng. Det. from OEF

Story and photo by
JOSEPH BONFIGLIO
Honolulu District Public Affairs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FORT SHAFTER — Honolulu District family members and coworkers welcomed home the 565th Engineer Detachment, Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance (FEST-A), with lei and plenty of hugs at a redeployment ceremony, Jan. 24, marking the official end of the detachment’s successful support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Col. Gregory Gunter, commander, Pacific Ocean Division, presided over the ceremony and commended the spirit of volunteerism that the team members exemplify.

“In the nine months deployed in support of overseas contingency operations, the 565th FEST-A provided essential engineering support to the combatant commander,” Gunter said. “This unit’s unique skills and capabilities have made a significant engineering impact here at home in the Pacific, as well as downrange.”

The eight-man detachment deployed to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, in March, and provided technical engineering support to Regional Command-South.

While in Afghanistan, they provided vital sup-

port to coalition forces, were instrumental in improving electricity distribution in key areas of Kandahar and worked on Afghan capital improvement projects.

“These capital improvement projects will be the enduring legacy of coalition and U.S. efforts from the last decade. The Afghan government will be the recipient of a great opportunity to provide multiple levels of services to its citizens that would most probably not have been available for another 30 years,” said Lt. Col. Robert Bensburg, officer in charge of infrastructure, Regional Command-South Stability Division.

“The detachment worked extremely hard during the deployment and made an outstanding contribution to the Afghanistan mission. They provided excellent technical engineer support during our nine-month rotation,” said Maj. William Hannan Jr., commander, 565th Eng. Det. “I couldn’t be prouder of this team.”

The FEST-A consists of a detachment commander, a noncommissioned officer in charge and six Department of Defense civilians who serve in the jobs of a geographic information system specialist and in civil, structural, environmental, mechanical and electrical engineering disciplines. Other engineers are available for augmentation depending on the mission.

Army takes helm from Navy

Joint-service ceremony honors traditions of Soldiers and Sailors

Story and photo by
2ND LT. CARLIE TURNNIDGE
84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

CAMP COVINGTON, Guam — The 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, took command of Camp Covington from the SeaBees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 during a change of charge ceremony at the camp’s headquarters on U.S. Naval Base Guam, here, Jan. 17.

The ceremony began with remarks from NMCB 74’s officer in charge, Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Casperson. He welcomed and thanked the troops and organizations for their assistance in the success of their six-month deployment.

“I am pleased to add to that long list of accomplishments and memories,” he said.

When NMCB 74 took charge of Camp Covington in July 2012, SeaBees began their work on two turnover construction projects.

“Since that time, we have completed three of those five projects, and will be turning over the other two projects to the 84th Eng. Bn.,” said Casperson. “Our builders, steelworkers, plumbers and electricians all received extensive experience as they dedicated countless hours to the maintenance and upkeep of this historic SeaBee camp.”

Casperson spoke about his unit’s successful completion of a Camp Covington softball heads project, the Covington Medical Facility and the first 35 percent of a large concrete water storage tanker facility at Polaris Point. NMCB 74 also supported its forward deployed sites in Palau, Yap, the Philippines, Timore Leste and Cambodia.

The 84th “Never Daunted” Eng. Bn. is confident and ready for the opportunities and challenges this deployment will provide, Casperson said.

“We are proud to be here,” said Lt. Col. Aaron Reisinger, commander, 84th Eng. Bn. “We understand the legacy of the SeaBees here on Guam and the historical impact they have made here since World War II. Let me assure you, we fully intend to live up and honor the SeaBees’ contribution to the Navy, Guam, and this region.”

The turnover ceremony, called a change of charge ceremony in Navy parlance, integrated the Army culture with the Navy culture. Both Army and Navy cultures were represented in the ceremony.

The NMCB 74 flag was lowered, signaling the end of the unit’s deployment; the uncasing of the 84th’s colors indicated the beginning of its deployment. The Navy tradition of lowering the colors and the Army’s tradition of casing the colors made the ceremony unique.

The 84th Eng. Bn. will contribute to a variety of construction projects during its nine months at Camp Covington and while seeing action in various islands like Palau, Marshall Islands and Micronesia.



Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Constante (right), senior enlisted leader, and Lt. Col. Aaron Reisinger, commander, both with the 84th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, uncasing the colors to signal the battalion’s deployment, Jan. 17.

Thompson retires, Cherry assumes responsibility of 311th Signal

Semaphore flag signals highlight ceremony

Story and photo by
CRISTA MACK
311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Thompson officially relinquished responsibility of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) to Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Cherry, who became the senior enlisted leader at historic Palm Circle, here, Friday.

In keeping with Signal Corps tradition, the official ceremony was conducted silently via semaphore flag communications.

The red and white flags are the historic original form of battlefield communications and can direct entire troop movements silently. More recently, the flags have been used in present-day ceremonies as a formal honor to Signal heritage.

Following the official passing of the sword, a tradition signifying passing of responsibility, an

official retirement ceremony honored and bade farewell to Thompson, who served the U.S. Army with 32 years of dedicated service.

“When a Soldier serves his country more than 30 years, he generally serves because of his passion and commitment to defend that idea that we call freedom,” said keynote speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams, Network Enterprise Command senior enlisted leader, 9th Sig. Cmd. “While it takes a unit to get the job done, every unit needs a strong noncommissioned officer — one that enforces standards, instills values and discipline; one that ensures the command climate is conducive for leaders, Soldiers, civilian and team development.

“That NCO must also help shape goals and conditions of the commander’s vision to become a reality, and since January 2010, Thompson has been that noncommissioned officer,” he said.

Williams also spoke of his confidence in Cherry’s ability to carry the torch as the senior NCO of the command.

“As he takes the reigns of this organization,

rest assured that he’s the right Soldier at the right time for this enormous responsibility,” said Williams. “I am confident that Command Sgt. Maj. Cherry will hit the ground running; you will feel his presence on day one.”

Cherry’s assignment with the 311th comes after a successful two-year tour as the senior enlisted leader for the 516th Signal Brigade, a direct reporting unit of the 311th. Headquartered at Fort Shafter, the 516th is the most geographically dispersed Signal Brigade in the U.S. Army. Now, as the 311th senior enlisted leader, his assignment grows to include and encompass all Signal units of the Pacific.

“I’m honored to be part of the 311th team today, and I’m looking forward to the challenge,” said Cherry.

After the change of responsibility ceremony, the departing Thompson was honored with an official retirement and flag folding ceremony.

“Remember, that knowledge you gain is not solely yours to keep but yours to pass on,” said Thompson.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams (right), senior enlisted leader, 9th Sig. Cmd., passes the noncommissioned officer’s sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Cherry, incoming senior enlisted leader, 311th Sig. Cmd., symbolizing his new responsibility as leader of troops, during a command change of responsibility ceremony on Palm Circle, Friday.

NCOs pass boards, inducted into Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

SPC. ARIANA CARY
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Each candidate entered the room after three deafening knocks on the door. Standing at attention before a table where five sergeants major were seated, this moment was the candidate’s opportunity to face the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board and become a member of the prestigious club.

Out of five noncommissioned officer candidates who began the 25th Infantry Division’s SAMC board, Jan. 23-25, only two were chosen for induction on the third day. The NCOs competed against themselves, not each other.

Chosen were Staff Sgt. Benjamin Connell, squad leader, Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Reel, squad leader, Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT.

“What really led me to want to be a part of the organization was that I had NCOs in the past who were in the club, and my first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Jimmy Ha, was a huge influence on me,” Connell said. “Ever since I got here, I’ve wanted to emulate him. His performance as a leader and how he’s a member of the club made me decide I want to be like him.”

Day one of the board consisted of an Army physical fitness test. Candidates were required to score 90 percent or higher to move on to the next day’s road march. During day two, candidates were required to complete an eight-mile road march in three-and-a-half hours with a 40-pound rucksack while wearing body armor. The road

march finished at the range with weapons qualification.

“The road march was definitely a gut check,” Reel said. “By the sixth mile, I had to stop and drop my rucksack because my legs were cramping, but when I finally crossed that finish line, I felt relieved, because I had made it.”

The third day involved a traditional board. Candidates were asked the customary questions about Army regulations and standards. However, other questions were of hypothetical situations, many of which involved sexual harassment, finances, combat first aid and physical fitness.

An induction ceremony was held at

the Nehelani Club, Schofield Barracks, Tuesday. Three Soldiers, Connell, Reel and Staff Sgt. Adam Bizich, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, from a previous board, were presented with the Sgt. Audie Murphy medallion and framed award certificates.

“It’s hard to get into this program, and I applaud you,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens, senior enlisted leader, 25th ID. “You were recognized by senior leaders that you have the skill and continued potential to take the responsibility of the positions they are in. You understand your role, your commitment, and you represent the Army’s Warrior Class.”

Newest Inductees at 2nd SBCT

- Staff Sgt. Benjamin Connell, squad leader, Co. C, 1-27th Inf. Regt
- Staff Sgt. Matthew Reel, squad leader, Co. B, 1-27th Inf. Regt



Photos by Sgt. Daniel Johnson | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs; 25th Infantry Division

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Connell (right), squad leader, Co. C, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, salutes Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, commander, 25th ID, after being awarded the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medallion during a ceremony in the Sgt. Smith Theater, Tuesday.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Reel (left), squad leader, Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, receives congratulations from Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens, senior enlisted leader, 25th ID, after receiving the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medallion during an induction ceremony in the Sgt. Smith Theater, Tuesday. The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club is founded on traditional warrior values and upholds the highest traditions of the Army.



WASHINGTON — Sgt. Ashleigh Berg (right), strength management non-commissioned officer, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, poses for a photo with her date, her father, Ron Safinick, at the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Ball, here, Jan. 21.

Shoes take NCO to Inaugural Ball

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. GAELEN LOWERS
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — In 2010, while at Camp Victory, Iraq, 11 female Soldiers received the opportunity to eat lunch with and ask questions of Dr. Jill Biden, second lady of the United States.

Sgt. Ashleigh Berg, currently the strength management noncommissioned officer for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, was among those hand-selected to receive the honor.

When it came time for Berg to ask the second lady something poignant and meaningful, the only thing that came to her mind was, “Ma’am, I love your shoes! Where did you get them?”

That question stuck in Dr. Biden’s mind and opened several doors for Berg during the past two years; it netted Berg her invitations to both the 2012 State of the Union Address, as well as this year’s Inaugural Ball — all because of Berg’s and Dr. Biden’s shared love of footwear.

“I am a shoe person,” said Berg. “I own more than 50 pairs of shoes. After meeting in Iraq that first time, I was able to snap a photo of myself and Dr. Biden. I sent them to my mom who is a big fan of hers. My mom sent the pictures to the White House to see if Dr. Biden would sign them. Not only did she sign them, but she and my mom stayed in contact, and my mom was invited out to the White House to meet her!”

A year ago, almost to the day, Berg received contact from the White House inviting her to be Dr. Biden’s escort to the 2012 State of the Union Address.

“It felt as if I had just won an Oscar!” Berg exclaimed. “I sat right next to her and close to Michelle Obama during the whole speech.”

This year, Berg was again invited to the White House for the 2013 Inaugural Ball, a large social gathering of both white tie and black ties, held to celebrate the commencement of the new term of the President of the United States.

“It’s a big honor to be invited,” Berg said. “It’s even better that they gave me a second ticket.”

Berg plans on taking her father to the ball. “I’m more excited for him,” said Berg. “When I told my dad, he literally started sobbing. It was very moving, and I’m excited to be able to give him this chance.”

Last year, Berg was able to spend a lot of quality time with the second lady.

“She’s the nicest person I’ve ever met,” she said with a grin. “She showed me her shoes at the State of the Union, too, and they were gorgeous.”

This year, she will have the same opportunity. “I can’t wait to see what shoes she has on this year!” Berg exclaimed.



Sgt. Jeffrey Ligohr (right), Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, and Spc. Travis Duckworth (left), Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 11th FA Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, train with handheld counter IED equipment as part of Enabler Training during a two-day operators course, held recently. Enabler Training is happening across the brigade in preparation for the upcoming Warrior Spear brigade field exercise and rotation at the National Training Center.

Handheld scanners use technology to detect hidden threats, save lives

2nd SBCT gets hands-on detectors Goldie, Gizmo and Minehound

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. SEAN EVERETTE
2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Trainers from the Asia-Pacific Counter Improvised Explosive Device Fusion Cell spent the past two weeks teaching 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Soldiers how to detect IEDs using handheld devices.

The first week was a five-day train-the-trainer course, so Soldiers could go back to their units and train others; the second week was a pair of two-day operator courses, designed to familiarize Soldiers with equipment.

“They can open the equipment up, put it in operation and work it,” said Terry Perez, lead trainer for the cell.

Instructors in the class taught three different detection devices: the “Goldie,” the “Gizmo” and the “Minehound.”

The DSP 27 Goldie is a device specifically designed to detect wires in the ground, said Perez. The Vallon VMC1 Gizmo is a metal detector already in use in Afghanistan, and the VMR2 Minehound is a newer piece of detection equipment that can detect metal and any other objects that may be buried, with a mix of traditional metal detection and ground-penetrating radar.

“The way it works is, the metal detector sends electrical currents through the ground,” said Perez. “The metal sends off an electromagnetic field. The Minehound picks the field up and sends off a signature. The ground-

penetrating radar sends off radio frequencies, much like sonar. It sends it down, picks it up, then returns and gives a signal.”

Ultimately, this training and equipment should equate to fewer IED casualties by detecting explosives before they can cause any damage.

“The bottom line is saving people’s lives,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Newman, 66th Engineer Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT, one of the Soldiers who took the train-the-trainer course. “Instead of stepping on the IEDs or stepping on the pressure plates, you can find them a lot better and quicker, a lot easier.”

After taking the class, Newman believes more Soldiers should also go through the training.

“Send as many people to the class as possible,” he said. “It’s essential.”

Women : Approach to be purposeful and principled

CONTINUED FROM A-1

positions.

The secretary directed the process to be complete by Jan. 1, 2016.

Women make up about 15 percent, or nearly 202,400, of the U.S. military’s 1.4 million active duty personnel. During the past decade, more than 280,000 women have deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 152 of them have died.

Recalling his arrival in Baghdad as commander of the 1st Armored Division in 2003, Dempsey said many women in uniform already have served in combat. During his first foray out of the forward operating base, he said, he hopped into an up-armored humvee.

“I asked the driver who he was and where he was from,” Dempsey recalled, “(and) then I slapped the turret gunner around the leg and

said, ‘Who are you?’ She leaned down and said, ‘I’m Amanda.’”

The female turret-gunner was protecting her division commander, the chairman said, “and it’s from that point on that I realized something had changed, and it was time to do something about it.”

The Joint Chiefs share common cause on the need to start the process of integrating women into combat-related jobs that have been closed to them, and to do it right, Dempsey said.

“We’re committed to a purposeful and a principled approach,” he said, adding that the Joint Chiefs developed a set of guiding principles for successfully integrating women into previously restricted occupational fields.

The department and the services

will extend opportunities to women in a way that maintains readiness, morale and unit cohesion and preserves warfighting capability, Dempsey said, to uphold the nation’s trust and confidence.

“We’ll also integrate women in a way that enhances opportunity for everyone. This means setting clear standards of performance for all occupations based on what it actually takes to do the job,” the chairman explained.

“It also means ensuring that these standards are gender-neutral in occupations that will open to women,” he added.

The services and U.S. Special Operations Command will begin expanding the number of units and the number of women assigned to those units this year, the chairman said.

25th: Scenarios train

CONTINUED FROM A-1

behind the training.

The training followed a free flow design. For example, flying into the Bellows Training Area, a company might encounter a riot outside the gate. How its commander handled that scenario would set up how the rest of the training would proceed, explained Webb.

This type of interactive training was difficult to develop, but was very useful for many of the junior leaders going through the training.

“This is the first time I have ever experienced that,” said 1st Lt. Kolby Kendrick, 3rd Platoon leader, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regt.

While the exercise was tough, leaders emphasized the importance of training hard.

“It is getting them ready for a potential mission to Afghanistan, hiking up the mountains. It is about learning how your body reacts to the heat and wearing your body armor all the time,” said 1st Lt. Andy Ferrara, executive officer, Co. A, 2-27th Inf. Regt.

While the exercise was hard, in the eyes of leaders, it was worth it.

“They are doing great; they are physically and mentally exhausted,” said Zinn. “I think they are challenged and I think they are uncomfortable and I think when they are done they are going to love it!”

Tax: Centers open

CONTINUED FROM A-1

He said troops benefit from the outstanding, professional and free service.

“We hope to be able to serve more clients and save even more money than last year,” said Capt. Whitney Wiles, tax center officer in charge.

Due to the expected volume of clients, the centers are taking clients by appointment only, said Wiles. In past years, the wait time could be more than two hours.

“We have been getting phone calls for almost two weeks now,” said Sgt. Joseph Robinson, tax preparer. “I have personally scheduled over 75 appointments for the upcoming weeks.”

To make the process faster, the tax centers ask that individuals bring the following required documents: military I.D. cards and social security cards for family members, bank account and routing numbers for faster returns using direct deposit, pay stubs or W2s received for the year 2012, and last year’s return.

If a spouse is filing “married, filing jointly,” without the sponsor present, the spouse can download a power of attorney and Declaration of Representative, Form 2848, at www.irs.gov, if he or she doesn’t already have a POA set up.

Scheduling Appointments

Visit the Hawaii Army Tax Center in Building 648, Schofield Barracks, located at the corner of Foote Avenue and Lewis Street, across from Sgt. Smith Theater. The Fort Shafter tax center is located in the Aloha Center with limited hours of operation. Call 655-1040.

For up-to-date information and a complete list of items or services available, visit www.facebook.com/hawaiiarmytaxcenters.



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

Soldiers with the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, jog along Makua Beach during a command post exercise at Makua Valley, last year. The U.S. Army is seeking public comment now through March 22 on a marine resources study to determine whether military activities at MMR have affected resources at the beach and surrounding areas.

West Oahu community input sought for Army marine study

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
Public Affairs Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The U.S. Army is seeking public comments through March 22 on a draft sampling and analysis plan to study marine resources at Makua Beach and surrounding areas.

This draft plan is part of an overarching supplemental marine resources study to determine whether military activities at Makua Military Reservation (MMR) have contributed or will contribute to contamination of the marine resources near Makua, and whether the proposed Army training activities at MMR pose a health risk to area residents who rely on these marine resources for food or other purposes.

The community can view or download the plan online at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/makua. Click “2013 Draft MR Study” on the left side of the page.

The plan is also available at Waianae, Kapolei and Wai-
alua public libraries, under the title “Draft Supplemental Marine Resources Sampling and Analysis Plan, Makua Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii.”

Comments may be submitted by email at usaghi.pao.comrel@us.army.mil or by mail to U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Environmental Division; Attn: Marine Study-Public Comments; 948 Santos Dumont Ave.; Schofield Barracks, HI 96857.

The community will also have an opportunity to provide comments in person during a public meeting, Feb. 20, at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (89-980 Nanakuli

Ave., Waianae). The meeting will consist of an informal information session from 6:30-7 p.m., with Army subject matter experts available to answer questions about the study, followed by a facilitated public comment session from 7-9:30 p.m.

Comments must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 22. Individuals who have questions about submitting comments can call 656-3089.

The Army will take all public comments into consideration before finalizing the plan.

Once the draft plan is finalized, the next step in the study will be to conduct species sampling in the ocean and analysis of the samples. The Army will continue to engage the community throughout the study.

The supplemental marine resources study was ordered by the Federal District Court, June 20, 2012. The Army appreciates the community’s interest and involvement in this study.

Marine Resources Study

View or download the plan online from www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/makua; click “2013 Draft MR Study,” on the left side of the page.

Provide comments at the Feb. 20 meeting at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School; meeting is 6:30-9:30 p.m., comprised of information and public comment sessions.

Submit comments by mail or email by March 22.

News Briefs

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

February 2 / Saturday

Big Bang — Expect a loud boom around 8:30 a.m. as the division cannon on Weyand Field sounds to begin the Bronco Memorial Run.

Power Outage — A power outage is scheduled for Schofield Barracks buildings 1500, 1502 and 1503, for installing electric meters. Call 265-7497.

4 / Monday

Macomb Gate Open — Macomb Gate will open to inbound and outbound traffic, 5 a.m.-7 p.m., weekdays, during Macomb roundabout construction.

5 / Tuesday

GSA Closure — Schofield GSA Global Supply will be closed until Feb. 8, for 2013 annual inventory. The Hickham GSA facility will be open.

5 / Tuesday

Testing — The Schofield Army Education Center offers free College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) every Tuesday, from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Education Center, Bldg. 560, Rm. 214.

Study guides are available at the Learning Resource Center, Rm. 203. Visit hpunationaltestingcenters.wordpress.com/about/

11 / Monday

Fort Shafter Gym Closure — Weight Room #1, the Nautilus Equipment Room, in the physical fitness center in Bldg. 665, will be closed for lighting system replacement, Feb. 11-20. It will reopen at 5:30 a.m., Feb. 21. Call 438-1152.

13 / Wednesday

Memorial Service — A unit memorial service will be held for Spc. Trevor McGurran, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, is scheduled in the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel at 1 p.m.

15 / Friday

Scholarship Deadline — Applications for Tillman Military Scholars remain open until 11:59:59 p.m. PST. This scholarship supports active and veteran service members and their spouses to complete a degree program of their choice. Visit <http://bit.ly/VrROpe>

20 / Wednesday

“Veterans of Color” Film Festival — From World War II through Vietnam, and more recently, learn stories of African-American men and women who served in our nation’s armed forces. The festival is specially presented Feb. 20-22 by the Honolulu Museum of Arts’ African-American Film Festival, in conjunction with the 25th Infantry Division and Schofield Barracks Team EO/EEO. Call 655-9378.

26 / Tuesday

Black History Month — Join the celebration, 11:30 a.m., at the Tropics Warrior Zone, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0240.

27 / Wednesday

Facebook Town Hall — The next online Facebook Town Hall, hosted by Col. Daniel Whitney, commander, USAG-HI, is 6-7:30 p.m., Feb. 27, at www.facebook.com/usaghawaii, under the “Events” tab.

If your question does not pertain to the public at large, email the Interactive Customer Evaluation System, or ICE, at <http://ice.disa.mil>, or Ask the Garrison Commander at AskTheCommander.usaghi@us.army.mil.

Ongoing

Stover Gate — To reduce traffic congestion, until further notice, Stover Gate on Wheeler Army Airfield is open for outbound traffic only from 5:30-7:30 a.m., weekdays. Traffic must turn right onto Kamehameha Highway. Call 656-6750.

Noise Advisory — Residents near Schofield Barracks may experience periodic increases in noise through Feb. 20, as a result of scheduled field artillery training. Training dates are subject to change due to weather. Call 656-3487.

For all advisories, visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on the “News & Events tab, and then on “Advisories.”



We Recycle

Did you know that when you recycle, the Garrison earns money?

This year the Army Recycling Program was able to donate \$100,000 for the 4th of July event! **Keep recycling!**





Adm. Cecil Haney (left), commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, prepares to flip the ceremonial coin, as NFC Captain Jeff Saturday (right, #63), Green Bay Packers, calls out the coin toss for the NFC before the start of the 2013 Pro Bowl, at Aloha Stadium, Sunday, with the support of NFL game officials and Charles Tillman (2nd right, #33), NFC co-captain, also participating. The NFC prevailed 62-35 over the AFC in the annual all-star contest.

NFL Pro Bowl stars, Hawaii military share spotlight

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. JOHN JOHNSON III
 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command
 Public Affairs
 HONOLULU — The National Football League honored military members from all branches during the Pro Bowl, played at Aloha Stadium, here, Sunday.
 This year's "Salute to Service" program was

part of the NFL's ongoing effort to recognize military service members.
 The annual game featured top NFL players, chosen for the game by fans and coaches.
 The 2013 Pro Bowl began with a coin toss between Army leaders and a performance of the National Anthem by rhythm and blues superstar Brian McKnight.
 Soldiers received a special tribute during

halftime when the NFL showcased more than 1,000 service members on the football field.
 "I thought the Pro Bowl halftime show, featuring service members and their families, was touching and captured the support and warmth we feel from the local community throughout the year," said Lt. Col. Glenn Woolgar, G4, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

Soldiers, spouses and children expressed appreciation and excitement having the game in such close proximity to their home.
 "It's my dream to live in Hawaii and attend the Pro Bowl every year. I am just enjoying this game, and I hope it comes back next year," said Spc. Hackett William, supply clerk, who attended the game with his wife Jennifer.
 Sunday's game culminated a week of Pro Bowl activities throughout Oahu, which included special military events.
 The National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC) practiced at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 23, and players took ample time to sign autographs and pose for pictures with service and family members.
 A visit to Schofield Barracks, Jan. 24, featured stops at Wheeler Middle School and a lunch with members of the Wounded Warriors Battalion (see photos, p. B-4).
 Players also held their final practices before thousands of fans, including busloads of Soldiers and family members from Schofield Barracks, during "Ohana (Family) Day," at Aloha Stadium, Saturday.



Pro Bowl 2013 kicked off with a military color guard and later continued with the NFL's "Salute to Service" program halftime show, during which more than 1,000 service members walked out onto the field with their family members and helped move equipment.

Tailgating 'NFL-style' generates allegiances

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. GAELN LOWERS
 8th Sustainment Command Public Affairs
 HONOLULU — Sounds, shouts and songs filled the air at Aloha Stadium as service members from all branches joined the local community in welcoming the National Football League's best players for the 2013 Pro Bowl, here, Sunday.
 But for thousands, the celebration started hours earlier in the stadium parking lot.
 Fans, including large numbers of service members, their friends and families, poured into the parking lot to play games, eat food and socialize with their families and fellow football fans.
 "We like to tailgate every Pro Bowl," said retired Navy Chief Darryl James, a die-hard Cleveland Browns fan. "We like to come out, have a good time, grill, eat a lot of food, socialize and just really enjoy each other and the atmosphere."
 The NFL tailgating experience was in full force.
 The James family set up its tent next to

some good friends who happen to be Saints fans.
 "Yeah, he roots for the wrong team, but he's my partner, so it's OK," James said, jokingly. "If it was a (Pittsburgh) Steelers tent, he wouldn't be allowed next to us, or in my house!"
 Some fans' players and teams were not invited to the game, but that didn't stop them from participating and enjoying the festivities.
 "I'm a (San Diego) Chargers fan, and there's no Chargers in the Pro Bowl this year, but whatever!" said Army Sgt. 1st Class James Naber, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and lifelong Chargers fan. "This is a great way for us to unwind a little."
 Naber's family was with other families and friends from the unit. The back of his SUV was filled with blankets and wrestling kids.
 "Some of them are my kids, friends' kids, neighbors' ... everybody is welcome," he said, bratwurst in hand. "This is my second Pro Bowl and, hopefully, not the last."
 For some, the whole purpose of their day

was to be with one another, enjoy Hawaiian weather and maybe, listen to some football on the radio as they tailgated.
 "We came here as an office, a bunch of guys, a fellowship ... (to) enjoy this moment in Hawaii, because it's a beautiful day and beautiful place," said Navy Chief Frank Hearn, a Georgia native and die-hard Atlanta Falcons fan. "This is an experience of a lifetime. If you haven't done it, then you're slacking and behind the power curve."
 The Hearn's group tailgating philosophy is, if you're near them, then you're family.
 "A lot of people around us forgot their grill, or their grill kind of disintegrated because they forgot about it from last Pro Bowl, so we have made our grill the community grill," Hearn said, pointing to his charcoal grill.
 His group agreed that the real fun started before the game.
 "Our tailgating is better than the Pro Bowl game will be," he said. "The tailgating is the main event for us, and the game itself is just icing on the cake. This is an absolute knockout! I'm going to try to do this every year."



Retired Navy Chief Darryl James, a die-hard Cleveland Browns fan, lights his charcoal grill while tailgating with his friends and family at Aloha Stadium, Sunday.



Briefs

Today

Valentine’s Day Workshops — The Arts and Crafts Center will hold a variety of Valentine’s Day classes until the big day, including Valentine’s Day, with no-sew pillows and a Valentine’s Day card workshop and more through Feb. 14. Call 655-4202 to preregister for classes.

3 / Sunday

Super Bowl — Enjoy food and drinks when you watch the Super Bowl at Schofield Barracks:
•Kolekole Bar & Grill, all ages-special breakfast and lunch menu.
•Tropics Warrior Zone, 18 and over, watch the game on a blow-up screen.

6 / Wednesday

After-School Valentine — Sgt. Yano Library will host elementary-age children, 3-3:45 p.m., to hear valentine’s stories and to create their own special valentine.

8 / Friday

Right Arm Night — Celebrate Fat Tuesday early, beginning at 4 p.m., at FS Hale Ikena; enjoy drink specials and New Orleans-style pupu buffet. Spouses and DOD civilians welcome.

This event is for adults only. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door, and on sale at the Hale Ikena. Call 438-1974.

14 / Thursday

Valentine’s Dinner — Kolekole Bar & Grill and Mulligan’s Bar & Grill provide a fine dining experience, 5-8

Pro Bowl stars win over fans

NFL practice draws thousands

Story and photo by
JACK WIERS
Pau Hana Editor

HONOLULU — For the thousands of NFL fans, Saturday’s Pro Bowl “Ohana Day” offered a variety of reasons for attending.

Football followers were invited to Aloha Stadium to experience, in a rock-concert atmosphere, their favorite NFL stars walk through a final practice while cheerleaders and mascots entertained, and members of “Train” prepared for their Sunday half-time performance.

For some, Ohana Day and Pro Bowl week also afforded the chance to actually meet their favorite superstar.

Sgt. Aaron Winder’s Pro Bowl week reached a pinnacle when he met his personal football hero, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

Winder, with the 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, along with members of his unit, has been a regular volunteer for Pro Bowl events during his three years in the islands.

This year, Winder is simply enjoying his experience as a fan and participant.

He attended many of the Pro Bowl events around town, including Ohana Day.

“I made ‘Eat the Street (Pro Bowl Style)’ downtown, and I plan to go to the Pro Bowl) block party, tailgate party and game,” he said.

Winder, who comes from Williamsport, Pa., is an ardent fan of the Saints and Brees.

Scoring a Brees autograph during Pro Bowl Week 2013 will be a lifetime memory and a recollection that is vivid.

“It was pretty easy,” he recounted. “He saw my bag and asked if (I) was military. I said ‘Yes, sir’ and he (signed my jersey) and said ‘thank you for serving our country.’

“That was pretty good. ... I was pretty shaken (by the experience),” Winder explained.

Three members of his company, the 34th Eng. Co.,



Sgt. Aaron Winder, 34th Eng. Co., “Sapper,” 65th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, shows off his newly autographed Drew Brees jersey at Pro Bowl Ohana Day at Aloha Stadium, Saturday. An estimated 230 Soldiers and family members attended the event, which featured autograph signings and photo opportunities with NFL stars.

“Sapper,” and a total of seven from his battalion, assisted NFL operations in setting up stages and other needed tasks that would help make Pro Bowl week such a significant community-wide series of events.

Winder also scored a Victor Cruz helmet autograph, but there was no question which signing was the most cherished.

“I love Drew Brees,” said Winder. “He’s the man.”

p.m., \$26.95 per person at Kolekole (SB) and \$27.95 at Mulligans (FS). Reservations required. Call 655-4466 (SB) and 438-1974 (SB).

23 / Saturday

Lt. Dan Band — The USO pre-

sents Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, 7 p.m., Feb. 23, at Weyand Field, Schofield Barracks. Food and beverages available for purchase.

This free event is held on an open field and blankets or lawn chairs are recommended. Call 655-0115.

Ongoing

RV/Boat/Jet Ski Lot — Store recreation equipment with SB Auto Skills; \$40 for 16-foot and below; \$50 above 16-feet. Call 655-9368 for more information.



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

Today

Tax Center —All Army, Reserve, Guard, family members and retirees are eligible for free tax service assistance. Tax centers are open at SB and FS. Call 655-1040 or visit www.facebook.com/hawaiiarmytaxcenters/info.

February

2 / Saturday

Fun Run — The Bronco Memorial Association Fun Run, at the intersection of Hauula Street and Trimble Road, is 8 a.m., free and open to the public.

Run route will include scenic views from Kolekole Pass, and a 10K, 5K and 1-mile Keiki Run.

Schofield community members can expect to hear cannon fire to begin the run, between 8:30-9:30 a.m. Email broncoassociation3bct@gmail.com or visit the Bronco Memorial Association Facebook page.

3 / Sunday

Spanish Services — An inaugural Spanish-speaking worship service will be held, 10:45 a.m., Wheeler Chapel. Includes family service and contemporary music. Call 254-220-6962.

4 / Monday

Macomb Gate Open — Macomb Gate will be open to both inbound and outbound traffic, 5 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Friday, effective Feb. 4, during Macomb roundabout construction.

However, both inbound outbound traffic patterns will change with the main access to and from Schofield Barracks being through

Army Reserves, NFL get ‘green’

Story and photo by
BRIAN MELANEPHY

9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Pacific Army Reserve Soldiers from the 9th Mission Support Command, as well as civilians, family members and representatives from the National Football League joined forces during a Pro Bowl Week tree planting.

Shortly after lunch, Friday, Soldiers headed approxi-



Spc. Maverick Que, forward observer, 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. Regt., 9th MSC, plants a shrub with his niece during the 2013 Pro Bowl Week tree-planting event at Palolo Elementary School, Friday.

mately nine miles across town to do some “green work” at Palolo Elementary School.

Lively students and teachers at Palolo greeted Soldiers when they arrived. In addition, the Denver Bronco’s first year defensive end, Ben Garland, greeted kids before the event and dug in with Soldiers, students and teachers to plant trees.

Garland, a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a first lieutenant in the Colorado National Guard, proved a perfect fit for the event.

“We (NFL players) are blessed, and we want to give back. We love stuff like this,” said Garland.

Shortly after the event started, students suddenly became interested in autographs, but not just from Garland. All of a sudden, every Soldier was a celebrity, too, with lines of kids about them asking for their autographs.

This event was the third year the 9th MSC has participated, and the second year it has partnered with the NFL to plant trees.

Spc. Maverick Que, forward observer, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, 9th MSC, brought his niece with him.

“I came today to support going green, motivate the next generation and volunteer in the community,” Que said, after planting one tree and five other plants.

Later, Col. John Cardwell, 9th MSC acting commander, arrived and immediately got to work planting, digging holes and spreading mulch.

At the end of the three-hour event, 9th MSC participants, NFL representatives and Palolo Elem. School students had planted 20 trees on the campus.

The event ended with sweat on brows, dirt on boots and smiles on faces.

Leilehua Avenue.

Due to housing area proximity, additional consideration for area residents, including turning off or lowering car radio volume, watching for pedestrians and reducing vehicle speed will be monitored.

The Directorate of Emergency Services will continue to conduct traffic assessment and implement changes to alleviate traffic congestion. The community is asked to be patient, to

allow extra time to access the installation and to ensure required IDs are ready before approaching gates to speed access control requirements.

9 / Saturday

Miss Latina Hawaii 2013 — Public is invited, 5:30 p.m., Mamiya Theatre, 3142 Waialae Ave. Winner represents Hispanic community at Miss Hawaii Pageant. Tickets online at hispaniceventshawaii.com/Miss Latina Hawaii.html or call 285-0072.

16 / Saturday

Swamp Romp — Public is invit-

ed to the dirtiest race of the year, 7 a.m., Feb. 16, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, O’ Course Field. Six-member teams race through a 5-mile mud and dirt course, over and under obstacles. Cost is \$140 per six-man team. Visit mcccshawaii.com/cgfit.

Keiki Run — Youngsters and parents are invited to the 1.5-mile, untimed race, 5210 Keiki Run, beginning and ending at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, Honolulu. Visit www.haw aii 5210.com or www.kahoomiki.org.



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

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

Buddhist Services

- First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
- Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

Catholic Mass

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

Gospel Worship

- Sunday, noon. at MPC
- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

Islamic Prayers and Study

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

Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)

- Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH

Pagan (Wicca)

- Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex Room 232

Protestant Worship

- Sunday Services
 - 8:45 a.m. at MPC
 - 9 a.m., at FD, WAAF and TAMC chapels
 - Lutheran/Episcopalian
 - 10 a.m. at HMR
 - 10:30 a.m. at AMR
 - Contemporary Service
 - 11 a.m. at Soldiers Chapel



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



Jack Reacher

(PG-13)
Fri., Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

Monsters, Inc. 3D

(PG-13)
Sat., Feb. 2, 2 p.m.

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2

(PG-13)
Sat., Feb. 2, 7 p.m.

Rise of the Guardians

(PG)
Sun., Feb. 3, 2 p.m.

This is 40

(R)
Thurs., Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Calendar abbreviations

8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division
ACS: Army Community Service
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan
AFTB: Army Family Team Building
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA
BCT: Brigade Combat Team
BSB: Brigade Support Battalion
Co.: Company
CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services
EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program
FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and

Recreation
FRG: Family Readiness Group
FS: Fort Shafter
HMR: Helemano Military Reservation
IPC: Island Palm Communities
PFC: Physical Fitness Center
SB: Schofield Barracks

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



1st Sgt. James Hill, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, "Raiders," 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, reads aloud to children from Ka'ala Elementary School during a read-aloud day at the school, Jan. 23.

Reading improvement is elementary for 3-4th Cav.

Story and photo by
1ST LT. ZACH KOHL
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

WAHIAWA — Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, “Raiders,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, volunteered to help a unique reading program at Ka’ala Elementary School, here, Jan. 23.

The Read Aloud Program, or RAP, focused on improving reading simply by teaching parents how to read aloud.

During the event, Soldiers and other volunteers helped shuttle children to classrooms where volunteer readers entertained them with colorful stories.

“Our program started in 1999, and we are the largest reading program in the state, of any kind,” said Jed Gaines, founder and president of Read Aloud America. “We are the largest family literacy program in the United States, and we are only in the state of Hawaii.”

Gaines emphasized that the secret to success of his program is not the children, but rather parents who get involved to help improve litera-

cy rates.

“I think that it is the importance of the love of reading. If we can hook the kids and hook the parents, it opens up whole worlds for them,” said Teri Thorstad, school vice principal.

Thorstad added that the program is not solely about learning how to read.

“It’s about enjoying every written word,” Thorstad said.

However, putting a program like this one together is not easy for a school to do alone. It involves upwards of six different sessions spread out over four months, and all of them are after business hours.

Answering that call for volunteerism were several community organizations, including Soldiers from the Raiders.

“They asked if anybody wanted to go read for children, so a bunch of us volunteered,” said Pvt. Stephen Hunt, a medic from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3-4th Cav.

The Raiders’ longstanding relationship with students and staff continues a tradition of fostering goodwill between the community and the military.

DOE’s on-post schools score

‘Race to the Top’ shows gains at FS, SB, Wheeler

ARMY SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
Child, Youth and School Support Services

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) released its “Race to the Top” (RTTT) accomplishments for the year showing positive results.

In a year of unprecedented improvement, students in every grade level increased both reading and math scores on the 2012 Hawaii State Assessment (HSA).

According to the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) Report, schools located on Army bases (Hale Kula, Shafter, Solomon and Wheeler Elementary schools, in addition to Wheeler Middle School) are celebrating with overall gains.

“The significant strides in this Hawaii RTTT report reflect the extraordinary accomplishments of our educators and their commitment to prepare graduates for college or careers,” said DOE Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.

Shafter Elementary School increased from 88 to 94 percent in reading and 76 to 86 percent in mathematics.

“Shafter Elementary has seen a steady rise in reading and mathematics scores over the past three years,” said Robin Martin, principal. “This rise is due entirely to the hard work of our teachers and their willingness to reflect on and make revisions in their instructional practices. We have kept a clear focus on literacy, numeracy and well-being of the learner, and our efforts have paid off.”

Solomon Elementary increased from 65 to 83 percent in reading and 48 to 73 percent in mathematics. Principal Lynne Ajifu said her teachers analyzed data on students’ progress to identify specific needs. The school team then used the information to target specific learning goals and to move all students forward.

The ongoing cycle at Solomon ensures all students continue their advancement towards meeting Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) report, the nation and most other state results reflected marginal or zero growth. Hawaii, however, stood out as the only state to show both mathematics and reading gains in the 4th and 8th grades.

“In 2011, only one state, Hawaii, demonstrated statistically significant improvement in both reading and mathematics at both the 4th and 8th grades,” said Jack Buckley, National Center for Education Statistics commissioner.

“We commend Hawaii for their performance and are encouraged by their continued growth in student achievement,” Buckley added.

Beginning in the spring of 2013, the Hawaii’s DOE will administer college and career readiness assessments to all middle and high school students. For the first time ever, the DOE will be able to comprehensively collect and examine college and career readiness data in reading, mathematics, science and English for students statewide in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11.

“Shafter Elementary has seen a steady rise in reading and mathematics scores over the past three years.”

— **Robin Martin**
Principal

In 2010, the U.S. DOE awarded Hawaii with a four-year \$75 million RTTT grant.

In school year 2013-2014, all grade levels will begin implementing CCSS in English language arts, mathematics and Algebra II courses.

Hawaii will join 46 states, three territories and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) to ensure that students are receiving a high quality of education, consistently, from school to school and state to state.

(Editors note: The School Liaison Office is part the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.)

“Race” Grant

For more information about the RTTT grant, call the School Liaison Office at 655-8326 or visit www.doe.k12.hi.us.

WOUNDED WARRIORS LUNCHEON



Photos by Stephanie Rush | Pacific Regional Medical Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Six NFL players on island for the 2013 Pro Bowl game attend a Wounded Warrior luncheon at the Nehelani, here, Jan. 24, to speak with Soldiers, pose for photographs and sign memorabilia. Pictured are (from left) Julio Jones, Atlanta Falcons wide receiver, No. 11; Victor Cruz, New York Giants wide receiver, No. 80; Marshawn Lynch, Seattle Seahawks running back, No. 24; Jason Witten, Dallas Cowboys tight end, No. 82; Doug Martin, Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back, No. 22; and Charles Tillman, Chicago

Bears cornerback, No. 33, who took time away from their daily practices leading up to the big game to meet with Purple Heart recipients and combat-wounded Soldiers from the Warrior Transition Battalion and the 25th Infantry Division’s 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Brigade Combat Team and 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. Standing with the players are Lt. Col. Stanley Garcia (left), commander, Warrior Transition Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Amano (right), senior enlisted adviser, WTB.



Victor Cruz (seated, second from right), wide receiver for the New York Giants, gets ready to sign a hat for an excited fan at a Wounded Warrior luncheon at the Nehelani, Jan. 24. Cruz was on-island for the 2013 Pro Bowl.

Wheeler Middle students, NFL Pro Bowlers ‘Play 60’



Photo courtesy Wheeler Middle School

Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (center) and Wheeler Middle School students participate in the NFL’s Play 60 program at the school, Jan. 24.

Top stars join keiki to promote health initiative

RILEY DROPPLEMAN AND JACOB WEST
Contributing Writers

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The NFL brought its “Play 60” program to Wheeler Middle School, here, Jan. 24, when 15 NFL pro stars, two mascots and seven cheerleaders talked about health with students.

“Play 60 is about getting kids to eat healthy and exercise by playing sports, hiking, biking or even swimming, just for 60 minutes, per day,” said New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

Play 60 set up multiple stations with different drills, testing skills in speed, agility, strength and other football activities.

The 15 players — including Larry Fitzgerald

from the Arizona Cardinals, Eli Manning from the New York Giants, Russell Wilson from the Seattle Seahawks — provided encouragement to the young attendees.

“The fact that kids are getting active and around, that’s what is important about Play 60,” said Fitzgerald.

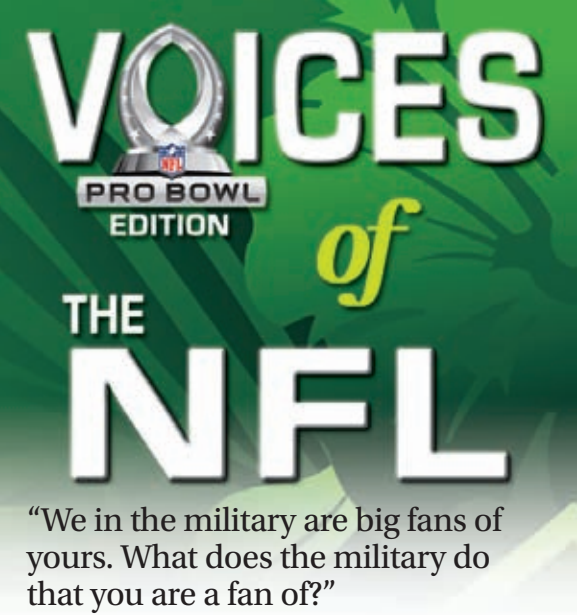
“It’s all about getting kids active in a fun, entertaining and healthy way,” said Eli Manning, quarterback and former Super Bowl MVP.

“I just love spending time with kids,” said quarterback Russell Wilson.

More than football took place at the Play 60 event. Seven Pro Bowl cheerleaders also came to teach cheer routines.

“The cheer was super fun. They were encouraging, fun and nice,” said eighth grader Tiani Quattlebaum.

(Editor’s note: Droppleman and West are Wheeler Middle School students.)



“We in the military are big fans of yours. What does the military do that you are a fan of?”

Photos by Capt. Leslie Waddle
8th Theater Sustainment Public Affairs
(Quotes, below, are paraphrased.)



Just the way you guys are fans, and the way you guys look to us as inspiration. Anything we do on the field is always motivation for you guys, so I’m excited to have you guys along and to have you guys here with us.

Victor Cruz
Wide receiver,
New York Giants



Everything. Being brave and protecting our country. A lot of people don’t get the recognition that they need. I have a lot of family members in the Army, and if it wasn’t for you all, we couldn’t do what we do.

A.J. Green
Wide receiver,
Cincinnati Bengals



The humility that you guys show, and being able to go out there and do things that other people aren’t willing to do. It takes a lot to just sacrifice your life and do it for your country. We just have so much respect for what you guys do.

Russell Okung
Tackle,
Seattle Seahawks



Going out there and fighting for us, that’s huge. Also, fighting for our freedom and fighting for the rights of our country. I think that’s very heroic, and I definitely appreciate everything you guys are doing for us. Go USA!

Patrick Peterson
Cornerback,
Arizona Cardinals



You provide us with so many things, like our freedom. You go out and do things for us that we could never explain in words, or show our appreciation for what you all do. I mean, it’s amazing what you put at risk and at stake for us back home.

Matthew Schaub
Quarterback,
Houston Texans



Oh my goodness, everything. You put it all on the line. My grandfather was in the military; he was here when Pearl Harbor got bombed. I have the utmost respect for what you guys do, and I kind of get choked up thinking about that to be honest.

Max Unger
Center,
Seattle Seahawks

DeCa’s ‘Super Bowl’ recipe scores

KAY BLAKLEY
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – With Super Bowl upon us, you need look no farther than your local commissary for all the fixin’s for your game day party.

Invest just a little effort for some really good grub football fans love, like this one for mac and cheese.

- Better-for-You Macaroni and Cheese**
- 1/3 cup plain bread crumbs
 - 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted
 - 1/2 cup (3 ounces) shredded, reduced-fat, sharp cheddar cheese
 - 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
 - 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
 - 1 tablespoon table salt plus an additional 1/2 teaspoon
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon powdered mustard
 - 2 1/2 cups skim milk
 - 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce (optional)

Directions

Toss bread crumbs with butter in a small bowl until combined. Set aside.

In a food processor or blender, process cheddar, Parmesan and ricotta cheeses until no large pieces remain, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat broiler. Bring 4 quarts of water to boil in a large sauce pan or Dutch oven over high heat. Add 1 tablespoon salt and macaroni and cook until tender, 7 to 9 minutes. Drain macaroni and leave in colander.

In now-empty Dutch oven or sauce pan, heat butter over medium-high heat until foaming. Add flour and mustard and cook, whisking to combine ingredients, until mixture is smooth, about 1 minute. Whisking constantly, slowly add milk and hot pepper sauce, and bring to a full boil.

Reduce heat to medium and simmer, whisking frequently, until mixture becomes slightly thicker than heavy cream, 2 to 4 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Whisk in the cheese mixture and 1/2 teaspoon salt until cheese is melted.

Add pasta and cook, stirring constantly, over medium-low heat until mixture is steaming, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer mixture to a broiler-safe, 8-inch baking dish and sprinkle with bread crumbs. Broil until crumbs are deep golden brown, 2 to 4 minutes, rotating pan if necessary for even browning. Cool 2 minutes and serve.

(Editor’s note: Blakley is a consumer advocate for DeCA.)

Online Recipes

Kay’s Kitchen features a collection of easy recipes for football fans at www.commissaries.com.