



Issue 7

March 2009

## 29th IBCT Soldier honored in memorial ceremony at Camp Virginia

Article and photos by: Maj. Pam Ellison  
29th IBCT Public Affairs



*Spc. Cwislyn Walter, Oct. 8, 1989 - Feb. 19, 2009  
deployed with the 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion to Kuwait, October 2008, where she worked in the Camp Virginia Emergency Operations Cell.*

**CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait** – Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team mourned one of their own, Spc. Cwislyn K. Walter, in a crowded memorial ceremony at Camp Virginia, Kuwait February 23rd.

The small camp chapel was filled to capacity as nearly six hundred Soldiers lined the walls to pay their final respects to their comrade. 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Moses Kaoiwi, Cpt. Shawn Naito, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Walter's unit, and fellow Soldiers, Spcs. Leticia Timothy and Michael Yamaguchi, all emphasized how significant it was that Walter became a United States citizen since being called to Active Duty in August 2008. They specifically noted how she spent countless hours studying for the citizenship test while the unit was completing mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas prior to arriving in Kuwait. As they all expected she passed with flying colors.

Her dedication and drive to become a citizen is just one of the many examples of her exemplary performance.

"In my 26 years of service, SPC Walter ranks among the best that I have had the honor to have known and worked with," said Kaoiwi. "She was young and motivated. She had initiative and produced quality work.

She really had a positive impact on everyone in the battalion and brought the best out of everyone."

Kaoiwi was one of those to speak about Walter during the Memorial Ceremony.

Spc. Timothy said she personally found comfort in the fact that Cwislyn had shared her faith with her, and she believed that she was now in a better place. That faith was a theme to the ceremony, as Chaplain (1<sup>st</sup> Lt.) Ronaldo Pascua led the crowd in reciting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and reminded them that as Soldiers, they still had a duty to perform.

At the end of the ceremony, First Sgt. Christopher Tourtellot, the HHC 29<sup>th</sup> BSTB first sergeant, stood and called out the ceremonial final roll call. Three Soldiers answered, the final one did not.

It was hard to find a dry eye in the packed chapel, as those in attendance remembered the young Soldier and the contributions that she made to her unit.

Walter, 19, a National Guard Soldier from Honolulu, Hawaii who deployed to Kuwait in October 2008, died as a result of injuries sustained in a single vehicle accident in Kuwait on February 19.

# Table of Contents

March 2009

Front page: In Memory of Spc. Walter	Page 1
Table of Contents	Page 2
Col. Oliveira's Notes	Page 3
Command Sgt. Maj. Coronado's Comments	Page 4
Camp Arifjan: Spc. Little School Visit / Spc. Wolf's MWR Trip	Page 5
Camp Buehring: EOD	Page 6
Camp Buehring: Soldiers Conduct MRAP Training	Page 7
Camp Virginia: Carrying on Legacy with His Father's Flag	Page 8
Camp Virginia: Napa Valley Marathon / Speech Translator	Page 9
Camp Virginia: BSTB Re-Up at Embassy / BSTB Mural	Page 10
Camp Patriot: Sports Day	Page 11
Camp Patriot: On the Range / CLS refresher	Page 12
LSA: Local Kine Grindz	Page 13
Camp Bucca, Iraq: Stars and Stripes	Page 14
AUSA Banquet	Page 15
Year of the NCO: Remarks from Senior Enlisted Advisor	Page 16/17
Promotions and Re-Enlistments	Page 18
Good to Know	Page 19
Friendship I	Page 20
Current Events (Home): 50th Anniversary of Hawaii	Page 21
Current Events (World)	Page 22
FRG/Rear	Page 23
Our Hawaii: The Meaning of Aloha	Page 24
Q & A	Page 25
PAO Comment	Page 26

## 29TH LAVA BRIGADE COMMANDER



**Colonel Bruce Oliveira**

*To everything there is a season,  
a time for every purpose under the  
sun.*

*A time to be born and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to pluck  
up that which is planted;  
a time to kill and a time to heal ...  
a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to  
dance ...*

*a time to embrace and a time to  
refrain from embracing;  
a time to lose and a time to seek;  
a time to rend and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silent and a time to  
speak;*

*a time to love and a time to hate;  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

As hundreds of Soldiers at Camp Virginia listened in silence, Specialist Leticia Timothy and Specialist Michael Yamaguchi stood before them and cited these words for comfort and mercy as we gathered to remember one of our Soldiers, our sister.

The words soaked into the hearts of the somber crowd, which gathered for a memorial service at the camp chapel. The 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion held the service to honor the life and mourn the

death of Specialist Cwislyn Walter.

The experiences we share with those we serve with are unique and personal. My memories of Cwislyn are fond; her sincerity; her humble smile and resolute approach to the task before her; her confidence and positive attitude. She had moments that inspired us and we will miss her. Yet our grief pales in comparison to the pain

a mother must feel for the irreplaceable loss of her child and I mourn for all her Family as well.

In the Family that is this brigade, her loss is felt throughout. She was a dedicated Soldier. She was there for her fellow Soldiers in the company, battalion, and brigade.

We as a brigade must continue to fight the fight. We will do it for Specialist Walter and all the other fallen Soldiers. We will remember them for what they are and what they always will be; American Soldiers that were there when their country called on them.

The measure of life is not its duration, but its donation. Everyone's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how we live that distinguish one person from another. Specialist Walter died serving our country with courage and with honor and has forever forged memories in the souls of each and every Soldier of the Lava Brigade. We will always remember her.

As the speakers concluded their words, the Soldiers stood at attention for roll call.

The company first sergeant's call for Specialist Walter was answered by an audible void. The sound of gunfire shattered the silence as a 21-gun salute ignited from the barrels of the rifle team outside. The sound of "Taps" then occupied the air. The Soldiers parted, one by one, paying last respects to Specialist Walter with a salute to the memorial set up in her honor. The service was over, but the memories are not.

To our Families and friends back home; thank you for your strength and support, it's more important now than ever. Your Soldiers here have picked each other up and are driving on; knowing that we have a mission here to complete. We appreciate the support from all of you. Your Soldiers' efforts here are valued and making a difference.

May God bless you, your Families, our Soldiers and our great Nation!

LAVA 6

## Command Sgt. Maj. Coronado's Comments

### 29TH LAVA BRIGADE SERGEANT MAJOR



**CSM Edgardo Coronado  
BDE CSM**

*For those of you that have completed your U.S. Naturalization what a great pride you must feel; it is well deserved. Learn all that you can about your new nation and the countless opportunities it offers you and your Family.*

As the months have passed the Lava Brigade has continued to be on point against the mission of our enemies. The Soldiers of this fine formation strive to do the best they can regardless of the mission, task, or situation. However, one of our youngest Soldiers has fallen, not to enemy contact, but to a tragic auto accident.

Where many would say that SPC Walter passed away in a non-combat area I would differ in my opinion of this statement. She was one of the

countless Soldiers that simply ask for more responsibility and risk in places where millions of people would never dare to set foot. Willing to travel to far off lands with little to no fanfare, and never complain. SPC Walter was, and will remain, a shining example of the best that the citizen Soldier is and can be.

Her accident was a reminder that we are

not in Hawaii, Micronesia, nor Texas. Your Soldiers are forward deployed in a land not their own; they are enduring family separation and loss, yet willfully awakening each day for the next mission at hand.

SPC Walter was a shining light of what great young Soldiers the Ohana is fortunate to have in their formations. She will remain a salient example of what I would like my great grandchildren to aspire to be; an excellent Soldier and a most humble and kind human being.

As the 29<sup>th</sup> IBCT says their prayers and sends well wishes to her family, land and proud battalion, I ask you to remember her accomplishments and never let her dream fade away.

I humbly thank the Walter Family and friends for allowing us the honor of having a great Soldier and proud new United States citizen in our midst.

So, I ask each one of you to continue to be cognizant of your

surroundings and with every mission continue to maintain a safe stand in all that you do. No safety check too meaningless to perform. Your very life can depend on the actions you fail to take.

To those of you that have re-enlisted since our last publication, I ask you to accept the Command team's sincere congratulations for your continued dedication to the mission of the 29<sup>th</sup> IBCT, the Hawaii Army National Guard and the great State of Hawaii. We are proud to serve amongst you. Your continued dedication along with your family is honoring.

For those of you that have completed your U.S. Naturalization what a great pride you must feel; it is well deserved. Learn all that you can about your new nation and the countless opportunities it offers you and your Family.

As always I say gracias and mahalo to every Soldier and Officer serving in the Lava Brigade; Hawaii's best.

# HHC, 29th IBCT Soldiers visit Grand Mosque

March 2009

By: Spc. Britney Wolf, HHC, 29th IBCT Contributor

Six soldiers of HHC 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team got to go on an MWR trip into Kuwait City and I was lucky enough to be one of them. We visited the Grand Mosque of Kuwait and The Marina Mall.

The Grand Mosque of Kuwait is the seventh largest mosque in the world and the largest in Kuwait. Consisting of three prayer halls; for the men, the Main Prayer Hall holds up to 10,000 with a Daily Prayer Hall also available and for the women, there is a Ladies' Prayer Chamber on the upper level which can hold up to 950. There will be approximately 180,000 people that spread out to the streets for evening prayer, during Ramadan. Before entering the Mosque the females had to wear a

“burka” out of respect to their culture. Surprisingly it wasn't as hot as I expected.

The Marina Mall is a two level separated mall. The ocean side of the mall has the restaurants with the view of the ocean, where we got to eat at T.G.I. Fridays. I tell you, it was way better than DFAC food. There is an overpass that leads to the other half of the mall where all the shopping can begin. There were stores like Claires and Gucci. But to tell the truth, the prices were ridiculously high.

Overall we have enjoyed ourselves learning new things about their culture; it was so cool. This trip was something I will never forget.



The Grand Mosque in Kuwait City where construction started in 1979 and was completed in 1986.



Spcs. Britney Wolf and Kevin Mahoney pose for a photo inside the Grand Mosque.



Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School 6th Grader, Elizabeth Savage, receives a special gift from Spc. Danielle Little after her and classmates sent members of the 29th IBCT care packages to Kuwait.

## HHC, 29th IBCT Soldier gives back to Pearl Kai student

By: Spc. Danielle Little, HHC, 29th IBCT Contributor

During her recent trip back to Hawaii for a well deserved two week rest and recuperation, Spc. Danielle Little, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, found time to stop by Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School to thank the 6th Graders for care packages they sent to Soldiers in Kuwait.

The Students adopted HHC Soldiers for their community service project, designed to teach them to support those who help protect their freedoms and the importance of volunteering. However, the students of Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary need not be reminded of supporting the troops, because 95 percent of them have one or two parents serving in the military, some who are currently deployed or just returning from a deployment.

Meeting Elizabeth Savage, the 6th grader who personally packed the care package she received in Kuwait, made Little's visit memorable, she said. As a “little” gesture of appreciation, Little brought back a stuffed toy camel from Kuwait for Elizabeth, to thank her for putting that special touch in her care package. Before she left, Little gave the 6th graders some words of encouragement and told them to study hard and stay in school.

## BSTB engineers have a blast at Udari Range



A Soldier looks downrange as he detonates a tub of grenades covered by a blanket of C4 explosives on Udari Range, Kuwait.

By: ILT Todd Yukutake, 1-299th CAV Public Affairs

Soldiers from Company A, 29th Brigade Special Troops Battallion, had a field day doing what 21B Combat Engineers do best – blowing things up. The engineers assisted the California National Guard's 217th Explosive Ordinance Disposal team, whose job is to detonate road-side Improvised Explosive Devices, clear ranges of "dud" artillery shells and

bombs, and dispose of old unusable ordinances. The mission involved the disposal of over 10,000-40mm grenades, and hundreds of blocks of C4 explosives at Udari Range, Kuwait. The explosives were carefully placed into a plywood tub with a precise arrangement to ensure a complete demolition; if not arranged carefully, the blast

would send debris into the air. Once the charges were set, a problem occurred and brought the mission to a halt. A Kuwaiti civilian and his herd of camels wandered into our blast area and had to be persuaded to leave. Once the area was again clear and all explosives rigged, we drove a mile out to the safe zone, and like a James Bond movie, took out the remote control, pressed the button, and watched the show.

The resulting fireball was larger than the blast of a 2,000 pound bomb and near the size of the Aloha Stadium on Oahu, and was followed by thunderous roars heard from miles away.

The second mission

involved destroying artillery shells, Rocket Propelled Grenages and hand held grenades. The engineers got to work by unloading pallets of artillery shells and C4. Everything was then neatly arranged into a 20 meter railroad track. The detonation from these explosives provided for an equally stunning blast as the previous one.

Both explosions were larger than most of the engineers had every witnessed and the training taught them valuable skills and knowledge on use and power of explosives.



BSTB Engineers create a railroad track of artillery shells and C4

## Proud to be 2nd Platoon, Troop B, 1-299th Cavalry

Aloha to all Family and friends of Troop B, 1-299th Cavalry. My name is 1st Lt. Gary Tani, Platoon Leader for 2nd Platoon.

With 34 assigned Soldiers we are the largest platoon in Bravo Company and also the most diverse. Our Soldiers are from Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Ohio; and originate from five different units including, Troop B, Company Delta, Forward Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, DET-I HHT, Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and Company Charlie, 1-148th Infantry Battalion.

Their military occupational skills consist of: Infantryman, Fire Support Specialist, Cavalry Scout, Intelligence Analyst, Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, Motor Transport Operator, and Food Service Specialist; and hold civilian backgrounds in such fields as: tourism, law enforcement, emergency services, medical services, education, health and fitness, environmental services, construction, communication, and even a part-time pastor.

It has been pleasurable and challenging to lead a group so diverse and large. Luckily, we have outstanding Convoy Escort Team leaders who step up to the challenge, including:

Staff Sgts. Matthew Malinowski, Juanito Riglos, and Jared Miguel. These three men have the ability and knowledge to successfully complete our missions while avoiding preventable injury. In turn, the leaders have intelligent Soldiers who make their duties easier to manage.

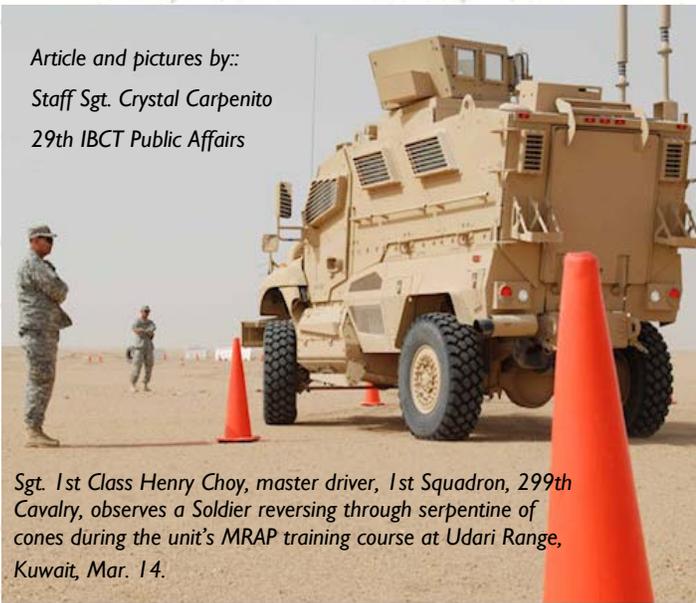
As a Platoon we have completed 18 missions, travelled over 15,000 miles and spent more than 165 days in Iraq. During most of these days, all our platoon's CETs were conducting missions at the same time in Iraq and only twice were all safely at home in Kuwait.

If you are to ask one of

the Soldiers about life on the road, they will probably say they enjoy it more than staying in Kuwait. Time goes by a lot quicker when on the road Soldiers commonly state.

Six months of the year-long activation and deployment is complete, and I know everyone is anxious and ready to get home. The Platoon has been advised to start making preparations for our redeployment back to the states and soon after back to Hawaii. We will be home soon and it will be a well deserved home-coming. Thank you for all the support you have given us. Aloha a hui hou.

Article and pictures by:  
Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito  
29th IBCT Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class Henry Choy, master driver, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry, observes a Soldier reversing through serpentine of cones during the unit's MRAP training course at Udari Range, Kuwait, Mar. 14.

do that you have to be trained to operate it safely," said Lt. Col. Lionel Payes, MRAP Project Officer, 29th IBCT.

As part of the training, Soldiers are educated on the MRAP's capabilities and then given the opportunity to operate one.

Once familiarized with the nuts and bolts, Soldiers get behind the wheel to begin hands-on training taught by master drivers within the brigade who received additional training in Hawaii, Texas and Kuwait.

The master drivers are responsible for creating and implementing the MRAP driver's training program, consisting of obstacle courses, live fire exercises and 40-hour required driving time.

The objective of the obstacle course is for Soldiers to learn how to maneuver the MRAP through scenarios they might come across while on missions, such as making hard turns, reversing and entering a traffic control point.

Since the MRAP is larger and heavier than up-armored humvees, said Spc. Gregory Lucas, a driver with the I-299th Cav., it's harder to maneuver but easy to adapt to with proper training.

Another difference found between the MRAP and up-armored humvee is in the gunner's turret; besides being

larger, the turret is roughly ten feet higher, giving the gunner a significant sight advantage when compared to the up-armored humvee. During the final days of drivers' training, gunners join their convoy escort teams to fire their weapons from the MRAP turret.

"It is exciting just trying out new things," Spc. Alejandro Seguritan, a gunner with the I-299th Cav., referring to firing from the turret of an MRAP.

Seguritan, who spends 13 hours on the road in a turret, said he looks forward to having the extra room that the MRAP turret provides compared to the up-armored humvee.

Although the training has to be conducted as time permits around their regular missions, Soldiers agree the sacrifice is not only necessary, but effective, because the outcome will provide them with better protection from future threats on the road.

"It is a long course but there was a lot of good information that they put out," said Lucas, who managed to drive the obstacle course without hitting one cone. As training continues and drivers become licensed, the 29th IBCT hopes to start getting MRAPs out with the convoy escort teams sometime next month.

Since Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, commonly referred to as "MRAP," have been implemented into U.S. military operations in theater, the number of Soldier deaths and injuries has significantly decreased.

Recently, units of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team received their MRAPs as part of an Army-wide fielding for units operating within Iraq.

What provides the additional safety to Soldiers traveling within the MRAPs is its V-shaped undercarriage; designed to redirect the detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device. Experts say it works better than an up-armored humvee, which most

of the Soldiers drive today. "For protective purposes I prefer the MRAP over the [up-armored humvee] for its increased armor against IEDs," said Sgt. Shaun Shiraki, I-299th Cav.

Currently, Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry and the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry – 29th IBCT units responsible for escorting convoys into Iraq – are conducting training on the MRAPs; classroom training as well as hands-on drivers' training are required for all drivers and assistant drivers before taking the MRAPs into Iraq.

"You want anybody who is operating any kind of weapons system or vehicle to operate it safely and in order to



Compared to the up-armored HMMWV, center, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles provides additional safety to Soldiers. The MRAP's V-shaped undercarriage is designed to redirect the detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device.



Staff Sgt. Nakoa Hoe, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, displays his father's flag with his platoon in Kuwait, December 2008

By: Capt. Timothy Zeisset,  
100-442nd Inf. Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Nakoa Hoe, convoy escort team commander, D Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry is carrying a piece of family history that spans two generations and four decades. Nakoa carries a flag that his father, Allen, had when he was a medic in Vietnam.

The year was 1968, and as a specialist in the U.S. Army, Allen and his platoon were assigned to provide overwatch, in order to defend the withdrawal of military and civilian personnel from a special forces camp at Kham Duc, Vietnam.

Allen went home for leave and when he returned to Vietnam, most of his platoon had been killed in action. Allen kept the flag, which became a symbol of pride honoring the sacrifice that his fellow Soldiers made.

Thirty seven years later, Allen's son, Naino, a first lieu-

tenant in the U.S. Army, carried the same flag into combat that his father had carried in Vietnam. This time the battlefield was the urban sprawl of Mosul, Iraq. Naino was an infantry platoon leader with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry of the 25th Infantry Division.

January 22, 2005, while escorting a human intelligence team in Mosul, a shot rang out from a mosque about 400 yards away, striking Naino.

Although his fellow Soldiers tried to save him, Naino was declared KIA. Today, the flag, carried by Allen 41 years ago in Vietnam, and four years ago by Naino in Iraq, is carried by Nakoa.

Nakoa carries the flag as he leads his CET on convoy escort missions between Kuwait and Iraq. He is very proud to carry the flag, as it is much more than a piece of the U.S. Army, or military history. He keeps it close as a reminder of all those, specifically his brother, who have given everything to defend what it represents.

"I carry this flag as a memorial to honor the men in my father's platoon in Vietnam and to honor and remember my brother," said Nakoa.

The flag and what it represents is just one example of a tradition of excellence that prevails within 100th Bn., 442nd Inf.

"This Soldier is an exceptional Soldier, in an exceptional battalion," says Sgt. Maj. Dean Shackles, of the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., who refers to the colorful history of the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., the U.S. Army's most highly decorated unit, and the fact that the unit is the only combat arms unit in the U.S. Army Reserve.

"I expect nothing less than greatness from my Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Michael Peeters, commander, 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. "It is an honor to serve with such fine Soldiers in my Battalion and [Nakoa] is carrying the torch and continuing the tradition of excellence in the [unit]."

The fact that this flag, a family

heirloom, has been passed from one generation to the next and that it continues to travel, representing those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; is a testament to the legacy of the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf.

The unit continues to carry the tradition and legacy of the original members of the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf.

Today the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. is the most diverse Army Reserve unit, with companies in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan. With the unit deployed, Soldiers have come from across the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Korea, Guam and Saipan to augment the unit for its deployment.

"The Soldiers are very proud of the unit's legacy, and they take seriously, the charge of carrying on the unit's tradition" said Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Gomes, 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. "We will all ensure that the legacy and spirit of the [unit] live forever," said Gomes.

## Soldier runs 26.2 mile Napa Valley Marathon

By: Capt. Timothy Zeisset  
100th 442nd Public Affairs

In the austere desert of Camp Virginia, Kuwait – a landscape packed of rocks, dirt and blowing sand – Maj. Timothy Burgess, 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry, ran the 26.2 miles necessary to complete California's Napa Valley Marathon, on March 1.

As the only participant in Kuwait to conduct the mock run, he began at 8 a.m. and was the first person to complete the event since Kuwait is ten hours ahead of California,

where the main event was held.

The motto of the 100-442nd IN is "Go For Broke," which Burgess demonstrated with the desire to push himself beyond what many would consider their breaking point.

"It went in stages" said Burgess referring to the 26.2 miles. "The first 17 miles were good, then I stepped on a rock poking up through the sand, so my foot hurt for about the next seven miles. The last two miles were the toughest though, and it was like each step was a gut check."

He crossed the finish line with a time of 4:26:15, beating his previous marathon run time by five minutes. During the first 15 miles Burgess was joined by Capt. Sam Kang, 100-442nd IN, who was training for another marathon.

Even though Burgess said he felt a little sore, the next day he toughed his bicycle spin class at the Camp Virginia Fitness Center.



Maj. Timothy Burgess, 100-442nd IN, still smiling as he runs his 20th mile of the 26.2 mile Napa Valley Marathon, Camp Virginia, Kuwait,

## 100-442nd IN received device to assist Arabic-English translation



1st Lt. Bryan Lee demonstrates the Speech to Speech Translator with Major Hassim of the Iraqi Highway Patrol (IHP) near Camp Cedar, Iraq.

By: Capt. Timothy Zeisset  
100th 442nd Public Affairs

As they escort convoys throughout routes in Iraq, Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, pass through Iraqi Security Force checkpoints, at which time they of-

ten get the opportunity to share information about events that occurred during travels or even receive information from Iraqi Soldiers who man those checkpoints.

Without interpreters, 100-442nd IN Soldiers were forced to attempt communication

using the little Arabic they know.

"Communication is one of the biggest road blocks we've had regarding this mission," said Lt. Col. Michael Peeters, 100-442nd IN Commander.

Now, the battalion has received a tool to assist with the translation – a total of 85 IBM Speech to Speech Translator computers – from the State of Hawaii Department of Defense and Marine Experimentation Center.

The 100-442nd IN Soldiers promised to test the device for flaws and capabilities prior to returning them back to the company with additional data to help them improve the device for future users.

The STST is made up of two devices: one is a hand held unit, the other a laptop and microphone.

How it works is a person speaks into the microphone, then the laptop translates what was spoken in that language, into another language.

It translates between 50,000 to 100,000 different phrases from English to Iraqi Arabic, and 30,000 to 60,000 different phrases from Iraqi Arabic to English.

In the coming months, 100-442nd IN Soldiers will put the STST device to good use, which will not only enable them improved communication with their Iraqi counterparts and civilians, but also the ability to determine the usefulness of the device through such interactions.

## BSTB Soldiers chose to re-enlist at U.S. Embassy, Kuwait

March 2009



Staff Sgt. Michael Moore takes his re-enlistment oath at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, Feb 9, witnessed by fellow Soldiers from HHC, BSTB.

By: Allen Tudela  
29th BSTB Public Affairs

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Staff Sgt. Michael Moore and Spc. Joyce Guieb,

were re-enlisted at the U.S. Embassy, Kuwait, on Feb. 9. Both Soldiers were given the opportunity to chose where they wanted to re-enlist – looking for something different, as other re-enlistees commonly swear in at Camp Virginia, Kuwait –

Moore and Guieb, requested to take their oaths in front of the National Colors on U.S. Embassy grounds .

Ten other HHC Soldiers, mostly from the S3 and Camp Virginia Emergency Operations Cell, also had the honor and privilege to witness this event, as both Soldiers extended services for six more years.

After the ceremony Soldiers walked around, visited the souvenir shop, ate chicken curry in the cafeteria, and celebrated with a variety of healthy smoothies.

The Soldiers were unable to meet U.S. Ambassador of Kuwait, Deborah K. Jones, but were still thankful to have taken part in the re-enlistment ceremony and said it was a unique and unforgettable experience.



Spc. Joyce Guieb swears on oath to dedicate six more years of military service by 29th BSTB Commander, Lt. Col. Moses Kaiowi, Feb. 9.

## BSTB Soldier lends artistic hand in painting Battalion mural



Spc. Lillian Park stands beside a mural she painted for the 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion which can be seen from outside the Camp Virginia Mayor Cell in Kuwait.

By: Allen Tudela  
29th BSTB Public Affairs

There are a lot of special Soldiers in the 29th Brigade

Special Troops Battalion - one I'd like to highlight is Spc. Lillian Park, an Information Assistance Technician Analyst from Charlie Company, cur-

rently attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, BSTB.

Her drive and motivation to contribute whenever

possible has made her a valuable asset to the HHC team, as well as the Mayor Cell in Camp Virginia, Kuwait, where she currently works the front desk.

Park also lends her artistic expertise to help out where she can from volunteering as the battalion public affairs representative – taking pictures and putting together the battalion newsletter – to painting the unit's mural which sits in front of the camps Mayor Cell.

Her selfless service and constant portrayal of Army Values makes me proud to be part of this organization.

It has been an honor for me to serve with Soldiers like Park, who lend their gifted talents for the overall good of the unit and live up to our Battalion motto "Ikaika Mau Loa," meaning Forever Strong.

## 5th consecutive win — Kuwait Navy takes home trophy

Article and photos by: Maj. Pam Ellison  
29th IBCT Public Affairs



From left to right: Navy Commander Cpt. Luke McCollum, Lt. Col. Faud Soor, Maj. Leif Fautanu, and Staff Sgt. Lonenoa Faoa stand beside trophies which participants won throughout the day for competing in various sport events at the Kuwait Naval Base Sports Day event, March 19.

The Kuwait Navy played host and took home the Overall Winner category trophy for the Kuwait Naval Base Sports Day, March 19.

The event took place at the Kuwait Naval Base, be-

tween the Kuwait Navy and Camp Patriot's Hawaii National Guard, Army, Navy and Coast Guard Servicemembers.

Events included basketball, volleyball, ping pong, tug

taking the Overall Winner category for each of those five years; however, this was the closest the U.S. has come to winning it.

The U.S. finished with an overall score of 43 points

of war, soccer, 50-meter individual swimming, 200-meter swim relay (50 x 4) and water-polo.

This was the 5th year the Sports Day event has been conducted at Kuwait Naval Base, with Kuwaitis

after they won in basketball, volleyball, ping pong and tug of war, however, could not beat the Kuwait Navy who finished with an overall score of 51 points after they took the win in waterpolo, soccer and first and second place in both swimming events.

"Working with Lt. Col Fuod S. Soor, the Kuwait Navy Director of Sports, was very interesting from the start because he was not hard to work with," said Staff Sgt. Lonenoa Faoa, Camp Patriot MWR representative."

1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Soldiers, of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who work at Camp Patriot have many opportunities in their day-to-day duties to interact with many different Servicemembers of the Kuwaiti military, from the Kuwait Navy, as in this event, to the Kuwait National Guard, which is an on-going training partnership conducted almost weekly.

Faoa further added when asked about working with Soor, "We basically came to a conclusion that this event was about good sportsmanship and knowing that we can also have a good relationship with the Kuwaitis through sporting events like [Kuwait Naval Base Sports Day]."

From serious mission and military training, to light-hearted fun of friendly competition, the U.S. and Kuwaiti Servicemembers will continue to share their experiences while working together here in Kuwait.



29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers came close to taking home the Overall Winner category trophy by competing and placing first in basketball, volleyball, ping pong and tug-of-war.

## A Company BSB Soldiers receive CLS refresher

By: Staff Sgt. Lorajan Kaonohi

During the second week of March, Soldiers of Company Alpha, 29th Infantry Brigade Support Battalion – attached to 1st Battery, 487th Field Artillery – received a Combat Life-saver refresher course.

Conducted by 1st Sgt. Amano, a BSB medic, the class covered field medical cards, evaluating a casualty, controlling hemorrhaging, applying a tourniquet, and administering

Intravenous solution to fellow Soldiers.

Although the training was conducted during mobilization as well, the refresher was necessary for these Soldiers who secure gates at the SPOD and may need to provide medical support at a moments notice.

*Sgt. Ubiadas trains with Spc. Cho on how to administer a tourniquet.*



## A Company BSB Soldiers qualify weapons for third time

By: Staff Sgt. Lorajan Kaonohi

Soldiers of Company A, 29th Infantry Brigade Support Battalion, took to the desert ranges outside of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to qualify their M249 and 240B weapon systems, Feb. 18th.

This was the companies third time on the range since the deployment began. By now, most

Soldiers have had the opportunity to qualify using both weapons.

The range officer in charge, Capt. Llanes, and range safety officers Sgt. First Class Hayes, Staff Sgts. Braine, Seria, and Sgt. Eugenio, assisted to get the firers on and off the range by lunch after everyone successfully qualified with their weapons.



*Spc. Irish Manayan, Company A, Brigade Support Battalion, looks down range while he fires his 240B weapon on a desert range outside Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.*

## 1-487th Field Artillery Soldiers take gold, silver and bronze in volleyball tournament

By: Sgt. First Class Arnold Rabanal

Soldiers of 1st Battery, 487th Field Artillery, placed in top three during a recent 2-on-2 beach volleyball tournament held at Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

Participants for the event included Servicemembers in the Coast Guard, Navy, Marines and Army, who comprised more than 20 competing teams.

The competition lasted three days, as each team hung in by mere points in order to advance to the next round through single-game elimina-

tions.

With sweat and hard play, 1-487th FA Soldiers Maj. Leif Fautanu and Spc. Elizabeth Babauta received a gold medal after beating their fellow Soldiers and competitors, Sgt. Gilbert Cardena and Spc. Terrence Padaca, who received the silver medal for second place, and 1st Lt. Tulasi Tamayo, Sgt. Sepulona Falealii and Spc. Belinda Butac, who all received bronze medals for third place.



*From left to right: Lt. Col. Leshner, Spcs. Terrence Padaca and Elizabeth Babauta, Maj. Leif Fautanu, 1st Lt. Tulasi Tamayo and Sgt. Sepulona Falealii take gold, silver and bronze medals in a three-day volleyball competition at Camp Patriot.*

## Local kine grindz

By : Capt. Robert Miller, Contributor



Above: Hawaiian inspired dish called Lomi-Lomi Salmon. Below: Sgt. First Class Burl Hirashima's signature ten-ingredient fried rice.



Soldiers of the 29th Brigade Support Battalion brought their weapons and other equipment here to Kuwait but have not forgotten their appetites for "local kine grindz" or Hawaiian style food.

They find creative ways to suppress cravings far from home and have an array of cooking appliances such as electric Woks, rice cookers, and hot water makers.

When available, Soldiers are able to reserve the use of a full-sized kitchen which provides pots, pans and cooking utensils at the Air Force side of camp called "the Rock."

Serving more than 10,000 meals weekly, the DFAC does its best to accommodate for a Hawaii Soldiers' palate – menus include Asian inspired dishes such Sweet and Sour Pork, Mongolian BBQ and General TSO chicken – but coming from Hawaii, Soldiers of the 29th BSB crave local kine grindz such as Lomi-Lomi salmon, pork and chicken adobo, chicken long rice, fried rice and sushi.

It's easy to guess what dishes are most missed – just follow your nose and you'll see personal adaptations of local meals which Soldiers cook on camp using ingredients found at the DFAC or PX.

Recognized as chefs on the LSA, Sgt. Jonathan Serrano, Sgts. First Class Fermi, Burl Hirashima, and Chief Warrant Officer Ray Kitagawa, have all developed signature dishes. Serrano's signature dish is chicken adobo, Fermin's is pork adobo, and Kitagawa has created weekly Aloha Friday's dishes that included Oxtail soup, sushi, chicken long rice and Spam musubi. As the unit's voted "Iron Chef", Hirashima's specialties include a ten-ingredient fried rice, beef stew and Korean style BBQ chicken.

Cooking has become a custom on the LSA. Besides enjoying good food, Soldiers find cooking their own meals creates a sense of normalcy – a feeling that not only brings them closer together but a little closer to home as well.

## LSA HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

By CSM VIRGINE KANOA

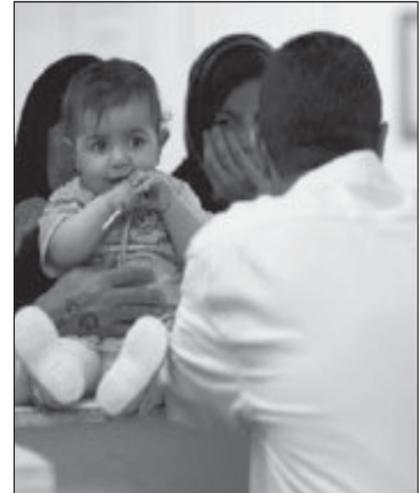
The 29<sup>th</sup> BSB Soldiers have a favorite past time they brought with them on deployment - horseshoes,— as individuals and 2-man teams. While at their mobilization training in Ft Hood, every Sunday, if training permitted, the unit played football and horseshoes. What a better way to enjoy team building ohana style than with a little competition. Well, to everyone's surprise, once getting to their new duty station in Kuwait, horseshoe pits were not only located on the sports field but also set up right next to their billeting. More exciting the MWR sponsors a Horseshoe Tournament at the LSA. What a great challenge, everyone has their unique style of pitching and stance. More so, they even josh back and forth at each other, all in fun to egg on that competitor's spirit and determination. We have Sgt. 1st Class Burl Hirashima originally from Molokai, that holds the horseshoe in his fingertips, like throwing a pie under-handed, and then you have 1st Sgt. Rudy Gabrillo that pitches it like a Frisbee. Let's not forget about Staff Sgt. Bill Awana, the finesse pitcher; very systematic and fluid as he perfects his pitch. We shouldn't leave out Staff Sgt. Clayton Mitsui, who always strives to improve his pitch. Then we have the youngest of the pitchers, Spc. Kalai Kahalekai, has a great arm with a soft pitch; but more of a talker. Let's not forget the wahines, Command Sgt. Maj. Virgine Kanoa and Sgt. 'Peb's' Widemann, nothing fancy just get up there and pitch her game. The tournament held on Feb. 23 - singles play, round robin elimination. Just about everyone entered except 1st Sgt. Gabrillo and Spc. Kahalekai, playing against other service members and each other. No trash talking, straight play, a little more seriousness but with comradery, support, enjoyment and fun. As each Soldier was eliminated, the others went on and everyone cheered for their buddies or favorites. But in the end, the wahine's took it all. In five games, they were victorious. Command Sgt. Maj. Kanoa and Sgt. Widemann went head to head, taking first and second overall. The LSA Champs!



Command Sgt. Maj. Kanoa and Sgt. Widemann display their medals.



A U.S. soldier stands guard as detainees pray at a U.S. military detention facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq. The United States aims to shut down its largest detention center by 2010.



PHOTOS BY DUSAN VRANIC/AP

A detainee talks to his family members during visitation hours at Camp Bucca, Iraq. More than 9,600 detainees who were captured as national security threats over the last four years are still being held there. At its peak, the prison located 340 miles southeast of Baghdad held 26,000 detainees. Under the Jan. 1 security agreement with Iraq, the U.S. has released more than 18,000 detainees so far this year and expect to release as many as 1,300 each month.

# Thousands of U.S. detainees to go free

By LARA JAKES  
The Associated Press

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq — Thousands of Iraqis held without charge by the United States on suspicion of links to insurgents or militants are being freed by this summer because there is little or no evidence against them.

Their release comes as the U.S. prepares to turn over its detention system to the fledgling Iraqi government by early 2010. In the six years since the war began, the military ultimately detained some 100,000 suspects, many of whom were picked up in U.S.-led raids during a raging, bloody insurgency that has since died down.

The effort to do justice for those wrongly held to begin with, some for years, also runs the risk of releasing extremists who could be a threat to fragile Iraqi security.

As part of an agreement between the two countries that took effect Jan. 1, Iraqi authorities have begun reviewing the cases of the detainees to decide whether to free them or press charges. About 13,300 remain behind barbed wire in U.S. custody in Iraq.

But Iraqi judges have issued detention orders to prosecute only 129 of the 2,120 cases they have finished reviewing so far

this year — or about 6 percent, according to U.S. military data. As of Thursday, 1,991 detainees had been freed since Jan. 1.

An Associated Press reporter embedded for two days at Camp Bucca, the largest U.S. detention facility in Iraq, and talked with military officials about preparations to shut it down.

“God willing, God willing,” said Layla Rasheed after learning that her son, a former government worker from Baghdad, was likely to be released. “He doesn’t have anything to do with terrorists. I don’t know why he was picked up.”

The military also expects to release another 600 detainees by the end of March, a spokesman said.

The U.S. detention policy has been unpopular in a country where many feel that thousands have been detained without cause, and where the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal will be remembered for a long time.

Iraq’s biggest Sunni parliamentary bloc has called for the release of virtually all detainees, arguing that even those who were militants no longer pose a threat because so many Sunni groups have abandoned the insurgency.

“It’s very easy to go back and say, ‘Well, you rounded up all these innocent people.’

Well, innocence has different shades,” Brig. Gen. David Quantock, commander of the U.S. detention system in Iraq, said in an interview last week. “It’s not like we have a choice — it is prosecute or release. So it’s a huge undertaking right now to try to find as much evidence as we can. We’re not going after all of them, we’re going after a certain amount.”

It is not clear that Iraqi judges will continue to issue warrants in so few cases.

Those who have been freed since Jan. 1 make up what Quantock called low-level threats that Iraqi security forces should be able to contain if they return to insurgent groups. The camp also is being closely watched as a test case as the Obama administration grapples with releasing detainees or expanding legal rights to those held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

“It’s a unique time in the history of warfare, with all of the confusion and the chaos surrounding what to do with detainees, to watch and see if it works,” said Glenn Sulmasy, a professor of international law and national security expert at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. “We don’t know. And we’re going to be dealing with these same issues at Guantanamo and Bagram in the future.”



DUSAN VRANIC/AP

A soldier watches over a detainee, seen from the back, while he talks to his family during visitation hours at Camp Bucca on Tuesday.

## AUSA banquet

Article and photos by: Maj. Pam Ellison  
29th IBCT Public Affairs

For the nearly 600 participants of the AUSA hosted dinner on March 21, it was likely the best meal for most

since their last home-cooked meal before deploying. With all the pomp and circumstance of a formal banquet, the attendees seemed to enjoy the ambiance created by the Marriott Court-



yard Hotel's Arraya Ballroom and the opportunity to eat with real silverware, plates, glasses and cloth napkins. The Association of the U.S. Army - Kuwait Chapter 8601 touts the title of being the first AUSA chapter

to be established in an Operational Theater, having been established in 2006. Upon arrival many of our Soldiers sampled glazed dates with local-style coffee. Later in the evening some Soldiers had the opportunity to pose for photos with Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, who was a surprise guest speaker; quite a few won raffle prizes; and it is certain all had a great night out even if only for the delicious meal or having the opportunity to catch up with friends from other camps, as participants from all camps throughout Kuwait attended.

“It was a great reward to enjoy the cuisine of the local people.” said Spc. Danielle Little, Geospatial Specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “I also enjoyed the local nationals that provided us a taste of their coffee and dates. Coming from a background where good food is significant to my family, I can truly say I enjoyed this opportunity.”

As one of the military professional organizations, AUSA works to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. The Kuwait Chapter conducts many projects to provide support for our Soldiers, including dinners like as this, Officer and NCO Professional Development, holiday balls, golf events, fun runs and even sponsoring a “clothes locker” of civilian clothes for Soldiers who have to go on emergency leave.

No matter who the sponsor or what the reason, you will find our Hawaii Soldiers are always up for a good meal, especially when the meal also means there's an opportunity to visit and talk story with the rest of our Lava Ohana!



# LAVA WARRIORS



## Year of the Noncommissioned Officer – 2009

By CMSgt Denise Jelinski-Hall  
Senior Enlisted Leader - HING

The Department of the Army named 2009 the “**Year of the NCO**”. This year we will be focused on highlighting the role and contributions of the NCO corps. The Year of the NCO is based on three initiatives:

- 1) To enhance policies and programs that support our NCO Corps
- 2) To recognize the NCO Corps for what it stands for and what it has done for the Army
- 3) To inform the public and our government leaders and institutions on the roles, responsibilities and the high level of quality that exists in the NCO Corps

Noncommissioned officers can trace their history back to 1775; a long and time honored past filled with service and heroism. Since the founding of the Army, NCOs have been the bedrock for the foundation for the enlisted corps. They continue to be the pillars of the Army and Army National Guard. It was through their fortitude and strength to endure and overcome any obstacle that gave way to the phrase, “NCOs- the Backbone of the Army”. NCOs are proud of their heritage and today continue to serve with pride and honor. Today, NCOs train and lead soldiers in peacetime and in combat. Whether home station or deployed you will always find the NCO doing what they do best -- serving and protecting our country. These NCOs have important duties and tremendous responsibilities which are critical to the success of the enlisted corps and the Army. They carry out these duties in a dedicated and highly professional manner. Throughout our Nation’s history NCOs have proven their grit, agility and conviction in getting the mission accomplished. Today, I stand proud and salute all NCOs! Thank you for what you do everyday at home and while deployed in defense of our country. For more information on the Year of the NCO please visit <http://www.army.mil/yearofthenco>. Hooah!



**NCOs... BACKBONE OF THE ARMY**

# LAVA WARRIORS

## “KOA” WARRIOR



Staff Sgt. Seavey is an accomplished NCO and has set the example for the rest of the Convoy Escort Team leaders in the Troop to follow. He continually assesses the combat readiness of his CET and conducts concurrent training to keep his team tactically proficient. He has been selected by the Troop Commander to be the Troop's EOF subject matter expert due to the successful EOF situations his CET has experienced. Staff Sgt. Seavey has been complimented by several convoy commanders for his professionalism and tactical competence. He is extremely dedicated to the welfare of

his Soldiers and reflects the best qualities of this Troop and Task Force.

## “GO FOR BROKE” WARRIOR

Sgt. Aaron Lin, joined the United States Army Reserve in March of 2003 through American Samoa. This is his second deployment.

During his nearly six years of service, he has always been a leader and good example for peer and junior Soldiers to follow. Through the stressful and demanding training of Ft. Hunter Liggett and Ft. Hood, he was always available to galvanize the troops when morale was low and sway inspiration even when missions were tough.

When asked what the most driving factor of him re-enlisting was, he replied,

“I just didn’t want to leave the Unit.”

He also was recently selected to go through extensive training with the Mine Resistant Armor Protected Vehicle, with a specialization in driving and as a Vehicle Commander. He lives the example of the “Go For Broke” spirit.



## NCOs... BACKBONE OF THE ARMY

# LAVA WARRIORS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RE-ENLISTED SOLDIERS

<b>Staff Sgt.</b>	<b>Danilo</b>	<b>Gumera</b>
<b>Staff Sgt.</b>	<b>Brian</b>	<b>Howdeshell</b>
<b>Staff Sgt.</b>	<b>Brandon</b>	<b>Shiraishi</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Takumi</b>	<b>Abe</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Jesse</b>	<b>Fejeran</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Robert</b>	<b>Freeman</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Kaipō</b>	<b>Hanakeawe</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Don</b>	<b>Lamug</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Alan</b>	<b>Peleiholani</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Cory</b>	<b>Shiraishi</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Alvin</b>	<b>Tokunaga</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Dayne</b>	<b>Tsunezumi</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Rodolfo</b>	<b>Acosta</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>Ahuna</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Melvin</b>	<b>Caraang</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Delrosario</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Christopher</b>	<b>Kita</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Madamba</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Widelito</b>	<b>Manuel</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Alexis</b>	<b>Molina</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Andres</b>	<b>Vallesteros</b>
<b>Pvt.</b>	<b>Carlo</b>	<b>Domingo</b>
<b>Pvt.</b>	<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Unico</b>



<b>Pfc.</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>Abella</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Anthony</b>	<b>Aquino</b>
<b>Pvt.</b>	<b>Gerhard</b>	<b>Borabora</b>
<b>Staff Sgt.</b>	<b>Carlito</b>	<b>Camat, Jr</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>Ellis</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Ernest</b>	<b>Fejes</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Derwin</b>	<b>Ganiron</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Kevin</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Mari</b>	<b>Joseph</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Sunga</b>
<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Christopher</b>	<b>Kita</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Jessy</b>	<b>Lansdale</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Justen</b>	<b>Moratin</b>
<b>Staff Sgt.</b>	<b>Mikael</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Richardson</b>	<b>Sunga</b>
<b>Spc.</b>	<b>Alika</b>	<b>Willacker</b>
<b>Pfc.</b>	<b>Fred</b>	<b>Williams, Jr.</b>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY PROMOTED SOLDIERS

# New Post 9/11 GI Bill almost here

March 2009

- The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a new educational assistance benefit for Soldiers that have served on active duty on or after 10 Sep 01
  - Effective on 1 Aug 09
  - Does not replace any existing DVA education programs (MGIB, MGIB-SR, VEAP, REAP)
  - Requires no contribution by the Soldier
  - May use up to 15 years after last active duty service of 90 or more consecutive days
  - May be used for an approved program of education offered by an accredited institution of higher learning
  - Includes graduate, undergraduate, and vocational/technical training
  - DVA will determine eligible institutions of higher learning and approved programs of education
- Key Benefits:
  - Tuition and fees limited to the highest in-state undergraduate tuition for the state enrolled
  - A monthly living stipend paid at the rate of E-5 (with dependents) BAH based on the zip code of the school
  - Up to \$1,000 per school year to pay for books and supplies
  - Up to \$1,200 of tutorial assistance
  - Up to \$2,000 for reimbursement of one licensing or certification test
- Generally, to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
  - Individuals must serve on active duty after 09/10/01 for at least 30 continuous days with a discharge due to a service-connected disability
  - Or an aggregate period ranging from 90 days to 36 months or more
  - Honorably discharged unless using benefits while still in the military
- Active duty service periods which are not qualifying for purposes of computation of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits:
  - Five year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) for commissioning from a service academy
  - Four year ADSO for an ROTC Scholarship
  - ADSO associated with acceptance of the Student Loan Repayment incentive
  - Title 32 AGR service
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency
  - Public Health Service
- Transferred benefits are, by law, not marital property
- Eligible dependents are spouse and/or one or more of the sponsor's children. Dependents must be enrolled in DEERS/RAPIDS
- The number of months of benefits transferred by a sponsor may not exceed 36 months or the lesser of months of unused benefits available under the Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Requirements to transfer:
  - Eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - Have at least six years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of election
  - ADSOs served due to ROTC Scholarship, Service Academy attendance, and SLRP count towards the six year transferability eligibility requirement
  - Be on active duty or a member of the Selected Reserves at the time of request to transfer unused benefits
  - Agree to serve four additional years in the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve) from the date of election
  - Special rules on additional commitment for certain groups

## 29th IBCT Soldiers pull escort duty for Saudi mission



Article and photo by: Nathan Hutchison,  
1st Sustainment Command (Theater)  
Public Affairs

In the Army there is always opportunity to train, and Soldiers in 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are always willing to embrace the opportunity.

As Soldiers from the Kansas Army National Guard headed to Saudi Arabia for operation Friendship One, a field training exercise hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 29th IBCT and 1st Theater Sustainment Command Soldiers made a significant event contribution

escorting over 60 truckloads of equipment to the Saudi Arabia border from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

*A Soldier looks down a row of white trucks at the Saudi border prior to escorting the convoy out of Kuwait.*

"Our main interest was not security, but maintaining positive control of the equipment until it reached its destination," said 1st Lt. Sean Smith, a 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment Convoy Escort Team Leader, "but that doesn't mean we are going to slack on our [techniques, tactics and procedures]."

Smith's team was responsible for convoy security. Convoys traveling to Iraq are required to have convoy security, so the command decision was made to handle this convoy similarly, at least until they reached the border.

"We handled this the same way we would a mission traveling throughout Iraq," Smith said. "There is always the potential that you are going to run into obstacles, so whether it's a maintenance halt, which happened on this mission; and with the large numbers of vehicles in convoys this is a typical issue, or a possible [improvised explosive device], I want to make sure my guys are prepared."

Along with Smith's escort team, Col. Mohammad Al-Mutairi, chief of Convoy Security, had a team of his security police available to keep the convoy moving smoothly.

"We only have a limited amount of vehicles to spare, but we are always willing to support any way we can," Al-Mutairi said. "My guys are able to learn about [U.S. Army's] tactics involving convoy security, but mainly we feel it is important for us to provide security too. It's important that we work together."

Once the truck arrived at the Saudi border, Smith, Al-Mutairi and their troops took the long drive back to their respective offices.

"This wasn't the kind of mission we were used to, but it gave us the opportunity to work with a different group than we're used to," Smith said. "It's always a good experience when CETs are on the road. Each of our missions constantly challenge and develop each of us into better leaders and Soldiers."

"It's always good to return to the forward operating base, after a successful mission.

Now, the first thing after mission is to get all this road dirt off my weapon, my vehicle and finally myself."

www.starbulletin.com > News > Hawaii News >

## Music, dignitaries to mark half-century of statehood

[STORY SUMMARY](#) | [READ THE FULL STORY](#)

By Mary Adamski

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Mar 16, 2009

([Single Page View](#)) | [Return to Paginated View](#)

Musical entertainment and a lineup of guests who had roles in Hawaii's recent history will be featured at a Wednesday celebration of the 50th anniversary of statehood.

The state Legislature will convene in a special joint session in the state Capitol House chambers to mark the date, March 18, 1959, when President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law the Hawaii Admission Act.

The event, from noon to 1:30 p.m., is open to the public. It will be shown live on a webcast at [www.hawaii.gov/statehood](http://www.hawaii.gov/statehood).

Gov. Linda Lingle, state Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and House Speaker Calvin Say will speak.

Also expected to attend are Hawaii's former governors and their wives, including Gov. Ben Cayetano and wife Vicky; Gov. John Waihee and wife Lynn; Gov. George Ariyoshi and wife Jean; retired Judge Jim Burns, son of the late Gov. John A. Burns; and Nancy Quinn, widow of Gov. William Quinn. Current and former members of the Hawaii congressional delegation were invited, as well as former legislators from 1959.

The 111th Army Band will perform at 11:30 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda, and at 11:55 a.m. two Hawaii Air National Guard F-15s will fly over the Capitol. Singers Danny Kaleikini and Danny Couch will be joined by Kalakaua Middle School eighth-grader Arshiel Calatrava in a musical tribute to statehood.

Following the joint session, docents will lead walking tours of the Honolulu Capitol Cultural District. Free maps showing Honolulu's historical landmarks will be available for self-guided tours.

"We should all step back and look at this milestone as an incredible achievement," said Kippen de Alba Chu, chairman of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission. The commission has planned a yearlong series of events to mark the anniversary.

After the bill to allow Hawaii to join the union was passed by Congress and signed by the president, Hawaii voters approved statehood on June 27, 1959. On Aug. 21, 1959, Eisenhower made statehood official by signing a proclamation declaring Hawaii the 50th state.



## Making Work Pay Credits

The Making Work Pay credit will lower taxes for most members. This credit was part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which became law in February 2009. The Making Work Pay credit, available for 2009 and 2010, is 6.2 percent of a taxpayer's earned income with a maximum credit of \$800 for a married couple filing a joint return and \$400 for other taxpayers. It is phased out for married couples filing a joint return with modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$150,000 and \$190,000 and other taxpayers with modified AGI between \$75,000 and \$95,000. The credit will be spread out over the year through the new

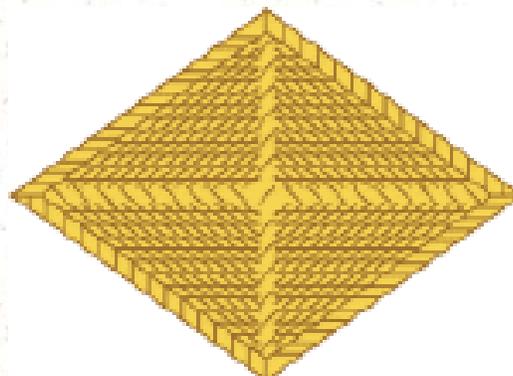
withholding tables for 2009 released by the IRS. The new withholding tables will be implemented for Military Systems by April 1, 2009. As a result of the new legislation, you may see a change in your tax withholdings. Military members do not need to fill out a new W-4 to receive this tax credit.

Single and married members with multiple jobs may want to submit revised W-4 forms to ensure enough withholding is held to cover the tax for the combined income. Remember it is each tax payer's responsibility to insure you have enough withheld to cover your tax liability. The IRS also released new tables for computing the

advance payment of earned income credit. These tables change the percentage formula to increase payments for some married military members. The new percentage formula was implemented in March 2009.

Questions concerning this message may be referred to Mr. John Timmerman at (303) 676-7594.

For more information see <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204521,00.html>



**IRS Publication 919, available at <http://www.irs.gov/> provides additional**

## Rear—Team Koa runs marathon

By: 1st Lt. Lisa Royce

Enthusiastic volunteers of the 1-299th Cavalry Regiment competed collectively as 'Team Koa' in the 12th Annual Big Island International Marathon, on March 22.

The 3.1 Mile Run/Walk traversed through scenic parts of Hilo Bay Front, circling around Banyon Drive and finishing up near the starting point.

After coming in at around 100th place out of the 258 runners who participated, Team Koa quickly made their way to the KMR Volunteer Aid Station where pumped up Army Guard members eagerly handed out drinks and sponges while cheering on competitors of the more rigorous 26.2 mile marathoners whose route traversed through their home Armory.

Event participants included top competitors from around the world - some of whom are preparing for the upcoming Lava Man Triathlon and Ironman competition.

Two members of Team Koa also enjoyed a free 'Carbo Loading Meal' offered to all competitors, at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel Friday night where they loaded up on pasta, meatballs and garlic bread, compliments of Big Island International Marathon sponsors.



## VTC brings Families together

By: 1st Lt. Lisa Royce

Keeping in touch with Family while deployed is always a big priority for Soldiers. The 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, with help from Family Readiness Groups back home, have begun using the Voice Teleconferencing Center program in an effort to assist Soldiers with maintaining their ties to loved ones.

The VTC program is a long distance telecommunication system where Family members in Hawaii sit in front of a camera and have their images broadcasted through a monitor placed at the Servicemember's location in Kuwait, with a similar setup for the Family at home.

On February 21, Sgts. Vincent Gonzales, Thomas Kaiawe, and Celine Akana had the chance to reconnect with friends and Family back home in Hawaii using the VTC. The Soldiers said the best thing about the program was the ability it gave them to see their loved ones faces and expressions of joy which cannot be conveyed through just a phone call.

Thanks to FRG and the friends and families whom made this operation such a success.



## The meaning of Aloha

By: Sgt. First Class Carmen Kanei  
29th BSTB Contributor

Residing in Hawaii "Aloha" is a way of life. According to the Hawaiian Dictionary by Mary Kawena Pukui, Aloha means affection, love, peace, compassion, mercy, hello, and goodbye as found in the Hawaiian Dictionary by Mary Kawena Pukui.

A folk etymology claims the word Aloha derives from a compound of Hawaiian words: "alo" meaning presence, front, face, or share; and "ha" meaning breath or essence of life.

In Hawaii, before contact was made with the West, words used for greeting were: "welina," meaning a greeting of affection; and "anoai," meaning salutation, news, or to greet.

Today "Aoha kakahiaka" is a phrase spoken to wish someone a good morning; "Aloha 'auinala" good afternoon; and "aloha ahiahi" good evening. "Aloha kakou" is a common form of welcome to all.

**A**kahai - be unassuming of character

**L**okahi - be harmonious with yourself and others

**O**lu'olu - agreeable; being pleasant

**H**a'aha'a - be humble; to be modest

**A**honui - strength and fortitude

"O ke aloha ka mea i ho'ola ai"

Where there is ALOHA there is LIFE and HEALING



## What do you miss most about home?

March 2009

**“I miss family. The bright faces of my niece and nephew when I come home from work. The greetings I receive from my loving parents and the relief I feel knowing that I can get into my vehicle and just get away for a moment.”**

*~ Sgt. Arvin Layugan—HHSB, I-487th FA*



**“One word—Zippy’s!”**

*~ Maj. James Barros—HHC, 29th IBCT*

**“I miss everything about the beach especially surfing and swimming.”**

*~ Sgt. Ray Rosete—HHC, 29th BSB*



**“I miss my familia and my two boys (Nic and Noah).”**

*~ Sgt. Bianca Asato—HHC, 29th IBCT*



We'd like to hear from you!

ATTN: PAO  
HHC, 29th IBCT  
APO AE 09366

Camp Arifjan Kuwait

Phone: DSN 430-4016  
E-mail: pam.ellison@us.army.mil  
E-mail: crystal.l.carpenito@us.army.mil

### **Lava Flow Staff**

**Public Affairs Officer**  
**Maj. Pam Ellison**

**Public Affairs NCOIC**  
**Sgt. Crystal Carpenito**

**Contributors**  
**Unit Public Affairs**  
**Representatives**

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
[WWW.ARMYFRG.ORG](http://WWW.ARMYFRG.ORG)



**Sgt. Carpenito and Maj. Ellison**

## **PAO Comment**

Although I can't say that I really knew Cwislyn on a personal level, I did know her as one of my fellow Soldiers and feel as though I came to know her through the wonderful stories that everyone who was close to her have shared with me. It seems that although Cwislyn's time on this Earth was cut way too short, she is one of the people who got life – she treated people with the dignity and respect; the way she wished to be

treated.

From all that has been said about her, she truly lived the Army values and was ultimately an amazing person and outstanding Soldier. I use her as an example of what each of us should strive to achieve in our lives, whether that life is long or short, by being kind and caring to our fellow Soldiers, proud of being an American and honorably serving our Nation; all of these things Cwislyn did.

So, as we are passing the half-way mark through our deployment and the days are winding down, I ask that each of you think of Cwislyn and the way she lived her life as you do your job every day. Whether you are a member of a Convoy Escort Team traveling throughout Iraq or the Human Resource Specialist processing the mounds of paperwork that will come with the requirements to go home – no matter what you do

– treat the people you interact with the same way you would want them to treat you. If we can do something as simple as that, our time here and our return to Hawaii will be much better.

If we keep in the forefront of our minds the importance of the Aloha spirit – it should be easy to treat people with kindness and compassion, always remembering how you would want to be treated.