



# DA LAVA FLOW



*The Official Newsletter of the 29th Brigade Combat Team*

Volume 1, Issue 6, December 2004

## **Commander's Corner**



Aloha Lava Brigade,  
I'd like to personally thank each of you for your outstanding performance, the professionalism you've displayed, and your willingness to put forth your best effort during these past few months. You have overcome all of the challenges and adversities presented to you, and this has resulted in the 29<sup>th</sup> BCT being ready for its final phase of training at Ft. Polk, LA. Although the finish line is in sight, this race is not over yet, and a lot can happen in a few days. Make certain to use these final days here to ensure that everything is in proper order for the last weeks of training we face in Ft Polk, as well as for the deployment. I'm counting on each of you—especially my NCOs-- to watch over each other and make certain that our soldiers do the right thing at all times, and that all safety measures are followed during our final days of training. Let's finish strong, and as a team.

Each of you is a valued member of this brigade. While you're on block leave, be certain to continue being vigilant as far as safety is concerned. Our Army has tragically lost too many soldiers to careless acts and accidents.

I can feel the excitement in all of you as the days dwindle until you are reunited with your families and friends. Be sure to use this time wisely, and ensure that their needs will be met while you are away from them serving your country.

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## **CSM's Message**

Now that we are getting close to closing another phase of our training, its time to reflect back on some of the training we've gone through, things we've learned and things we need to work on. We all remember our Level I training. It's something none of us will ever forget. It's something we had to do, and for many soldiers, it was a good refresher. It tested many of us who are pretty much advanced in our years, but we made it. Collective training and senior leaders training at Fort Bliss was more focused to what we may be doing in theater. Certain training events were widely accepted such as SRM, live fire urban ops or convoy ops, or detainee ops, while some other events – well, we just wanted to get through it although it was just as important. The bottom line is that no matter what, the soldiers of the 29<sup>th</sup> BCT are going to come out of this training better than the day we first mobilized. Could it have been done better? Sure, and the lessons learned have been passed on to our higher commands. It will never be perfect because there are just too many variables, but the goal is to make it better for the next mobilized reserve units. Finally, let's keep working on our skills as leaders to pass information down to the lowest level and make sure that information is understood and executed effectively. Information must also flow back up just as efficiently so that the command can act on it.

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### **Chaplain's thoughts**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to 29<sup>th</sup> BCT soldiers and families,

I think if Jesus Christ was here, here is what he would say.

Peace, be joyful, love one another, and good will to all men, women and children everywhere.

Stay away from evil for it will bring unhappiness.

Remember to keep my commandments, and I will bless, keep, and protect you and your children.

Though the heavens and earth pass away, my words shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled.

Chaplain (MAJ) Leonardo S. Jamias  
29<sup>th</sup> BCT Chaplain



### **Turkey Trot**

Members of the 29th support Battalion took part in the Turkey trot 5k run held in EL Paso this past Thanksgiving. Captain Jeffery Kugele finished 2nd in the 40-49 male age group with a time of 20 minutes 14 seconds.



SGT Terry Lee kaleiohi-Kalama, CW2 Brian Sakai, CW2 Tracy Tobias, CPT Hallah Nilsen, CPT Jeffrey Kugele. Kneeling: SSG Christine Leialoha.

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For those new soldiers who have just joined the Team, welcome. You've just joined one of the best Separate Infantry Brigades in the Army. To the gaining unit, make sure you designate a sponsor for the new arrivals and do your best to bring them up to speed and make them feel welcome.

Enjoy your holiday leave. Spend quality time with your families and friends. Continue your physical fitness program so you don't get too soft. Review the 29<sup>th</sup> BCT SMART Book every so often and don't forget to learn some new Arabic words. I'll see you all at JRTC.

Lava!

CSM Robert Inouye

### **Commander's Message Cont.**

I'd like to wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless you all,

Lava 6

### **Free Football Tickets.**

The University of Hawaii will face the University of Alabama Birmingham at the Sheraton Hawaii bowl Christmas Eve. Tickets will be free for military members. The stadium lot will be open at 10 Am with the ticket office opening at 11AM. For further information call the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl office at 808-523-3688.

### **Free Dinner and Concert**

Mark your calendars. On December 28th Mike Gabbard has put together a Dinner and Concert honoring the Soldiers of the 29th BCT. The event starts at 1600 and ends around 2000. Prizes will also be passed out.



# *Congratulations United States Citizens*



*BG Joseph Chaves congratulates Belinda Butac on her US Citizenship.*



*PFC Tram Dang of Charlie Medical, an immigrant from Vietnam, signs her Citizenship Certificate.*



*Specialist Francess Ann Gagarin, an immigrant from the Philippines, proudly signs her Citizenship Certificate. .*



*SPC Jocelyn Bercasio, SPC Marlon Apparra, and PFC Fred Pedro receive there Citizenship Certificates.*



*The newest Citizens of The United States of America bow there heads in prayer, there were many teary eyes throughout.*



*Soldiers of the 29th Combat team raise there right hand and recite the oath of Citizenship.*