

Celebrating the holiday season

Christa B. Thomas
*MWR Quality of Life
Marketing*

Elvis Presley once sang of having a "Blue Christmas." Although this ditty and its title suggest loneliness and melancholy, "Blue Christmas" has a very different meaning when celebrating in Hawai'i. The clear, blue December skies reflecting off the warm, sapphire waters of the Pacific make a "Blue Christmas" most desirable.

Whether celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Ramadan or Festivus, this is the time of year when most thoughts turn to family gatherings, gift giving and celebrating the joy of the season.

Local popular opinion reveals mainlanders are always in a rush. Validating that idea is the chaos generated during holidays. Holiday seasons cause people to scurry - to the post office, to the malls, to the grocery and on numerous other errands.

On the islands, there is sometimes a prevailing attitude of "hurry up, but take your time..." Locals and visitors say they treasure that laid-back atmosphere. It's not inconceivable to spend a day wakeboarding instead of snowboarding or building a sandcastle instead of a snowman. After all, the average temperature in winter is 74 degrees, the water is usually 76.

Family gatherings also have a different flavor in the islands. On the mainland, one might expect a traditional intimate gathering using the holiday

adornments and the "good china" - while "local style" calls for a jamboree of "cousins" gathering in the garage and on the lanai, sitting in a folding chair while eating from the best "Chinet." Local style is not only about the warmth of the winter sun, it's also the warmth of aloha spirit.

Most military and family members, far away from their families on the mainland or separated from a loved one who may be deployed, will gather with their adopted families for a big potluck, reminisce about home and enjoy lots of football.

No matter where or how the holidays are celebrated, the season is about giving, family traditions, enjoying memories and making new ones, fellowship, laughter and spending time with loved ones.

Navy MWR and the local community offer many activities on and off base to help celebrate the season:

Liberty in Paradise has a full schedule of activities for single Sailors - an event for nearly every day of the week. Scheduled highlights include: Captain Bob's picnic sail Dec. 18, Jump into Christmas skydiving excursion Dec. 21, Honolulu moped tour on Dec. 23, parasailing, paintball, go karting and much more. A free holiday dinner will be served at Sam Sneads Dec. 25 and there will be an all-night movie marathon and pajama party on Jan. 1. Most activities are offered free or at a reduced cost and transportation is usually provided. Call Liberty in Paradise at 473-4279.

Breakfast with Santa

Mingle with Kris Kringle at Sam Snead's Tavern from 8-10 a.m. Dec. 18. Enjoy a buffet-style breakfast, storytelling and a visit with Santa. The cost is \$5.95 per



Photo courtesy of the City and County of Honolulu

On a trip down to Honolulu Hale (the City Hall) locals and tourists visit downtown Honolulu, radiant with the 40-foot tree, wreath exhibits and two miles of lights along King, Beretania, Bishop and other downtown streets.

person. Call 421-SAMS to make reservations.

Holiday Youth Paddle and Regatta

Youth ages nine-17 are invited to this free event where the history and the basics of outrigger canoeing will be taught. All equipment will be provided. Paddle dates are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Dec. 20-29 from 4-5:30 p.m. Family Day is Dec. 26 from 12:30-3 p.m. Call 256-2297 or 391-3394 for more information.

Cinema Gratis

Sharkey Theater presents free movies to all authorized patrons on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As an extra "thank you," all active duty personnel will receive a free bag of popcorn.

Call 473-2574 or visit the MWR web site, www.greatlifeohawaii.com for details.

Honolulu City Lights Trolley Charter

Enjoy the sounds of the city, thousands of sparkling lights and festive holiday presentations as an open-air trolley makes its way through downtown Honolulu on Dec. 17, 19 and 21. Get your tickets at any Navy IIT office for this holiday jaunt. The cost is

\$10 per person for ages six years and up. Three trolleys will pick up from Bloch Arena, one at 5:30 pm, two at 6 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. Call 473-1190 for information.

20th Annual Honolulu City Lights

Take a trip down to Honolulu Hale (the City Hall) and visit downtown Honolulu, radiant with the brilliant 40-foot tree, wreath exhibits and two miles of lights along King, Beretania, Bishop and other downtown streets. The city employees' indoor tree exhibit will be on display daily from 8 am to 11 p.m. Special holiday entertainment will be presented every evening through Dec. 25 at Honolulu Hale. All events are free. For more information, call 527-6060.

The Armed Services YMCA Single Sailor Drop-in Center

(building 89, Pearl Harbor) has special holiday activities planned in an alcohol-free

environment. This home-away-from-home will have "up all night" sleepover events with movies, snacks and games. "Auntie Ernie" Aubry, program director, invites all single Sailors to enjoy a free Christmas Day dinner starting at 2 p.m. Aubry said. Sailors can plan their events, from watching movies, using the computer to access the Internet or cooking. Call 473-3398 for information.

The Navy chapels offer several holiday worship opportunities. Holiday concerts, cantatas, candlelight vigils are but a few of the multi-denominational programs. Navy family member Ostin Charles said that although she and her "family are far from home (Hampton, Va.), worshipping regularly, especially during the holidays is really familiar and is the next best thing to being there." Visit www.pearlharbor.navy.mil for the complete schedule.

New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year on Dec. 31 at Ocean's CPO Club. Free pupus, karaoke and fun start at 9 p.m. For more information, call 473-21743.

Let's GLOW Party - Country Bar, Club Pearl

The Country Bar at Club Pearl will also host a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.

The \$5 cover charge includes party favors, a chance to win gifts, with a special presentation after midnight, and all the fun memories the night brings. For more information, call 473-1743.



Photo courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Rebecca Hamilton (in the Santa hat) mans the craft table at the Catlin Community Center holiday festivities as children assemble holiday cards.

From the front

Santa Claus: The West's secret weapon against global terrorism

Opinion
JOC(SW) Joe Kane

(Editor's note: The Spouse to Spouse column couldn't be run this week. Instead we are pleased to present this from Chief Joe Kane who volunteered for six months of duty in Iraq.)

It may seem, on the surface, a bit of a stretch, but I'm willing to bet that Osama Bin Laden never, ever believed in Santa Claus. I just can't picture him hanging his stockings by the chimney with care or baking cookies or writing a list of things he'd like sent to him from the North Pole. If he had done any of those things, he might have some idea about the consequences of being naughty and being nice.

I'm not in any way trying to trivialize the horrors that terrorists have perpetrated and certainly I understand the gravity of the war we are currently engaged in. Having spent the last four months dodging mortar rounds and attending Purple Heart and memorial ceremonies for my wounded and fallen co-workers over in Iraq, I have a new perspective on what we are facing as a nation and as a culture. What I would like to point out though is that we have in our arsenal a secret and very lethal weapon to use against the terrorists who wish for our destruction. That weapon is Santa Claus.

Okay, I hear the sound of "Bah humbugs" along with the rustling of hands busily searching the cushions of mental sofas for the remote control to turn the proverbial channel, but bear with me for a moment.

As Dr. Leonard Peikoff put it in an article for Capitalism Magazine Dec. 6, "Christmas as we celebrate it today is a 19th-century American invention. The freedom and prosperity of post-Civil War America created the happiest nation in history. The result was the desire to celebrate, to revel in the goods and pleasures of life on earth. Christmas (which was not a federal holiday until 1870) became the leading American outlet for this feeling... the major developments of 19th-century capitalism: industrialization, urbanization, the triumph of science -- all of it leading to easy transportation, efficient mail delivery, the widespread publishing of books and magazines, new inventions making life comfortable and exciting, and the rise of entrepreneurs who understood that the way to make a profit was to produce something good and sell it to a mass market."

These are the conditions that make our celebration of Christmas possible and also the very things that frighten those who wish to impose their own will on everyone around them, whether out of a lust for power and control or out of a fanatical adherence to an anti-life creed. Tolerance of freethinking individuals is a threat to



NORAD photo

Santa Claus poses with singer Aaron Carter outside NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain Compound.

them.

So, how does Santa Claus fit into all of this? Imagine the idea of a benevolent person who can see everything you do -- yes, he could see you while you are sleeping and he knows when you are awake -- he would also know when you did something right or wrong and reward you accordingly.

That is a concept of justice that children learn very early when they believe in Santa Claus.

And they get presents, as Dr. Peikoff points out, whether they are rich or poor, as long as they are good. The emphasis rests on equality and justice based on one's character rather than social status -- that's an idea many cultures lack outside the United States. Often times outside the western countries justice is meted out based on tribal, ethnic or wealth status, and "who you know" could be an issue of life or death.

It has become abundantly clear since Sept. 11, 2001 that what the terrorists hate most about America is our pro-life, this-worldly focus, our dedication to the sanctity of individual rights and continuing pursuit of happiness. They hate our success, our pride in our achievements, our freedom to choose our lifestyles and religion (or lack of) and our enormous wealth. These are all things that we celebrate with exuberance in the Christmas and holiday season and the kind of things that Santa Claus himself represents -- the enjoyment of life.

Forward-deployed Sailors, Marines receive Christmas gifts from MWR

JO2 Jason Trevett
Commander, U.S. Naval
Forces Central
Command/Commander,
U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

Forward-deployed Sailors and Marines began receiving more than 2,700 Christmas gift packages from Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) stateside sponsorship drive Dec. 11.

Many of the gift packages have already arrived at remote locations in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

The program was enacted after Sept. 11 and has expanded over the last three years, taking on new sponsors. The Christmas gifts arrived at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain early this month to be prepared and individually organized for distribution in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

"The boxes were arranged once they reached NSA Bahrain by volunteers and by members of NSA's Petty Officer First Class Association," said

Commander, Task Force 53 Command Master Chief (AW) Al Hughes. "Once all the boxes arrived here in Bahrain, our command was responsible for the logistics support to get them to all the places they needed to go to get into the hands of the Sailors and Marines who they are intended for."

Six hundred and fifty boxes reached the troops the first year of the sponsorship drive, and each year the number of sponsors and materials has increased.

"This has blossomed into a nice program," said Lee Barclay, NSA Bahrain Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs manager. "This year, our sponsors sent a variety of products to the troops, includ-



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Jason Trevett

(Right to left) 5th Fleet Force Master Chief R. J. Chapman, Commander Task Force Five Three Command Master Chief Al Hughes and Navy Personnel Command MWR Command Master Chief Buck Hickman, hand out Christmas gifts to Sailors and Marines stationed at Camp Morreel, Kuwait.

ing music CDs, books, comics, phone cards, hand lotion, nutrition bars and sunblock, to name a few."

The products provided to MWR Bahrain had a commercial value of more than \$100,000.

Navy C-130 Hercules aircraft special-delivered a majority of the gifts directly to camps and bases in Kuwait, the Horn of Africa and the United Arab Emirates for further distribution.

"There will be many brave Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen standing watch Christmas Day," said Chief of Naval Operations-directed U.S. 5th Fleet Force Master Chief (SS/SW/AW) R. J. Chapman. "Perhaps not everyone will receive something from home, but at least they

will get something from MWR and the Sailors here in Bahrain."

"This program just keeps getting bigger and better," Chapman added. "I would like to thank all the people who helped to put this together, and all the Sailors and Marines who met us at the different camps we went out to in order to get these packages where they need to be -- the front lines."

The Christmas gift packages are slated for distribution to Sailors protecting Iraq's Khawr Al Amaya and Al Basrah oil terminals (KAAOT and ABOT) in the Persian Gulf, remote locations in Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Egypt.

Christmas tree and trash pickup

Christmas tree recycling pickup:

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up in all Navy housing neighborhoods on assigned green waste collection days during the weeks of Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. The trees will be recycled and made into mulch for use in Hawaii's botanical gardens and other locations. The Christmas Tree Recycling Project is state-sponsored.

Trees should be placed at curbside by 7 a.m. on pickup days in the same vicinity where trash containers are placed for regular refuse collection. The trees must be clean and free from nails, screws, wires, tinsel, stands or decorations. Also, no flocked trees are accepted. If trees are picked up that do not meet these spec-

ifications, the entire truckload of trees will be rejected at the tree-recycling center. Residents in PPV areas should call 423-7711 for more information.

Change in refuse/bulk pick up collection:

There will be no refuse or bulk trash pickups on Friday, Christmas Eve and Friday, New Year's Eve for residents in non-PPV areas. If your normal trash collection or bulk refuse collection day is on those Fridays, collections will be accomplished on the following Mondays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. However, for residents living in PPV communities, there will be refuse collection on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Federal Fire Department plays Santa to sick children

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Christmas came early to approximately 60 children who are inpatients and outpatients on the pediatric cancer ward at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children on Dec. 10 when representatives from Federal Fire Department at Naval Station Pearl Harbor paid a visit.

The firefighters attended the children's Christmas party which was hosted by the Hawai'i Children's Cancer Foundation, for the keiki ranging in ages from 18

months to 17 years.

The fire inspectors brought bright new bicycles, boogie boards, skateboards and basketballs, accompanied by one of the department's engines assigned to the Subarea of Pearl Harbor, for all of the children. The children also had an opportunity to clamber aboard the fire truck and check out the equipment.

Victor Flint, fire inspector for the department, was impressed with the positive attitude of the keiki they visited. "These children have so much life in their eyes and their attitudes are so positive despite their physical condi-

tion," said Flint.

Kalani Whitford, a fire inspector with the department, spearheaded Federal Fire Department's participation in the event and purchased all of the gifts. "I wanted to make the holidays a little sweeter for the kids," said Whitford. "I want them to know somebody cares. I'm the guy behind the scenes, I try to make things happen," he explained. "Just a little thing like this - to bring a smile to the kids' faces - makes it all worth it for me."

Fire inspector George Salcedo assisted with the project.

Graham Construction partnered with Federal Fire Department in providing entertainment, food and gifts for the event.

Pat Ota, public relations manager for Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, discussed the importance of such events as the Christmas party for young patients.

"Part of healing for children is a sense of normalcy and a sense of celebration," she explained.

Carol Kotsubo, clinical nurse specialist in pediatric oncology at the center, said that as the toys were given to

the children.

"There were lots of smiling faces," Kotsubo said.

"We were just amazed by the overwhelming generosity and the magnitude of the gifts they [Federal Fire Department] brought for the children. The children were just thrilled," she commented.

Kotsubo also discussed the importance of maintaining a sense of normalcy for the ill children.

"We cure about 85 percent of children with cancer. To believe you're going to be cured means you're normal," she said. "Children need to play and do normal things. The children are still able to see the fun in life," she added.

Bringing joy and smiles to the faces of the young cancer victims made a big impression on the firefighters. "This was a humbling experience. I'll never forget the look on the children's faces when we (FFD) gave them, all of them, their toys - and how excited they were to go on the fire truck," Flint said.

"Many of the family members of the children began to cry, because they saw how much joy the children were expressing. They just could not stop crying and thanking



Photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department

A patient at the pediatric cancer ward at Kapiolani Medical Center poses for a photograph with Santa Claus.



Photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department

A patient at the pediatric cancer ward at Kapiolani Medical Center gets his arm painted.

us (FFD) for being there," he continued.

But the thing that impressed Flint the most was the courage displayed by the

young patients. "You would think that being a firefighter is tough well, these children at Kapiolani are the tough ones," he said.

'Gifts from the Homefront' provides comfort for service members

MM3 Greg Bookout
Staff Writer

Military exchanges worldwide are offering a special way of spreading Christmas joy and reconnecting military members serving overseas with family members and friends through the "Gifts from the Homefront" program.

Janeane Robinson, customer relations manager for the NEX, said that the purpose of these special gift certificates is to allow friends and family of service members a way to purchase a gift for them, even while deployed overseas.

"Gifts from the Home Front"

allows anyone to purchase a gift certificate for a loved one, family member or dear friend associated with the military," said Robinson. "These certificates are redeemable by authorized patrons of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), the Navy Exchange (NEX) and the Coast Guard Exchange. The certificates are redeemable at all locations around the world including deployed areas. These military exchanges are the sole retail support for our service members in such areas as the Middle East and Southwest Asia," she explained.

Robinson said anyone, civilian or military, may purchase gifts from the

homefront certificates on-line with a credit card.

"As long as you have Internet access and a credit card, you are able to purchase or donate to a service member or organization," said Robinson. "By visiting the Navy Exchange's Web site www.navy-nex.com, you can purchase them through the Certificate program."

Robinson also noted that through this program, gifts may be sent for a specific individual or donated for the use of needy troops through several military organizations.

"They can be purchased for individuals, Navy members and their families through the Navy-Marine

Corps Relief Society, or to wounded, hospitalized military members through the Fisher House," said Robinson. "Donations to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or to the Fisher House help ease the anxiety for military personnel and their families at a stressful time in their lives."

Robinson said, especially during the holidays, troops as well as family members are helped by being connected and feeling some warmth and comfort from home.

"This program is an important way for any individual to contribute to the morale and well being of service members and their families," said Robinson. "This allows parents,

friends, family members and others who aren't in the military to purchase gift certificates for service members no matter where they are."

Robinson explained the main goals of this program are to provide comfort for troops and military families as well as giving friends and family a good way to help.

"This is just another way any individual or organization can support our military and their families while serving our country," said Robinson. "For some, a program like this gives the person a choice of who will receive their gift and the reassurance they are giving the service members what they really need."

All about Santa Claus myths

Compiled by Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Down the chimney: According to NORAD, the question of how Santa gets down the chimney is one of the world's baffling mysteries: "For years, academics, scientists, moms, dads, and generations of children have pondered the question. There are many theories. Some people wonder why Santa doesn't just use a door like anyone else. The short answer is tradition, a 1,500-year-old tradition started by old St. Nicholas who was known throughout the ancient world for giving gifts of gold to those who were less fortunate. St. Nicholas would secretly give his golden gifts by placing them...down the chimney. Based on flight profile configuration data gathered from decades of NORAD's radar and satellite tracking of Santa Claus, the scientists have concluded that Santa probably stands about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs approximately 260 pounds. The men and women at NORAD have no idea how Santa gets down the chimney. Their scientists continue to research this mystery for answers."

How does Santa visit so many homes? NORAD's fact finders offer the following theory: "Santa maintains a huge list of children who have been good throughout the year. Since the list gets bigger each year by virtue of the world's increasing population, Santa has had to adapt

over the years to having less and less time to deliver his toys. If one were to assume he works in the realm of standard time, as we know it, clearly he would have perhaps two to three thousandths of a second to deliver his toys to each child's home he visits."

Is Santa real? Certainly, the question of whether or not Santa is real has been debated for years. But this is what the NORAD trackers have to say: "We believe, based on historical data and 50 years of NORAD tracking information, that Santa Claus is alive and well in the hearts of people throughout the world. Santa Claus is known by many names, but his first recorded name was Saint Nicholas. Historians claim that the history of Santa starts with the tradition of Saint Nicholas, a 4th Century Christian priest who lived in the Middle East in an area of present day Turkey. Saint Nicholas became famous throughout the world for his kindness in giving gifts to others who were less fortunate. Typically, he placed gifts of gold down people's chimneys - sometimes into stockings. It may be that the Santa we know and love emerged from the legacy of Saint Nicholas. What we know from history is that the tradition of Santa Claus and Saint Nicholas merged. Could they be the same person? Only Santa Claus can tell us for sure.

(From the staff of Hawai'i Navy News, Merry Christmas!)

Helping the war effort at home

Patient Family Assistance takes care of service members returning from war

Margaret Tippy

*Tripler Army Medical Center
Public Affairs Office*

Sgt. Wilson Coronel, 24, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was deployed in Afghanistan Oct. 20 when an improvised explosive device (IED) blew up, hitting the cargo HUMVEE he was riding shotgun in.

Eight Soldiers were in the vehicle. Only the driver and Coronel were hit and Coronel was hit the worst.

Both major bones of the left leg were broken and shrapnel was embedded up and down both legs. Coronel was flown to a combat support hospital (CSH) and treated in theater, stabilized and flown to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany.

After being treated there, he was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; stopped at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; Travis Air Force Base, Calif. and finally flew in to Hickam Air Force Base.

"I thought it went pretty fast," Coronel said. "I was injured on Oct. 20 and made it to Tripler Oct. 26.

"They really took care of me. If I was in pain or uncomfortable, they gave me something to help," he said. "Then when the bird [airplane] landed, Sgt. [Kelli] Miyasato [the 25th ID liaison at Tripler] was right there. She came up on the plane and told me she would be my liaison and

would visit every day.

"And she does come up to see me in the hospital every day," Coronel said. "Any questions I have or needs I have, I just need to ask her and she does everything she can."

Miyasato introduced him to Rochelle Soto, his nurse case manager, and his assigned rear detachment unit.

Coronel's sister, Melissa Davis, 20, of Jackson, Miss., is the family he wants to get back to and he said doctors hope to have him home soon.

"I'm real happy with the care here," Coronel said. "I need one more skin graft on my left leg and then I can go home and crash on [my sister's] couch. I'm looking forward to it."

Miyasato is a part of Tripler Army Medical Center's Patient and Family Assistance Team (PFAT). The team tracks wounded and injured Soldiers' every movement to make sure they are well taken care of during their stay at Tripler.

When they fly into Hickam, Soldiers like Miyasato are there to take care of them.

"It's really awesome being able to go on the bird and welcome them home," she said, smiling. "Not very many people get to feel the pride you feel when you've got the Soldiers [back] home to Tripler and they're going to get the care they need."

She gets them to Tripler by van or ambulance and medical care begins.

"(When the returning Soldiers) talk about their deployments, all

they want is to go back and be with their comrades," Miyasato said.

"I have a real sense of pride. This is the best job I've ever had in the military," said the six-year veteran.

Soldiers like Miyasato and unit representatives are greeting the returnees at Hickam, transporting them to Tripler for their checkup, paging physicians to provide that checkup, releasing those Soldiers who are outpatients as soon as possible to spend time with loved ones and in-processing those who are inpatients to the warfighter ward. All of this normally happens in the middle of the night.

In Germany, the 25th Infantry Division Liaison Team starting with Capt. Danielle Carosello at Landstuhl tracks every patient movement.

"The air evacuation office has done a stupendous job of taking care of these Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Douglas B. Sloan, Tripler's chief of patient administration division and the Global War on Terrorism patient tracking and accountability team.

The team has expanded as the number of returning Soldiers – and now Marines – has grown to close to 290 in the last 11 months. Now, military liaison representatives from the other services attend meetings.

Nurse case managers led by Marsha Graham and represented by nurses like Karen Williams make sure Soldiers can reach them 24 hours a day, seven days a week with pager numbers, moni-



U.S. Army photo

Army Sgt. Kelli Miyasato, 25th Infantry Division Liaison noncommissioned officer, visits with Army Sgt. Wilson Coronel, an inpatient at Tripler Army Medical Center. Coronel, who is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was deployed in Afghanistan on Oct. 20 when an improvised explosive device blew up hitting the cargo HUMVEE in which he was riding shotgun.

tor their healthcare and take care of their needs.

"We want to thank the Air Force nurses and flight surgeons who take care of our patients on the long trip home to Tripler," said Glenna Lukomski, a nurse case manager.

Eileen Maher of social work case management makes sure other needs are taken care of and counseling is provided.

Community health nursing led by Maj. Mary Christal assesses Soldiers' needs and the Veterans Administration staff work with the Tripler staff in case VA needs to provide care. Marisa Burgess-Suntheimer, Tripler patient affairs, and Medical Hold 1st Sgt. James Jansen all work to take care of the Soldiers' needs.

Sloan likes to call the team approach the "conciierge" high touch approach for all medical

and social needs.

All of this is monitored by Col. (Dr.) David Crudo, chief of deployment health, who has oversight responsibility for the returning wounded and injured.

The team meets every weekday at 9 a.m. to take care of patient needs.

"I estimate 75 percent of those returning have been outpatients and 25 percent inpatients," Crudo said. "And about 80 percent have been in the category 'disease none battle injury' (DNBI).

"We've seen mostly orthopedic injuries – a lot of leg injuries, a lot of broken bones and Soldiers taking shrapnel," he said.

Everyone is working together to care for returnees. The nurse case managers made sure every returned patient had plans for Thanksgiving dinner and wasn't alone on the holiday.

STORY IDEAS? Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com *Hawaii* Navy News

MWR

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater
Naval Station Pearl Harbor
(473-0726)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)
SATURDAY
2:30 p.m. Surviving Christmas (PG 13)
4:30 p.m. The Incredibles (PG)
7:00 p.m. Seed of Chucky (R)
SUNDAY
2:30 p.m. The Polar Express (G)
4:30 p.m. The Grudge (PG 13)
6:30 p.m. After The Sunset (PG 13)

THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Memorial Theater
Hickam Air Force Base
(449-2239)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Saw (R)
SATURDAY
2:00 p.m. The Polar Express (G)
7:00 p.m. Saw (R)
SUNDAY
2:00 p.m. The Polar Express (G)
7:00 p.m. Saw (R)
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. After The Sunset (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Sgt. Smith Theater
Schofield Barracks
(624-2585)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)
SATURDAY
2:00 p.m. The Incredibles (PG)
7:00 p.m. The Incredibles (PG)
SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. Alfie (R)
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EVENTS

• **Dec. 26:** Surf kayaking, 9:30 a.m., \$15. Register by **Dec. 22.**

MERRY FITNESS

Join Navy Fitness for the "Twelve Days Before Christmas." Participants can earn the opportunity to win prizes with each visit to a Navy fitness facility between **today** and **Dec. 24.** Drawings will be held daily at all participating Navy fitness centers. For more information, call 473-0793.

PEE WEE FLAG FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for Pee Wee flag football will conclude **today** at the youth sports office, 600 Main St. The cost is \$35 and includes T-shirt, medal and certificate. To register, participants should bring a current physical (dated no more than a year ago) and birth certificate. The activity is open to youth ages three-five years. For more information, call 474-3501.

HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS TROLLEY CHARTER

Enjoy the sounds of the city, thousands of twinkling lights and festive holiday displays as the open-air trolley makes its way through downtown Honolulu on the Honolulu City Lights trolley charter. Get your tickets at any Navy ITT office for the holiday jaunt. The cost is \$10 per person age six and up. Charter trolleys will pick up from Bloch Arena,

at 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on **Dec. 17, 19 and 21.** For more information, call 473-1190.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Keiki can have Breakfast with Santa from 8-10 a.m. **Dec. 18** at Sam' Sneads Tavern. The breakfast buffet will include storytelling and a visit with Santa. The cost is \$5.95 per person. For reservations or more information, call Sam Snead's Tavern at 421-SAMS (7267).

JUNIOR GOLF HOLIDAY PROGRAM

A Junior Golf Holiday Program is planned for **Dec. 18-19** at Navy Marine Golf Course. Clinics will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and are open to junior youth ages 17 and younger. Register at the pro shop. For more information, call 471-0348.

HOLIDAY INLINE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MWR will host a Holiday Inline Hockey Tournament on **Dec. 18-19.** Divisions will include adults (age 18 years and over), advanced and intermediate levels. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The time will be announced. The cost is \$5 per player. For more information, call the Boards & Blades skate shop at 473-3295.

ACTIVE DUTY TENNIS CLINIC

Learn the basics of tennis at a free active duty tennis clinic at 5:30 p.m. **Dec. 22** at Wentworth tennis courts. Racquets and balls will be provided. Spouses are welcome. Register by **Dec. 20.** For more information, call 473-0610.

NAVY ITT OFFICES HOLIDAY HAM / HINDQUARTER GIVEAWAY

Visit any Navy ITT office and register to win a holiday ham. Complete an entry form and drop it in the drawing box at any Navy ITT

office. Drawing for the ham will be held at 8 a.m. **Dec. 20.** Drawing for the hindquarter will be at 8 a.m. **Dec. 27.** No purchase is necessary and entrants need not be present to win. For more information, call 473-1190.

HOLIDAY SKATEBOARD CONTEST

A Holiday Skateboard Contest is planned for **Dec. 30** at Boards & Blades Skate Park. Divisions will include open military (active duty), ages 18 and under, 14-17, 13 and under. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The cost is \$7 for advanced registration. The cost is \$10 if registering on the day of the event. For more information, call Boards & Blades skate shop at 473-3295.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT RAINBOW BAY MARINA

Two for one rentals will be offered on **Dec. 31** at Rainbow Bay Marina. Anyone who rents a kayak, paddleboat or sailboat will receive a free hour for each hour rented. For more information, call 473-0284.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Ocean's CPO Club will host a New Year's Eve party beginning at 9 p.m. **Dec. 31.** There will be free pupus and karaoke. For more information, call 473-1743.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT CLUB PEARL

A New Year's Eve party will begin at 8:30 a.m. **Dec. 31** at the Country Bar at Club Pearl. The \$5 cover charge includes party favors, a chance to win gifts, with a special presentation after midnight. For more information, call 473-1743.

SALSA DANCE CLASSES

Salsa dance classes are offered on Thursdays and Fridays at Bloch

Arena Fitness Center. Samir Hana, instructor, teaches the latest dance styles, including merengue, cha-cha and cumbia. There is no partner and no experience necessary. Level I and II classes are available:

Salsa (Level I): Thursday, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.; Saturday, 5 - 6:15 p.m.
Salsa (Level II): Friday, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.
Merengue/cha-cha/cumbia: Friday, 6 - 7:15 p.m.
For more information, call 473-0793.

MASSAGES BY "THE LOTUS TOUCH"

Want to improve circulation, increase flexibility, release muscle tension and receive a greater sense of well-being? Try "The Lotus Touch." Patrons can enjoy a hot and cold stone massage which includes face, neck and shoulders. A 75-minute treatment costs \$90. Other treatments are available for as low as \$15. Appointments are available at Bloch Arena and Power Point Fitness Centers. For more information, call Ruby at 386-4812.



• **Dec. 17:** Makapu'u Lighthouse hike and barbecue, \$5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
• **Dec. 18:** Captain Bob's picnic sail, \$61, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Weekly events:

Sunday: Chess tournament, 6:30 p.m.
Monday: WWE wrestling, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8-Ball tournament - 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Game show - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9-Ball Pool tournament - 7 p.m.

Community Calendar

To have your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or fax 473-2876. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run on a space available basis.

Blood Drives:

• **Dec. 23:** 9 a.m.-noon, U.S. Air Force, Hickam Community Center, Hickam Air Force Base.

The NEX Winter Wonderland Choo-Choo Train will treat children to rides at The Mall from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. through **Jan. 5, 2005.** Ticket prices are \$2.50 per child.

Various groups from "Our Ohana's 2nd Christmas CD" will perform during the holiday season from 4-6 p.m. **Dec. 18** at the Navy Exchange.

First aid/CPR and babysitting classes will be offered by the Hickam Air Force Base/Pearl Harbor chapter of the American Red Cross in December. First aid and CPR classes will be given **Dec. 18.** All classes require pre-registration and payment at the time of registration. For more information or to register, call 449-0166 or stop by building 1105 at Hickam Air Force Base.

The American Red Cross, Hickam Service Center is seeking volunteers to fill the following positions: chairman of volunteers, records chairman and publicity chairman. For more information, call the Red Cross office at 449-0166. The office is located at 655 Vickers Ave., building 1105 and is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Security measures are enforced at the NEX. For customers' protection, bags, purses or personal bags larger than 12 inches-by-12 inches will not be allowed in the Navy Exchange.

Good grades can earn cash prizes for children at the Navy Exchange's Project A-OK program. Bring your child's most recent report card to the Navy Exchange to register. Your child could win \$5,000, \$3,000 \$2,000 or \$1,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds. For more information, visit the NEX customer service department at The Mall rotunda.

In accordance with NEX guest policy, the NEX welcomes guests of authorized patrons. To protect your NEX privileges, they ask that only the primary cardholder (active duty or retired member) and spouse sponsor guests and those guests are limited to two per authorized cardholder.

The University of Oklahoma offers a master of arts in managerial economics and a master of public administration. The university's non-thesis programs can be completed in about 18 months. It also offers one-week classes that are TDY/TAD friendly. For more information, call 449-6364, email aphickam@ou.edu or visit their Web site at www.gouou.edu.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit, noncommercial weight-loss support group, meets every Wednesday at the Armed Services YMCA,

Aliamanu location. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:15 p.m. Membership fees are low and includes the T.O.P.S. magazine. There are also incentive programs offered. The first meeting is free.

T.O.P.S. in Hawai'i is a support group for helping members Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group recently held its state convention and crowned the state queen. She had lost all her weight by the end of December 2003 and lost 163 pounds. The first meeting of T.O.P.S. is free. If you need support in your weight loss efforts, the group offers low monthly fees and a low joining fee. Call Delcie at 623-1403 for information on the several chapters and meeting places on the island. For more information, call Delcie at 623-1403.

How to contact TriWest/TRICARE services - Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment; Primary Care Manager and address changes; program benefits questions; claims status; fee payments and locating network providers in the area by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), visiting their web site at www.triwest.com, or visiting TRICARE Service Centers located at Makalapa Medical Clinic and Kaneohe Bay Medical Clinic.

The TRICARE Service Center located at the Pearl Harbor Makalapa Clinic is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Kaneohe Clinic is open from 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.

The Children's Waiting Room is a place where parents can drop off their children if they have a doctor's appointment. The Armed Services YMCA is in need of volunteers to keep this program running at Tripler Army Medical Center. The hours of the waiting room are from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Those who are interested in volunteering or who wish to place an appointment should call 833-1185.

The Pearl Harbor Aquatics Tsunami is a competitive swim team that practices daily at Richardson Pool. It is open to both military and civilian swimmers ages six years and up. The team is a USA swimming affiliate. For more information, visit the team's Web site at www.tsunamis.homestead.com or contact at 471-9181 or email: phsc@inix.com.

Welcome Baby support group: All expectant and new moms are invited to attend. The group meets twice a month. Children are welcome to attend. For more information or to reserve a spot, call Terri or Susan at 363-1897.

Navy Lodge Ford Island offers 150 affordable, comfortable, air-conditioned suites and rooms. Amenities include a swimming pool, a large meeting room, mini mart and a landscaped courtyard. Each room features satellite TV, DVD/CD player, direct-dial telephone service and a kitchenette, complete with microwave and utensils. To make reservations or for more information, call 440-2290.

Shop at Ford Island - Ford Island Mini Mart offers residents of Navy housing on the island convenient shopping without leaving Ford Island.



After the Sunset: Life should be easy after a sterling career as a thief. Though he is retired to paradise, trouble comes looking for Max when his former nemesis from the FBI shows up with news of a big score on the horizon.

Alfie: A British bachelor in Manhattan named Alfie balances several relationships at once, but eventually his womanizing makes him question his seemingly carefree lifestyle.

The Grudge: Karen, an American student working with a Japanese health center, comes across a mysterious curse. Known as a "grudge," the curse was born inside of a house after its inhabitants died while consumed by rage.

The Incredibles: A family of famous superheroes, led by the retired and overweight Mr. Incredible, is placed in a quiet suburb by the witness protection program in order to protect them from their nemesis. But when the world is threatened, Mr. Incredible must go back to work to save the planet.

The Polar Express: Believing in Santa Claus isn't easy when your friends and family insist he's just make-believe. But a young boy's faith is rewarded on Christmas Eve when he's awakened by a steam train whose conductor takes him and other children to the North Pole to meet Santa.

Ray: See Review

Saw: Obsessed with teaching his victims the value of life, a deranged serial killer is abducting wayward people and forcing them to play horrific games for their own survival.

Seed of Chucky: The fifth in the series of Chucky horror comedies, the film introduces Glen, the orphan doll offspring of the doll-come-to-life Chucky. When production starts on a movie detailing the legend of his parents' lethal exploits, Glen brings his bloodthirsty parents back from the dead.

Surviving Christmas: Drew decides to go back to his childhood home to spend the holidays with family. But the people living there now are not Drew's family. Nevertheless, Drew has his mind set on a family Christmas.

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley Ray

Never has a film been so poignant and touching yet so lifeless as Taylor Hackford's musical biography "Ray." Never have scenes invoked such emotion, only to be followed by the dreary reality of life.

Jamie Foxx portrays Ray Charles Robinson with such meticulousness and passion, that the audience will find themselves forgetting that it is Foxx. There is no question that he has become Ray, in his walk, talk, mannerisms and overall persona. Granted Foxx does not sing in the film, but who can blame him. With access to original recordings and that signature inimitable voice, why ruin it?

The story tells the life of Ray from his birth in 1930 through 1966. However, scenes of childhood are interjected in flashback, sometimes drug induced mode. He battles managers, drugs, wives and girlfriends and many other personal demons.

What really grabs the audience are scenes of his childhood. When Ray's younger brother George drowns in a wash basin, or Ray begins to lose his sight or the moment of pure joy when Ray begins to accept his blindness and start using his other senses to function, the audience begins to realize and understand Ray Charles. It's such a shame that Hackford only dabbles into these powerful scenes, instead focusing more on the drug addiction and women. The clichéd scenes have been done before, and done better.

When filming someone's biography, directors can't cover the entire life. It's too much. Focusing and honing in on the most important and emotionally viable aspects is what makes this type of movie good or bad.

In "Ray," Hackford chooses some great aspects to show the audience, and chooses some really bad ones as well. If not for the performance by Foxx, this movie would not be worth making. If for no other reason, go see this movie because of Jamie Foxx and his incredible portrayal.

OVERALL RATING:

MWR holds Winterfest 2004



Children visit with Santa Claus, sharing their Christmas wishes, and also taking home a holiday gift.

Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker



Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

A child shoots hoops for prizes courtesy of Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i.



Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

Chaplain (Cmdr.) Patrick McCormick, master of ceremonies for Winterfest 2004, invites guests to sing Christmas carols with the choir before the annual tree-lighting ceremony.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation held Winterfest 2004 Dec. 10 at the Paradise Lounge, Club Pearl. A tree lighting ceremony opened the event, with holiday carols, children's crafts, a visit with Santa Claus, a bounce house, face-painting and games.

The event also included a performance by Hypersquad, a dance troupe who mixes hip-hop, jazz ballet and tap together.



Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

A child creates an art project at Winterfest 2004 with the help of a parent. Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child Development Centers provided arts and crafts activities for children and parents to participate in together. The event also included a performance by Hypersquad, a dance troupe who mixes hip-hop, jazz ballet and tap together.