

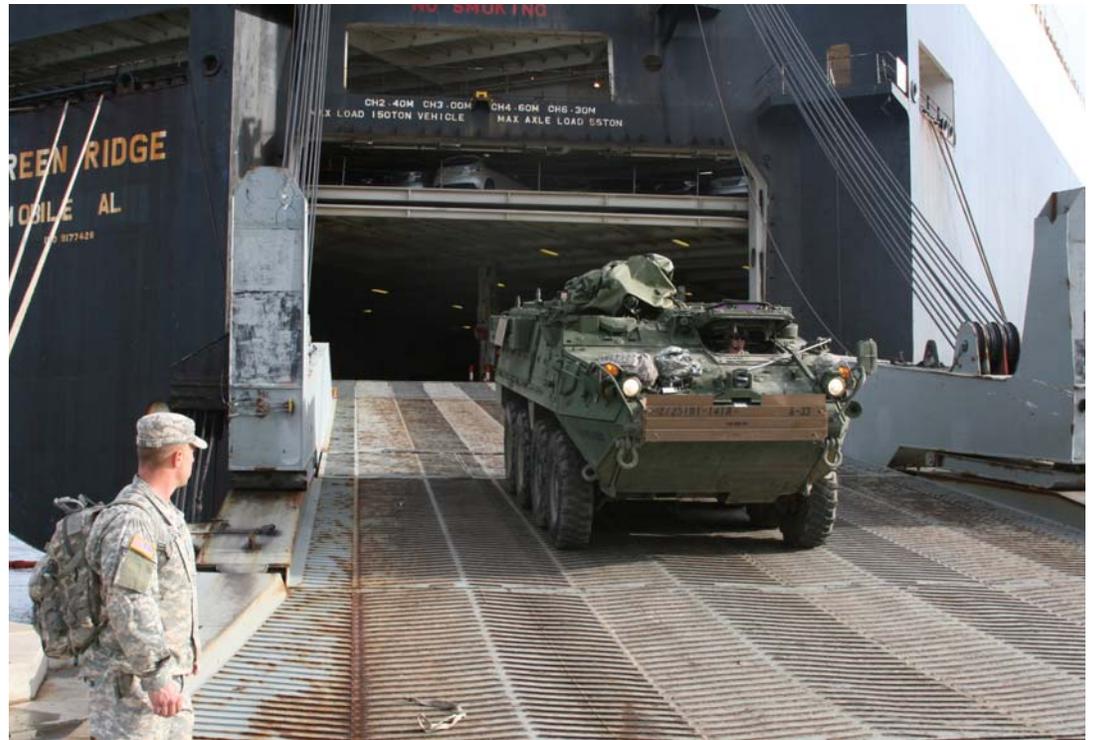


Koa Koluua

599th Transportation Surface Brigade
Wheeler Army Airfield, Oahu, Hawaii



SDDC



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Golden Dragons offload their Strykers and other vehicles from the MV Green Ridge at Pearl Harbor Nov. 29.

Sending best wishes for happy holidays

by Col. Gust Pagonis

Sonya and I send our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season to everyone in the 599th. Thank you all for the hard work this year. Our brigade could not be such a success without each of your efforts.

The holiday season is traditionally a joyous time in which families get together across the miles. If you are able to go and see family and friends,

realize how lucky you are to spend time with them this year .

Although the holidays are supposed to be filled with joy, this can be a somewhat depressing time of year for those away from families. If you are staying at your unit, check to see that everyone has someone with whom they plan to spend their holidays and reach out to anyone who will be alone. It will make

the holiday more meaningful for all involved.

Although our exercise season never really ends, we are at least having a small slowdown in pace over the holidays, after which it will be right back in full swing.

Exercise Orient Shield just finished, but we are gearing up for Key Resolve and Foal Eagle in Korea, Cobra Gold in Thailand, Balikatan in the

See "Holiday," page 2

CSM's Corner

New Year plans and parties

First, I want to wish everyone the best of the holiday season. May each one of you have a wonderful holiday with all of your family and friends.

I hope you all have a lot of time to spend with your families. Our half-day schedule will help that with the Soldiers.

Take the time to enjoy those who are nearest and dearest to you. Take in a movie together, go to dinner, the beach, or just for a ride. Laugh and enjoy each other's company. We don't always have that time together, so we need to cherish it when we do.

I want to congratulate Guy, Sally, and Janice on their retirements and to thank them for all the hard work and expertise they have brought to the 599th. Good luck in all of your future endeavors, and please come back to join us in our functions.

We will certainly miss you. Your combined almost 100 years of corporate knowledge has made all of our jobs so much easier in ways we will never notice until after you are gone.

Congratulations also to Clayton Maciorowski on winning the 599th Civilian of the Year award. This is a very well-deserved honor for someone who always goes out of his way to find a solution to every problem.

With the New Year, I want to focus on physical training. In ad-



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller

dition to the daily PT for the soldiers, I plan to begin a short daily PT in which everyone at the 599th is welcome to participate, geared to our civilian workforce. It will be strictly voluntary. Details still need to be worked out, and all will have to have their supervisors permis-

sion, but I'm planning something in the mornings. It will not be strenuous, so don't worry about having to shower and change afterwards. It will all be easy exercises that you can do in your work clothes without getting them dirty or sweaty.

Be careful when you are out during the holidays. Those who are stationed in warm climates don't get the practice driving on snowy roads that we did growing up, so we need to be extra careful when we go back home. Practice and get a feel for the roads instead of going out and driving in conditions for which you are not prepared.

Holiday parties in your old home towns are a wonderful chance to see friends you haven't seen in years, but be careful how much you drink, and always have a designated driver if you do plan to drink any alcohol at all.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again, and to our new adventures in the brigade in the coming year.

Koa Kokua -- Warrior Support!

Holiday Continued from page 1

Philippines and are involved in Terminal Fury at U.S. Pacific Command headquarters.

The end of the year is a great time to do a quantitative measure of our output. Ben Benjamin in our terminals section looked up the following figures: From December 2011 to 2012, we have booked and shipped 612,341 measurement tons into and out of Hawaii. Expanded to include all of PACOM gives us a grand total of 3,481,972 measurement tons. Aloha Stadium weighs in at 7,000 tons. So in weight, we moved the equivalent of 87 Aloha Stadiums through Hawaii, and 497 throughout the Pacific.

Once again, I wish every one of you a wonderful holiday. We have a very special work *ohana* at the 599th and I appreciate all of your efforts.

Koa Kokua -- Warrior Support!

"Koa Kokua"

599th Transportation Surface Brigade

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Col. Gust W. Pagonis

Command Sergeant Major:

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Koa Kokua, a Hawaiian phrase meaning "Warrior Support," is the distinctive unit designation of the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade. Views and opinions stated in this electronic newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

1/14 Offload



Greg "Ben" Benjamin, traffic management specialist, and Carlos Tibbetts, terminals chief, are on hand during the offload Nov. 29 to answer any questions or solve any problems that come up, as soldiers offload their cargo on its return from Japan and exercise Orient Shield.



1/14 Offload



Above: other harbors may have deeper draft, better staging, or nicer facilities, but the view at Pearl Harbor is unparalleled. To the left is the Battleship Missouri Memorial and to the right is the USS Arizona Memorial.

Right and below: After offloading and staging, Soldiers at the Pearl Harbor cargo staging area prepare their vehicles to return to Schofield Barracks.



Visitors



Top: Republic of Korea Army Maj. Gen. Choi, Byung Kwon, Combined Forces Command C4, paid a visit to the 599th on Oct. 15.

Left: SDDC commanding general, Maj. Gen. Thomas Richardson and 599th employees go through the buffet line at Schofield Barracks' Nehelani Club on Nov. 19. Richardson came to Hawaii and the 599th headquarters after visiting the brigade's three battalions throughout the Pacific.

835th Transportation Battalion



Left: Col. Gust Pagonis, 599th commander; Frank Viray, 599th civilian of the year; and Lt. Col. Ameer Mico, 835th commander pose for a photo after Pagonis presented Viray his the certificate for civilian of the year at the 835th headquarters Nov. 22. Below: 835th employees pose for a group photo after decorating the battalion's holiday tree Nov. 13.



836th Transportation Battalion



Above: Lt. Col. Erick Crews checks cargo on the USS Tortuga during Keen Sword exercise Nov. 8-9. Right: The Alaska Detachment conducted seaport operations, reception, onward movement and staging Sept. 25-Oct. 10 in conjunction with U.S. Army Alaska units 17th CSSB, 109th Trans Co, 539th Trans Co, 486th MCT and military installations ASPs.



837th Transportation Battalion



Top: Participants from the 837th Transportation Battalion, ROK Port Operations Group, International Stevedoring Company, and Military Sealift Command Office-Korea pose for a group photo after a War Reserve Stock for Allies-Korea loadout at Chinhae, South Korea, Nov. 8.

Center, Lt. Col. Chris Abbott, 837th commander, and Sgt. Maj. Darren Hill, 837th senior enlisted advisor, present certificates and congratulate participants on a successful loadout at Chinhae, South Korea, Nov. 8.



Bottom: Staff Sgt. Michael Donaldson demonstrates ICODES during a communications exercise at Pier 8 in Busan, South Korea, Dec. 11.

Hail and Farewell



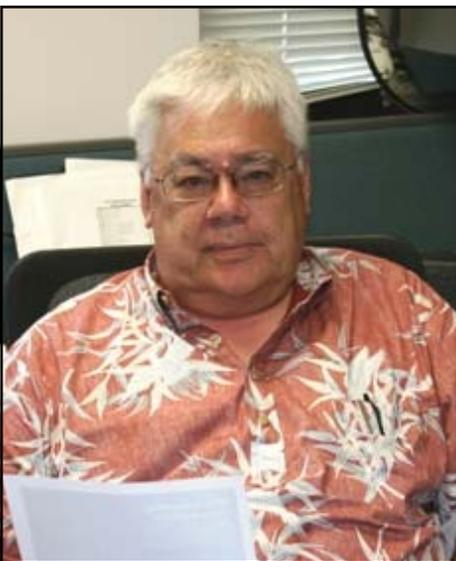
Sally Okimoto speaks with friends at a lunch in her honor at the Wheeler community center Dec. 6. She has worked for civil service for 26 years and has been the security manager for the 599th since October 2008. Okimoto will retire Dec. 31.



Capt. Brian Young arrived at the 599th Dec. 1, 2010, from the 837th in Korea, where he had been assigned for two years. Young was the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander until he was reassigned Sept. 20.



Mateo Alcaras, was the safety officer for the 599th from Oct. 1, 2010 to Oct. 8, 2012. Alcaras served for 28 years in the Army in Special Forces. His last duty assignment was Ft. Lewis, Wash., where he retired in 1986.



Guy Cabral, the 599th's director of administration and logistics, will retire Dec. 31, after 36 years in civil service. The 599th's longest-term employee, Cabral has worked for the brigade since 1991. He arrived at the unit shortly after it moved from Korea to Hawaii.



Dewayne Price is a traffic management specialist in the operations directorate. He arrived at the 599th on Nov. 5 from SDDC headquarters, where he had worked for G9 special requirements. Price comes from Savannah Ga., and is a graduate Army logistics intern program.



Daniel Martinez is the deputy director of operations. He arrived at the 599th on Oct. 8, before which he was the rates division chief for the personal property program at SDDC. Martinez grew up in Miami, Fla. Before joining the Army logistics intern program, he had been a professional firefighter and EMT for the city of Gainesville, Fla.

Soldiers bring smiles at VA center

To pay tribute to the veterans who paved the way for them, Soldiers from the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade on Nov. 8 visited the Veterans Administration Community Living Center at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Vincent Johnson, nursing assistant, has worked at the Center for 13 years. He said the center provides short- and long-term rehabilitation and hospice care. Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Lewis Hammond chats with Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller, 599th Transportation Surface Brigade senior enlisted advisor, at the Veterans Administration Community Living Center Nov. 8 at Tripler Army Medical Center.

“We don’t care if you were a private or a general. We’ve had both, as well as a state legislator, and a Pulitzer Prize winner. Whether they were in the military for two days or 40 years, we give them all our best,” Johnson said.

Gerald “Gerry” Patten, an Air Force staff sergeant during the Vietnam War, was a flight engineer on a C-124 Globemaster II at Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. He has been in the center for more than two years.

“I’m treated very well here, and the people are wonderful,” said Patten.

“The only complaint I have is about the food. It’s too good, and there’s too much of it,” he laughed.

Sgt. 1st Class LoNika Harris, plans NCO, set up the 599th Trans. Bde. visit to the VA Community Living Center.

“This was part of our NCO pro-



From left: Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Calzada, HHD first sergeant; Staff Sgt. Rufus Brumfield, operations; and Staff Sgt. Jesus Grajales, terminals, dance the electric slide with band members performing for veterans Nov. 8 at the VA center on Tripler Army Medical Center.

fessional development,” Harris said. “We wanted to do something for Veterans Day. I did some research and found the center, which was willing to have us visit. We all had a great time. I especially enjoyed seeing the folks’ faces light up when we were dancing with them.”

“The best part of the visit was the smiles that we brought to the veterans’ faces by coming to interact with them, and just being in the rooms talking to them,” added Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller, 599th senior enlisted advisor.

“We only spoke with one World War II vet. He remembered everything. We also got to hear stories from the Korean War and Vietnam. We liked hearing their stories, and they liked telling them. They put us right on the battlefield with them,” he said.

Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Lewis Hammond had high praise for today’s Soldiers. The 28-year veteran is at the Center following a complete knee replacement. He was a hatch team captain for a cargo handling battalion in Vietnam.

“Right now you guys are the heroes,” he said. “A lot of people won’t stand up, but you have. How did Winston Churchill put it? ‘Never was so much owed by so many to so few,’” Hammond said.

VA Community Living Centers, formerly known as nursing homes, provide short-stay and long-stay nursing home care to veterans. The mission of VA Community Living Centers is to restore the veteran to maximum function and independence, prevent declines in health, and provide comfort at the end of life.

Events



From top left, clockwise: Albert San Nicolas, S3, cooks at the unit's organization day Oct. 19.

--Wheeler Elementary School children carol at the headquarters Dec. 14.

-- Employees and family members vie in a tug of war during org day at Hickam Air Force Base Oct. 19.

-- Attendees listen to Broken Wheel award nominations during the Thanksgiving Iron Chef at the Wheeler community center Nov. 15.



599th FRSA spans the Pacific

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Not much about Sheila Scott's former position as family readiness support assistant to the U.S. Army Pacific's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion resembles her work as FRSA for the 599th Transportation Brigade.

While Scott's FRSA work with USARPAC included 700 Soldiers, the 599th Bde. is a small, strategic logistics unit comprised of more than 60 percent civilians. Battalions and detachments are scattered in remote locations throughout the Pacific. Scott said her biggest challenge about working for the 599th Bde. is learning the civilian side of family readiness: what programs the Army offers and how to get civilians involved.

"A lot of Department of the Army civilians think that the FRG is just for military members and their spouses, but it does include them. They are part of the Army family, too," Scott said.

Scott traveled to the 599th Bde. battalions in Pusan, South Korea, Yokohama, Japan and Naha, Okinawa, from Sept. 4-15, to meet with battalion personnel, contact the closest Army Community Service and help the units get started with family readiness programs of their own.

Capt. Sara Avitia, operations officer, 835th Trans. Bn. in Okinawa, said in an email that she appreciates that inclusiveness.

"Ms. Scott gave us a commonsense approach to reinvigorate our battalion's FRG by incorporating the program into the events we already enjoy, and eased concerns we had for maintaining an FRG with only one military family," said Avitia.

Scott said another common misconception is that family readiness is only useful during deployments.

"Everybody thinks that the FRG is for deployment support only, but when the Soldiers have down time, it's a good time to educate and build bonds for the next deployment," she said.

"To start with, I just made contact with the nearest Army Community Service in each battalion's area, to make the ACS aware that the battalions are there. This gets the FRSA information flowing.



Sheila Scott (left), family readiness support assistant, 599th Trans. Bde., 599th Trans. Command, discusses schedules for resiliency classes with Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Calzada, first sergeant, Oct. 10.

"One challenge, especially in Korea where most of the Soldiers are unaccompanied, is to make sure that the family members back in the states are still a part of the units," Scott said. "I suggested that they put together a quarterly news sheet to keep the families informed of what is going on."

Because of the distances involved, it will be necessary to have a point of contact within each battalion, Scott added.

Richard Yong Song, 837th Trans. Bn., administrative officer in Busan, South Korea, said the battalion also has plans to start a program following Scott's visit, including creating and maintaining a contact roster, appointing an FRG leader or point of contact, creating appointment orders, taking the FRG leader's course online and creating standing operating procedures for an FRG.

Although the battalions are starting their programs from scratch, Scott said progress depends more on participation than procedure.

"Once each battalion gets the involvement within its community, we'll be able to go from there to develop a program," Scott said.

Scott, whose spouse is a master sergeant in the 25th Infantry Division, said she jumped at the chance to become an FRSA.

"I've always been very involved, and I'm a big believer in Army Family Team Building, ACS, and family readiness," Scott added.

Safety

FY 2013 – SAFETY STATISTICS FOR THE 1st QUARTER

First Quarter October-December	Hawaii 599th	Korea 837th	Japan/Guam/Alaska 836th	Okinawa/Singapore 835th	Total Brigade
Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0
Accidents, Incidents, Injuries	0	0	0	0	0
Lost Work Days	0	0	0	0	0

Continue to practice safety at all times – on the road, at work and off duty

Safety Acrostic

Find the words in the grid. The words may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal in all directions.
(This is a recycled acrostic. As always, thanks to Ace Parker for contributing the acrostics.)

V E E W M P D A K B K N B G U N X O P Y C F M N	W O F T W I D A S Q E C H E A E L C H T Y N N C E C G P N V K H W X C P T Y	O F I G W E W G P K S O T B S I J Y Z U D P Q L	N L U I N J U R Y G B B F B V P E E P U J D	I N J U R Y U I U Z E K L E A X	J U R Y U I U Z E K L E A X	Y U I U Z E K L E A X	B B F B V P E E P U J D	F B V P E E P U J D	V P E E P U J D	P U J D	J D	Skiing
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599th Holiday Party



Jim Staeger, Arnel and Leslie Dellosa, and Nick Rosse take their turn at the buffet line Dec. 11 during the brigade's holiday party at Albert's Place on the Hawaii Country Club.



Left: Party organizer Sheila Scott, FRSA; and emcee, Ruby Ragragola, program support specialist, begin the prize drawings.

Above: Col. Gust Pagonis brings Chloe Adams in for her close up.



From left, clockwise: Ari and Bre Fisher tell Santa their wishes.

-- Darryl Wassum, S3, holds up his prize from the brigade drawing.

-- Neftaly Lugardo, S6, poses with Santa Claus.

-- Staff Sgt. Tiffany Dixon, S3, and her family pose for a photo.





Winter Safety: Frostbite and Hypothermia

Frostbite is the freezing of extremities. Everyone is susceptible, even people who have been living in cold climates for most of their lives.

Signals of frostbite:

In superficial frostbite, burning, numbness, tingling, itching, or cold sensations in the affected areas. The regions appear white and frozen, are cold to the touch, or are discolored (flushed, white or gray, yellow or blue).

In deep frostbite, there is an initial decrease in sensation that is eventually completely lost. Swelling and blood-filled blisters are noted over white or yellowish skin that looks waxy and turns a purplish blue as it re-warms. The area is hard, has no resistance when pressed on, and may even appear blackened and dead.

What to do for frostbite:

Get the person to a warm place – a building, shelter or warm vehicle, as soon as possible and then seek immediate medical help or

call 9-1-1.

Softly handle or warm the area gently; never rub the affected area. Gently warm up by slowly soaking the affected area in lukewarm water (100–105 degrees F) until it appears red and feels warm. Do not expose directly or close to a fire.

Loosely bandage the area with dry, sterile dressings.

If the person's fingers or toes are frostbitten, place dry, sterile gauze between them to keep them separated. Avoid breaking any blisters.

Do not allow the affected area to refreeze.

Hypothermia: In very cold weather, a person's body can lose heat faster than they can produce it. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. It can make a person sleepy, confused and clumsy. Because it happens gradually and affects one's thinking and may not be immediately recognized. That makes it especially dangerous. A body temperature below 95° F is a medical emer-

gency and can lead to death if not treated promptly.

Signals of hypothermia include: shivering, numbness, glassy stare; apathy, weakness, impaired judgment, incoherent speech; loss of consciousness.

What to do for hypothermia:

Get the person to a warm place – a building, shelter or warm vehicle, as soon as possible and then seek immediate medical help or call 9-1-1.

Remove any wet clothing and dry the person.

Warm the person slowly by wrapping in blankets or by putting dry clothing on the person. Hot water bottles and chemical hot packs may be used when first wrapped in a towel or blanket before applying. Use your own body as a heat source if necessary.

Do not warm the person too quickly, such as by immersing him or her in warm water or close exposure to a fire. Rapid warming may cause dangerous heart arrhythmias. Warm the core first (trunk, abdomen), not the extremities.