



Koa Koluua

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



SDCC



Soldiers and contractors from the 25th CAB offload a Black Hawk helicopter during port operations at Pearl Harbor Jan. 16.

Brigade, battalions will work as team

by Col. Gust Pagonis

With spring comes a time of rebirth and renewal. We come up to the time where people throughout the battalions, detachments, and brigade headquarters begin to get outside for more outdoor activities. Make sure that you all take care, look at your equipment, and make sure it is all safe before you use it, especially for the family outings.

We're right in the middle of our busiest exercise season, and all parts of the brigade headquarters and battalions that have been engaged in the exercises are doing a fantastic job. Those elements that remain back at base to do the work at home and maintain the status quo have also been taking up the slack and performing their own work as well as filling in for their brothers and sisters who are work-

ing exercises.

As I write this, our brigade has just finished a great effort at Key Resolve. Each year that we work this exercise, we get better at combining all of our disparate elements so that they work as one seamless unit.

Our Soldiers also all performed magnificently this Warrior Week. It gave them a chance to practice and master their required

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CSM's Corner

Spring brings rebirth in brigade

We just finished up Key Resolve, one of our biggest exercises of the year, and I want to congratulate all on a great outcome. It seems like you just get more coordinated with each iteration of the exercises.



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller

All battalions and the headquarters earned the Army Safety Streamer. During this Key Resolve, the commander and I were honored to present streamers to the 836th and 837th Transportation Battalions. We plan to present the 835th Transportation Battalion's streamer to it the next time we go to Okinawa. This is something that a unit has to earn every year. We will not get to keep the streamers if we do not deserve them.

We also had our unit's Warrior Week this quarter. That is a great opportunity for us to do a lot of the AR 350-1 training at the same time. Soldiers also get to update their basic soldiering skills -- physical training test, marksmanship, etc. We were also able to combine it with one of our fine Iron Chefs and enjoy one another's company during the lunch hour.

This May will see the retirement of Sgts. 1st Class LoNika Harris and Emilio Calzada. They have been great assets to the brigade headquarters. Both have served us as first sergeants in the Headquarter

ters and Headquarter Detachment as well as transporters, so they have gotten to see different aspects of the brigade headquarters while assigned here. We will miss them, not only for their personality and good humor, but even more for their expertise.

That is more than 45 years of Army knowledge that the brigade is losing right there when they leave. Our 599th *ohana* will seem much diminished by their absence.

Because of travel, the commander and I had to miss the latest volunteer efforts at Wheeler Elementary School. Thank you so much for carrying on without us at Read Across America Day and the Bunny Hop for Technology. Not only did you go out to help out the kids, but 10 of you volunteered to read during Read Across America Day. That is the kind of volunteer effort that we need to sustain. This is something that is important to our community, and to our place in the civilian community. I am so proud that all of you, military and civilian alike, take the time out of your schedule to go over there and give of yourselves. Not many units are able to carry on as one seamless whole and perform as flawlessly with a mixed staff as we are. That is just one of many things the 599th can be so proud of.

Koa Kokua -- Warrior Support!

Team

Continued
from page 1

warrior tasks all at once, and it gave all of us, Soldiers and civilians, a chance to take some of the required classes together. We were also able to have some fellowship at one of our Iron Chef potlucks.

I know that people tend to become anxious the more changes that you throw at them, and one thing you can say about the present is that this is a period with a lot of change and uncertainty. The best advice I can give is to keep your eye on the mission and don't let uncertainty affect your mental or emotional outlook. Just know that we will all come through this together. Our 599th *ohana* is one of the best teams the Army has ever managed to assemble, and I am honored to have been chosen to lead it.

Koa Kokua — Warrior Support!

"Koa Kokua"

599th Transportation Surface Brigade

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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.



Capt. Paul Conrad, HHD commander, exits the Humvee rollover simulator at the Training Audiovisual Support Center during Warrior Week training Feb. 20.

Brigade HQ trains to fight during Warrior Week

Soldiers working their mission as transportation specialists take time for physical training daily, but Soldiers at the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade here also have an annual Warrior Week dedicated to updating warrior tasks within the unit.

Staff Sgt. Jesus Grajales, terminal operations division NCO, arranged for the training and venues this Warrior Week.

“Everyone gets all of their training in warrior tasks done at once this way rather than spreading it out through the year,” Grajales said. “We also build a closer camaraderie working with one another on these types of tasks for a solid week.”

Distinctive but sometimes confused with “best warrior” competitions, in which units’ Soldiers and NCOs compete for bragging rights, this week dedicated to refreshing warrior skills did not involve a competition, *per se*.

The week began Feb. 19 with a road march, followed by height and weight measurements, and

weapons maintenance. In the afternoon, 599th NCOs and officers reported to the Training Audiovisual Support Center on Schofield Barracks. There they qualified on pistols at the range simulator and did rollover drills in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer Simulator.

“In order to stay current on the pistol, we qualify two to four times a year,” Grajales said. “We don’t have enough manpower to support ourselves on a range. So when we can, we piggyback with another unit. Here at the range simulator we don’t need that support.”

While there is no real competition or prize for best shooter, Soldiers in the brigade have an ongoing, unofficial competition at the pistol range, both among themselves and a good-natured interservice rivalry to try to exceed the score of the brigade’s deputy commanding officer, Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Toman, whose consistently high scores always provide Soldiers in the unit with a target to beat.

See “Warrior Week,” page 4

Warrior Week, cont'd



“I think the challenge to ‘beat the Air Force guy’ is good. It makes them work harder to achieve high scores,” Toman said.

Wednesday began with combatives, the current method of hand-to-hand combat taught by the Army. The soldiers then performed pre-combat checks and inspections, followed by warrior training tasks after lunch.

The NCOs also

took advantage of their stand down from their usual transportation mission to complete classes on suicide prevention, sexual harassment, Army homosexual conduct policy and operations security and antiterrorism awareness.

Civilians at the 599th joined the soldiers for mandatory classes.

“We are all one team, and we have to train as we fight. That includes all members, civilian and military,” said Col. Gust Pagonis, 599th commander.

The final day of Warrior Week saw the first postponement. Soldiers were unable to hike up Maunawili Falls trail near Kailua because of dangerous conditions created by three days of heavy rain. At lunch the entire brigade got together for its monthly Iron Chef potluck, after which Soldiers and civilians underwent their master resiliency and equal opportunity training.

“This week was a great opportunity to step away from our desks and our normal op tempo to focus on basic skills that we need to maintain as Soldiers,” said Capt. Paul Conrad, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander.



Top: Staff Sgt. Rufus Brumfield tests his shooting skills.
Above: Sgt. 1st Class Nadine Abdul and Staff Sgt. Tiffany Dixon practice combatives.



CAB Soldiers and contractors check the undercarrage of a Black Hawk helicopter during a Pearl Harbor offload Jan. 16

CAB offloads helos, equipment at Pearl Harbor

When the 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade returns to work after its redeployment, 65 of its helicopters will be different than those it took to Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Paul Belobrajdic, U.S. Army Pacific deputy operations officer for aviation, said the 3rd CAB is taking the 25th CAB's place and its helicopters in Afghanistan, while the 25th CAB will receive the 3rd CAB's helicopters here.

So instead of the usual route from Afghanistan across the Pacific back to Hawaii, the helicopters that came into Pearl Harbor onboard the USNS Benavidez on Jan. 15 began their journey in Savannah, Ga., Dec. 24. and came through the Panama Canal.

The helicopters were offloaded from the Benavidez Jan. 16-17 at Pearl Harbor, and began flying back to Wheeler Army Airfield on Jan. 18.

Because the pilots for the 25th CAB have just returned from Afghanistan, pilots from Korea and Alaska piloted the helicopters from Pearl Harbor to Wheeler.

"We wanted to give the 25th CAB pilots a chance to get their feet on the ground after their redeployment and have their block leave. This also gives pilots from Alaska and Korea a chance to get used to flying in Hawaii," said Maj. Robert

Holcombe, 25th ID operations deputy chief of aviation.

Black Hawks were the first off the ship Jan. 16 at about 8:30 a.m. The main difficulty with this offload became apparent early when a problem with clearance for the helicopters developed because of the angle of the stern ramp at high tide.

The captain of the ship added ballast, and the offload crew built some extra ramps out of two-by-six planks to lengthen the angle at both the top and the bottom of the stern ramp. They also had to manually strap up the rear of the Black Hawks to clear the lip at the top of the ramp for a few of the helicopters to keep them from getting high-centered at that angle. Because the stern ramp door does not have much clearance for Black Hawks' tail rotors, another contractor had to climb up onto the tail to monitor clearance at the top as the helicopters made their way down the ramp.

As the tide lowered, the contractors were able to speed up the offload a bit, but with a ship full of high-value items, they had to continue to move relatively slowly to pay attention to safety, said Carlos Tibbetts, 599th Transportation Surface Brigade terminal management chief said.

"This offload went very well. They were able to

See "CAB Offload," page 18

835th Transportation Battalion



Left: Lt. Col. Ameer Micko greets Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense, Masahisa Sato, during his visit Feb. 21 to Naha Military Port, Okinawa.

Right: Lt. Col. Ameer Micko and Sgt. Maj. Keith Edwards pose for a photo with firemen during the Naha City Fire Department's New Year's Parade on Jan. 7.



Below: The team at Champion Base greets U.S. Consul General Alfred Magleby, during his visit to the base Jan. 15.



836th Transportation Battalion



Top: Members of the 836th Transportation Battalion in Yokohama, Japan, visited the Maersk Terminal at Minami Honmoku Pier on Feb. 1 to tour the facility and receive a brief on the company's transportation operations. Right: Gen. William Fraser, U.S. Transportation Command commanding general, speaks with Bob Meno, Guam detachment commander, during a visit to Guam's vehicle processing center Jan. 25. Members of the Guam Detachment and visiting 599th headquarters personnel pose for a photo after lunch at a restaurant in Tumon, Guam, Jan. 25.

Photos courtesy of the 836th Transportation Battalion

837th Transportation Battalion



Top: The 837th Transportation Battalion and the Republic of Korea Port Operations Group conduct combined annual upload and discharge operations at Chinhae Port, South Korea, Feb. 12-13.

Above and left: Soldiers from the 837th Transportation Battalion stationed in Busan, South Korea, donates and pass out food to less fortunate elderly people in the Haewoondae district Feb. 19.

Family Readiness Program Page



I am excited to announce the 599th TSB is now a part of the President's Volunteer Service Award Program.

This program is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the United States through presidential recognition to live a life of service. Your recognition inspires others to take positive action to change the world.

The 599th TSB command would like to have the honor of recognizing our many Soldiers, DAC and family members who give freely of their time to help others.

If you or a family member, youth or adult, volunteer for any program or organization whether it is Military or civilian related, please register at <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov> and use the Record of Service Key: NWM-59650.

This is a good way to recognize our youth, get them involved in their community and teach them the value of giving. Maybe your Spouse or co-worker deserves to be recognized for all the time they give to help others. Your time is also important and you deserve to get honored by the command as well.



20 Great Reasons to Volunteer

- Help others
- Find purpose
- Connect with your community
- Contribute to a cause that you care about
- Use your skills in a productive way
- Meet new people
- Meet good people
- Impress yourself
- Get out of the house
- Strengthen your resume
- [Your favorite reason here]
- Make a difference
- Enjoy a meaningful conversation
- Feel involved
- Develop new skills
- Explore new areas of interest
- Impress your mom
- Expand your horizons
- Make new friends
- Feel better about yourself

Who is the Army Family?

The Army family is not just our Soldiers and their family members, but our DA Civilian's, Local National's and their family members as well. We are all working for the same organization to reach a common goal. We spend many hours together depending on each other not only to accomplish our assigned tasks but for moral and emotional support during good and bad times. We laugh together and sometimes cry together. Isn't this what families do?

Thank you for being a part of my family and the 599th TSB family.



Sheila Scott

Family Readiness Support Assistant

599th TSB

Welcome



Lawrence Ahtuck, S2, came to the 599th on Feb. 14 from the 311th Signal Battalion on Ft. Shafter, where he had also been the S2. He was in the Army from 1990-94, serving as a counterintelligence specialist in the Military Intelligence branch. Originally from Oahu, he graduated from Mililani High School.



Capt. Paul Conrad is the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. He grew up on Long Island, N.Y., and graduated from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. Conrad has been in the Army for six years. He arrived at the 599th on Feb. 1. His last assignment was for three years at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Korean War chaplain to receive Medal of Honor

By army.mil

On April 11, Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun, U.S. Army, will receive the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry.

Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun, while assigned to Headquarters Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism, patriotism, and selfless service between Nov. 1-2, 1950.

During the Battle of Unsan, Kapaun was serving with the 3rd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment. As Chinese Communist forces encircled the battalion, Kapaun moved fearlessly from foxhole to foxhole under direct enemy fire in order to provide comfort and reassurance to the outnumbered Soldiers. He repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to recover wounded men, drag-

ging them to safety. When he couldn't drag them, he dug shallow trenches to shield them from enemy fire. As Chinese forces closed in, Kapaun rejected several chances to escape, instead volunteering to stay behind and care for the wounded. He was taken as a prisoner of war by Chinese forces on Nov. 2, 1950.

After he was captured, Kapaun and other prisoners were marched for several days northward toward prisoner-of-war camps. During the march Kapaun led by example in caring for injured Soldiers, refusing to take a break from carrying the stretchers of the wounded while encouraging others to do their part.

Once inside the dismal prison camps, Kapaun risked his life by sneaking around the camp after dark, foraging for food, caring for the sick, and encouraging his fellow

Soldiers to sustain their faith and their humanity. On at least one occasion, he was brutally punished for his disobedience, being forced to sit outside in subzero weather without any garments. When the Chinese instituted a mandatory re-education program, Kapaun patiently and politely rejected every theory put forth by the instructors. Later, Kapaun openly flouted his captors by conducting a sunrise service on Easter morning, 1951.

When Kapaun began to suffer from the physical toll of his captivity, the Chinese transferred him to a filthy, unheated hospital where he died alone. As he was being carried to the hospital, he asked God's forgiveness for his captors, and made his fellow prisoners promise to keep their faith.

Events



Col. Gust Pagonis speaks to employees at a town hall meeting March 28 following the monthly Iron Chef potluck at the Wheeler Army Airfield chapel fellowship hall.



Denise and Nefftaly Lugardo, S6, pose for a photo March 28 during the Iron Chef.



Kathleen Castillo, 599th Military Family Life Consultant, makes an FRG presentation March 28 after the Iron Chef.



Clayton Maciorowski, front row, second from left, poses with his fellow Wolfhounds of 3rd Platoon, B Co., 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii during training in the late 1990s.

599th Civilian of Year adds valuable experience

When you hear of someone who has been an Englishman, a Wolfhound, and an ice sculptor, the next thing that comes to mind is not usually the 599th Transportation Brigade's Civilian of the Year, but Clayton Maciorowski, an information technology specialist in the Information Management Directorate, has now been all four.

Although Maciorowski moved with his family to the U.S. when he was just 2 years old and graduated from high school near Roanoke, Va., he was born in England of English parents.

He joined the Army directly out of high school and became an 11B infantryman -- a Wolfhound with 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks -- for three-and-a-half years.

"I consider that I still am a Wolfhound," Maciorowski said. "When I was in, Sgt. Maj. [Hugh] O'Reilly was still here. We had one of the orphans that the regiment sponsors from Japan stay with us one year."

According to his supervisors and colleagues, that kind of giving spirit still imbues Ma-

riorowski's character.

"He does a lot that is extra: every time there is an opportunity to volunteer, he always steps forward," said Maciorowski's friend and colleague, Nefftaly Lugardo, IT specialist.

When he left the Army in 2002, he became an ice sculptor in Virginia.

"In high school I was a sculptor; then I continued to have an interest in it as a hobby. That's how I also got into the IT field. We ran a computer numerical control machine to do the writing and logos in the ice. It uses CAD-type [computer aided design] software that got me interested in IT."

At that time, Maciorowski was also in the Army Reserves as an infantryman.

"Since I was interested in IT, the Army sent me to Fort Gordon for four months in 2004 for computer training to reclassify as a computer systems analyst. I was able to get all of my base-level diplomas from that, and have kept



South Korean and American co-chairs for the Combined Seaport Coordination Center, Col. Jung, Byong-Kwan and Col. Sean Cannon, listen to an update briefing during Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise at Pier 8 in Pusan, South Korea, Aug. 29. Jung and Cannon were also the co-chairs for the 2013 Key Resolve exercise that completed March 21.

Key Resolve strengthens U.S.-ROK relationship

by Donna Klapakis
and Maj. Teresa Stofferan

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD, Hawaii -- The 599th Transportation Surface Brigade took part in Key Resolve, a U.S. and Republic of Korea bilateral command post exercise, at four separate locations March 14-21.

Although most of the brigade staff were at the Combined Seaport Coordination Center at Pier 8 in Pusan, South Korea, others stood up the Japan Seaport Coordination Center at Yokohama North Dock, Japan, two acted as liaison to the Combined Transportation Movement Center in Seoul, South Korea, and Soldiers manned the brigade headquarters Command Operations Center here.

"It's very useful for us to have a seat at the CTMC," said Carlos Tibbetts, 599th terminals chief. "Because we know everyone at

the other two centers and work transportation day-to-day, we can answer questions and resolve problems there quickly."

"The exercise was the first that anticipated the major change that will occur in 2015 when the ROK side goes from being in a supporting role to being supported," Tibbetts added.

As with most bilateral exercises, one of the by-products of the exercise was a chance to build bridges in the relationship between the two countries.

"As an interpreter, this is really a terrific experience to be a part of the CSCC and participate in the Key Resolve '13 exercise," said Cpl. Jinwan Hyun, interpreter, ROK Port Operations Group Headquarters.

"Sometimes it feels really hard to make an exact communication with each other, but coordination efforts from both sides make me

overcome it. This unique experience will not be forgotten, beyond the exercise. I hope this kind of opportunity could be a chance to enhance each other's relationship and friendship," he added

That was also the hope of the U.S. side.

Col. Sean Cannon, the U.S. co-chair for the CSCC, ate at the ROK Port Operations Group mess every day during the exercise.

"I feel we are really building a close team with the ROK Port Operations Group," Cannon said. "The commander, Col. Jung, Byong-Kwan, invited me to the mess every day, and he was able to showcase his base. Each day, I'd take someone different from the U.S. side with me, so that the

Community Relations



Top: Clayton Maciorowski reads to children during Read Across America Day at the Wheeler Elementary School on March 1.

Above: Arnel Bautista, S6 team leader, paints a student's face during the Bunny Hop for Technology at Wheeler Elementary School on March 15.

Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller fires up JROTC cadets during talks by both him and Col. Gust Pagonis to two classes of cadets at Mililani High School Feb. 13.



Volunteers pose for a group photo before heading off to read to students at Wheeler Elementary School on March 1.

599th volunteers for Read Across America Day

Ten soldiers and civilians from the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade got in touch with their “inner child” for half an hour March 1 when they volunteered to read to students at Wheeler Elementary School for Read Across America Day.

The annual event is held on the school day closest to the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, a filmmaker, writer and illustrator of children’s books who was born March 2, 1904. Among his most famous books are “The Cat in the Hat” and “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

“These events are so important,” said Troy Tamura, Wheeler Elementary principal. “Read Across America Day provides students a chance to learn that reading is also for fun and enjoyment instead of just academics.”

This was the second year for Charity Wampler, 599th informa-

tion technology specialist, to participate in the event.

“I am convinced that we get more out of it than the children do when we volunteer at the school to help out the students,” Wampler said. “We learn more from them than they do from us. Seeing their eyes light up as they learn a new word or are entertained by an interesting turn of phrase is a blessing.”

“This is like reading to my own kids,” said Clayton Maciorowski, 599th IT specialist. “When we get a chance to volunteer and reach out to the community, we have to make the most of it.”

Tamura agreed.

“Our brand here is ‘One Team – One Mission,’” he said. “It’s important to the children to understand that the team is not only the students and the teachers, but also the parents and the other members of the community. Our community on Wheeler

is the soldiers and the units.”

Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Calzada, 599th first sergeant, said he hopes 599th employees can volunteer for Read Across America Day every year.

“We’re able to give back to the community by volunteering to read to the students. When we can help the kids and have fun at the same time, that makes this a perfect effort,” Calzada said.

Or as Geisel in the guise of Dr. Seuss wrote, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

Although Geisel died in 1991, the National Education Association did not establish Read Across America Day until 1998, according its website. On that day, participating schools traditionally hold events or invite volunteers, celebrities, and community leaders to read to the children.

Ceremonies



Top and above: Col. Gust Pagonis and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller present the Army safety streamer to the 836th Transportation Battalion on March 15 at Yokohama North Dock, Japan, and the 837th Transportation Battalion on March 19 at Busan, South Korea's Pier 8, respectively.

Left: Capt. Paul Conrad poses for a photo following his assumption of command ceremony as commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment at brigade headquarters March 8.

Safety

FY 2013 – SAFETY STATISTICS FOR THE 2nd QUARTER

First Quarter January-March	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.
As always, thanks to Ace Parker for contributing the acrostics.

<p>E S N I A P T S E H C T Z W P Y N S N W T S W R R T M F K C A M B S T R Y J L J V D I M K R N K F O X L T H W M P M W C F D G C Q M K L R N J O S F P F I E M Z I S N K R T T H L D H A R T L N N D D F F L N T W E T P T S W U O U G R F I T Y B N L I R O X D M N I M R F G N E C L L X T Z N F B L E E T S G E L L O C A G I T L I R E F R L S T F D V N L S T T L A Q L Y M R S L E A L C T E Y N R I I Y D S X H R M Q S E A W X E F B K E O O N T S F C F C U F R J T S M F V G P N N B C E T T T N Y N E S M H F Q N D X L S B J N B A L L T H E Y D R O W S I N E S S L T H R D M C P D S C S E S U R I V L B L R G C G A T Z J T R N M X V N Y R G C M O X S R W D J C E Y K S N E E Z E M O H H M A H L K F V M H K B Q N W Y H M L R S E L B A T E G E V D H A N D S Y M D M L T G R T G Y C H R O N I C V R N M F D</p>	<p>Breath Chest pains Chronic Cold Daily Drowsiness Earache Exercise Fever Flu Fruits Hands Illness Immune Infected Infection Medications Person Scratchy Shortness Shots Sneeze Sniffle Swallow Symptoms System Throat Vegetables Wash</p>
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CAB Offload Continued from page 4

days.” Tibbetts said. “That seems like a long time to take for just 69 pieces, but except for the two containers, each piece had to be discharged one piece at a time, a time-consuming operation.”

Tibbetts said that as with most moves from Pearl Harbor, the Fleet Logistics Center there admirably handled the administration and logistics of the move. On this move, an aviation contractor and 25th CAB Soldiers handled the actual offload.

Tibbetts said that once some of the Black Hawks and Kiowas had been discharged from the ship, the ship’s crane could begin lifting Chinook helicopters, which had to be moved from positions forward, out of the hold. The lift-off commenced at 4 p.m. on Jan. 16.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Lance, 25th CAB, was impressed with the condition of the Chinooks the unit will receive.

“Those Chinooks are really low hours,” Lance said. “They are definitely high-end and younger birds.”

The USNS Benavidez was commissioned in 2003. It is a large, medium-speed, roll-on-roll-off ship named for Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez, a Special Forces Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War. The 950-foot long ship is capable of carrying 380,000 square feet of cargo, equivalent to about eight football fields in area.

Merchant Marine Capt. Michael Wachter is the captain of the Benavidez. He said the ship waits for callout in Corpus Christie, Texas. After it gets word of a shipment, its 12-person crew is augmented by another 17 personnel for sailing, and it has 96 hours in all to get underway.

This was the first voyage through the Panama Canal for the Benavidez, Wachter said.

During the offload, the Fleet Logistics Center hosted a group of Junior ROTC cadets from the Mililani High School Trojan Battalion. Both Belobrajdic and Lance took time from the offload to speak with the cadets about Army careers.

Two of the helicopters that were offloaded from the Benavidez will go to the Hawaii Army National Guard.

Key Resolve Continued from page 13

people from the U.S. were able to see their base and take advantage of the great food.

“This camaraderie carried over to the exercise, and we are really building a close team. It’s important for our working relationship that we build these kinds of relationships with each other,” he added.

Having participated in 15 Key Resolve and its predecessor, RSO&I, exercises, James “Jim” Staege, 599th plans chief, is a *bona fide* old hand.

“The U.S. and ROK sides aren’t hand-in-hand right at the beginning of an exercise,” Staege said. “There comes a point about three days into the exercise where people cross the aisles, and there is more natural interaction between the U.S. and ROK sides.

“That is true not only for the different countries but between services and different units, too. We have all different units working together in the CSCC, so it takes a while. As more people work together, things flow more naturally,” Staege added.

Staege said the only difficulties with Key Resolve were those typical of all exercises.

“The only problems we have happen every exercise when the ‘fog of war’ sets in, and you have to de-conflict information. Mostly that was interpretation of RFIs -- request aren’t worded so everyone understands what they want; gets the wrong information; or they asks the wrong person, question, or command,” he said.

At the JSCC, SDDC works with Military Sealift Command reservists in sealift operations, port services, cargo handling, communications, and reception, staging and port clearances.

Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Baum, operations officer for SDDC 320 in Alameda, Calif., has been at the JSCC for two exercises and the CSCC for four.

“There are differences and similarities between working in the two places,” Baum said. “The last Key Resolve was the first time that the JSCC was fully stood up. We are working more closely now, and we had a good discussion with MSC about the long-term priorities for the center,”

Lt. Col. Anthony Aquino, the SDDC co-chair for the JSCC said, “The center has gone past the sea-trials stage and we are able to hit the ground running within 24-hours now.”

Overall, the exercise was a great success for all elements of the 599th that participated.

Lt. Col. Anthony Manetta, exercise chief at the 599th COC, said, “The exercise refined and defined the command relationships between the 599th headquarters and sub-elements. We were able to clarify roles and exercise the interoperability required to achieve mission success.”

Civilian of the Year

*Continued
from page 12*

up with it since,” he said.

Moving to Hawaii was a big step for the Maciorowski family.

“We both had good jobs, but we wanted to try to find something here, so we took a five-week leave of absence to come try to find jobs. Originally I just got a six-month contract with the Navy, but we decided to move based on that. When I look back on it now, that was a big leap of faith.”

Following the Navy contract, Maciorowski was hired as a contractor and later as civil service for the 599th.

Maciorowski said he considers himself fortunate.

“I’ve been lucky all along the way in that I’ve worked for people that I can really learn a lot from,” he said.

Maciorowski’s supervisors and colleagues at the



Maciorowski, assigned with the 80th Division, Richmond, Va., pins on first lieutenant bars for his brother Kurtis at his promotion in Baghdad in 2005.

599th also consider themselves lucky to work with him.

“Clayton is very enthusiastic and focused on any project that he does,” said Arnel Bautista, team leader for programs and support. “He gets passionate in trying to get every detail so that he doesn’t have to double back and redo anything.

“He’s a go-getter, and he’s always satisfied when he’s completed a task or project. He considers that his reward is the satisfaction in getting the job done. He always strives for excellence, and if he needs help he asks for help. That’s just the kind of person you want for your team,” Bautista said.

Lugardo said that not only is Maciorowski considered a technical expert, but people also know that he is dependable.

“You know how there are not a lot of people that you absolutely know will have your back?” asked Lugardo. “Clayton is definitely someone that I know I can trust to have my back. He has proven that over and over.”

“Clayton has just been an exceptional performer year-in and year-out,” William “Bret” Bartee, director of Information Management, said. “He really stood out when he moved to a telecommunications job. That’s entirely a different skill set, and the transition was seamless for him.

“You hear all of those adjectives: model employee, can-do attitude, etc., but Clayton is the real deal,” Bartee added.



Clayton Maciorowski poses for a photo during a Pearl Harbor loadout in February 2010.

Think safety before you mow lawns

From Safety.com

For most homeowners, a day doing yard work means a little sweat, some sun and maybe a beer. But lawnmower-related accidents injure about 200,000 people (16,000 of them children) a year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – and this number does not include chainsaw accidents, rototiller injuries or minor injuries from various manual implements.

The numbers are shocking, and many injuries could be prevented if homeowners would take the necessary safety precautions and follow their lawn care products' safety guidelines. Fortunately, there are some simple steps you can take to minimize the likelihood of an accident happening on your watch.

Safety in Yard Work

Supervise your children while they work on tasks that may cause them serious injury, such as using sharp shovels to dig holes or plant seeds, or using heavy rakes.

- Mow your lawn in the early morning or late evening, recommends the yard and garden equipment manufacturer Husqvarna. The midday high heat can impair your judgment.
- Make sure you regularly inspect your lawn and gardening equipment and promptly fix any mechanical malfunctions. TTClub.com reported that most engine fires occur due to hydraulic leaks.



If you use pesticides on your lawn, put a warning sign up. If you see a sign, respect it, as pesticides have been linked to many types of health conditions, including ADD, cancer, and breathing problems in both humans and animals.

Chainsaw Safety Basics

ThisOldHouse.com reported that 36,000 people get sent to emergency rooms annually for severe chainsaw injuries. When using a chainsaw, always follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the best safety practices as well as these tips:

- Wear a hard hat and safety goggles to prevent your face and head from falling or snapping limbs.
- Wear chainsaw chaps, which are protective leggings made of ballistic nylon fibers that clog the chainsaw should it kick back on you.

Beware the saw blade getting pinched or encountering a solid

object – kickback can occur in both of these instances and cause deep cuts and even death.

Especially for Children

Child safety is often overlooked, especially when it comes to having your child mow the lawn. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends following these guidelines for kids and yard work:

- Never let your child be a passenger on a riding lawnmower.
- Children should be at least 12 years old before using a push mower and at least 16 before using a riding lawnmower.
- Have children help you pick up stones, toys and other debris to ensure a yard's safe condition for mowing. Set a good example yourself – use protective eyewear, always wear sturdy footwear, never mow in reverse, and always wait for the blades to stop completely before unclogging/removing grass from your lawnmower.