



THE PHOENIX PRESS



25TH INFANTRY DIVISION - TROPIC LIGHTNING!

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



A big Tropic Lightning Mahalo to the performers and supporters of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Observance. Soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander decent performed several cultural dances for a packed crowd! The 25th Infantry Division's heritage is tied to these cultures and we couldn't be prouder of our performers.



SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



PFC Sarah Hussey

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH





On May 22, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilian personnel serving on Victory Base Complex, were invited to participate in the U.S. Division - Center Fallen Hero Run to honor the memory of heroes who have fallen in the line of duty. Mahalo to all who participated and showed their support.



KEEPING THE HISTORY ALIVE



A big Mahalo to Adam Elia for his over 10 years of service with us as the 25th Infantry Division Historian. We make the history and he records it, and we couldn't find a better person for the job! Mahalo and continue to keep the legacy strong! Tropic Lightning!



Never Forgotten

The Soldiers serving the 25th Infantry Division gathered to pay tribute to the heroes who helped build the Division's historic legacy and make the U.S. military the best armed force in the world today. Division senior leadership shared some of the countless stories of valor and heroism with those in attendance.





Things are really starting to heat up here as most days reach triple digit temperatures, but our Soldiers remain committed to the mission at hand. Our Security Platoon has worked exceptionally hard and built a solid reputation as the first choice for safe, secure transportation. Our Softball team, "The Grease Monkeys" is busy kicking butt and taking initials ('cause they ain't got time for names!!!!) and the Football team finished the season 6-2. The DFAC continues to serve with distinction putting on an incredible spread in recognition of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. Many of our Soldiers participated in the festivities here on Camp Liberty and at the beautiful Al-Faw palace, where the lithe Hula and fierce Sasa rang through the gilded halls. Combatives is in full swing and many of our Soldiers are taking the opportunity to learn hand-to-hand combat techniques. We love and miss you all, and are at the halfway point to returning to you. Tropic Thunder!!!

-CPT Townsend



May has been a very eventful month. Operations Company has hit the six month mark and we are now about to start our journey back home. There have been numerous events and observances in which our Soldiers participated in. The Fallen Soldier run, Memorial Day Observance, M9/M4 range and Soldier and NCO of the Month board are just a few events the company supported. The Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance was an awesome event in which SPC Tuia and SFC Togiailua starred in. SPC Tuia is now an overnight celebrity. PFC Hussey won the Soldier of the Month board and will compete for the Soldier of the Quarter. SFC Towery was promoted to Sergeant First Class and re-enlisted, thus continuing his great service to our nation. Please continue to keep all the Soldiers of HHBN in your thoughts as we go about accomplishing what seems to be an impossible mission. With the support from all you back at home, our Soldiers continue to be dedicated and mission focused. We recognize at times things are tough and stressful, but rest assured the Operations Company will endure. We hope everyone had a very pleasant Memorial day. Thank you for your support and Mahalo!!!



CPT Schnurr & 1SG Jones

GRIFFIN



SSG Khan shows off a box of care package received from friends and families.

Since we've been in country, we have received numerous care packages from friends, family, co-workers and other organizations that supports deployed troops. We would like to thank Jasmine and Khalid Khan for all the shared goodies send over these past months. We would also like to thank LTC Hyatt's mother for the best fudge brownies in all of Iraq. We truly appreciate every item that we have received.

THANK YOU AND MA'HALO TO ALL OUR FAMILIES



SFC Mackey prepares to zero and qualify with her assigned weapon at the annual qualifications range ran by OPS Co. At 104 degrees and full combat gear, it is hard to focus but nothing was going to stop SFC Mackey from walking off the range with an expert qualification badge.



DRAGON

This month marks the beginning of Summer--it is getting hot!

This month we feature a poem from an anonymous Dragon.

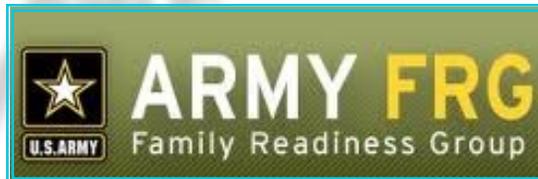
"Connection to Ohana"

Wiping sweat from the brow, we feel heat within the breeze. Knowing our actions now plants Freedom's seedling trees. The efforts we make today--the sacrifice of moments lost in time--will justly reward us plenty through Karma's aged fine wine. The loving kisses, the exciting warm embrace, helps us though our efforts and the challenges that we face. The feeling of a gentle touch; laughter that tickles our ears--they keep us connected and carry us through our fears. Remember sunsets on the beach and hiking through Pali trail? Or up on Makapu'u when we spotted baby whales? Memories like these are necessities like tolls. Like Ohana they are bonds between our Souls.





The 25th Infantry Divisions Rock Band, 'Show of Force', visited COP Falcon to bring some entertainment to the Soldiers. The Acoustic Band ensemble provided lunch time entertainment as the troops relaxed during their lunch break. The next night, the Heavy Rock ensemble played for a very energetic crowd of Cavalry Soldiers. The Commanding Officer dressed for the occasion in an ACU Kilt complete with Stetson. The Soldiers were able to let loose for a while and have a small taste of home. They were crowd surfing, moshing, and just having a blast. The 25th ID Rock Band hopes to continue to spread their musical talents throughout the USD-C AO.



EVENTS CALENDAR

- June 6 –BN VTC Steering Meeting –1800 -2000 at ACS
- June 7 –FRG Boot Camp -0900 -1345 at ACS
- June 8 –Money Management–0900 -1030 at ACS
- June 8 –Identity Theft: Deter & Defend –1030 -1200 at ACS
- June 11 –Daddy Boot Camp –0900 -1230 at Ft Shafter Aloha Center
- June 15 –All About Credit –0900 -1600 at ACS
- June 15 –Financial Planning for Deployment –1030 -1200 at ACS
- June 15 –Summer Break Home Alone Awareness Workshop – 0900 -1400 at AMR Community Center
- June 16 –Relaxation Techniques –0900 –1030 at ACS
- June 16 –Anger Awareness –1500 -1630 at ACS
- June 21-23 –AFTB Level III –1700 -2100 at ACS
- June 28 –DD 93 –1800 -2000 at ACS
- June 29 –Secrets of Car Buying –0900 -1030 at ACS
- June 29 –Home Sweet Home –1030 -1200 at ACS



TROPIC LIGHTNING

DFAC

Welcome to the 25th ID's Tropic Lightning Dining Facility (DFAC), which is currently operating in the Iraq Theater of Operations. Most people who go to the DFAC only see the faces at the head count desk and on the serving lines. There is more to the day-to-day operations than what the average person realizes. Between meals the headcount is responsible for monitoring the cooking times and temperatures, ensuring the civilian cooks are following the recipe cards. The line supervisors monitor and ensure the serving lines have food backed up and available in the warmers to provide a continuous supply of food for the customer. Then there are the Rations personnel, who provide the Personnel Security Detachment and the Special Forces troops with class 1 items for moral purposes, as well as picking up the regularly scheduled convoys that, arrive each week carrying the food and cooking supplies needed for the meals. The soldiers must monitor the Najlala and KBR staff to ensure they are compliant to military standards acting as not just supervisors but also mentors in food service operations.



S4

Ask anyone you meet who the hardest working (and best looking) people are in HHBN, 25th ID, and invariably the response will be "the S4 shop", we've been doing our best to maintain that reputation during in this deployment. After undergoing a significant turnover in personnel shortly before the deployment, the S4 team, which consists of Battalion Supply, Property Book Office (PBO), and the Military Maintenance Team (MMT), has developed into an elite logistic powerhouse. SSG Calvin Seymore, the shop NCOIC and master of supply, works tirelessly with handling everything from the smallest purchase requests to million dollar contracts. SPC Jeffrey Lee handles all of the odds and ends including ammunition tracking and coordinating for transportation support, but his biggest influence has been made by personally directing the turn-in of many years' worth of excess and abandoned shipping and storage containers left around our battalion area. The PBO team, CW2 Ulander Garcia and SGT Erin Maratita, stays busy with managing our unit's massive and diverse property book in addition to helping with new equipment fielding's and overseeing the turn-in of property as we begin the drawdown process. The MMT, SGT Christopher Brown and SPC John Lockwood, never met a problem they couldn't fix with a screwdriver, some plywood, and good old fashioned elbow grease. Their contributions, which range from small repairs to the construction of unit signs and new flooring for a gym, are seen and appreciated by all. They'll call in a work order if they have to, but they'd rather fix it themselves. All in all, the S4 team has accomplished a lot throughout the first half of this deployment, and we'll continue to support the battalion's logistical needs with a positive attitude and friendly smile.



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- CPT Jonathan Leggett