

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

www.25id.army.mil/haw.asp

“When work is finished.”

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

Giddy up for a taste of the country

Story and Photos by
JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER
Assistant Editor

PUPUKEA, Hawaii — Fifteen miles north of Schofield Barracks the frenetic pace of life is suspended. Bumper-to-bumper traffic and the sounds of the city fizzle as the waves gently lap the sand on the North Shore. A rooster crows sporadically — piercing the solitude — and the warm, sweet smell of alfalfa hay permeates the air.

Although this tranquil scenario might seem like a bucolic dream, it's just another day at the office for Mark and Tammy Becker.

The Beckers, who have owned and operated Happy Trails Hawaii horse-riding adventures in the Waimea Valley for more than 10 years, wouldn't have it any other way. And though they have been removed from the bustle of corporate world since 1993, they have no trouble relating to their city-folk guests.

“Your horses come equipped with power steering and power brakes, but not auto-pilot,” Mark says as he demonstrates each “feature” on Princess Leia, a light brown thoroughbred mare. “So you have to direct your horse one way or the other or pat her every once in a while to let her know you're still up there.”

Mark's demonstration is part of an informal but pertinent 15-minute pre-ride brief, which guests receive regardless of their horse-riding experience.

Paniolo style

Following the brief, visitors saddle up and begin the one-to-two-hour ride through the lush Waimea Valley. On a soothing, rhythmic ride, guests get a slice of what paniolo (Hawaiian cowboy) life might have felt like in the mid-1800s — without all the backbreaking work.

The horses generally stay in line and stick to the trail, which is mostly an old cattle run that meanders through the valley and comfortably straddles the fence between sun and shade. Occasionally, the horses stop for a snack.

Pulling up the rear, Mark directs the visitor with the stalled horse to give her a few light taps with his heels. From the horse's perspective, Mark lightheartedly says, the ride is like “constantly walking through a smorgasbord.”

Feeding the herd

The horses' appetites, however, are no laughing matter. According to Tammy, an active horse can inhale 20 pounds of food per day — and that doesn't include salt blocks, supplemental nutrients with electrolytes, or anything they pick up on the trail. In all, feeding a horse can easily run over \$225 per head each month; the Beckers have 24 horses and one dog.

Food costs, though, are just the tip of the salt lick for this family. Depending on the breed and where it is purchased, a horse can cost anywhere from

\$2,500–\$15,000, not including shipping and boarding costs and veterinarian bills. Tammy placed the average annual figure at about \$7,000 for one horse.

The ohana the Beckers have built isn't just a herd of hungry mouths though. They know each horse by name and quirks about their personalities. And though they've considered expanding their multiple-horse operation in the past, the simple North Shore life and stress-free commute brought the Beckers back to their senses.

When pressed to choose her favorite Tammy replied, “Just one? We love them all.”

If you go:

Make reservations by phone (638-7433), through the Web site (www.happytrailshawaii.com) or through the base ITR office.

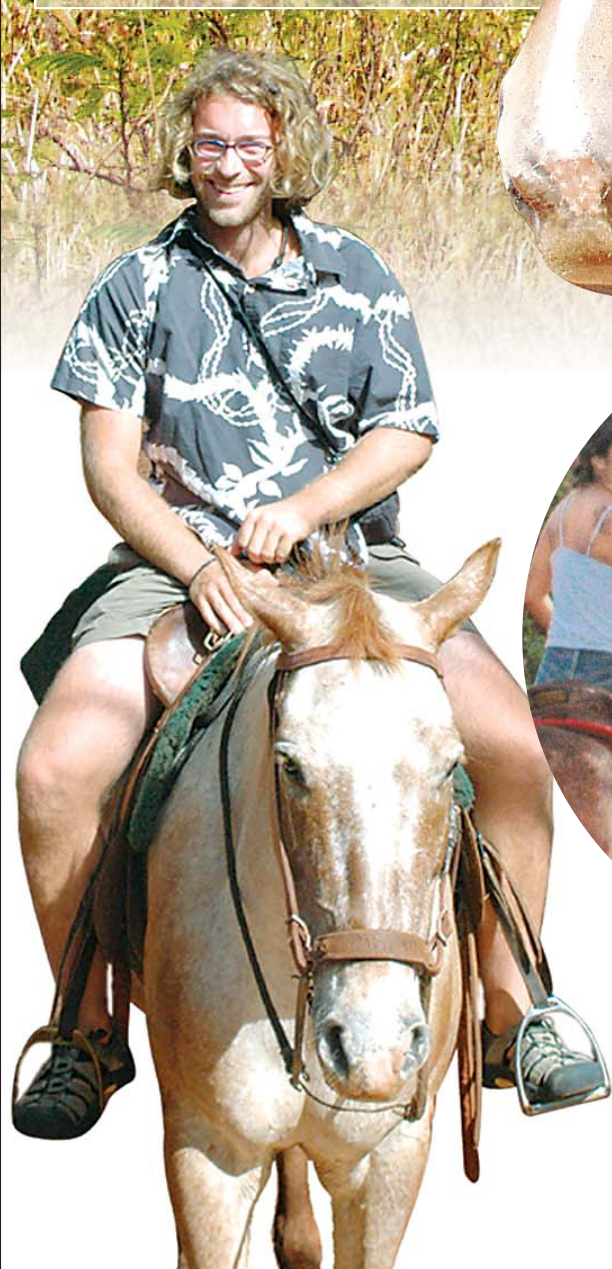
Costs (with military or kamaaina discount) run about \$45 (1.5 hrs) and \$65 (2 hrs).

Wear comfortable covered shoes and jeans / long pants.

Bring a camera and sunglasses.



Right — Sierra is just one of the 24 horses at Happy Trails horse-riding adventures in the Waimea Valley.



Left — David G. Shiel of Seattle sits atop Princess Leia at Happy Trails Hawaii.

Above — (from left to right) Shawn Date, India Clark and Chrysanthemum Castillo head on down the trail during a 1.5-hour ride through the valley.

Right — A rooster crows from his perch behind the Happy Trails office in Pupukea, North Shore.



INSIDE



Desert protest

Soldiers at the National Training Center push their limits and train for real-life war scenarios

A-4



Rockin' for the troops

From John Legend to the governor, a star-studded cast celebrates Hawaii's military, Saturday

B-5



Still carrying the torch

Hundreds attend the Special Olympics Softball championship at WAAF

B-7

This issue

Lightning Spirit	A-2
Deployment Series	A-3
News Briefs	A-4
Community	B-2
MWR Sports	B-6

\$1K recruiting bonus available

ARMY RECRUITING BATTALION, PORTLAND

News Release

PORTLAND, Ore. — Soldiers now have another reason to recommend the Army to a friend. Soldiers who refer civilian friends through the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team (SMART) Program can earn a \$1,000 referral bonus. When a friend enlists, completes basic training, and graduates from Advanced Individual Training (AIT), the referring Soldier receives a \$1,000 lump sum payment.

To receive the bonus, the Soldier must provide the friend's name before an appointment is conducted with a recruiter. Soldiers can refer anyone except immediate family members, including spouses, parents, step-parents, siblings, and children (natural,

adopted and step).

The initiative is already paying dividends, both for the Army, in terms of new recruits, and financially for individual Soldiers.

Sgt. Jeffrey Kauten, of Charlottesville, Va., was the first Soldier to qualify for the bonus.



www.usarec.army.mil/smart/ or call

"The recruiter worked great with my referral," said Kauten. "My referral called me during the process to keep me posted on how the Army enlistment process was going and it gave me the chance to see how he was doing. I think that the referral bonus in-



centive program helps motivate people who are already in uniform maintain a more active role in the recruiting process."

"I believe the new authorities provided by Congress, such as the \$1,000 per referral bonus, will help continue the positive trend of meeting our recruiting objectives [as we have] for the last seven months in a row," said Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey, following a Pentagon briefing Jan. 18.

All Soldiers except those on recruiting duty are eligible.

The Army recently expanded eligibility to include Soldiers performing duty in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program (HRAP), Special Recruiter Assistance Program (SRAP), and Additional Duty Special Work Program (ADSW). The only Soldiers not eligible for the referral bonus are those involved in recruiting or retention assignments, including some staff members receiving special duty assignment pay for recruiting or retention.

The Referral Bonus Pilot Program was authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006. The program is in effect from January 18, 2006 through December 31, 2007.

Guest pass on Oahu's posts gets improved

DONNA KLAPAKIS

Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers about to deploy now have one less worry. Getting base passes for their family members' houseguests is pain-free again.

"Three categories of people are exempt from the background check at the moment," said Brenda Vandegrift, management and program analyst at business operations division, directorate of community activities, "caregivers, houseguests, and agents."

The sponsor or family member who is applying for the pass must first go to his or her own community housing center (not the big housing office on Schofield), pick up the form, fill it out, and get the housing official to sign off.

"OBSB [Oahu Base Support Battalion] does approve a one-year guest pass when Soldiers are deploying," wrote Lisa Lepore, housing property management coordinator, in an e-mail interview. "Our community managers make sure the pass request has a copy of the deployment orders before they approve it and send it to OBSB. We take each family's situation into consideration before approving or declining," she wrote.

After receiving the housing office's approval, Vandegrift said, the applicant then goes to the community OBSB, which also signs off on the form.

The third and last stop is the installation access pass office (IAP), where prospective houseguests must show picture IDs and social security cards. If the guests do not have their social security cards with them, they must have state or federal identification that shows their social security numbers.

"The most important thing for people to know when they come to get a houseguest pass is that they have to bring their social security card," said Vandegrift. Most people don't carry around their social security card, and most states don't use a social security number as a driver's license number anymore.

"People need to tell their friends or family — before they leave the mainland — to bring their social security cards with them," she said. "Anyone who is 10 years old or older needs to bring their social security card."

The only alternative for people who do not have their social security cards is to go to the social security office downtown or in Kapolei to get certification that their social security number belongs to them, said Vandegrift.

SEE PASS, A-11



David Dismukes

Battered but not beaten

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Capt. Tracy Trudell (left) and 1st Lt. Patton Nix of the 25th Infantry Division carry their rucksacks out of Victory Pond after being dropped by a Blackhawk helicopter and swimming across the pond on the final day of the 2006 Best Ranger Competition, April 24.

Hui distributes \$42K in scholarships, grants

Story and Photo by
AIKO BRUM
Managing Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Every year in the May-June timeframe, just as the traditional school year winds down, the anticipation builds. Throughout the U.S., tens of thousands of high school seniors who have applied for scholarships and grants learn their fate — just how much outside assistance they will receive towards their post-secondary education.

At Schofield, the Hui O Na Wahine, an all-ranks spouses club, provides scholarships to both high school seniors and adult Hui members or their children attending undergraduate and graduate classes. Welfare grants are also set aside to benefit numerous other organizations such as nonprofits, schools and service-oriented activities.

"The big consideration is how will they benefit the community," said Kara Anderson, president of the Hui. "The main pur-



In the money — Nine military family members show off their scholarship awards from the Hui O Na Wahine: (From left to right) Alexandria Neason, Katie Angelucci, Tracy Goodley, Steffanie Peters, Brooke Sorrell, Kayley Squire (accepting for her sister Sydney Squire), Sonya Gleason, Lisa Davey and Sarah Rodriguez. The nine awardees received a combined \$14,000.

pose is to give back to communities that touch us."

Monday evening, nine military family members and 27 nonprofits received a share

of \$42,000 raised by "330 loyal Hui members." The club hopes the recipients will use

SEE HUI, A-11

New NSPS now rules civilians

STEVEN DONALD SMITH

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England signed a directive implementing the new National Security Personnel System during a roll-out ceremony here April 28.

"Today is a milestone event," England said during the Pentagon ceremony. "After two and a half years of hard work, the Department of Defense is initiating the human resources phase of the National Security Personnel System."

About 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees from 12 DoD organizations will be part of the initial "Spiral 1.1" phase-in process of the new system.

England said the old civilian system has been in place for 50 years and is not capable of keeping pace with the department's needs.

"As our military forces are re-oriented to better address a changing landscape, the civilian workforce too needs to become more agile, adaptable and fully integrated with the efforts of our military forces," he said.

Employees will be converted to pay bands, replacing the general schedule, and will receive new results-focused performance plans that are linked to their organization's mission and goals, defense officials said.

The performance appraisal cycle for Spiral 1.1 began Sunday and ends Oct. 31. Employees will receive their first performance pay increases in January 2007.

SEE NSPS, A-11