

TALOFA AND GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL!

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME; ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD! THESE WERE SOME OF THE FIRST WORDS I HEARD WHEN GETTING SETTLED IN MY NEW ASSIGNMENT. I HAD BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE COMMAND OF CHARLIE COMPANY AGAINST THE ODDS. BUT HERE I WAS; RIGHT WHERE I KNEW GOD INTENDED ME TO BE. I TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE WITH THREE SIMPLE GOALS: BE A LEADER, TRAIN SOLDIERS, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AS A LEADER, WHETHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, ONE MUST TAKE CARE OF THEIR SOLDIERS AND EMPLOYEES. SO I LOOKED FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCES FOR THE RESERVE SOLDIERS SERVING IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

I TOOK THE LEAD ON VARIOUS INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF MY SOLDIERS AND PROVIDE NEW EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO BUILD UPON. TACTICAL GEAR COMING INTO THE MINI PX, PROTOTYPE JUNGLE UNIFORMS, THE FIRST MILITARY BALL, AND THE FIRST ARMY RESERVE ROWING TEAM FOR THE ANNUAL FAUTASI RACE.

ON THE TRAINING SIDE, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH NOT ONLY GREAT NCO'S HERE, BUT ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SENIOR MALAYSIAN ARMY LEADERS TO DESIGN AN ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT

THAT WOULD PROVIDE NOT ONLY GREAT TRAINING FOR THE SOLDIERS, BUT ALSO FOSTER AND BUILD BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS.

AS A LEADER, I WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE NO ONLY DURING WORK, BUT ALSO ON MY PERSONAL TIME, AS IT IS A KEY FACET OF LEADERSHIP TO ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY. TO THAT END, I JOINED THE LIONS CLUB OF PAGO PAGO TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH I WAS IMMERSED. VERY QUICKLY, ALTHOUGH MY ARMY MISSIONS HAD TO TAKE ME AWAY FROM SOME OF THE COMMUNITIY EVENTS, I WAS ELECTED TREASURER OF THE LOCAL CLUB. WHAT AN HONOR MY TIME WITH THE LIONS HAS BEEN!

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN ONE OF MANY FIRSTS. FIRST NOT ONLY FOR ME IN MY CAREER, BUT FIRSTS FOR CHARLIE COMPANY AND THE ARMY RESERVE HERE IN AMERICAN SAMOA. HOPEFULLY THESE FIRSTS WILL BE JUST THAT – FIRSTS AND NOT ONLY'S. KEEP UP THE TEAMWORK AND TRADITIONS WE STARTED. CONTINUE TO EXPAND ON THE CURRENT PROGRESS AND BRING UP MORE LEADERS FROM THE INSIDE, LIKE SGT LAM YUEN WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED TO ATTEND OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL AND SPC SUNIA AND PFC ACOSTA THAT ARE THE NEWEST ROTC CADETS AT U of H AND PART OF THE SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AND NOW PLATOON LEADERS WITHIN THE 100<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
RECOGNIZE:

\*THE HONORABLE CONGRESSWOMAN AMATA, FIELD  
DIRECTOR PULU AND HER ABLE STAFF,

\*HONORABLE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LEMANU MAUGA

\*LTC CLOUD

\*DIRECTOR LAUPOLA

\*DIRECTOR SEMANA

\*HIGH CHIEF SOLIAI

\* THE MEMBERS OF THE LIONS CLUB OF PAGO PAGO

\*ALL MY FRIENDS AND THE SOLDIERS THAT I HAD THE  
PLEASURE OF SERVING WITH HERE IN AMERICAN SAMOA

I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE THAT  
HAVE EMBRACED ME NOT ONLY AS A COLLEAGUE, BUT AS  
A FRIEND, AND EVEN FAMILY. MY EXPERIENCE HERE HAS  
BEEN THE MOST AMAZING BLESSING AND I COULD NOT  
HAVE HAD THE SUCCESSES WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT  
AND LOVE. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!

GO FOR BROKE!

CHARLIE HOOAH!