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## USMC Amphibious Assault



U.S. Marine Corps Bravo Company, 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion and Indonesian Jaguar Company, 5th Battalion, 1st Brigade, Marine Division 1 participate in an Amphibious Assault Vehicle landing as a part of their training during Rim of the Pacific 2008 at Pyramid Rock Beach at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, on July 27, 2008. Rim of the Pacific is one of the largest biannual maritime exercises consisting of ten participating nations and is hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. DoD photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel Balmer, U.S. Marine Corps.

**Need more information? That is why we have our website. It never sleeps.**

## Armed Forces Connection, Tampa Florida

Our Gracious Host and Hostess for this event was Sarah Cavins and Shelby Russell. They travel the nation to organize Diversity Career Fairs for Veterans. They were in Tampa on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and they will be in New Hampshire on August 20<sup>th</sup>. So if you are near, drop in and say the Company Clerk sent you. Major Corporations and Government Agencies are always supporting AFC, along with Colleges Universities and Vocational training schools. For more information, check out their website. You will find resources on Resume Building, Relocation procedures and so much more. These folks really want to help you. But you have to take the first step. <http://www.armedforcesconnection.com/>



## Specialist Lives Dream Overseas

By SFC Kerensa Hardy, USA, PAO,  
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division



U.S. Army Sgt. Jason Ruckman, of HQ & HQ Co, 3rd Bgd Cbt Tm, 101st Abn Div, plays with Iraqi children while on a mission in Mahmudiyah, about 35 kilometers southwest of Baghdad.

US Army photo by SSG Tony Lindback

U.S. Army Sgt. Jason Ruckman had a desire to be part of something that would make a difference. Six years ago, he joined the Army to whet his appetite for adventure, and he has never looked back.

"Since I was in middle school, I've always wanted to wear a uniform; I thought they were cool-looking," the Orlando, FL, native said.

It helped to have a family military history that dated back to World War I, in which his great-grandfather fought. Ruckman's grandfather served in World War II, and his father in Vietnam. "They always seemed kind of proud about it, so I wanted to do something right for my family," he said. "This was the best thing I could think of."

A 2002 graduate of William R. Boone High School in Orlando, Ruckman joined the Army later that year. He graduated advanced individual training in 2003 as a signal support systems specialist.

With two Purple Hearts under his belt, Ruckman knows well the potential dangers of duty in a combat zone. He reluctantly recounted the circumstances surrounding his injuries.

The first, in December 2003, was a result of a suicide car bomber in Tal Afar.

His second Purple Heart came after an improvised explosive device detonated at a city council building north of Beiji in October 2005.