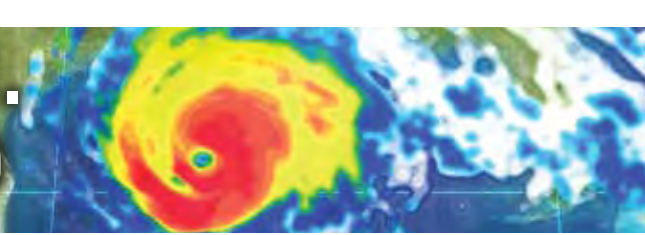


# Hurricane season begins June 1. ARE YOU PREPARED?



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## THE FRONTLINE

The Newspaper of the 3rd Infantry Division



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MAY 26, 2011

# Chinese delegation visits Stewart-Hunter

Lt. Col. Jeffrey W. Allen  
3rd ID Public Affairs

A Chinese delegation led by Gen. Chen Bingde, the chief of the general staff for the People's Liberation Army, spent approximately four hours with Soldiers and leadership at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield as part of their week-long visit to several military bases in the United States, May 19.

The delegation, consisting of seven other Chinese generals, was lifted by helicopter from Hunter to one of Stewart's live-fire ranges, where they witnessed a combined arms live fire exercise conducted by Soldiers from the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

The CALFEX consisted of U. S. Marine Corps F/A-18 jets from Marine Corps Air Station- Beaufort; Apache and Kiowa attack helicopters from 3 CAB; and tanks, artillery and ground forces from 2HBCT.



Photo by Chris Rich, MVISC

Major General Robert B. Abrams (center left), commander, 3rd Infantry Division and Gen. Chen Bingde (center right), the chief of the general staff for the People's Liberation Army, along with other U.S. and Chinese officers view a live-fire demonstration held on Fort Stewart, Ga., May 19.

See VISIT

Page 2A

## Avoid wildfire health issues

Terri McGowan  
Winn Army Community Hospital

Winn Army Community Hospital Department of Preventive Medicine advises Fort Stewart residents and employees to take precautions to avoid health issues which may be associated with wildfire smoke exposure.

This smoke is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. These conditions are a direct result of the ongoing wildfire in Long County and

could also be affected by the 82,000 acre Honey Prairie fire burning in the Okefenokee Swamp.

Smoke from wildfires usually pose no hazard to healthy adults, but when levels are high, even healthy people may experience coughing, scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, headaches, stinging eyes, and a runny nose. Older adults and those with heart or lung disease such as congestive heart failure, angina, COPD, emphysema or asthma, are at higher risk of having health problems.

See SMOKE

Page 2A

## Suicide prevention remains key

Renee Reese  
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Suicide prevention means saving lives...the Army's stated goal is to prevent suicide for Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians. Suicide prevention involves both public awareness and education; understanding the risk factors and signs of concern is a must.

Fort Stewart Garrison Commander, Kevin Milton, is quoted on Team Stewart's website in an article titled "Suicide prevention starts with you", as saying "... Each of us can help make a difference. Each of us can help carry the message that when times seem darkest-You are not alone."

Fact is suicide is never an option and everyone plays a part in preventing suicides within the com-

munity.

Many ask the question: What does the public need to know and how can we help?

"The most important thing we need to know about suicide is that it is preventable," said Dr. Paul Wade, Fort Stewart suicide prevention program manager and doctor of psychology. "By being aware of the signs and symptoms that are often contributing factors to suicide, the public can learn to identify those who are at risk and learn the skills of helping someone to seek help and to recognize that there are other options for them in their time of need."

Everyone plays a part in staying connected with Soldiers, Family Members and Civilians and understanding the risk factors is critical to preventing suicides.

See PREVENTION

Page 2A

## Immigration Fair provides services to Families

Elvia Kelly  
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

While President Barack Obama discussed immigration reform during a speech held last Tuesday, the Legal Assistance Office at Fort Stewart prepared an Immigration Fair for Soldiers and Family Members of the Third Infantry Division. With the assistance of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Immigration Fair was mission-

ready, May 12.

"The Immigration Fair is a two-day event," 1st Lt. Nick Hurd, Judge Advocate General Officer and coordinator of the fair, said. "Immigration attorneys from AILA came down from Atlanta as well as a member from U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services. We have specialized attorneys who will provide pro bono legal services to Soldiers and Family Members regarding any immigration issue they may have."

See IMMIGRATION

Page 9A

## 4th AAB closes bases, preps for return home

Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas  
4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C Public Affairs

AL ANBAR, Iraq – Soldiers of the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, have begun their departure home to Fort Stewart, Ga., and as their deployment comes to a close, so have three U.S. military installations they occupied during their year-long tour.

The base closures are part of the current plan to remove American forces from the country by the end of this year. Members of the 28th Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division signed for Camp Khalid, May 8, and former U.S. tenants with D Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th AAB, 3rd Inf. Div. departed and joined the rest of their team at Al Asad Air Base.

On May 12, 80 Soldiers with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th AAB, 3rd Inf. Div. rolled out of Camp Tariq, after the 2nd Brigade, 1st IA Quick Reaction Force Division signed for the compound.

Infantry Soldiers who've spent the past 11 months at the small outpost say its closure was bittersweet.

"We've built this place up since we arrived here," said Staff Sgt. Nacoma Williamson, a squad leader with C Co., and Sheffield, Ala., native, explaining that his Soldiers constructed fighting positions, a gym, an entry control point, a stage, and set up defensive barriers upon their arrival in July 2010. "But we also came here to help (the Iraqi Army), and I feel that we've successfully done that."



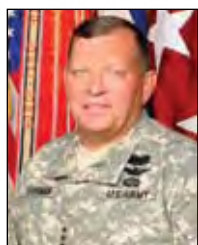
Photo by Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas

Captain Daniel Evans looks on as an Iraqi Army leader with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division Quick Reaction Force signs for Camp Tariq, Iraq, May 12.

See CLOSURES

Page 2A

# Memorial Day 2011 Message of Remembrance



**Gen. James D. Thurman**  
Commanding General, FORSCOM

This Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, is America's national remembrance for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and its values.

This solemn holiday stems from a tradition started in 1866 after the Civil War, when communities came together to decorate graves as a tribute to the Soldiers who sacrificed all for their coun-

try. Today we honor our service members from generations past, and to the modern Warriors whose sacrifices remind us that freedom is never free.

The freedom Americans enjoy today continues at a precious cost, paid not only by our Soldiers, but also by the Families they left behind. We reverently extend our gratitude and prayers to those special Army Families during this annual time of remembrance.

I remind you to stop for a minute Monday, May 30, at 3 p.m. local time as the nation pauses for The National Moment of Remembrance. This annual

observance allows all Americans to unite in national reflection and profound appreciation.

I encourage the FORSCOM Family to enjoy the holiday safely. Leadership remains the most critical aspect of our safety program. Leaders at all levels should encourage Soldiers to observe safety when traveling and consider potential risks when making plans.

Units also should be mindful of providing options for holiday observance for those unable to join their Families.

Freedom's Guardian!

## Barracks Life

## Get out and see some nature ... and lasers!



**Sgt. Dustin Gautney**  
2HBCT Public Affairs

Well Barrack's Lifer's, summer time is upon us. With Memorial Weekend this weekend, and officially starting the summer season, it is time to start looking at some fun summer activities.

For me this year I am going back to some of my roots and visiting a place I remember fondly from my childhood. While I might have been raised in Florida, I was born in Georgia and spent

some time here as a young child. I think the one place that stands out in my mind, from my youth that I want to see again, is Stone Mountain National Park.

I remember fondly the beautiful nature trails, the mountain lift, the awesome view, and of course the laser light show. Although a lot has been added to the park over the last couple of decades, since I last visited, the laser light show is what I am most excited about.

I still remember the "Top Gun" theme being blasted from the concert-like sound system (hey, it was 1986 after all),

as a laser image of a fighter jet passed over my head. Of course nowadays it is more of a blend of IMAX and advanced laser light production. Still, I am very excited to see all of the changes to the show.

Another great thing about the Stone Mountain National Park is the camping. For us barrack's folk, getting together and going camping and letting off some steam can be great. Just sitting by the fire and hanging out with friends, all while enjoying nature brings a lot of us back to our roots. Or, for those who didn't go camping while they were

young, it is never too late to start.

Also another great reason for Soldiers to check out Stone Mountain National Park this upcoming Memorial Weekend because it's free for active-duty military. The weekend also kicks off nightly laser light shows, as well as, a patriotic fireworks show for the Memorial Day festivities.

So for those of you sitting around the barracks come Memorial Day, get out and try something different. Grab a few friends, hop in the car and check out some of the awesome beauty some of our local national parks have to offer.

## VISIT from Page 1A

Before the exercise began, the Chinese leaders, escorted by 3rd ID's commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams, visited the tactical operations center responsible for the execution of the exercise. Leaders from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment provided the visitors with an unclassified briefing on the exercise.

Once the briefings were complete, the delegation was able to observe the training exercise.

"It was a historic visit and it was our honor to highlight the skills and independence of the 3rd Infantry Division's Soldiers and NCOs who have sacrificed so much over the past decade," said Col. Roger Cloutier, 3rd ID chief of staff. "Additionally, it was a fantastic training opportunity for our Soldiers."

This exchange promoted mutual understanding between Chinese and the United States military forces, and will help to expand cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the future as the frequency of cooperative interaction increases.

## SMOKE from Page 1A

In addition, children are more likely to be affected by smoke because they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults and are usually more active outdoors.

Fort Stewart residents and employees can reduce their risk of smoke related symptoms by implementing the following guidelines during heavy smoke exposure:

- Stay inside with windows and doors shut.
- Use the recycle or re-circulate mode on the air conditioner in your home or car and keep your home air conditioner filter clean.
- Seek shelter elsewhere if you do not have air conditioning and it is too warm to stay inside with the windows closed.

• Keep your indoor environment as clean as possible; avoid indoor burning such as candles, fireplaces and smoking, which will increase air pollutants. A high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter may reduce the number of irritating fine particles in indoor air.

• Asthmatics should follow their asthma management plan and keep at least a five-day supply of medication on hand.

• Contact your doctor if you have symptoms such as chest pain, chest tightness, shortness of breath, or severe fatigue. This is important for not only for people with chronic lung or heart disease, but also for individuals who have not been previously diagnosed with such illnesses.

• Keep airways moist by drinking lots of

water. Breathing through a warm, wet washcloth can also help relieve dryness.

• Do not rely on paper "comfort" or "dust" masks commonly found at hardware stores for protection as these are designed to trap large particles, such as sawdust and will not protect your lungs from smoke.

• During heavy smoke conditions, pay close attention to local news reports for updated public health advisories. Exercise caution when driving in low visibility areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider or the Department of Preventive Medicine, Fort Stewart's "public health department" at 912-435-5101/5071.

## CLOSURES from Page 1A

Staff Sergeant Williamson and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mrnak said that during its deployment C Company, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt. was tasked with teaching basic soldier skills to Iraqi Army members.

"We brought them to the range, showed them how to shoot, taught them things like ambush techniques, patrols, team movement, security and vehicle searches - on a weekly basis," Staff Sgt. Mrnak said, a Twin Lakes, Wisc., native. "They (now) understand checkpoint (operations). They know how to

zero their weapons, among other things. It seems like they've learned a lot from us. They put their own spin on things, but they are ready to do this job on their own."

Staff Sergeant Williamson, who deployed to the Al Anbar province during the Iraq Invasion in 2003, said that much has changed over the past eight years and that base handovers, like Camp Tariq, are noted successes for both the U.S. and the Government of Iraq.

"Think about how awesome it is to change an entire coun-

try," he said. "I know America wants us to come back home, but we're here to help make a change for this country, and now, we can say we have."

The Company C Soldiers moved to Camp Fallujah, where they will finish out the remainder of their deployment.

Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt. transferred from Camp Taqaddum May 16 to Iraqi Army Soldiers of the 8th Brigade, 1st IA Div.

"This is all part of the future of re-posturing in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Shoemaker, com-

mander of 3rd Bn, 15th Inf. Regt., who was on hand to witness the milestone at Taquaddum. "But, we're not saying good bye. This is not the end of our partnership or our friendship (with the IA)."

Command Sergeant Major Mark Barnes, the battalion sergeant major of 3rd Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., told his Soldiers they have contributed to their nation's history and helped with the development of Iraq.

"This is all because of your hard work and efforts," he said. "You can all be proud."

## PREVENTION from Page 1A

"One of the key things to look at is somebody who changes their behavior significantly," said Maria Aviles, Fort Stewart's supervisory clinical psychologist and chief of the Warrior Restoration Center.

She added that experiences with broken relationships, financial or career problems can make a Soldier more vulnerable. "Some of the key signs that people might do is that they seem completely de-motivated, they might be giving out things that were important to them, pushing away Family Members radically, and increased alcohol consumption can be associated with feeling depressed." "One key indicator for us if I'm assessing somebody is hopelessness, added Aviles."

Hopelessness is feeling that conditions will not improve and there is no

solution at hand, but suicide is never an option. Most importantly, the impact of an attempted suicide is felt by the entire community.

"A suicide attempt or even a gesture makes people question themselves, makes people wonder, what roles did I play in this? "What could have I done to help this person?" Aviles said. "When you're talking about within the context of the unit, the blame game is something that tends to happen. It's all a blame game that could happen ... it's a normal reaction."

Wade further adds, Family Members, friends and those in the community who know the person who commits suicide are also victims. "These people have to find ways to cope with the loss and learn how to sort through their emotions as they attempt to under-

stand such a preventable tragedy, Wade said."

While preventing suicides in the armed forces is nothing new, the Army continuously improves risk-assessment tools and helps to educate the community.

"The Army has an excellent training program about suicide prevention called ACE. The ACE stands Ask, Care, and Escort," Dr. Wade said. "In 2010, this Army program gained national recognition by a panel of experts as a 'best practice' for the high expectation that the program can meet the goal and objectives of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention."

With nationally recognized training, understanding risk behaviors and concerned professionals, suicide prevention is tackled daily at Stewart-

Hunter.

"By each of us being compassionate and caring for those around us, we can become more in tune with the emotions of others and better recognize when someone is not their self," Wade said.

"Do not lose hope and do talk with somebody because the help is out there and the personnel that we have here are committed to taking care of Soldiers ... They are willing to give up their free time to take care of Soldiers because they care," Aviles said.

For more information on suicide prevention, call the Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic, at 912-767-1654. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention hotline at 800-273-8255 or visit, [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).



## This Memorial Day weekend TOW TO GO (May 27-May 30)

For the Memorial Day weekend, AAA is teaming up with Budweiser to keep the roads safe with Tow-To-Go. Since 1998, Tow-To-Go has safely removed more than 13,600 drunk drivers from the roads.

By calling 1-800-AAA-help, a tow truck will take the vehicle and driver home safely. This service is free for both AAA members and non-members.

For questions, call the Installation Safety Office at 912-767-7880 or 912-315-5814.



Photos by Spc. Gregory Gieske

**Spartan Soldiers board a Black Hawk in preparation for their air assault mission during 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's, Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Fort Stewart's Observation Point Four, May 19.**

# 'Spartans' train, fire for effect with new equipment

**Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal**  
2HBCT Public Affairs

The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team "Spartan" Soldiers set up to test and train on new integration/communication equipment May 3-20 during the brigade's Command Post Exercise held at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Sergeant First Class Mark De Jesus, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs, 3rd Infantry Division, said the training was definitely instrumental to the brigade's combat readiness.

"As a headquarters company, we have to be able to not only set up a [Tactical Advanced Center] in a timely manner, but also set it up so that it runs smoothly with no problems at all," said Sgt. 1st Class De Jesus. "If the headquarters cannot perform, the battalions have no guidance and the commander has no voice."

According to Maj. David Sheehan, Spartan Battle Command Officer, HHC, 2HBCT, 3rd ID, training on the new equipment came at the perfect time for the unit.

"This is our first time setting up the TAC since redeploying so pulling the equipment out of reset and getting all the Soldiers familiarized with it was a must," he said.

The major said fortunately, the training was going so well for the Spartans, they were more than prepared to welcome and allow a distinguished Chinese delegation to visit the brigade's TAC, May 19 during the delegation's visit to Fort Stewart.

"The visit from the Chinese delegation accelerated our training greatly; we had been working hard from the beginning to meet all points on a tight time line and to be able to host the Chinese, show them some of the technology our Army has without any mishaps was excellent," said Maj. Sheehan.

The training also included support from Soldiers of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade at Hunter Army Airfield with their Apache and Kiowa helicopters, along with U. S. Marine Corps F/A-18 jets from Marine Corps Air Station-Beaufort.



**ABOVE: Spartan Abrams tanks and Apache Attack Helicopters lead an assault at Fort Stewart's Observation Point Four during 2HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, May 19.**

**RIGHT: A 2HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division sniper ignites a fuel drum during the Spartan Brigade's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Fort Stewart's Observation Point Four, May 19.**



**LEFT: Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jason calls for ground and air support during the Spartan Brigade's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Fort Stewart's Observation Point Four, May 19.**

**BELOW: Spartan Abrams tanks and Apache Attack Helicopters lead an assault at Fort Stewart's Observation Point Four during 2HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, May 19.**



# Marne Faces Marne Places

## From student to instructor, goal fulfilled

**Dorcee A. Taylor**  
Education Services Specialist

While deployed to Mosul, Iraq, in 2010, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Pegues had an opportunity to fulfill his life's goal; to become a teacher. As the oldest child in his family, he had enjoyed helping his siblings with their school work. When he heard that the search was on for college instructors in Mosul, he jumped at the opportunity to teach the business management curriculum for the University of Maryland, University College.

Command Sergeant Major Pegues entered the military after graduating from high school in 1981. This Thomasville, N.C. native earned his associates of arts degree in political science from Austin Peay State University in 1989. He later completed his bachelor of arts in general studies from Columbia College of Missouri in 2004 and his masters of business administration in military operations from Touro University International in 2008.

In spite of overseeing more than 1,200 troops in the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Command Sgt. Maj. Pegues was allowed to choose his own hours for class. He taught one class each term, from March to October 2010. He told his students, "You need to get a civilian education if you want to get ahead and stay in the Army." He believed if he could get an education while in the Army, they can too.

He has served an array of positions in multiple locations stateside and overseas. Of note are his appointments as the Task Force Sinai Command Sergeant Major, for the Multinational Forces Observer, in Sinai, Egypt and the Commandant, Quartermaster Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Fort Lee, Virginia.

Of the numerous awards bestowed upon him, Command Sgt. Maj. Pegues is most proud of his first Bronze Star Medal earned during Desert Storm as a supply sergeant, his Distinguished Order of Saint Martin presented for Logistical Excellence, and his 10th Good Conduct Medal which represents 30 years of Active Service.

Command Sgt. Maj. Pegues returned to Fort Stewart and continued to serve as the 26th Brigade Support Battalion command sergeant major. He once again became an NCO Academy Commandant by assuming that duty for the 3rd Infantry Division on March 8.

Even with his busy schedule, he wants to continue sharing his personal and Army experiences by teaching. This upcoming term he will teach business ethics for Columbia College at Fort Stewart. He is so dedicated to education that he feels he has two options when he retires from the Army; either apply to be a Junior ROTC Instructor or enter the Troops-to-Teachers program to teach disadvantaged high school students.



Command Sergeant Major Jimmy Pegues

## Night Stalkers compete for top honors at competition

**Kimberly Tiscione**  
160th SOAR Public Affairs

**FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.** – Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Campbell Soldiers came out on top in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment's annual Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Competition.

Taking honors for 2011 were Sgt. Joshua Kakuk, an aircraft armament system repairer with 3rd Battalion, as NCO of the Year, and Spc. Robert Pennywitt, an aircraft power plant repairer with 2nd Battalion, as Soldier of the Year. Both were recognized in a ceremony on May 11.

"Having already won a similar competition at the battalion level, you have obviously spent countless hours preparing for these events," Regiment Command Sergeant Major David Leamon told the winners. "I salute you for your preparations and hard work that competed with your regular duties and deployments. Congratulations on a job well done."

Representatives from each of the unit's five battalions competed in an intense four-day event designed to test the whole Soldier.

Command Sergeant Major Leamon said that these two winners represent the finest of more than 2,300 enlisted Soldiers assigned to the Regiment and that the command group is extremely proud of all the competitors.

Night Stalkers were evaluated in multiple events including a physical fitness test, weapons qualification, stress shoot and combatives competition. The mystery event, which remained unknown to participants until the challenge, was disassembling and re-assembling of the M-4 Carbine and M-9 Pistol weapons for time. Each Soldier also took a written exam and participated in an oral board with the regiment's sergeants major.

Sergeant Kakuk said that the physical demands of the combatives tournament were particularly challenging, but the board was most rewarding.

"I enjoyed the rapid fire questioning during the board," he said. "The objective becomes not only knowing the answer but adapting to the pace and collecting your thoughts quickly to give a professional response."

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command competition takes place in June.



Photo by 160th SOAR

**Specialist Robert Pennywitt, an aircraft power plant repairer with 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., tests on a first-aid task during the command's annual Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Competition.**

### Marne Voices Speak Out

"It's important for service members and Civilians to respect and honor those who have fallen."

**Spc. Jasmine Applewhite**  
HHC, 3rd BSB



"I'm reminded about my classmates in college, one of which died in Afghanistan. When we lose those close to us, it's important to carry on their legacy."

**Capt. Aubrey Williams**  
HHC, 1HBCT



"There are those who served from the revolutionary war to today, and they all paved the way for where we are now."

**Capt. Dhyon Tarver**  
HHC, 1HBCT



"Memorial Day signifies a time where we can remember those that gave their lives for the freedoms we have today."

**Vickie Hollans**  
1HBCT FRSA



"It's a time for me to take note of the awesome men and women who serve, protect, and defend the greatest country in the world...these United States of America."

**Merquita Polk**  
Civilian



"It's a time to honor those who gave their lives for our country as well as spend time with our Family."

**Staff Sgt. Otis McCraw**  
HHT, 5/7 Cavalry



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# One of Exchange's missions: Military Family careers



## Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

**DALLAS** - Understanding that serving the military today means caring about the community's tomorrow, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is focusing on active duty, veteran, retired, National Guard and Reserve Families' career aspirations.

With more than 31 percent of approximately 43,000 associates identifying themselves as Military Family Members and veterans accounting for another 12 percent of the workforce, the Exchange understands the unique perspectives its customers bring to "the other side of the cash register."

"Their values of loyalty, professionalism and commit-

ment are exactly what we look for when hiring," said the Exchange's Senior Vice President of Human Resources Jim Moore. "We know it's difficult to start over with each transfer, which is why we developed special programs with spouses in mind."

The Exchange's spouse continuity and employment preference programs allow wives and husbands to build a career alongside their sponsor with each re-location. In 2010, almost 900 military spouses received promotions through this effort.

Military spouses are just one of the many groups the Exchange helps to find or keep employment. In fact, the Exchange has partnerships with several organizations dedicated to offering career assistance and creating opportunities for those who have served, including the Army Spouse Employment Partnership, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Army Wounded

Warrior Program.

"Hiring our military, their Families and veterans is one small way we can support those who have sacrificed for us," said Moore.

The Exchange's commitment to hiring current and former military personnel, and their Families, has been recognized by a variety of organizations including Military Spouse Magazine's "Top 10 Military Spouse Friendly Employers", G.I. Jobs magazine's "Top 100 Military Friendly Employers" and CivilianJobs.com's "Most Valuable Employers for the Military."

Complete details on how to apply for a career with the Exchange, along with a listing of current opportunities, are available at [applymyexchange.com](http://applymyexchange.com). Questions concerning the military spouse or hiring partnership programs can be directed to the Exchange's Human Resources Support Center at [HRSC@aafes.com](mailto:HRSC@aafes.com).

## Archaeology Month at Stewart revealed rich Georgia history

**Joseph Paul Maggioni**  
*Directorate of Public Works*

May is Archaeology Month in the State of Georgia.

You may be surprised to know there are a number of archaeological sites on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. While Fort Stewart is only about seventy years old, humans have been living in the area for thousands of years. Underneath our soil lie archaeological sites that can reveal clues to our common heritage and tell us important information about how people lived long ago.

Archaeology at Fort Stewart and Hunter can be divided up into two broad categories: prehistoric and historic. Prehistoric sites date from when the first Native Americans settled in the area, to the time when the first Europeans arrived in the New World in the 1500s.

Perhaps one of the most important prehistoric sites on Fort Stewart is the Lewis Mound, a small, unassuming mound of earth nestled in a forest of oak and hickory trees, the final resting place of a respected leader or chief. He is believed to have been buried around 1200 AD, at about the same time King John of England signed the Magna Carta.

Most of the prehistoric pottery at Lewis Mound dates to 1200-1300 AD and mound construction also dates to this time period.

Lewis Mound was the permanent resident of a chief and his Family. The mound site and the area surrounding it also served as a seasonal home for his people from the late spring to the fall.

In the spring, probably both the men and women would work on spring planting. The women tended the fields after cultivation, collected wild herbs for medicine, made pots, cooked, and repaired village houses, amongst many other activities. Men hunted turkey, deer, raccoon, and bear.

In the winter, most of the Lewis Mound people moved to the coast to take advantage of food sources there, such as fish and shellfish.

No pottery has been found at Lewis Mound that post-dates 1425 AD, so the site was almost certainly abandoned at that point.

People also deserted a similar but larger mound village, the Irene Mound, and most of the Savannah River Valley, leaving a wilderness largely devoid of people. It is unknown what caused the population to abandon the area, although many archaeologists theorize it may have been caused by warfare.

What ultimately happened to the people who lived at the Lewis and Irene Mound sites remain something of a mystery.

One of the most significant historic sites on Fort Stewart is Fort Argyle, an English military outpost established by General Oglethorpe in 1733 as a defensive outpost for Savannah against Spanish incursions from Florida to the south, or Indian raids from the south and west.

Fort Argyle was the first European settlement in the Fort Stewart area. Shortly after the fort was constructed, it was largely abandoned and fell into disrepair. When Great Britain went to war with Spain in 1739, the fort was activated again, but was probably abandoned from 1747 to about 1760, when Great Britain was once again at war, this time with France. In 1767 the colonists abandoned the fort for the third and last time.

The historical record indicates only one fort had been constructed on the site and then refurbished, but when archaeologists investigated the site in the mid-1990s they discovered the remains of three successive forts built on the same site.

The artifacts uncovered at the site indicate that the Rangers stationed at Fort Argyle were armed with pistols and short-barreled carbines and that the flints for these

weapons were small and worn. Archaeology at Fort Argyle has told us much about the architecture of the fort, its evolution over time, and day-to-day life.

On a small bluff at Hunter, dotted by large oak and pine trees overlooking the marsh, lies the McNish Cemetery, an early nineteenth century cemetery marking the site of the Hermitage Plantation.

The cemetery's burials date from the 1820s but based on archeological and historical evidence the settlement, lasted from the 1750s to the 1870s.

The plantation originated during the British colonial period and ended shortly after the Civil War. Historical research and archeological investigation of the site has helped shed some light on the social and economic changes that occurred during this eventful and momentous expanse of time. In particular, the plantation's demise shortly after the Civil War mirrored the South's declining economic fortunes shortly after that conflict.

Through proper management, the installation seeks to understand its rich and wonderful past and responsibly manage and protect Lewis Mound, Fort Argyle and McNish Cemetery while enabling continuous and necessary combat training for our Soldiers.

However, the people who live and work on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are the first line of defense in protecting our installation's 3500 archaeological sites. In that sense, Archaeology Month really is observed not just in May, but all year round at Fort Stewart.

To celebrate Archaeology Month, a wide variety of events and activities were planned across the state. This year's theme is Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War Through Archaeology.

For more information about events and archaeology in Georgia, visit the web site [thesga.org](http://thesga.org).

Visit our web site at [www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/PC\\_CulturalOResources.asp](http://www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/PC_CulturalOResources.asp).



# Around the Department of Defense

## DoD makes progress in Civilian hiring reform

**Donna Miles**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** - Until very recently, applying for a Civilian job at the Defense Department was an exercise in endurance and patience. Applicants had to navigate through a byzantine federal hiring process and amass thick application packets, then often waited as long as a year for any word on their applications.

Pasquale "Pat" M. Tamburrino Jr., deputy assistant secretary of defense for Civilian personnel policy, said the practice left defense offices short of critical skills for extended periods and discouraged the best candidates from even considering federal service.

"If you are going to be in the marketplace, competing for the best and brightest - which is what we want - we want to be the employer of choice," he said. "And if you make it hard to apply, you are going to lose in the marketplace."

Committed to attracting the best job candidates, the Defense Department is making good on President Barack Obama's mandate last year to improve the federal hiring process.

The DoD launched its own hiring reform initiative two years ago, and it's revolutionizing the way the department processes about 250,000 hiring actions a year, Tamburrino said.

The typical timeframe for hiring new employees already has been cut from an average of 155 days to 116. "We're pretty happy with that, but we are not stopping there," Tamburrino said. His goal is to reduce that to the administration's goal of about 80 days.

The broad, 10-step DoD hiring reform initiative covers the full spectrum of the hiring process to make it not only faster, but also simpler, less bureaucratic and more transparent, he explained. It makes applying for a DoD job more in line with what the private sector offers, he added, and ensures hiring managers have the tools they need to advertise and fill vacancies.

For applicants, gone is the burdensome Standard Form 171, the official federal resume that could run 15 to 20 pages. Also gone is the requirement that job-seekers write essays proving they have the proper knowledge, skills and abilities - called KSAs - for the job.

Applications have gone electronic, filed through the Office of Personnel Management's government-wide "USAJobs" portal. And once applicants enter their profile into the system, detailing their education, work history and skills, that information propagates all of their other job applications.

After they press "send," applicants are no longer left wondering if their application has gone into a "black hole," Tamburrino said. "People are getting feedback when they submit their application," he said. "They are getting a response: 'Your application is in the queue. It has been received by the [human resources] office. It is being processed.'"

The days of "convoluted vacancy announcements that were almost unique to every individual job we advertised" have fallen by the wayside, Tamburrino said. Now, rather than custom-writing every vacancy announcement, hiring managers are encouraged to use standardized templates that cover basic job func-

tions at the designated occupational series and grade level. Minor edits to those templates ensure they properly describe the particular job being filled.

As DoD starts realizing the benefit of its hiring reform initiative, Tamburrino said, he's seeing a lot of enthusiasm about its possibilities.

"I don't think this is ever going to be over," he said. "This is continuous process improvement, and I don't think we are ever going to be satisfied with where we are." In the meantime, Tamburrino said, he's satisfied with the direction the process is taking DoD's hiring process.

These initiatives have eliminated barriers to attracting the broadest, most talented workforce for the department's work in caring for military members and their Families, conducting research, running depots and shipyards, and even developing the next-generation weapons systems, Tamburrino said.

"Where else are you going to do that?" he asked. "We think we are a great place to work, and we give people at every level of experience a great opportunity to do really unique stuff. So we want people to gravitate to us, and we want an ability to really pick out the crown jewels that exist out there in the workforce and say, 'Come work with us.'"

Ultimately, Tamburrino said, he'd like to see the hiring reform initiative expand its focus to "employment reform." He describes that as an effort to improve the way the Defense Department manages the careers of the Civilian employees it recruits.

"To me, it is a whole lifecycle event," he said. "Getting you in is just one step."

## Wounded Warriors get intelligence job opportunities

**Christina Cawley**  
*Special to American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** - The intelligence community is reaching out to Wounded Warriors, offering new employment opportunities through a unique internship program.

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss of Georgia and retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, director of national intelligence, welcomed dozens of Wounded Warriors to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Md., May 18 to discuss these new career options.

Addressing the crowd of service members wounded in combat and now stationed in the Washington, D.C., region, Chambliss and Clapper encouraged them to continue to serve their country - this time out of the uniform.

"You have been through some very difficult challenges, and you've faced those challenges. You looked them in the eye and said 'I'm going to overcome this,'" said Chambliss, vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. "You're here because you have an opportunity to see what the world has to offer for you and the world has the opportunity to see what you have to offer to it."

The internship fair at the joint base was hosted by the Office of Naval Intelligence as a part of the

wounded warrior program coordinated by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Started in 2009 by retired Navy Vice Adm. Mike McConnell, then-Director of National Intelligence, the Wounded Warrior intelligence community internship program holds semiannual career fairs to educate Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines wounded in combat about the intelligence field and potentially match their skills with community capability needs through short-term internships. Intelligence careers have much to offer, Chambliss said.

"The intelligence community today is a world apart from where it was a decade ago or two decades ago, and the opportunities abound for where the intelligence community is going to be ten years from now," said Chambliss.

Clapper echoed the senator's sentiments, saying, "It's hard to top the take down of Osama bin Laden as a great success story for intelligence and operations, and I know you all share in our pride there. It's a great testament to the team work of the intelligence community."

The agencies represented at the gathering extolled the value of the warriors' experience as their motivation for participating in the event.

"Our managers and staff are committed to sup-

porting Wounded Warriors and wholeheartedly provide internships to both build and utilize their military and nonmilitary skills," said Virginia Cwalina, human resource specialist with the Defense Intelligence Agency. "We want to help the warriors find the best possible fit."

"Our program is deliberately designed to use their skill sets in new and different ways," said David Corey, Wounded Warrior Program Manager with the Office of the Director of Naval Intelligence. "The intelligence community is serious about helping the warriors and also recouping the benefits of their wealth of experience."

In response to the increasing challenges facing the intelligence community mission, Corey explained, the number of internships offered at the fairs and through the Wounded Warrior intelligence community program has jumped exponentially from less than 25 when the program began, to more than 200 positions today.

Sergeant Annette Mann, who sustained injuries to her back and knees, was appreciative of the opportunities available to her at the fair.

"Even though I feel like I lost a lot, coming here to this [fair], made me feel like there is hope and I could see a little light," said Sgt. Mann. "This has given me a brighter future."

# Leaders tackle stigma, discuss PTSD

**Elvia Kelly**  
*Fort Stewart Public Affairs*

During the Civil War, it was called "Soldier's heart." Throughout the First World War, it was called shell shock. In World War II, it was called battle fatigue. Today, it is commonly known as post traumatic stress disorder. No matter what you call it, the affects of PTSD are real.

"Post traumatic stress disorder is a diagnosis among the anxiety disorders," said Maria Aviles, Chief of Fort Stewart's Warrior Restoration Center. "It's of a specific criteria, one in which the person has experienced a traumatic event. Those who are diagnosed with PTSD will continue to re-experience a traumatic event in a clinically significant way 30 days or more after the event. It is normal for anyone who has gone through something traumatic to think about their experience. It is the extent of how much this event and re-experiencing it, along with other symptoms, affects a person that will indicate an illness or disorder."

The symptoms of PTSD include nightmares or reliving the traumatic event such as flashbacks and recurrent memories. One may show signs of avoidance, which include thoughts, feelings or conversations associated with the incident. The feeling of being on guard and having trouble sleeping, concentrating, controlling anger and easily startled are common symptoms some may experience as well.

"Be it nightmares. Be it flashbacks. Be it intrusive thoughts," Aviles said. "The key thing is that it is affecting your work, and it is affecting your life at home."

While many avenues of assistance are available to Soldiers, the stigma of being viewed as weak or the fear of career damage often affects a Soldier's decision to seek guidance.

"This is probably our number one barrier towards receiving help because it is not perceived as getting help for an illness," Aviles said. "It is perceived as a weakness. It is also perceived as trying not to deploy. Within the military context, what I've encountered is that people think that by coming to behavioral health, they will lose their security clearance. That's a myth, that's not true."

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Stevenson, Winn Army Community Hospital, Chief of Social Work Service, encourages Soldiers, especially officers, to seek guidance. He states that it starts from the top down.

"It is courageous to actually go and seek opportunities to get help," Lt. Col. Stevenson said. "It is top down driven. When they do come in, we find that those are the officers who make the difference."

"Unfortunately, there are some commanders who still use [seeking help] as a discriminator," he said. "Those are the individuals that we need to really continue to educate. When Soldiers are in those situations, especially officers, they need to have a mentor or someone outside their chain of command to let them know that it is OK."

Lieutenant Colonel Stevenson encourages other leaders to seek avenues of assistance because of his personal experience.

"I share with Soldiers that being in two deployments and being in situations where I had to take care of Soldiers, after my first deployment, I saw help," Lt. Col. Stevenson said. "I went through Army Once Source and took the opportunity to go through counseling. It was the best thing I've ever done for myself. When I share [my story] with Soldiers, it takes away the stigma. It actually breaks down those barriers and, as a provider, it allows Soldiers to really open up. [It builds] milestones in being able to resolve their own personal issues."

The effects of PTSD are real, and the services are real, too. Battling the symptoms of PTSD does not have to be a lone journey. Speak with someone, whether it's a friend, chaplain or behavioral health professional; they are here for you. You are not alone.

"Our message is always communicate," said Tonya Imus, ACS Mobilization Deployment Program Manager at Fort Stewart. "Know which signs to look for and get help. Communicate with your Family Members because the more you communicate, the better you're going to ease into reintegration. We are by no means experts, but we provide information and resources on where to get help."

There are a number of services available for assistance. From Military One Source to chaplains, these services offer more information regarding PTSD awareness and an avenue to speak with someone confidentially.

**Army One Source:** 1-800-464-8107

**Military One Source:** 1-800-342-9647

**Military Life Consultants:** 912-492-6367/432-8980

**Victim Advocates:** 912-767-3032

**Military Police:** 912-767-2822

**Behavioral Health:** 912-767-1654/1647

**Winn Army Community Hospital:** 912-435-7016

**Division Chaplain Office:** 912-9580/9917

**Family Life Chaplain:** 912-767-7028/3610

**On all chaplain:** 912-767-8666

"We are not medical professionals, but we are a safe and confidential place," said Chap. (Maj.) Terry Romine, 3rd ID Family Life Chaplain. "[Soldiers] can speak with us without fear of repercussion. We can help build resources for them to find where they will go next."

## Education, awareness is key in fight against PTSD

**Terri Moon Cronk**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** - Stemming the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, requires awareness, education and recognizing its symptoms, a senior military psychiatrist said.

Navy Capt. Paul S. Hammer, director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, spoke during a May 16 media roundtable event held in Washington as part of Mental Health Month.

"[It's important] to make sure people are aware, educated, and that they look for it in themselves, their friends and fellow service members," Capt. Hammer said.

Taking action doesn't necessarily call for a major intervention, he said. "Sometimes reaching out and talking to someone can put that person on the right path to get the help he needs," he suggested.

Recognizing signs of the stress disorder early can be the key to successfully diagnose and treat affected individuals, he said.

"PTSD can be a really complicated entity," he said. "People think it's one thing, but it can manifest itself in a lot of different ways and contexts."

PTSD is not gender-specific, and tell-tale signs vary from one person to the next, but Capt. Hammer said some factors might add up to the stress diagnosis. He said it's important to recognize such symptoms as combat stress, substance abuse, talks of suicide and depression. Getting help begins with awareness and education at all levels of the military, he said.

Captain Hammer said post-traumatic stress was once a condition discovered only after troops returned home following deployments. Now, however, the services include post-traumatic stress awareness instruction for new recruits in basic training, and warfighters are monitored for symptoms during their military careers.

Combating the stigma attached to mental health counseling also is taught to service members as part of the military's awareness campaign, Capt. Hammer said. For many people, the longtime stigma is an overwhelming barrier to diagnosis and treatment.

Denial of post-traumatic stress also can develop, which he described as a "tougher nut to crack." Denial is a person's perception that people are doing fine, Capt. Hammer added. "They don't want to see themselves or be seen as weak, damaged or ill," he said.

"I think huge headway has been made on stigma," he said. "You see senior officers and senior enlisted members who are much more willing to speak out and talk about it. I can't imagine a time, when I first came in, that I would hear a sergeant major talk about PTSD, and now it's routine."

"No doubt the stigma is still out there, but we've still made an enormous amount of progress," Capt. Hammer said. "But there's more to do. We're not resting on our laurels. We're still working on it."

# Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

## Get ready for insurance open season

From now through June 24, the Army Civilian workforce will have Open Season for Federal Long Term Care Insurance. In October 2009 the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program introduced a new plan, FLTCIP 2.0, with enhanced features for current FLTCIP enrollees. Now that all current enrollees are "settled," it's time to move forward with the second phase of the FLTCIP 2.0 rollout.

During the open season, actively at work employees and their spouses (including same sex domestic partners of the Civilian workforce members) who are not currently enrolled, will be able to apply to the FLTCIP with abbreviated underwriting. Non-enrolled annuitants and other qualified relatives can apply for coverage with a full underwriting application during this period, as well as anytime during the year.

For frequently asked questions on the Open Season, please visit [www.ltcfeds.com/help/faq/faq.html](http://www.ltcfeds.com/help/faq/faq.html). This site will be updated on a regular basis.

## Contribute to Japan relief funds

The Office of Personnel Management Office of Combined Federal Campaign is authorizing a special opportunity to help those in need in Japan. Federal employees at the workplace can help to facilitate relief and reconstruction assistance in Japan through this special solicitation. A one-time cash or check donation outside the normal Combined Federal Campaign procedures will be allowed. If anyone would like to contribute, The United States Agency for International Development has provided a list of relief organizations and related information on its Web site at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov). All special solicitation activities must conclude by July 31, 2011.

## 3rd ID reunion scheduled

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and attached units in wars and in peacetime will hold their 92nd annual reunion Sept. 8-11.

The reunion will be held at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, French Quarter, 739 Canal Street at Bourbon, New Orleans, La. 70130. The toll free number is 888-696-4806. Room rates are \$99 per night plus tax. The Society of the Third Infantry Division is seeking those who served in 3rd ID and attached units in wars, peacetime, or special interest to join the society. Contact Henry Burke 1-803-782-7517. email: [pen-nieburke@sc.rr.com](mailto:pen-nieburke@sc.rr.com).

For additional reunion information, contact, Trish Blanton, or e-mail [Info@TheReunionBrat.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBrat.com).

## Get your message out quickly

Use the Marne Message system to get information out to the Stewart-Hunter community employees. From your computer, send your message to [stewms-grequest@conus.army.mil](mailto:stewms-grequest@conus.army.mil). Your information should populate the system within hours, if not sooner. Attachments cannot be included in MARNE Messages. Only command directed messages are included in MARNE messages.

## COMET offers Soldier training

Need Soldier Training? The Fort Stewart Command Maintenance Evaluation and Training team subject matter experts are ready to assist units seeking to evaluate and train Soldiers within supply and ground maintenance arenas. We offer formal training classes on maintenance, records management, supply/property accountability, drivers/licensing program, publications and much more.

The COMET team is always willing to assist units in evaluating their maintenance and supply program through formal and informal evaluations, ensuring a unit is within the Fort Stewart and Army standard.

Do you have questions on the Command and Supply Discipline Program? Call the supply team and receive up-to-date and accurate tips on making your unit's program work. Do you need a refresher course on running readiness reports at your maintenance facility? Request a staff assisted visit and receive one-on-one training with a technical expert. We are located in building 623, suite 144 just off of William H. Wilson Avenue. Contact the COMET Program Manager at 912-767-1018 for questions regarding the COMET program or to request assistance, and remember; "The answer is yes! Now, how can we help you?"

## Access Garrison Brown Bags

The Garrison Brown Bag program is designed to allow garrison senior leadership to receive direct feedback from the workforce in an informal luncheon environment. The garrison commander and deputy garrison commander conduct bi-monthly brown bag sessions designed to answer questions and concerns on the spot, and take notes on concerns that require additional follow up information.

These concerns are researched and answered

by the appropriate directorate and posted on a blog. Access to this blog is on the Fort Stewart Homepage, [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil). Once on the site, click the button labeled "Fort Stewart Brown Bag Answers" to access the blog. In addition to current Brown Bag topics, the archived Brown Bag answers can also be accessed from a link on the blog site.

## STEWART

### VBS registration underway

The Fort Stewart Religious Support Office will conduct the 2011 "Vacation Bible School" program from June 6-10, at the Main Post Chapel, 9 a.m.-noon. Our theme this year is: "Big Apple Adventure: Where Faith and Life Connect." This year's VBS is based on the scripture, "so faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message of Jesus Christ." - Romans 10:17 (HCSB). Our VBS is open for children from Kindergarten (4-years-old) to 5th/6th graders.

Please register early as space is limited. Register at Marne Chapel and Main Post Chapel during normal business hours and each Sunday before and after worship services. For more information, call Toni Bolton, 912-767-7708.

## HUNTER

### Don't miss the Sand Gnats' Military Night

Military ID card holders get free admission, and Family Members pay \$2 (normally \$5) to the May 29 event, 6 p.m., at Grayson Stadium in Savannah. The Savannah Sand Gnats are a minor league affiliate of major league baseball's New York Mets. A 3rd ID Soldier will throw out the ceremonial first pitch and Soldiers will also carry the flag of their home state during the pregame show.

### Register for VBS

Hunter Army Airfield Chapel Vacation Bible School begins June 20-24 at the Hunter Chapel, 9 a.m.-noon. VBS is open to chapel/DOD/military children from Kindergarten/4-years-old to 6th grade.

The theme of this year's VBS is "Big Apple Adventure - Where Faith and Life Connect". Registration began May 1 and continues all slots are full or May 30. Please register early because slots are limited. Register with Mr. Archer at the Hunter Chapel and Religious Education Center from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday or call 912-315-5934 to make an appointment.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Micki Nixon**, D Co, 3/7 IN BN, 4th IBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 2nd Lt. Steven Krysevig, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, 912-767-0301.

# 'Raider' Soldier heroes say good deed hasn't changed them

**Pfc. Emily Knitter**  
1HBCT Public Affairs

It was Valentine's day and Sergeant William O'Brien, IV and Spc. Brian Darby of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, had just treated their Families to dinner at Kobes Japanese Steakhouse in Hinesville.

Sergeant O'Brien had stepped outside as Spc. Darby finished paying his bill, and as he walked out the door he saw Sgt. O'Brien looking back at him and pointing to the highway.

"When I got outside, a car had just rolled into the ditch and a [sports utility vehicle had swerved around] and a man lying on the ground," described Sgt. O'Brien, a platoon sergeant for operations for HHC and a native of Charleston, SC.

The Soldiers ran onto the street, dodging the traffic that continued to drive around the accident, and tried to assess how badly the man was injured.

"There were still cars flying right behind us," said Spc. Darby, the HHC armorer and a native of Orlando, Fla.

Sergeant O'Brien jumped into their vehicles, pulling them into the road to stop traffic, and then grabbed an aid bag Spc. Darby keeps inside his truck.

"Once we got over there, the guy was out of it," said Spc. Darby. "He couldn't tell you his name, where he was, the president, nothing."

As Spc. Darby, who worked for a fire department

prior to joining the Army, began trying to assess how severely the pedestrian was injured, Sgt. O'Brien went to the car in the ditch to check on the driver.

"From my understanding, she was slowing down for the man to cross outside of a cross walk and the [other vehicle] hit her from the rear," Sgt. O'Brien explained. "I guess she was in shock from watching the man roll over her windshield, and she just let the car do its own thing and it went into the ditch."

The female passenger of the second car was slightly pinned in her seat from the impact of the crash, but otherwise the occupants of the SUV were unharmed as far as Sgt. O'Brien could determine. So the two continued providing aid for the pedestrian and the lady in the ditch until the paramedics arrived.

"When the paramedics showed up on scene, one came over and I gave her a full detailed assessment of what I could see of the patient," said Spc. Darby.

Specialist Darby helped the paramedics stabilize the man and moved him into an ambulance as they decided what needed to be done.

"She finally asked me to go get one of the firefighters to call for a helicopter," he explained. "The helicopter came 18 minutes later and they life-flighted him from the baseball field right down the street to a Savannah hospital."

The rest of the people were treated for their injuries and after a long night, the two Soldiers were exhausted, but glad they could help.

"If it wasn't for me and Sgt. O'Brien that night, the

chances of that man living weren't going to be favorable," said Spc. Darby. "That's what it comes down to. We weren't out there to do anything except to help, because if we were down there, we would want someone to help us."

Over the next few weeks and months, the two have been getting more and more recognition for their actions.

The paramedics who were on scene wrote a letter of appreciation listing all the support the two provided that directly resulted in saving the pedestrians life.

Their chain of command all the way up to the Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams, 3rd Infantry Division commander, recognized them for their good deed, and they received Army Commendation Medals.

Specialist Darby said he even goes places around post and is sometimes asked if he is "that Darby" who saved the lives.

But being recognized doesn't change who they are.

"It hasn't changed anything in my life just for the simple fact is that I was there to help," explained Spc. Darby. "I am glad he is up and walking around and doing better, but I don't go around asking other people, 'Hey, what have you done in your life?' I'm not better than anybody else. People in other brigades know who I am, which to me is pretty cool, but in my book and in my close friends and coworkers book, I'm just me. Every day I just put my pants on one leg at a time and do what I need to."



## CG, CSM present awards for delegation support

*(Center-right) Major General Robert Abrams, commander, 3rd Infantry Division, and 3rd ID Command Sgt. Maj. Edd Watson, command sergeant major, congratulate Soldiers and Civilians while also awarding medals and coins for exceptional performance while supporting a visit from the People's Liberation Army of China, May 19, at Fort Stewart.*

*Major General Abrams stated the men and women here [Stewart-Hunter] played a vital role in supporting the mission and making sure the visit was a success.*

## IMMIGRATION

from Page 1A

The American Immigration Lawyers Association is a non-profit organization built of a collection of attorneys and law professors who practice and teach immigration law, according to their web site [www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org). They provide pro bono legal services to Families regarding immigration issues.

The Immigration Fair opened with a training seminar. The seminar enlightened JAG officers on immigration law and services. First lieutenant Hurd said that with the many different issues involving immigration, he could always use the additional education and training.

Following the seminar, the fair continued with walk-in services. Soldiers and Family Members had the opportunity to receive pro bono legal assistance pertaining to their immigration issues and concerns.

A Family Member, whose name is not mentioned due to attorney-client privilege, said that she found the fair helpful.

"They provided the information that I was looking for," she said. "They guided me in the right direction. I was very surprised; they were very friendly and supportive."

The Immigration Fair, a pilot program aimed

towards helping Soldiers and Family Members with immigration issues, saw over 48 appointments with the assistance of 13 AILA attorneys.

"Every situation is different," 1st Lt. Hurd said. "Sometimes, Soldiers and Family Members need answers to general questions and other times they don't know how to start the process. So, we assist them with their immigration issues. In immigration law, it's all handled on a case-by-case basis."

When Soldiers or Family Members are ready to speak with an attorney, a JAG officer and an AILA attorney are paired up to assist the client.

"We do this for two reasons," 1st Lt. Hurd said. "First, so we can learn from their expertise; and secondly, Soldiers' and Family Members' immigration issues are processed through USCIS differently than civilian immigration cases."

The AILA attorneys did not only make themselves available to help Soldiers and Families, but they served as mentors for JAG officers as well.

"We got a phone call from the JAG office, asking if we could come down here and train them, set up some kind of mentor system. So, if they have a complicated [case], they can call one of us," Dale Schwartz, past president of AILA and professor of

immigration law, said. "[They also asked if] we would spend a day and a half meeting with Soldiers on base and talk with their Families about immigration issues. We have met some of the nicest people here today."

Whether they are general inquiries or documentation, JAG officers at the legal assistance office are mission-ready to assist Soldiers and Family Members with their immigration concerns.

"Don't be afraid to make an appointment and ask us questions," 1st Lt. Hurd said. "We handle immigration law throughout the year. Even if you're nervous or are not sure how to get the process started, come make an appointment at building 709. We'll help you."

And, for one AILA attorney, the military holds a special place.

"My dad was in the Air Force," Elizabeth Garvish, managing partner of Garvish, Orza and Polutan of Immigration Law, said. "When you're an immigration lawyer, you believe in the United States, we're fighting for the American dream every day, and that is exactly what [Soldiers] are doing in the military for us."

# ASK THE JUDGE: Product insurance and warranty

**Capt. Robert Taylor**  
Legal Assistance Office

Many people find that it can be very confusing buying expensive or specialty products, like stereos, computers, home appliances, to name a few. Salespeople work very hard to sell as much as possible during a sale, often pushing add-on products like insurance or extended warranties. Negotiating in these waters can be very important for understanding exactly what you're buying, what's really covered under your contract, and what options you have should something unfortunate happen to your new purchase.

**Q: What's the difference between insurance and a warranty?**

**A:** The distinction between these terms can be difficult to understand, and even some contracts confuse the two. Yet, in general, insurance policies provide for the repair or replacement for an item against some kind of outside event, while a warranty protects against a defect or failure which has occurred with the item itself. A classic example is to think of your automotive insurance: If you drive your new car down the street and you hit a deer, you have a claim against your insurance company. The damage to your car is caused by hitting the tree, an outside event, and assuming you bought the right insurance, you could get that damage repaired. The car's warranty, on the other hand, works

differently. Say you bought another new car with a decent warranty. After a few weeks, you notice that the transmission is broken and the car won't shift gears correctly. The problem here is with the components of the car itself: something is wrong with the transmission. Accordingly, you might have a claim under the car's warranty.

**Q: What types of insurance can I get?**

**A:** When buying consumer goods, you may often be asked if you want to also purchase insurance. This is a bit unlike more familiar forms of insurance, like auto and home insurance, where the policy is purchased through an entirely different company. With consumer goods, sometimes the insurance policy you are buying is through the seller directly, and sometimes it is through a separate company.

Carefully read the explanation of what the insurance is meant to cover. Some policies will cover lost or stolen items, some will cover accident damage, and others will cover damage from floods, lightning, or other natural events. Not all contracts are the same. Don't simply take the word of the sales staff; read the contract. If you think paying for loss protection insurance on a new cell phone is worth it to you, then that's fine, but don't get pushed to pay for a product you don't want or don't need. If you have questions about what the insurance is covering, get a more detailed

explanation, in writing. Whatever you decide, always get complete copies of every contract you sign. This is especially important in purchasing insurance and warranties, since you may well need to rely on your policy down the road.

**Q: How do I know what's covered in the warranty?**

**A:** It's in your contract. Just like with insurance, understanding what your warranty covers and how to get an item repaired or replaced starts with a thorough reading of your contract. Sometimes warranties are included with the sales contract itself, and sometimes they are contained on separate documents. Be aware that many warranties have specific waivers of liability: a product might not be covered for damage caused by improper use, for example. Get any verbal expressions of a warranty in writing, and get copies for your records. Even if a salesman says a warranty covers the speakers you buy with your stereo, the absence of such terms in your contract may make it impossible to prove your claim and fix your speakers if there is a problem. Be especially cautious when buying from dealers of used goods. They will often make assertions about the product's operability, such as when a seller says a product "works great" or "runs like a charm." These statements are not a warranty! Generally, such comments are what's known as "seller's talk," and do not give rise to a warranty.

**Q: What about extended warranties?**

**A:** Generally speaking, extended warranties for consumer goods, like appliances, are often unnecessary. While chain stores and manufacturers make a lot of money selling extended warranties, the average consumer is unlikely to really need one. This is because most consumer goods which might come with an extended warranty (appliances, electronics) typically come with a warranty from the manufacturer, and any problems with these items will usually manifest within that one year period. If a product continues to work properly throughout that first year, the odds are in the consumer's favor that it will continue to last throughout whatever extended warranty period is being offered. Extended warranties are often separate forms from your sales contract, so whatever you decide, be careful to ensure that you have copies of everything.

**Q: Are there any other types of warranties I should know about?**

**A:** It's possible that a purchase might be covered under certain state laws regarding the sale of goods. These laws can vary between states, but in general provide some limited protections for consumers if the purchase meets certain requirements, like a minimum dollar amount. Speak to a legal assistance attorney regarding what,

if any, laws might apply in your situation.

**Q: What do I do if something happens to my product?**

**A:** Start by finding your original sales contract, receipts, and any supporting documents. It's important to keep these documents organized and accessible. Read them carefully. Pay especially close attention to any provisions regarding warranties or insurance and think about whether any of them apply to your situation. Then follow any instructions provided for filing a claim with the manufacturer. Often, companies also keep websites with information about filing claims. Sometimes you may also be able to take the item back to the store of purchase, depending on when you bought it. You should also review any home, auto, or renter's insurance policy to determine whether it might be covered in that policy as well. Remember: when working with the seller/manufacturer, try to communicate in writing or email so you have a record of the conversations.

If you have specific questions regarding consumer products, feel free to make an appointment with a Legal Assistance attorney at Fort Stewart by calling (912) 767-8809/8819 or at Hunter Army Airfield by calling (912) 315-5115. Fort Stewart's Legal Assistance office is located in Building 709 (next to Popeye's and Caro Gym), and Hunter Army Airfield's Legal Assistance Office is in Building 1211.

## EYE ON SECURITY

# Taking care of people - The Privacy Act

**Guy Shifflett**  
DPTMS, Information Security

Think privacy!

The Identity Theft Resource Center reported the breach of over 1.2 million government and military Personally Identifiable Information electronic and paper records for 2010.

Far reaching effects occurred beyond the embarrassment to those agencies, commands or persons that failed to properly protect the information. Those culpable potentially faced loss of access to information or systems, administrative, disciplinary, civil or criminal actions. In essence, it impacted people's lives.

Our failure to enforce Information Security standards extend to the readiness of the force and their quality of life.

A privacy act violation and subsequent compromise of personal information has a tremendous impact on our Soldiers, Army Civilians and Families. Despite all the research, it is difficult to put a specific dollar figure on the personal costs. Keep in mind however; that a social security number and date of birth do not have an expiration date, in other words these identifiers were meant to be with us for life. Improper disclosure

and misuse can cause untold personal anxiety and can lead to financial issues as well as legal ramifications for those whom we serve.

From an operational perspective it's much easier to put a price tag on an incident. The Army National Guard experienced a PII breach in 2009 due to a laptop theft that affected 131,000 individuals. The manpower and notification costs were approximately \$262K due to the incident. The cost alone for postage and envelopes was estimated to be \$60k. A huge un-programmed expenditure in today's budget constrained environment.

In whatever capacity you interact with personnel, the privacy act applies. The Privacy Act is a law that established safeguards to balance the government's need to maintain information with the individual right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of their privacy. The Privacy Act forbids disclosure of personal information to those who are not officially entitled access.

Simply put, our individual responsibilities under the Privacy Act include:

- If you collect PII you must protect it! Leave it out of unofficial documents.

- Do not distribute or release without formal Need-To-Know.

- Never expose forms that contain SSNs, to include the last four digits, such as customer service sign-in rosters.

- Encrypt PII that is transmitted digitally.

- Destroy paper documents beyond reconstruction.

- Positive security control of mobile data.

- Immediately contact your supervisor and the Fort Stewart Freedom of Information Act - Privacy Act office as soon as you suspect or confirm a loss or compromise of PII.

The responsibility for reporting the incident, investigation and if required the notification of all affected individuals is the originating organization of the document or information.

The FOIA-PA office will assist in all incidents involving the actual or suspected compromise of PII. It is a time sensitive process requiring a notification to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) within one hour of discovery at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov). Additionally within 24 hours a report must be provided to the Army FOIA-PA Office.

# Education Matters



Photo by Dorcee Taylor

*The Columbia College chapter of Sigma (wisdom) Beta (honor) Delta (aspire), acknowledged the outstanding scholastic record of six Fort Stewart students in a ceremony, May 20. Each student illustrated characteristics of dedication, hardwork, resilience and effort towards quality education and strong academic achievement.*

*This international honor society encourages and recognizes scholarship and accomplishment among students of business, management and administration. From the left are Richard Conway, Columbia Director, and the inductees:*

- Brenda Fulce, military spouse
- Alexandra Barnes, military spouse
- David Moore, veteran
- Michelle Baccus-Norman, area civilian
- 1st Lt. Lawrence Smith, F Co, 26 BSB.

*(Not pictured, Jennifer Lashley)*

## Columbia College students honored

### College registration closing soon

The upcoming Spring II term dates both on-post and distance learning classes are listed below. Some courses are offered during the day. Enrollment is offered to everyone. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

**Central Texas College** – 912-767-2070/912-315-4090; May 30-July 23

**Columbia College** – 912-767-5336/912-352-8635; May 30-July 23

**Embry Riddle** – 912-767-0339/912-352-5252; May 30-July 31

**Webster University** – 912-767-5357/912-354-0033, May 30-July 28

**Savannah Tech** – 912-408-2430/912-443-5700; June 21-Aug. 9

Education Centers will be closed Monday. All on-post classes begin Tuesday.

### Money available for education

The Army continues to fund the cost of college Tuition Assistance for active-duty Soldiers and Army Reservists through the GoArmyEd web site. Choose from online and classroom courses from thousand of colleges. The Army still provides each Soldier \$250 per semester hour up to \$4500 per fiscal year. New students should login to [www.GoArmyEd.com](http://www.GoArmyEd.com) for details and to start your GoArmyEd account. Then meet with an Army education counselor to discuss college programs and activate your account. E-mail counselor support is also available, by contacting [\[counselor@conus.army.mil\]\(mailto:counselor@conus.army.mil\).](mailto:stew-</a></p>
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### MyCAA available for spouses

The Department of Defense has resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, MyCAA, program for qualifying spouses only. The program now assists spouses of active-duty service members in the pay grades of private to sergeant, warrant officers 1 to 2, first lieutenant, and second lieutenant to achieve portable careers. The approved education programs are only associate's degrees, licensure, and certifications. Funding assistance will be up to \$4,000 with an annual cap of \$2,000 per fiscal year. To open an account and to see the full details of the new program, go to the secure web site, <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>. If information is needed on other sources of financial assistance please contact a Military OneSource consultant at 800-342-9647.

### Hope Grant for college credit offered

The Georgia HOPE grant is available to Georgia residents, active-duty military assigned to a military installation in Georgia and their Family Members. Many HOPE eligible diploma and certificate programs are offered by Technical Colleges throughout Georgia, including Savannah Technical College, Airport Rd. in Hinesville. Some classes are even available on-line or in the Fort Stewart Education Center. Register now for next term; June 21 to Aug. 9.

Of special interest to those who cannot use MyCAA, Savannah Technical College has the Technical

Communications Specialist program, which is a great option to fulfill the General Education Requirement courses for your degree. Under this particular certificate program, the Hope Grant will cover most of the cost of classes which can later be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

For more information, click on [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) and [www.savannahtech.edu](http://www.savannahtech.edu) or call Savannah Tech, Education Center, 912-408-2430; Hinesville, 912-408-3024; Savannah, 912-443-5700.

### Columbia offers spouse scholarship

Spouses of military personnel can take their first classroom course free while they complete their financial aid paperwork and enrollment procedures with Columbia College. The active-duty member does not have to be enrolled with Columbia College. In addition, Columbia offers spouses a 20 percent tuition discount for "in-seat" (classroom) courses. Call the Fort Stewart site at 912-877-3406 or dial 912-352-8635 at Hunter.

### Green-to-Gold briefings held monthly

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month at 2 p.m. Upcoming briefings are June 1st at Fort Stewart and at Hunter on June 15. ROTC representatives from Georgia Southern and Armstrong Atlantic State University ROTC Department conducts the monthly briefings. If interested, research this site before attending; [www.goarmy.com/rotc](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc).

# Soldiers help make life better for abandoned dogs

**Jennifer Hartwig**

*Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs*

“A lot of people think I’m crazy,” Ray Suarez said with a chuckle as he walks past the animal pens lining his land. In the pens are 53 dogs – of all breeds, sizes and ages.

Suarez and his wife, Janis, run the Rainbow’s End Animal Refuge in Tillman, S.C., on their 100-acre property. It all began 11 years ago, when they left Hilton Head Island for “the country” and were shocked at the number of abandoned dogs they saw on the side of local roads. They took one in ... and then one became 10, then 20, and now they have 53 dogs.

Many look at Suarez’s life – and his yard – and think that, at 80 years old, he may have lost his mind. But not everyone.

“This is my dream,” said Spc. Brandon Stressman, 29th Detachment, 526th Engineering Company, 92nd Engineering Battalion. “If I didn’t live in the barracks, I’d adopt them all.”

But after more than 10-year-old housing, the canine pens Suarez made himself are beginning to rust and the dogs are able to dig under the dirt floors and get out.

“But they always come home,” Suarez said.

Enter the Soldiers of the 29th Detachment, a unit of asphalt equipment operators out of Fort Stewart. The detachment, in conjunction with the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program, volunteered to travel about 75 miles north to Tillman to pour concrete slabs and build new pens for the dogs.

For the Soldiers, it’s not only an opportunity to help a worthy cause, but also a chance to put their skills to use.

“We haven’t really mixed and poured concrete in awhile ... we do it here and there in the field but that’s maybe once a year,” said Spc. Stressman. “Getting to come out here and do it three or four days in a row has been a lot of fun.”

Specialist Erik Standish, 554th Company, 92nd Engineer Bn., a carpentry and masonry specialist, joined the crew for the construction portion of the project. He said getting to cross-train has been especially beneficial for all of the Soldiers involved in the mission.

“We don’t get a lot of time to do our actual (military

occupational specialties), so this is a good chance to get more experience, and to cross train with other engineers,” he said.

Suarez had a 3,000 square foot barn put up in his expansive yard, with the dog pens in the tree shade lining the property. Whenever it rains or there is other extreme weather, he and Janis, 63, go to each pen and lead the dogs into the barn to keep them dry and warm.

The Soldiers had a better plan. They first arrived at the Rainbow’s Edge Animal Refuge in April, when they poured cement slabs around all four sides of the barn. They returned a few weeks later and began building pens on the slabs, on three sides of the barn – both inside and outside. They then cut doors in each pen so that the dogs can go in and out of the barn as they please. Eventually, each pen will have running water.

It’s a job that would have taken the octogenarian owner months – maybe even years – to complete.

“If it wasn’t for them here, I’d probably be doing this late into 2012,” Suarez said. “This way, I think we’ll probably be finished in a couple of weeks, and they do excellent, excellent work.”

“I have to say they’re a great bunch of guys – very polite and very good at their job,” he added.

Suarez not only finds stray dogs, he now goes to shelters around the southeast and adopts dogs who are set to be euthanized.

Once he finds a dog, the first thing he does is bring it to a veterinarian in Hampton, S.C., where it is spayed or neutered, given shots and checked for all diseases. Once they are cleared, Suarez works to “acclimate them into the Family.”

While he’d love to adopt each of them out to loving homes, he is realistic.

“Most of the dogs here are older dogs, and they’re mixed breed,” he said. “Whenever we get puppies, we find homes for them rather quick, but the older dogs ... people don’t seem to want them.”

After a week of construction, the pens are all nearly done, just needing the roofs to complete the project. For the Soldiers, nearing completion is bitter-sweet.

“Maybe we should slow down here,” joked Spc. Robert Eaton, 29th Det. “I could stay out here forever; this has been great. We’d love to do more of this.”



Photo by Jennifer Hartwig

**Specialist Robert Eaton, 29th Det., 92nd Eng. Bn., lines up a piece of wood to cut for the dog pens the unit is building at the Rainbow’s Edge Animal Refuge in Tillman, S.C.**

For the dog lovers in the group – which is most of them – the project not only let them hone their skills, it gave them the chance to improve 53 lives.

“If I could do anything in the world, this is what I’d do,” said Spc. Stressman. “I love helping out animals.”

If you would like more information on the animal refuge you can contact them at PO Box 15, Tillman, South Carolina, 29943.