

Stewart/Hunter Lifestyle



Courtesy photo

Volunteers from the Stewart-Hunter Youth Ministries assist the Society of St. Andrew by picking and packing tangerines to help feed the hungry in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 8.

Youth ministries help fight hunger in Florida

Special to the Frontline

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Youth Ministries headed to Orlando, Fla., Nov. 7 to help spread good cheer.

Volunteering to assist the Society of St. Andrew, the youth ministries left on its long awaited trip to help feed the hungry, following the SoSA's motto, "Gleaning America's Fields ~Feeding America's Hungry."

Gleaning is a term used in the Bible that means to pick crops left after the harvest.

"We traveled into the late hours of the night to get to our hotel and woke up early the next morning, excited and ready to begin," said Jerry Thompson, Fort Stewart Youth Ministry coordinator.

Bob Gibson, a board member for the SoSA, met the Stewart-Youth, Nov. 8 at the hotel and taught the group the proper way to glean the tangerines.

Barbara Sayles, the Florida Director of SoSA, said that the youth ministry group was one of the nicest groups of students and adult he has ever met.

"It is always wonderful to meet and work with our volunteers," she said.

Thompson said after the group arrived at the pri-

vately owned orchard, they met the grove owner, Sandy Chesser.

"She pointed out where the tangerine trees were located and then exclaimed, 'Get ready and go!,'" Thompson said. "The whole group rushed to the nearest tree that they could find and started picking with a purpose. Within minutes the group had several bags full of tangerines."

The group later broke into smaller teams and challenged each other to see who picked the most. The entire youth group, Gibson, and even the bus drivers picked about 3,000 pounds of tangerines, according to Thompson, the equivalent to about 9,000 servings.

The tangerines were put into boxes and taken to a local Orlando food bank, Loaves and Fishes.

"From this experience we learned that we need to bring awareness to our community of the hunger problem in America," Thompson said. "One statistic that stood out to me was the fact that every five seconds around the world another child dies of malnutrition. That statistic just breaks my heart, but it does not have to be that way. There is always something that we can do to help. We can give monetary donations to food banks in America, or ministries like

Samaritan's Purse that feeds starving people in other countries."

Thompson said people can help support food drives and can even volunteer to help organizations such as SoSA.

"It is especially important now to give with the holidays quickly approaching," Thompson said. "I remember my mother telling me around the holidays that 'it is always better to give than to receive.' Our Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield youth are learning servant leadership through participation in these types of activities.

The youth minister coordinator said because 28 youth and 11 adults gave up their time and worked hard at it, they helped make a difference.

"I wonder what would happen if everyone would put in that same type of effort and give back to their community, their country and their world," Thompson said.

"My guess is that it would make a difference, both for those we serve, and perhaps much more for those who give. America is a land of plenty, no one should be hungry. Look for opportunities to reach out to those in need and help feed America's hungry."

Library's Story Time inspires children

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

Preschool and primary school-age children gathered at her feet, sitting on the carpeted floor, many still holding their coloring book and one large crayon. The

younger children were more standoffish, clinging to their moms, who were sitting on the floor with them. It was Story Time at Lt. George P. Hays Library.

Children's programer, Bobbie Leggins spoke softly as she showed the children the cover of the big book she would be reading to them today, "Stop, Drop and Roll," by Margery Cuyler.

"Today, we'll be reading about fire safety," she told them. "And after we read, we have a special treat today for we have visitors coming. We're going to meet some firemen and even get to meet Sparky the fire dog."

Some of the children became excited, especially when she mentioned Sparky. A few older children reported meeting firemen at their school earlier that week. After calming them

down as best she could, Leggins began reading aloud, occasionally turning the book around toward the children so they could see the colorful pictures. Her voice was clear and almost animated as she captured each child's imagination by reading a book that taught as well as entertained their young minds.

Leggins, who was an elementary school teacher for 12 years, leads Story Time each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in a side room at the Fort Stewart library. She likes to encourage young children to want to read by reading to them then allowing them to color in their coloring books or make special crafts. She also leads the Military Child Education Coalition, also called Parent to Parent, program at the library at 9:30 a.m., every Tuesday.

Leggins said she has a special Thanksgiving focus planned for Story Time, Nov. 19. Stories and crafts will focus on this national holiday. Then Dec. 3, 10 and 17, Story Time will focus on the Christmas holiday season, with stories and crafts appropriately themed.

If you are interested in having your child attend the next Story Time, call the Lt. George P. Hays Library at 767-0805.

Randy Murray

Bobbie Leggins reads to children at the Lt. George P. Hays Library on Fort Stewart during Story Time, an activity that happens each Wednesday.



BBC makes signing lease easy for deployed Soldiers

Dianne Borges
Balfour Beatty Communities

For deployed, unaccompanied Soldiers soon to be returning to Fort Stewart, finding housing let alone signing a lease may seem daunting - not for those wanting to live at Marne Point.

Marne Point is Balfour Beatty Communities' new unaccompanied personnel housing complex on Fort Stewart. While still under construction, the first units will be ready for occupancy in December and preleasing has been taking place for several weeks.

"Once phone or e-mail contact is made, we e-mail or fax the Soldier photos, floorplans and the lease," said Theodore Burnside, Marne Point community manager for BBC. "And all the Soldier has to do is sign the lease signature page and fax or e-mail it back to me. It's that simple."

Once completed, Marne Point will include 334 one- and two-bedroom apartments for single Soldiers, ranks staff sergeant through captain. All Marne Point units will feature private bedrooms and baths, full

kitchens, living rooms, walk-in storage closets and washers and dryers. Pets are welcome too.

The complex will also include a community and recreation center with a clubhouse, full basketball court, heated pool, car wash station, and running trails. The clubhouse will feature an entertainment room with a large-screen TV, billiards room with two tables, and a business center.

"The Soldiers I've talked to or e-mailed are very glad to see a complex like Marne Point for the single staff sergeant and above crowd on post," Burnside said. "And, they're almost astonished at how easy it is to prelease - which is how we want it, especially for those guys over there (deployed Soldiers)."

A formal grand opening celebration will be held in December when the community and recreation center will be completed.

Interested Soldiers can contact the Balfour Beatty Community Management Office at 408-2501, via e-mail at tburnside@bbcgrp.com or the Web site www.fortstewartssinglesoldierliving.com for more information.



Randy Murray

Sergeant First Class Shirley Choice, 90th Human Resource Company (bottom right), the first resident of Marne Point, directs movers as they unload her household goods at her new apartment, Nov. 14.

Pets of the Week



Pebbles the pup and Prince Charming the cat are some of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes, and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.



Flash of Genius

Today — 7 p.m.

(Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham)

The Kearns were a typical 1960s Detroit Family, trying to live their version of the American Dream. Local university professor Bob married teacher Phyllis and, by their mid-thirties, had six kids who brought them a hectic but satisfying Midwestern existence. When Bob invents a device that would eventually be used by every car in the world, the Kearns think they have struck gold. But their aspirations are dashed after the auto giants who embraced Bob's creation unceremoniously shunned the man who invented it. Ignored, threatened and then buried in years of litigation, Bob is haunted by what was done to his Family and their future. He becomes a man obsessed with justice and the conviction that his life's work or for that matter, anyone's work be acknowledged by those who stood to benefit. *Rated PG-13 (strong language) 120 min*

Lakeview Terrace

Friday — 7 p.m.

(Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington)

A young couple has just moved into their California dream home when they become the target of their next-door neighbor, who disapproves of their interracial relationship. A stern, single father, this tightly wound LAPD officer has appointed himself the watchdog of the neighborhood. His nightly foot patrols and overly watchful eyes bring comfort to some, but he becomes increasingly harassing to the newlyweds. These persistent intrusions into their lives ultimately turn tragic when the couple decides to fight back. *Rated PG-13 (intense thematic material, violence, sexuality, language, drug references) 110 min*

Nights in Rodanthe

Saturday — 3 p.m.

(Diane Lane, Richard Gere)

Adrienne Willis retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe in the Outer Banks of North Carolina to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her -- a wayward husband who has asked to come home and a teen-aged daughter who resents her every decision. Almost as soon as Adrienne gets to Rodanthe, a major storm is forecast and a guest named Dr. Paul Flanner arrives. The only guest at the inn, Flanner is not on a weekend escape but rather is there to face his own crisis of conscience. Now, with the storm closing in, the two turn to each other for comfort and, in one magical weekend, set in motion a life-changing romance that will resonate throughout the rest of their lives. *Rated PG-13 (sensuality) 92 min*

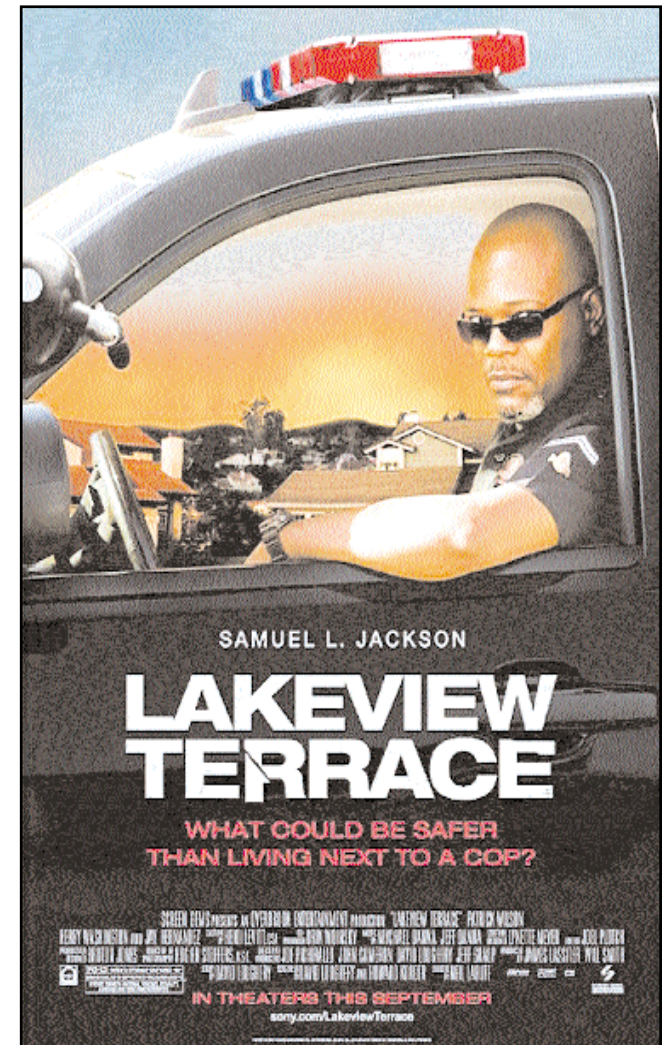
PRESENTS
TODAY THROUGH NOV 23

Quarantine

Saturday, Sunday — 7 p.m.

(Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez)

Television reporter Angela Vidal and her cameraman are assigned to spend the night shift with a Los Angeles Fire Station. After a routine 911 call takes them to a small apartment building, they find police officers already on the scene in response to blood curdling screams coming from one of the apartment units. They soon learn that a woman living in the building has been infected by something unknown. When the quarantine is finally lifted, the only evidence of what took place is the news crew's videotape. *Rated R (bloody violent/disturbing content, terror, language) 99 min*



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel, or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069.

For more MWR see Page 6B

Find a deal at the Shop of the Marne

Stop by Shop of the Marne Tuesday or Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or the first Saturday of the month. The Shop is located in building 25 off McNeely Road behind the PX. Come park in our newly created parking lot right in front of the Shop!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Carry each other's burdens

Chap. (Maj.) Terry Romne
Division Family Life Chaplain

Many of us are bound and determined to always, no matter what, carry our own rucksack. We want to focus on **Galatians 6:5**, "for each one should carry his own load." While carrying our own load is very commendable, there could be times, and indeed are times, when we must have some help with the load we must carry. When is the right time for us to help someone carry his or her load, or permit someone else to help carry our load? There are those times.

One of the times we need to let someone else carry our own load may be when we have gotten our rucksack too full. We put just one more item in the load, just one more (Meals Ready to Eat), just one more pair of gloves, or some other nice to have item. While it may be nice-to-have this entire load, when you have to carry it alone, it may be too much. Different people on a mission may divide up parts of the load in order to get it all there. There may be medical supplies, communication equipment, or weapon or ammunition that must be divided up and shared in order to get it all there. One member does not have to carry the load alone. In terms of everyday activities and responsibilities, we might like to

do it all ourselves, but the best course of action for the mission just might be to share the work load with other members of the team. One more tasking comes your way. One more job needs done. One more good idea is about to blossom. It might be the time to share the workload. Share the work; share the honor.

Another time to share the load may be when you are not at the peak of your performance. Sometimes we are weakened by some problem within ourselves. For the rucksack, it may be a sprained ankle, a sore muscle, or some other injury that makes carrying the full load alone impractical. At those times it only makes sense to share the load. Most of us would be quick to offer a hand to a friend who, through no fault of their own, needed a hand with their load. During the mission one member gets injured. In order to complete the mission and take care of our fellow member, we share the load, sometimes even carrying an extra rucksack and the team member too. For our spiritual rucksack, it may be that this is the time when we are spiritually weak and need our spiritual team members to carry our load for us. They may even need to carry the team member as well. We would never leave our team member in the field, on the battlefield, or in a spiritual battleground without

trying everything in our power to help. We must not leave a comrade behind.

Yet one other time when we might need to share someone's load may be when one member is just so taken with himself that he overloads himself. He may be so confident or arrogant that he simply will not accept help, will not slow down, will take yet one more project to do, will fill his rucksack so full that it is much bigger than his swelled head. Sometimes this member does everything the hard way. Sometimes they seem to go out of their way to get into some kind of difficult circumstance. On occasion, this arrogant member will simply do what everyone knows is the wrong thing. This is the one we would like to let suffer. However, when we find a member overtaken in this kind of difficulty, that is the time we must come along side, assist with the load, and show them how to get out of their trouble, and how to avoid such difficult circumstances in the future.

One very important reason we need to be sure to help others with their load for any reason they may need that help is that we may very well need help with our load. The process of serving God and others is a process we are not in alone. Even though we know God is always there, we need to know we can depend on each other, God's people, as well.

Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Saturday Vigil Mass	Main Post Chapel	5 p.m.
Sunday Mass	Main Post Chapel	9 a.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Main Post	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church	Diamond Elementary	11 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Marne	9:30 a.m.
Islamic		
Friday Jum'ah	Marne	1:30 p.m.
Contact Yahya Hassan at 876-5546.		
Jewish		
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 980-9295.		
Friday	Marne	11:30 a.m.
Latter-Day Saints		
Sunday	220 Sandy Run Drive, Hinesville	9 a.m.
Hunter Army Airfield		
Catholic		
Sunday Mass	Chapel	11 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Chapel	9 a.m.

Kids Church

Where God rocks

10:45 a.m. to noon, Sunday
at Stewart School Age Services, across from
Diamond Elementary; or at Hunter Chapel
Fellowship Hall, Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

For all kids Grade K-5

Fort Stewart bus pick-up

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty and Anzio, Liberty and Rome
10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch
10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia, Rogers and Argyle
10:40 a.m. - Naktong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea
10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel
10:55 a.m. - Main Post Chapel

For more information, email
fortstewartkidschurch@yahoo.com

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry

**Junior and Senior
High School Students!**

Join us for
free games and pizza

Sunday • 6 to 8 p.m.

at the Stewart Youth Activity
Center, building 7338.

For more information,
contact jerry.e.thompson@comcast.net

OR
call 877-7207

HEALTH MATTERS

Winn Army Community Hospital

DoD launches resource directory for Wounded Warriors

Special to the Frontline

The Department of Defense launched the National Resource Directory, a collaborative effort between the departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The directory is a Web-based network of care coordinators, providers and support partners with resources for wounded, ill and injured servicemembers, veterans, their Families, Families of the fallen and those who support them.

"The directory is the visible demonstration of our national will and commitment to make the journey from 'survive to thrive' a reality for those who have given so much. As new links are added each day by providers and partners, coverage from coast to coast will grow even greater ensuring that no part of that journey will ever be made alone," said Lynda C. Davis, Ph.D., deputy under secretary of defense for military community and Family policy.

Located at www.nationalresourcedirectory.org, the directory offers more than 10,000 medical and non-medical services and resources to help servicemembers and veterans achieve personal and professional goals along their journey from recovery through rehabilitation to community reintegration.

"The VA is extremely proud to be a partner in this innovative resource," said Karen S. Guice, M.D., executive director, federal recovery care coordination program at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"This combination of federal, state, and community-based resources will serve as a tremendous asset for all servicemembers, veterans, their Families and those who care for them. The community is essential to the successful reintegration of our veterans, and these groups greatly enhance the directory's scope."

"The National Resource Directory will prove to be a valuable tool for wounded, ill, and injured

servicemembers and their Families as they wind their way through the maze of benefits and services available to them in their transition to civilian life.

The Department of Labor is pleased to have the opportunity to work with our partners at DoD," said Charles S. Ciccolella, the assistant secretary of labor for the veterans' employment and training service.

The National Resource Directory is organized into six major categories: Benefits and Compensation; Education, Training and Employment; Family and Caregiver Support; Health; Housing and Transportation; and Services and Resources. It also provides helpful checklists, frequently asked questions, and connections to peer support groups. All information on the Web site can be found through a general or Ostate and local search tool.

The National Resource Directory's launch in November is a key feature of Warrior Care Month.

DA urge: Join American Smokeout

Special to the Frontline

Drop and give yourself 24! Not push-ups, but hours — 24 hours of being tobacco free. That's the message the U.S. Department of Defense is sending to military members, urging them to join in the Great American Smokeout, Nov. 20.

The smoking rate among 18 to 25 year olds in the military is 40 percent, significantly higher than that of their civilian counterparts or of older, higher-ranking military members. Alarming, a large number of these young enlisted men and women don't begin using tobacco until after they enlist. Nearly 39 percent of current smokers began smoking after they joined the military.

This is cause for great concern among military leaders, who point to problems such as detection in the field, slow wound healing, impaired night vision and decreased stamina as impediments to military performance.

Nearly a quarter of 18 to 25-year-old enlisted men use smokeless tobacco — often referred to as chewing tobacco, spit tobacco, snuff, or "dip." It contains more than 20 cancer-causing chemicals. Many have erroneously touted smokeless tobacco use as a healthier option, but snuff and chewing tobacco have three to five times more nicotine than cigarettes, making them far more addictive. Like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco can cause cancer and heart disease. In addition, physical dangers include gum disease, erosion of teeth, and cancer of the mouth and throat.

Why is tobacco use so prevalent in the military? For

those facing the stress of being far away from home and preparing for possible deployment, the road to becoming tobacco free becomes much rougher. Using tobacco is cited as one way to relieve that stress. In addition, perceptions of tacit endorsement of smoking and using smokeless tobacco and the low-cost availability of smoking products in the military make breaking the addiction an even stiffer challenge.

DoD has stepped up efforts to combat tobacco use through its Quit Tobacco — Make Everyone Proud education campaign, aimed at young enlisted men and women who are trying to quit tobacco or are thinking about it. The campaign site, www.ucanquit2.org, offers sound information and innovative tools to support their efforts.

A big draw to the Web site is the 18-hour a day availability of instant-message live help, staffed by trained tobacco cessation coaches. The live-chat coaching team also includes a former marine and an ex-smoker who relishes his ability to gain the trust of those who turn to the live-help service. Since January, more than 600 live chats have taken place. These private one-on-one sessions are anonymous and offer easy access to immediate assistance.

A calculator on the Web site allows users to figure out how much they can save on a yearly basis by giving up tobacco. On average, enlisted personnel can save one month's salary a year. DoD supports the military's participation in the annual Great American Smokeout, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, through free materials and registration at www.ucanquit2.org.

closed Nov. 27 and Nov. 28. Full operations resume Dec. 1. For more information, call 435-6965.

Book appointments online

Want an alternative to calling the appointment line? TRICARE online could be your answer. You can book your appointments online at the TRICARE online Web site, www.tricareonline.com. This link is also available through the Winn Web site homepage, www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Canceling your medical appointment

If you need to cancel your medical appointment, call the cancellation line at 435-6633 or 1-800-652-9221. Follow the prompts to cancel your appointment. This will create more open appointments and decrease the length of time it takes to get an appointment. Thank you for helping us by helping you with your access to care.

Get chiropractic care

Active-duty Soldiers can now receive chiropractic care at Tuttle Army Health Clinic, Hunter Army Airfield. Contact your primary care manager to see if chiropractic care is right for you. For additional information, call 435-6633.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provided by Winn Army Community Hospital

October 4

• **Lyannette A.**

Benavidez, a girl, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Jose Omar Benavidez and Eduviges Benavidez.

October 30

• **Megan Riley Stanley**,

a girl, 5 pounds, 11 ounces, born to Spc. Dustin Ryan Stanley and Amanda Christina Stanley.

October 31

• **Jaiden Joshua Teal**, a

boy, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. Loren Marie Small-Teal.

• **Gianna Ruth**

Williams, a girl, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Pfc. Zachary C. Williams and Leah C. Williams.

November 1

• **Levi Warrynn**

Osborn, a boy, 6 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. Dain E. Osborn Jr. and Tifanie Ann Osborn.

November 3

• **Courmauri Azyvion**

Hall, a boy, 7 pounds, 10

ounces, born to Pfc. Courtney Hall and Deidre Hall.

November 4

• **Bailee Rae Hughes**, a

girl, 8 pounds, 8 ounces, born to Pfc. Derek Christopher Hughes and Samantha Eileen Hughes.

• **Faith Marie Graham**,

a girl, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth A. Graham and Staff Sgt. Nancy Fernandez.

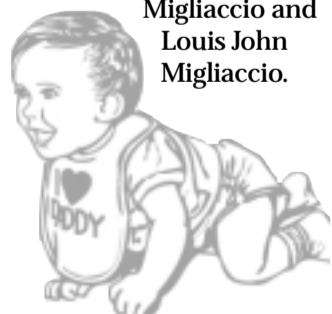
• **Wyatt Gabriel Ronin**

Johnson, a boy, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Spc. Carl W. Johnson Jr. and Jamie M. Johnson.

November 5

• **Joseph John**

Migliaccio, a boy, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Spc. Melody A. Migliaccio and Louis John Migliaccio.



For more information, check out **The Frontline** online at www.stewart.army.mil.

WINN BRIEFS

Walk-in to get your flu vaccine

With the upcoming influenza season, here are the walk-in times and locations to receive your flu vaccine. Winn's Immunization Clinic, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Monday- Friday; Tuttle's Immunization Clinic, 1 - 5 p.m., every Thursday.

Make sure to bring your valid military ID card. For more information, call Army Public Health Nursing at 435-5071.

Winn's main lobby temporarily closed

The main entrance and lobby at Winn Army Community Hospital will be closed now through Nov. 25 for construction. Please use other entrances during this time. The main entrance will re-open Nov. 26.

Winn/Tuttle observing Federal holiday

Nov. 27 is Thanksgiving Day, a Federal holiday and Nov. 28 is a MEDDAC training holiday. On those days, services at Winn Army Community Hospital will be limited to inpatient care and emergencies. Full operations resume Dec. 1. All services at Tuttle Army Health Clinic and the Hawks Troop Medical Clinic will be

Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

Visit Pembroke Christmas Festival

Community members are invited to the annual Christmas Festival and Parade, Dec. 13 in Downtown Pembroke.

Craft and food booths will be open for business from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Performances by choirs, solos, dancers and karate and exercise groups will be featured all day. Call to sign up your talent. Space is limited. Bring your classic cars or motorcycles and join in the holiday celebration. Line up time for the parade is 10:30 a.m. Call 653-2231 if you would like to enter your classic auto/chopper. Prizes will be awarded for various categories. Call for entry form.

Call the Bryan County 4-H Club 653-2231 for more information.

There will also be a one mile run-walk and a five-mile race starting at 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively at the Heritage Bank, 16 East Railroad St., Pembroke, Ga. Registration for the races must be received by Dec. 8.

Enjoy the holidays at Davenport House

The Isaiah Davenport House Museum hosts holiday evening tours by Candlelight 6-8:30 p.m., Dec. 26-30. The Davenport House is located at 324 East State Street, Savannah - on the corner of Habersham and State Streets at Columbia Square.

The house museum explores the December celebrations of the early 19th century inhabitants.

The cost for adults is \$8 for advance registration, \$10 at the door. For children ages 6 - 18-years-old, the cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at door.

For more information, call 236-8097 or e-mail jrcelle@savbusiness.net.

Savannah Winds concert scheduled

The Savannah Winds will give its Fall Concert, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2 at the Armstrong Center.

Tickets are \$12 and may be obtained online at www.finearts.armstrong.edu/tickets by calling the AASU box office between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., weekdays at 344-2801, or get tickets at the door. The program will include traditional and contemporary concert band music and light classics.

Enjoy holiday open house

Community members are invited to tour the Coastal Living and Cottage Living Magazines 2008 Holiday Coastal Cottage at Yellow Bluff in Midway, Ga., through Dec. 14. Tickets are \$10 a person with proceeds to benefit local charities.

In addition, a day of fun is planned at Lyman Hall on Shaw Road in Hinesville starting 1 p.m., Dec. 19 with a "Fishing with Santa" photo opportunity 1-5 p.m.; cookie decorating 1-5 p.m.; dancing in the streets by area dance companies 2-3 p.m.; and holiday caroling 1-5 p.m.

Further, a number of authors will be available 1-5 p.m. for book signing including Betty Londergan, Holly McClure, Cappy Hall Rearick, Harry Rubin, Buddy Sullivan, and Linda Whitten.

Live Oak Public Libraries' programs

Preschool Story Time offered

Join us every Monday at the Liberty Branch Library in November at 10:30 a.m. Children, ages: 3 to 4 years-old are invited to come for stories, songs and crafts. For more information, call 368-4003.

Tea and Tales Book Group held

Sit down for tea and a story at Midway-Riceboro Branch Library, today. The Tea and Tales Book Group will be discussing "Atonement" by Ewan McGregor, at 5:30 p.m. Call 884-5742.

Introduction to Excel slated

Learn how to create a simple spreadsheet and add graphs 7 p.m., today at the Liberty Branch Library. Registration required. Introduction to Word or equivalent knowledge is a prerequisite. For more information, call 368-4003.

Introduction to the Internet

Take an introduction to the Internet 10:30 a.m., Nov. 20 at the Liberty Branch Library. Registration is required. This is a beginner's course on how to use the Internet. The class will cover using the Internet Explorer browser to navigate through the Internet and print Web pages. Prerequisite: Introduction to Windows or equivalent knowledge. For more information, call 368-4003.

Enhance your leadership skills

First Battle Command Training Group Army Reserve in Birmingham, Ala., offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing your professional management, training and leadership skills. For more information, contact 1st Sgt. Larry King, larry.kingsr@usar.army.mil, (205) 987-8443, ext. 4410; or Capt. John Walker, (205) 444-5208.

Human Resource meeting held

Coastal Society of Human Resource Management meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. If you are a human resource professional and would like to attend a meeting or receive more information, contact Holly Stevens-Brown, chapter president at 876-3564.

Christmas in Tattnall County

Reidsville Christmas Festival and Parade

The Parade is held at 10 a.m., Nov. 29. Festivities start Nov. 28 with entertainers and food and arts and crafts vendors on the ground of the School Board Building and continue through Saturday. For information, call Eddie Anderson at 237-0896 or Phyllis Anderson at 237-2403.

Enjoy Christmas Cobbtown Style

The parade and festival is held the first Saturday in December. You can enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations Cobbtown is famous for while enjoying the area's largest parade as well as lots of good food including chicken and dumplings. For information, call Mayor Buddy Collins at 684-2775.

Reidsville Manger to Majesty slated

This is held the second week of December on Monday and Tuesday evening. Drive through the

Reidsville Recreation Department and enjoy a live portrayal of the life of Jesus complete with audio. For information, call Delores James at 557-3422.

Glennville Christmas play slated

All I Want for Christmas Crown Productions presents the live musical at 7 p.m., Dec. 12 and 13, and 2 p.m., Dec. 14 at the Glennville City Auditorium.

This musical is about a little girl who wants everything for Christmas but soon realized that Christmas is for giving and not receiving. For more information, call 654-3760. All proceeds go to the Glennville Recreation Department.

Visit Melon Bluff Nature Center

An exhibition of new coastal photographs by former Georgia state photographer and current Department of Natural Resources Artist-in-Residence, Diane Kirkland, opened Nov. 8 at the Melon Bluff Nature Center, 2999 Islands Highway in Midway. The exhibition continues each Saturday through Feb. 6, 2009. Seven years ago, Kirkland took the photo at Melon Bluff that has since become the icon for coastal kayaking from Florida to North Carolina. It is also one that is definitive of Melon Bluff and the Sunbury area. Kirkland's newest collection continues her passion for Georgia's natural coastal landscapes, this time, focusing on Ossabaw Island, just off the shore from Melon Bluff. Once again, her artistic appreciation and sensitivity to fragile coastal beauty is evident throughout.

Directions to Melon Bluff: Take I-95 to exit 76. Go three miles east on Islands Highway (30 minutes south of Savannah).

Humane Shelter calls for support

Liberty County Humane Shelter holds Doggie Days noon to 4 p.m., Nov. 29 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Highway 196 in Hinesville.

Services such as spay/neuter, rabies shots, grooming, will be offered at discount rates. The fair will include food, games, and horse rides.

In addition, the Liberty Humane Shelter is trying to get a million dollar makeover and ask for community member support by visiting www.libertyhumanshelter.com and click on the Zootoo makeover banner. Daily activities gains LHS points. For more information, email libertyshelter@aol.com.

New York City Christmas Shopping Trip

There's still time to sign up for the New York City Shopping Trip, scheduled for Dec. 11-15. Deadline for registration is Nov. 28. A 56-passenger luxury bus will leave about 11 p.m., Dec. 11 and arrive 12-13 hours later to the hotel in Lyndhurst, N.J. Once there, it will be up to the patrons to decide how they want to spend their days and evenings.

The cost includes hotel and luxury motor coach transportation. One person/room \$400, two-persons/room \$300 each, three-persons/room \$270 each and four-persons/room is \$250 each.

For details, call Leisure Travel at 767-2841/8609 for Stewart or 315-3674 for Hunter.

Mercer, Valentine's Gala to highlight 2009 Georgia Days

Special to the Frontline

The Georgia Historical Society announced Nov. 14 the schedule of events for Georgia Days 2009, to be held Feb. 3-14, 2009 in commemoration of the 276th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia colony.

Thousands of parents, students, educators, and governmental officials participate in the Society's annual statewide event.

Each year during the Georgia Days series of events, GHS honors individuals who have significantly influenced Georgia and American history. Taking a page from modern history and popular

culture, the Society has named Savannah native and American music legend Johnny Mercer as Historic Honoree of the 2009 celebration.

"Next year is the centennial of Johnny Mercer's birth," says GHS President and CEO Todd Groce. "And, we are pleased and proud to join others across the state as we honor this native son whose remarkable 50-year career was deeply grounded in and influenced by his Savannah and Georgia roots."

In addition to traditional events that include the Colonial Faire and Muster at Wormsloe, Super Museum Sunday, Black History Month Essay and Public Speaking Contest, and school children,

costumed characters and dignitaries parading through Savannah's historic district, the Georgia Days 2009 will feature the second annual Birthday Bash and Annual Award Gala, entitled Magic in the Moonlight.

"Our inaugural gala was a wonderfully well-received success," said Laura Garcia-Culler, executive vice president and Chief Operating Officer of the Society, "And Magic in the Moonlight will provide our members and friends with a memorable, very romantic night out on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day."

"In addition to fine dining and dancing, and the music of Johnny Mercer, political commentators James Carville

and Mary Matalin - Washington's most captivating couple - will keynote the event with a talk entitled "All's Fair in Love, War and Politics."

The evening will also include Governor Sonny Perdue inducting the first new Georgia Trustees since 1749, part of an exciting new partnership between the GHS and the State of Georgia that will annually recognize in perpetuity selected Georgians who have made outstanding contributions to our state's history.

Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus will be in attendance for his induction as one of the first Georgia Trustees in 260 years.

Volunteer spotlight



Courtesy photo

Fifth Squadron, Seventh Cavalry Regiment salutes the October Volunteers of the Month, Stacy Nix, Shari Jackowski, and Michelle Cano, for their support to the 5/7 Cav. Family Readiness Group.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Army Community Service at 767-1297.

Boo the Flu campaign visits schools



Courtesy photo

Briyanna Lyon, 10, receives her flu vaccine from Sgt. Robert Hyde, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity at Kessler Elementary School during the 'Boo the Flu' campaign at Fort Stewart Department of Defense schools, Nov. 10-14. More than 550 DoD students on Fort Stewart were vaccinated during the first rounds in the schools.

ACS provides employment search

Thomas Barnard
Employment Readiness Program

New tools to help with spouse employment search are available with through Army Community Service.

The first part of the job search process is self assessment.

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness office gives you access to a wealth of information and programs to help determine which career or career type suits you best.

The newest tool is the Army Spouse Career Assessment Tool or ASCAT. Just

by answering several job-related questionnaires, you can get individualized guidance on which type of job, or jobs, fit you best.

While there is no single correct answer, it gives you a starting point on discovering what you may want to pursue professionally.

The next step in the process is research. Both Stewart and Hunter ACS locations have a computer lab available where you can research companies, search online job listings, or type up your resume.

Additionally, if you're interested in

obtaining a federal job, there are training classes on the federal government resume system, Resumix, where you can learn how to search for a federal job, how to build a resume in the federal system, and how to apply for federal positions. Specialized training classes offered each month include resume writing, career planning, goal setting, Job Hunting 101, and mock interviews.

Once you have completed the initial training classes, you have access to individual, one-on-one counseling by a trained career counselor. Your coun-

selor can give you personalized attention to all of your job search needs.

The Employment Readiness Program is an ACS program available at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, as well as installations worldwide. The primary function of the program is to assist military spouses and Family Members with issues that involve finding employment.

To register for employment classes or to request an appointment with an employment counselor, please call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter.

Army Community Service



Welcome to the Army Community Service Family Page. Our mission is to provide services to support readiness of Soldiers, their Families, and communities to promote self-reliance, resiliency, and stability. We offer training classes, support groups, and Family advocacy programs. Services are offered to active, retired, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers and their Family Members, regardless of branch of service. Department of Defense Civilian Employees are also eligible for most services, as are their Family Members. ACS is a member of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Family, proudly serving America's military.

For information or to register for programs at Fort Stewart, please call 767-5058/5059. For information and registration at Hunter Army Airfield, please call 315-6816.

Newcomers invited for Thanksgiving

Are you new to the community? Sign up for the Thanksgiving Brunch Welcome Orientation from 9 - 11:30 a.m., Nov. 25 at Fort Stewart. Enjoy a festive brunch, meet others who are new to the area, and get an overview of the many services available to assist with your transition to the area. Children are welcome, or you may wish to take advantage of free child care (advance reservations are required). Newcomers are invited to sign up for the brunch orientation by calling 767-9176.

On the same day, Relocation Readiness offers a newcomer's windshield bus tour of the installation and Hinesville. For information or to reserve a seat on the bus, please call 767-5058.

Volunteer at Special Olympics

ACS is now recruiting volunteers to help at the 2008 Winter Special Olympics. The event will be held at Marne Lanes 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 12 and volunteers are needed as huggers, event officials, score sheet runners and, most importantly, the audience and cheering section. Pre-registration is requested in order to expedite volunteer in-processing that day. To register for this rewarding opportunity, please call 767-5058/5059 and ask for the installation volunteer coordinator.

Learn money management

Come to a class at Fort Stewart entitled Checkbook Management from 1 to 4 p.m., Nov. 26. Learn how to manage your checking account, avoid excess fees, and get control of your money.

If you need a more in-depth financial workshop, sign up for First-Term Financial Training (mandatory for E-4 and below). Open to everyone who wants to improve their financial future, this full-day workshop teaches about credit use, managing a bank account, insurance, investments, financial planning for your future, basic car and home buying, bankruptcy and consumer fraud. First-term workshop is now offered at Stewart every weekday (except Wednesday) and at Hunter, Dec. 2.

Please call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter to register for finance classes or to schedule an

appointment for a personal counseling session. We are here to help!

Hunter offers FRG training

Hunter offers a Saturday FRG Leader Training Course, Dec. 6. Designed to equip new FRG leaders with the necessary knowledge and ability to do their job, the class is also open to seasoned FRG leaders as a refresher. Topics include an overview of the FRG, FRG organization and structure, the role of the FRG leader, resources, fundraising rules, and tips for recruiting and managing volunteers. Reservations are necessary; please call 315-6816 to reserve your seat. Also ask about child care.

Attend employment workshops

Your Employment Readiness team has put together a variety of workshops to help you succeed in your job search. Topics include goal setting, career planning, resume writing, insider's tips to resumix, mock interviewing, and job hunting.

Employment and Career Orientation provides resources for newly-arriving military spouses and Family Members seeking employment. Learn about the Army spouse employment partnership which helps you find employment and achieve career goals in the midst of frequent relocations.

For a current schedule of Employment Readiness classes, or to request a personal employment counseling session, please call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter.

Learn and grow with AFTB

Living within an Army Family culture can be challenging, and Army Family Team Building offers three levels of classes to help Families thrive in the military lifestyle. AFTB Level I: "Meet The Army" is offered at Hunter 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 3-4. Level I teaches Family Members basic skills and knowledge to succeed in the military environment. Discussions include how the mission impacts Family life, the importance of financial readiness, an introduction to Family Readiness Groups, basic military benefits and entitlements, and military customs and courtesies.

Family Members are invited to register for AFTB classes by calling 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter. Also ask about child care.

Learn about the Dogface Soldier

Wondering what "Rock of the Marne" means? Curious about the smiling bulldog, Rocky? Learn the history of the 3rd Infantry Division, the Dogface Soldier song, and much more at the Dogface Soldier for Families class, Dec. 17. This free class is offered through the Army Family Team Building Program and is a popular one, so reserve your seat by calling 767-5058/5059. Call ACS at 767-5058 to register. Also ask about child care information.

Challenge the stereotype

Baby Bootcamp for Dads, a special class just for

men, teaches skills to build confidence in parenting your newborn baby. Network with other fathers and learn to enhance your nurturing side. Call 315-6816 to sign up for the Dec. 11 session at Hunter or 767-5058/5059 to register for the Dec. 18 session at Stewart, both held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Learn to manage moving expenses

Come to a two-hour class and learn how to plan monthly expenses and how to avoid pitfalls during your move. Financial planning for permanent change of station is offered every Thursday at Stewart. At Hunter, the next session is offered Nov. 25. To register, call 767-5058 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter.

Support group for new parents offered

Come meet other moms and discuss the joys and concerns of parenting your new baby. A caring, knowledgeable professional from New Parent Support facilitates group discussions on a variety of topics determined by individual and group needs. At Hunter, the group meets twice weekly 2 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at ACS located on Neal Boulevard, building 1279. At Stewart, interested moms are asked to call 767-5058 and sign-up for the next Parenting Support Group forming now. Your suggestions about meeting location, time, and topics are also welcome.

Chill and Chat on Mondays

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed, stressed out, or sad? Chill and Chat gives you a chance to talk and unload your concerns. Hosted by the Military and Family Life Consultants, Chill and Chat is held every Monday at ACS-Hunter located on Neal Boulevard beginning at 9 a.m. You'll feel better when you discuss deployment or any other concerns with a knowledgeable professional. Please call 315-6816 and let us know you will be coming.

Music, toys and fun for little ones

Parents are invited with their children (ages 0 to 5) 10 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday to spend time playing together. Led by an energetic and playful adult from our New Parent Support Program, the Play Mornings are designed for meeting, sharing, and playing with other military Families in a fun, upbeat atmosphere. Come on down and see what all the fun is about! Stewart's Play Group is held at the Bryan Village Youth Center and Hunter Play Group meets at New Gannam Community Center. Call 767-5058 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter for directions or more information.

When you have a lot on your mind, talking it over with a caring knowledgeable person can really make a difference. The Military and Family Life Consultants are available to provide free and confidential support when you are having difficulty coping with issues related to daily life. The consultants are available at both Fort Stewart and Hunter 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. They also offer off-post appointments in the local communities. Call 704-9505, 492-6367, or 492-6428 to request an appointment.

MWR Briefs

Enjoy blue pin bowling

Come and try your luck at Hunter Lanes Bowling Center, building 1280, from 7 p.m. to midnight, Friday. If the blue pin comes down in No. 1 position, notify a staff member, roll a strike and win a free game.

The cost is \$2 per game/person and \$1.75 shoe rental. For more information, call 315-6279.

Join 3-on-3 basketball tourney

Show your basketball skills and compete among other youth from 4-8 p.m. Saturday at the Fort Stewart Youth Center, building 7338. The Keystone Club 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament is open for all youth grades 6-12.

Prizes awarded for first, second and third-place winners. Snack bar concession will be open during the tournament. For team sign-up or other information, call 767-4491.

Win a turkey

Try your skill 5 p.m., Saturday in the 9-Pin No Tap Turkey Shoot Tournament at Marne Lanes Bowling Center, building 402. Bowl a strike across 10 lanes and win a turkey.

For more information, call 767-4866.

Watch World Wrestling Entertainment

Be there for all the action starting 8 p.m., Sunday at Rocky's, building 703. WWE presents the Survivor Series Live on Pay-Per-View. WWE and THQ's WWE Smackdown vs RAW 2009. Open to military ID cardholder, free. For more information, call 767-8715.

Skating, dinner trip slated

The registration deadline is Saturday. Group will depart, Nov. 25 from the Fort Stewart Youth Center, building 7338 for the 2-6 p.m. Savannah trip. Open to all registered Child, Youth and School Services members. Please bring money for the skating fee and dinner cost. Transportation provided. For details, call 767-4491.

Shop in New York City

There's still time to sign up for the New York City shopping trip, scheduled for Dec. 11-15. Deadline for registration is Nov. 28.

A 56-passenger luxury bus will leave about 11 p.m., Dec. 11 and arrive 12-13 hours later to the hotel in Lyndhurst, N.J. Once there, it will be up to the patrons to decide how they want to spend their days and evenings. The cost includes hotel and luxury motor coach transportation. One person/room \$400, two-persons/room \$300 each, three-persons/room \$270 each and four-persons/room is \$250 each.

For details, call Leisure Travel at 767-2841/8609 for Stewart or 315-3674 for Hunter.

Intramural basketball sign-up under way

Sign-up now for the company-level team league, active duty Soldiers only. The registration deadline is Nov. 30. Games are scheduled to start at end of November and run thru March 2009 at Newman Fitness Center, building 439 and Tominac Fitness Center, building 919. For details and to sign-up, call sports offices at 767-8238 for Stewart or 315-4160 for Hunter.

Enjoy Christmas tree lighting

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are getting ready to usher in the Christmas season with tree-lighting ceremonies. At each ceremony, there will be Christmas carols, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus.

There also will be horse-drawn carriage rides. Inside the clubs, there will be pictures with Santa, children's activities, cookie treats and more. The Hunter event will have live Reindeer. So, mark your calendars for these times and dates:

- Stewart: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 4 on Hero Road side of Club Stewart, building 405.
- Hunter: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at the Hunter Club, building 6015.

AFAP work groups brief CG, staff

Bob Mathews

MWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

One by one, presenters stood at a podium in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center auditorium, Nov. 14, outlining issues they brought before the 3rd Infantry Division's commanding general and his top staff members to carry forward to the next level of command for action.

The event was part of Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Army Family Action Plan Conference held that week, culminating with a presentation to the installations senior leader.

Third Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo took notes, listened attentively and at times asked questions of or sought elaboration from presenters, staff members and civilian leaders.

Issues ranged from local - concerns that an increasing Fort Stewart population is straining law enforcement - to Army wide: the Warriors in Transition Unit work group found that the Medical Evaluation Board process takes too long and "causes undue stress."

The issues also covered a wide range of demographics. The Education and Youth Work Group concluded that College Student Extended Benefits "do not meet the needs of today's students." The Force Support Work Group recommended that Surviving Spouses' TRICARE Benefits should be increased to five years from three. The Single Soldiers Work Group recommended Soldiers be given the option of individual

meal deductions.

"Great issues everybody," Cucolo said at the close of the presentation. "I appreciate the work."

He said getting the AFAP recommendations through and approved would be a challenge, because "almost everything involves money, and money's going to be a fight."

But Cucolo expressed confidence, pointing out that Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey Jr. and Secretary of the Army Pete Geren "are fantastic about (supporting) these issues. They just want to break through the bureaucracy and fix these things because they know it is the key to retaining Soldiers and Families."

He added that the Association of the United States Army, local leaders and citizens in Hinesville "are in our corner to make some of this, if not all of this, work."

Cucolo's wife, Ginger, expressed her thanks to the work groups.

"I know how painful it is to narrow the issues down. You sit there and you look and you think that your main issue didn't even make it," Mrs. Cucolo said. "But it actually will make it, and we actually will look at it and pay some attention to it and try to force as many things through as we can."

She added, "So, please know that all this time, all

the pain it was in trying to do the right wording, and trying to narrow it down, makes such a difference. We will try our best to do it. I just wanted to say thanks and that all your time and effort will make a difference for everyone here."

Diane J. Smith, AFAP program manager for Army Community Service, said the various work groups were representative of the demographics of Stewart-Hunter. They were made up of about 35 volunteers and about 60 active duty Soldiers.

The groups "brought a passion" to their work, Smith said. "Those taking part could relate well to many of the issues."

Some of the work groups' enthusiasm was apparent at the presentation Nov. 14. They cheered the delegates they had chosen to present their issues, as the delegates approached the podium. Laughter and light, good-natured humorous remarks punctuated portions of the approximately 45-minute presentation.

Among those attending, in addition to the Cucolos, were Fort Stewart Garrison Commander Col. Todd Buchs and his wife, Renee; Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Daniel Whitney; and 3rd ID Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews.



Photos by Bob Mathews

Ginger Cucolo, 3rd ID Family Readiness Group senior advisor, thanks community members for their contributions at the installation's AFAP Conference, Nov. 15 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center.

Left: Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members gathered together for the final day of the AFAP Conference, Nov. 15 to present issues and recommendations to the senior installation leader at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center.

Next stop for all AFAP issues: Garrison Steering Committee

Bob Mathews

MWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

Army Family Action Plan work groups made up of approximately 35 volunteers and 60 active duty Soldiers, labored intensely, sometimes passionately, for some 10 hours over a period of two days to push forward a wide range of issues.

Not every issue was included in the PowerPoint presentation given to Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, his staff and others gathered at the Sgt. 1st Class Education Center auditorium, Nov. 14. But every issue brought up at

the AFAP conference will be looked at by the Garrison AFAP Steering Committee, headed by Garrison Commander Col. Todd Buchs, according to Diane J. Smith, AFAP program manager for Army Community Service.

The 15 to 20-member Steering Committee includes representatives of all garrison directorates: Balfour Beatty Community, Department of Defense Education Activity, the Commissary and AAFES, among others.

Here is what will happen now that the Stewart-Hunter AFAP Conference has ended.

Smith will compile the approximately 44 issues raised during the AFAP

conference here for presentation to the Garrison AFAP Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will identify issues that can be handled locally.

A point of contact will be assigned to the issue and will write a summary. One of three categories is assigned to each issue: Active, Closed (completed or irrelevant) or Unattainable (because of funding requirements or other reasons).

Buchs, with assistance from the Steering Committee, will determine which issues will be forwarded to Forces Command for action at the AFAP Conference at that level.

"At FORSCOM, they mirror what we

have just done here," Smith said. "Every issue sent to them is looked at. At that level, it is decided what issues will go forward to the Department of the Army."

Smith said Stewart-Hunter can send a certain number of delegates and volunteers to the mid-level conference at FORSCOM. "We have a voice," she said.

For more information about AFAP, call Diane J. Smith at 767-3365 or go to www.myarmylifetoo.com and, on the right-hand side of the page beneath the log-in area, use the "Find ACS Programs" drop down menu to go to AFAP.

AFAP Issues addressed at community conference

Special to the Frontline

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield concluded the installation's Army Family Action Plan conference Nov. 15 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center.

The purpose of the conference was to address community issues and develop recommendations to address those issues to submit to the installation leadership for staffing. (See related stories on Page 7B.)

The issues developed included:

Education and Youth Group

Issue 1: Student Extended Benefits

Scope: Benefits for Family Members 21-years-old and younger who are enrolled in post-secondary schools do not meet the needs of today's students. The regulation is outdated, thus impacting the modern military Family.

Recommendations: Extend age limit to 25-years-old; allow Family Member students to maintain benefits while meeting non-traditional graduation requirements and include online and technical schools.

Issue 2: DoD Activity Standards

Scope: Department of Defense Education Activity has no measurable standards by which to determine the quality of education and lack of accountability of low performing schools.

DoDEA standards are not equivalent to all schools on a national level. As a result, students transitioning from DoDEA to public schools are perceived as performing at an inferior level.

Recommendations: Employ the same standardized tests as the local public school district; create and implement a DoDEA accountability plan with incentives and consequences based on school performance.

Employment/Retirement

Issue 1: Government Hiring Process

Scope: The government hiring process is cumbersome and

inefficient. Human interaction and feedback are needed to navigate the system and improve the hiring process.

Recommendation: Assign a case manager to every applicant requiring weekly communication with applicant.

Issue 2 : Retired Soldiers for RC

Scope: When Soldiers retire from Active duty, they cannot serve as part of the Reserve Component. Retirees should be permitted to serve as a paid member of the RC and collect their retirement pay and entitlements. This would provide the Army with a large pool of knowledge and experience that can be used to increase the readiness of the total Army.

Recommendation: Change law to allow dual component status.

Family Support

Issue 1: Crime on Military Installations

Scope: Increased installation population is straining current law enforcement services. This has led to delayed response times, lack of police presence/visibility and a general increase in on post crime.

Recommendation: Increase Military Police and Department of the Army Police to improve response time and visibility of police.

Issue 2 : SBP for retirees spouse

Scope: The Survivors Benefit Plan for retired servicemember spouse requires a monthly fee. This reduces the amount of the retiree check, which reduces the amount of overall income.

The establishment of a no cost SBP benefits the financial stability of the retired Army Family and enhances the Army Family Covenant.

Recommendation: Implement standardized SBP at no cost to retirees.

Force Support

Issue 1: Surviving Spouses' Benefits

Scope: Surviving spouses of fallen Soldiers are authorized three years of TRICARE Prime for free.

Three years will not provide enough time to supplement the primary source of income, pursue a degree or vocational skill, and deal with the possibility of medical emergencies and issues. This will impact spouses of fallen Soldiers.

Recommendation: Increase benefits to five years.

Issue 2: Hunter Bike/Jog/Walk Pathway

Scope: Path is adjacent to a highly traveled road without any physical separation. There is a high potential for accidents to occur. This will impact the entire community.

Recommendation: Install reflective safety barriers along perimeter road from golf course to Rio Gate.

Medical/Dental/TRICARE

Issue 1: Accessibility of Medical Care

Scope: Increasing medical providers and staff will create greater access to clinic appointments. Delays in receiving appointments are resulting in long emergency room wait times because patients are using the ER as their Primary Care Manager.

Recommendation: Create more authorized medical and staff position Army wide.

Issue 2: Deployed Soldiers Specialty Care

Scope: Currently medical facilities in combat theaters are primarily for combat related injuries. Soldiers requiring ongoing long-term medical care and specialty care are being neglected.

Recommendation: Create long-term ongoing treatment facilities in combat theaters.

Single Soldiers

Issue 1: BOSS Funding

Scope: The Better opportunities for Single Soldiers program is not funded. Fully funding BOSS will increase program success. As a result, single Soldier activities will promote morale and cohesion, thus elevating retention and readiness.

Recommendation: Authorize designated appropriated funds for the BOSS program.

Issue 2: BAS options for single Soldiers

Scope: Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A, Chapter Basic allowance for Subsistence does not allow single Soldiers the option to decline a meal card. Not allowing Soldiers this option creates a use or lose entitlements. This does not promote the use of the First Sergeants initiative.

Recommendation: Allow single Soldiers the option of individual meal deductions.

Warriors in Transition Unit

Issue 1: MEB Process

Scope: The medical evaluation board process takes too long, not abiding to regulatory requirements.

Organization and communication for the MEB process from the Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer to the TRIAD is broken. This results in repetition of steps, prolonging the process of Soldiers receiving benefits and causes undue stress.

Recommendation: Create a new regulation that requires a new timeline and more thorough testing; increase training and professionalism of PEBLOs; and increase ratio of doctors to Soldiers and PEBLOs to Soldiers.

Issue 2: Identification of RTD within WTU

Scope: Soldiers returning to duty have different needs than Soldiers being medically discharged. All WTU Soldiers are required to take the same classes, regardless of their individual needs.

The ability to attend necessary classes, based on individual needs will increase readiness to transition.

Recommendation: Separate RTD from medical discharge and incorporate individual classes based on status and specific needs.

Editor's Note: Teen AFAP issues will be published at a later date.