

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

Fort Stewart hosts Infantry Conference

Combat leaders discuss new programs, Soldiers try out new weapons

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. came together for an Infantry Conference at Club Stewart Feb. 18 through Friday.

"The infantry conference is a time for all of us professional leaders from all combined arms just not the infantry," said Col. Robert L. Caslen, assistant division commander (maneuver). "There were a lot of

different issues we wanted to address."

One of the issues was the recent rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. and the lessons learned there, he said.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general, is putting into affect a small arms marksmanship program, Caslen added. The infantry conference gave the opportunity to get all the information out to show how it is going to be resourced.

The first unit will go through the pro-

gram in March, he said.

"It was good to get all our leaders together from all different branches," Caslen said. "Particularly some of the leaders who will become key leaders in the new unit of action."

The first unit is going to go through the program in March, he said.

Among seminars the Soldiers had the opportunity to watch a demonstration and test the XM312, a .50-caliber machine gun, XM8 light weight modular weapon system and XM307, a 25mm can-

non at Observation Point 4. All three weapons are prototypes that are still being tested.

"The XM307 can be converted in like five minutes into the .50 cal.," said Col. Michael Smith, project manager of Soldiers weapons.

The common remotely operated weapons station is also being worked on, he said. This will allow Soldiers to operate their weapons in an armored vehicle

See INFANTRY, Page 2A

Families watch 3/69 tankers train for NTC

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

With their National Training Center rotation fast approaching, Soldiers in 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment took to their tanks for Table 12 qualifications Feb. 18 at Fort Stewart's Multi-Purpose Range Complex.

"Table 12 is the last scenario before we go to the NTC live fire," said Capt. Mark Madden, C Company, 3/69 Armor commander. "That's really the culminating event, other than a high-intensity conflict."

Throughout the day, tank crews took on the live-fire qualification range grouped by platoon, with four tanks firing at a given time.

"We come out here to shoot targets ...

to train as a platoon," said Staff Sgt. Robert Floyd, a C Co., tank commander. "This is where platoons make their money in the field."

Madden said although the rest of the training was familiar to the Soldiers, this was the first time they would be incorporating field artillery targets into the standard tank tables.

"Table 12 is the last scenario before we go to NTC live fire."

Capt. Mark Madden
C Co., 3/69 Armor commander

"After (Operation Iraqi Freedom), we've added a few FA targets, because we found we used a lot of those out there," he said.

Madden added that the tank crew event had completed a dry run of the training the day before, and said, "They have a general knowledge, but don't know exactly what they're going to see."

"We have to know how to react to

See LIVE FIRE, Page 7A



A tank crew fires downrange at a target during 3/69 Armor's Table 12 training Feb. 18 at the multi-purpose range complex.



Photos by Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Collin Griffiths, five, and Alexis Richard, three, cover their ears in anticipation of the boom of the tank fire they came to see during 3/69's Table 12 training Feb. 18.

Sim center allows division to exercise command, control element

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

The Battle Simulation Center at Evans Army Airfield allows Soldiers in the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized)'s command posts to work on their command and control capabilities using realistic battle scenarios.

Soldiers from the three command posts have been at the airfield conducting the division's second command post exercise in three months since Monday and will be there through Friday.

The division staff's last exercise

was in early December, according to Maj. Doug Claggett, the division's deputy operations officer.

The Battle Simulation Center uses computer simulations and Soldiers on radios to give Soldiers in the Division Main, Tactical and Rear Operations Centers a good portrayal of their duties in a real-world environment, said Rick Champion, the Sim Center's site manager.

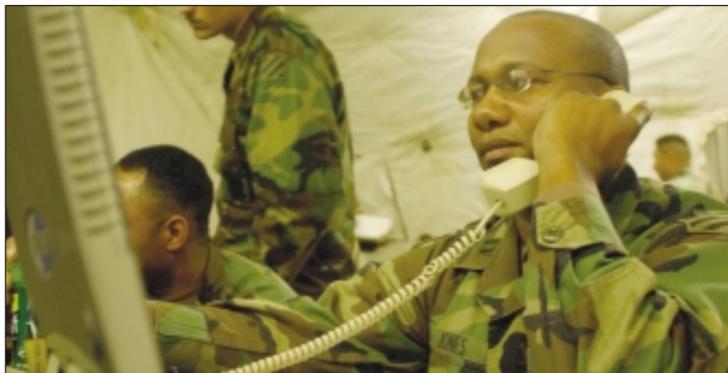
"The key to the training is its audience isn't the people in the center," he said. "We're all here providing a tactical scenario for the guys at the CPs to fight."

Soldiers at the Sim Center

monitor a computer-simulated battle and call in information to the command posts that would come to them from both higher and subordinate units, Champion said. As the information comes to them, they make decisions and communicate them back to the center, where those decisions are played out on the computer.

"The guys in the CP are getting reporting just like they would on the ground in Iraq," he said. "They take their (field standard operating procedures) and send

See SIM CENTER, Page 7A



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Capt. Ruel Jones, DTAC battle captain, monitors battlefield information during the 3rd Inf. Div.'s CPX Tuesday.

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 53°	Low 38°
SAT	High 62°	Low 50°
SUN	High 74°	Low 52°

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Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Jim Schatz, manager of military programs, fires the XM8 during a demonstration for a group of Soldiers. The XM8 will cost 30 percent less than current weapons.



Col. Robert L. Caslen, assistant division commander (maneuver), fires at targets down down ranger using the XM8.

INFANTRY

from page 1A

without having to get out to fire.

"We are also working on individual weapons," Smith said. "You can configure the XM8 from a compact with a 9.5-inch barrel to a standard weapon that has a 12-inch barrel. Then up to a sharpshooter weapon which has a 20 inch-barrel."

"All of this can be done by the Soldier. You can change any of the butt stocks out, barrels out, add a grenade launcher and you don't lose your zero," he said.

The XM8 is 30 percent lighter than the current weapon and will last two to three times longer,

Smith said.

He added, It will take 70 percent less time to clean and will cost 30 percent less than the current weapons.

"We have world-class Soldiers that deserve world class weapons and that is what we are going to do," he said.

Caslen added, "We have to get a soldier more familiar with his weapon more often. Every Soldier regardless of his (military occupation specialty) needs to be comfortable with his weapon. And that he can acquire targets, engage targets and kill targets."



Schatz shows a group of Soldiers a 100-round magazine that can be used with the XM8. The XM8 will require 70 percent less cleaning time than current weapons and will last two to three times longer.



Dave Steimke, employee of General Dynamics, fires the XM312 .50 caliber machine gun.



Kurt Emerson, employee of General Dynamics, gets a bolt ready to change out of the XM307 in order to make it an XM12.

DTAC Fire Support Element keeps tabs on battle

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

When the battle's moving, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) division tactical operations center's Fire Support Element is watching.

FSE Soldiers' job during the division command post exercise currently underway at Evans Army Airfield is to track troop and artillery movement throughout simulated battles, according to Spc. David Westbrook, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery.

They do this with the help of maps and other tracking systems, and do fire missions using the advanced field artillery tactical data system.

"The division main receives a fire mission and sends it to us for clearance; we clear it on our maps and then send it up to the DIVARTY fire control element," he said.

"Our mission is to coordinate and execute indirect fire for the division," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Seth, HHB, DIVARTY non-commissioned officer in charge of the DTAC FSE. "We clear fire to prevent fratricide, and monitor brigade action on the ground."

"When brigades are moving, that's when



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Pvt. 2 Joseph Waterman, an FSE forward observer, tracks battle artillery in the DTAC during the division CPX Tuesday at Evans Army Airfield.

we're the busiest," Westbrook said. "We want to make sure no one's firing artillery in a no-firing area, or anywhere we have our troops."

During the CPX, the FSE is concentrating on training and integrating new personnel into the section, as well as sustain-

ing and developing the skills and methods they already have, Seth said.

"There are only two of us here who worked at this level during Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said. "There are a lot of new people ... when we work together for a while and get all the personality issues

worked out, we work more effectively as a team."

Westbrook, who has been doing his job in the FSE for three years, said the CPX would be a good chance for newer Soldiers to learn "the way we do things."

"It'll teach them the battle speed ... the way things have to be done," he said. "If you do enough, you'll be prepared; the more you practice, the better you are."

In the DTAC, the FSE works with other division elements to exchange and organize information about the battle.

For instance, Seth said, "(Intelligence) passes us spot reports, we pass them on up ... we share information. We're doing really well with that on this exercise."

Seth said training objectives for the CPX were to establish the FSE cell, establish connectivity with the Army battlefield control system, and pass information between the other DTAC sections.

"We hope to be better understanding of what different systems can provide," he said.

All in all, Seth said he thought the CPX experience would be beneficial to his Soldiers.

"By the time we get out of here, we'll be a much closer team," he said.

Field hygiene keeps Soldiers healthy at CPX

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

The history of some of the Army's most famous units is spotted with tales of entire companies being struck ill in the midst of battle. Merrill's Marauders often cut the seats from their pants because they were sick so often. These scenarios are all preventable if proper field hygiene protocol is followed.

Soldiers participating in this week's Command Post Exercise on Evans Army Airfield should be prepared for wet weather and below-freezing temperatures at night.

"On a recent field exercise, it was raining and cold, and several Soldiers wound up getting sick with colds," said Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd

Infantry Division (Mechanized) Commander Capt. Bill Papanastasiou. "Proper clothing and cleanliness is a serious force protection issue. An educated sanitation team aware of the regulations is a unit's first line of defense."

3rd Inf. Div. Surgeon Lt. Col. Gini Yates agreed, "Some of the most common preventable injuries in the field happen when Soldiers don't dress properly for conditions."

According to Army Field Manual 21-10, Soldiers should wear clothing in loose layers and avoid tight clothing, including tight underwear to ensure proper circulation. Also, headgear should be worn to prevent body heat loss. The body loses large amounts of heat through the head. Due to the many articles of

clothing making up Army uniforms, the Soldier's first consideration should be to wear the clothing his commander and leaders direct according to the manual.

Another preventable casualty inducer is disease. Disease can be easily spread by not washing hands after using the latrine or before eating. The number one cause of non-battle injuries during Operation Iraqi Freedom was diarrhea caused by improper sanitation, according to Yates.

"Good hand washing is the best thing you can do to prevent the spread of disease," he explained. "Hand to mouth infections are the most common kind."

Hand washing stations are set up next to latrines and in front of the mess tents during the CPX and other field exercises.



VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Marne Six Sends

Division runs on information, not rumors

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Is the division deploying to Iraq - if so when?

Rumors aren't healthy for the team, so I want to address some of the rumors concerning redeploying to Iraq that are going around our units and community!

Recently, the Army G3 noted in a public forum that the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) would go back to Operation Iraqi Freedom with a new Aviation Brigade configuration. The division has received a verbal warning

order for deployment in support of OIF3. OIF3 is next year's deployment however if the situation in theater remains unchanged the deployment is expected to be no earlier than November 2004. But, as we all know, if the situation turns bad we could be directed to go anywhere at anytime.

Currently, the 1st Cavalry Division is finishing its deployment to Iraq to assume duties in OIF2. We anticipated that their deployment will last a year. They will have to be replaced. If the Marne Team is given the order to

deploy and relieve an OIF unit we could expect to get the mission in early 2005 again assuming the situation remains unchanged.

We have no specified date or specific instructions because no operations order or warning order has been sent to us. This is no different from what we have discussed during visits to units, at Marne call and in division briefings.

Our mission is still to reorganize the division and be prepared to respond to any crisis anywhere in the world when we are called to do so.

We are the "ARMY'S-GO-TO-TEAM" for any contingency requirements.

I assure you that if the Marne Team Headquarters is given a warning order for deployment for any contingency mission the rest of the team to include families and communities will be notified within 24 hours so that we may all plan appropriately. Just like always train hard and spend time with family. We will know when we need to go.

Mission ... Soldiers ... Teamwork

MARNE SIX OUT

AER: what a relief for Soldiers

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

I used to ask myself why I should give my hard-earned money to Army Emergency Relief. Sure, the money went to a very good cause, that of helping my fellow Soldiers; but I was a brand-new specialist, and I didn't really want to give a piece of my little paycheck to help others who couldn't manage their little paychecks. I managed my money, by golly, and so should they. I thought I would never find myself in a situation where I would need AER's help.

Boy, was I wrong.

Shortly after the division returned from Iraq, I found myself in the admittedly enviable position of being allowed to move out of the barracks as a single specialist. Apparently space was a little tight and all the senior E-4s would be authorized basic allowance for housing if they could get a lease and move off post. I took my company up on the offer and went and got a lease signed.

I'm no rookie to living on my own. I leased a number of apartments before I came into the Army. But somehow I forgot one of the most

Commentary

important parts of obtaining a lease: the deposit. Altogether, the company that was going to lease a house to me wanted about \$800 before they would sign it over to me.

Gee, I thought. Where am I going to come up with \$800 to put down so I can lease this place and get my BAH? I knew once the BAH was approved, it would be no problem to pay the deposit, but I needed the money right then.

So, dear reader, you may find yourself wondering where I went to get the money. Well, if you've read the whole story to this point, you would realize that what we're talking about is AER loans. So, as you can probably now ascertain, I went to the AER office with my hat in my hand, wondering how things had come to this. The good people at AER made sure I got the money I needed to secure a lease and I moved off post. But that

wasn't the end of my AER journey.

Unfortunately, through the vagaries of paperwork, it took a little while for my BAH to be approved. In fact, it's taken about four months. It was recently approved, and I'm in good shape now, but things were thin for a while, and in early February I found myself at AER again. This time around, I was so broke I had to pawn the aforementioned hat, but they helped out anyway when I needed to pay the rent.

After spending two years giving money to AER and wondering why I was doing it, two trips to the well have helped me realize that it doesn't matter how good you think you are with your money. We all need a little help some times, for a variety of reasons.

But beyond the fact that Soldiers should give to AER because they may one day need some aid themselves, they should do it because it's the right thing to do. Just as Soldiers look out for their buddy when we're down-range, we should look out for our buddies when we're at home. So when your unit comes to you asking you to put just a little aside each month for AER, do the right thing.



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What is a way to practice driving safety?



"Cell phones are a big issue; I think they should be banned in cars."

Shantel Bishop
Military dependent
AAFES employee



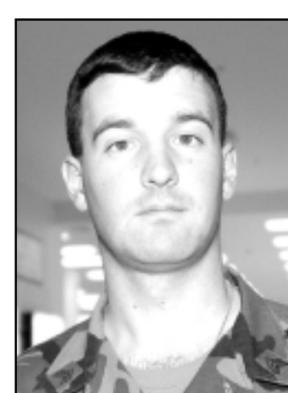
"When you're taking a long trip, get plenty of rest, and alternate driving with friends."

Spc. Pedro Kim
B Co., 3/7 Inf.



"Don't drink."

Spc. Michael Shane Brooks
HHC, 1/64 Armor



"Driver safety is paramount, one way to be safe is to get plenty of rest before driving."

Sgt. Luke M. Sebb
A Co., 103rd MI



"Be observant; don't be distracted by cell phones or conversation."

Sgt. Rasheed A. Hamdan
A Co., 103rd MI



"Wear seatbelts; I got busted by my first sergeant for not wearing one."

Pvt. 2 David R. Evans
C Troop, 1st Cav.

BUSTER'S BATTERY



Corrections

- In a page 1C story in the Feb. 19 issue of *The Frontline*, the price for the Student Transition and Recovery program was incorrectly stated as \$21 per day. The actual price is \$2 per day.
- In a 2C photo caption in the Feb. 19 issue of *The Frontline*, the business hours for Monday and Wednesday at the Hunter Army Airfield were incorrect. The actual hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Questions and answers from the Fort Stewart town hall meeting

Open Forum

Q: Has the issue for care for the behavioral needs of children been addressed?

A: Winn commander Col. Joe Barthel answered that Winn has been working with Humana on the child psychology need. He is working on getting the national childcare contract modified. Many child psychologists won't take Tricare. Frasier Mental Health in Hinesville is recruiting a child psychologist to the area. He has authorized the hiring of a child psychologist, a GS hire.

Q: What is the status of establishing the STAR program at Diamond and Brittin Elementary Schools?

A: Dr. Joseph Guiendon, post superintendent of schools, stated that he has talked with the local superintendent. He does not know how many children in the STAR Program that the Fort Stewart System would have. Currently, there is one behavioral teacher with several aides for eight children.

Q: What is being done to prevent the problems with juveniles on Marne Terrace? I gave Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Garcia the names of some of the children.

A: Maj. Thomas Byrd, 3rd Military Police Battalion executive officer, stated that increased patrols in that area have been done. The MPs have not seen vandalism. He will get the names of the names of the children that you had given to Command Sgt. Maj. Garcia.

Q: Why is it that when you get your child's IDP, there is no follow-up being done by Diamond and Brittin?

A: There have been resources allotted, and improvement in the follow-up will be seen in time.

Lucia Braxton, of Army Community Service announced that ACS has parenting classes whether mandated or directed and other programs for parenting from newborn on up. She also encourages parents to use the Youth Services as an outlet for these children.

Q: What is being done when there are eight children ganging up on one child? The other day 13 to 18 year old boys beat up a 10 year boy at the playground on Davis by Diamond. MPs are there with the children. There is also a problem with loud music.

A: Byrd answered that there is a policy letter on children. Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander, commented that he is concerned with children on post. He has a child with an IDP and he knows how difficult it is. He has testified before Congress on mobilization issues and medical holds. And one concern that he testified and was echoed by the Surgeon General is that family members are being pushed out of the system. He told Congress that he feels that stress. He asked for help with psychologists which was The Surgeon General echoed. Recruitment is hard for these professionals. There was an EFMP Empowerment Seminar Feb. 18 where parents learned to become an advocate for the children. Kidd also stated that he feels that Barthel is particular about hiring the best psychologists.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Dena Swartz, vice mayor of Marne Terrace, addresses the panel at the Town Hall Meeting Feb. 5.

Q: I live at the corner of Bundy & 18th Street with the playgrounds in my backyard. There is a need for a dumpster there and shortly, the playground will have more unit parties held there which means for trash and debris.

A: Col. Mike Biering, Department of Public Works commander, said the DPW can place a dumpster there.

Q: Can speed bumps be placed to deter speeders on Bundy and Strong Streets?

A: Byrd will look into speed bumps, but he will increase patrols in that area.

Q: What are the hours for the express lunch at the Club?

A: The express lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Q: What is the policy At PX for Family Readiness Group fundraisers?

A: Nonamaker stated that AAFES Corporation has discouraged, but approval can be given with a letter to request the fund raiser be submitted.

Beverly Childs stated that the FRG must gain approval from Morale Welfare Recreation, Lynne Burns, 767-5138.

Q: Is there a policy in place on control burning which a health hazard for some family members?

A: Kidd answered that Fort Stewart has 300,000 acres. To prevent wild fires the installation conducts control burning. Recently, in Area B5 and A-18 which is directly around housing, there was a problem due to change in weather and smoke did not dissipate due to the weather conditions and the contractor was burning the cleared area for the new housing area. That combination created more smoke than normal. A policy has been put in place to never burn near more than one housing area at a time. He stated that 15th street area housing will still have more control burning to be conducted.

Biering stated that until further notice no more

burning in the housing areas will be conducted. He added that there have been zero lost training days due to wildfires, because of the controlled burning program.

Kidd added that the control burning helps endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, as well.

Q: Is GMH responsible for yard cleanup?

A: Hansen answered that GMH does take care of the common areas. He added that GMH has been the on the installation for 90 Days and is currently reevaluating the magnitude of the housing area and doing some reorganization. He stated that Deloach is taking care of the trash and has declared war on newspaper. If we have missed your area, please give us a call or log onto the internet: at www.southernchoice.com to submit a work order.

Q: Could a community board be placed near the PX?

A: Kidd answered that is a good idea. He stated that the sign at the front gate costs \$100,000, but he will look at placing a sign near the PX and Corkan Gym.

ANNOUNCEMENT; Mr. Dave Smith, School Liaison Officer, stated that he had handouts on the small table at the back of the room. On April 24, 8 a.m. to noon, at Diamond Elementary, his office is working a Parent Academy that will provide an array of classes for parents. There will be free childcare and free meals. He asked for the survey to be completed for any classes that the community would like to have conducted. He announced that Bradwell and Liberty High Schools have the MCEC Interactive Counseling Center where parents and children can get help in the transitioning to a new school.

Q: Lt. Col. Wilfred Clayton questioned if there had been any thought of having the installation work with the City of Hinesville to coordinate the paving of Frank Cochran at Gate 4. While Gate 4 is closed for construction, Clayton suggested the City of Hinesville pave their side at the same time.

A: The long range plan is to make Frank Cochran Drive four lanes, but Frank Cochran will not close on the installation side.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Larry Cutchen of MWR/Recreation announced that movie theater tickets are on sale at the Leisure Center for \$5.75 at the Regal Cinema at the Mall and there is a flyer on the upcoming Women in the Outdoor Event where ladies can learn about various outdoor activities, such as shooting a turkey handgun, canoeing, outdoor photography, etc. He stated that the Leisure Travel has cruises that depart from Jacksonville or Miami. The Travel Center can save you money on a cruise. He asked that everyone spread the word that 20-25 summer lifeguards are needed. Individuals must be at least 16 years of age and MWR will provide the training. If anyone is interested, contact Andy Arrington at 767-3034.

Army Management Staff College visits Stewart

Dina McKain

Media Relations Chief

Have you ever wondered how your job relates to the National Security Strategy? That's an easy question to answer if you wear a military uniform to work everyday, but what about civilian workers? How do our jobs fit into making the Army successful as a whole?

Whether you are in Public Affairs, Resource Management, or Contracting you can learn how you make an impact on the Soldiers and families you serve by attending the Army Management Staff College's Sustaining Base Leadership and Management program.

SBLM is professional development training for civilian workers serving in grades General Schedule-12 through GS-14 (GS-11s and 15s by exception). The course prepares the next generation of leaders to guide the Army's sustaining base organizations and programs to get Soldiers and their supplies and equipment to the battlefield; sustains them while they are there; gets them home again after the conflict has ended; and ensures the self-sufficiency of their families while they are away.

Recent graduates of the program are keenly aware of the SBLM training impact in today's world. Installation Training and Development Specialist, Beverly Fordham was enrolled in the non-resident program

from August 2002 through July 2003. "What Fort Stewart was doing (during the deployment and war) was what was being shown on the nightly news, it was very real," she said.

So much so that Fort Stewart was used as a model during the class said Bonnie Crook, chief of the Business Management Office, Directorate of Public Works. "The nightly news became a frequent topic of discussion," she said.

"Students working in other parts of the Army could not relate to what was happening [here] because they had no visibility on what it's like at an installation where the end user is," she added.

"(SBLM) opened my eyes to how policies and decisions are made, and how that inter-relates to the National Security Strategy," according to Wava T. Johnson, Installation Maintenance Representative for the Army Materiel Command here. He graduated from the course April 2003.

The SBLM program encompasses the breadth of the Army and teaches developing leaders "life cycle management" of the Army, according to Crook.

"We enable the Army to fight and win wars," Fordham said. "(SBLM) teaches you that we are all working together for the common end," she said. "Civilians perform the tasks that the military is unable or not required to do like the support functions," she added.

SBLM develops the ability to better support sustaining base activities like the

"(SBLM) opened my eyes to how policies and decisions are made and how that inter-relates to the National Security Strategy."

Wava T. Johnson
Installation Maintenance
Representative

effectively manage those installation programs.

"A lot of people forget why we're here," said Cynthia Arnold, 2001 graduate, and budget analyst in the Installation Resource Management Office. "We're here for the military and we directly impact the Soldier on the battlefield," she concluded.

Stephen Kandul, Director of Contracting, clearly saw the benefits of his

Directorate of Logistics (gets needed supplies and equipment to Soldiers), the Directorate of Plans and Training Management (provides ranges and training to Soldiers), or the Directorate of Information Management (provides and maintains installation automation systems), and

SBLM training, and says he literally started using the skills learned immediately. "I was offered the DOC job while I was still at AMSC," he said. "We did a study on whether to keep Hunter Army Airfield as part of Fort Stewart, and if we did, how could we meet our budget," he added.

As a manager, Kandul looks for SBLM training on a potential employee's resumes. "I look for SBLM experience because it distinguishes a candidate that is willing to commit to the installation and not just a job," he said.

SBLM is fast-paced and challenging. It brings people together from all around the Army and the world. It is academically challenging and equivalent to the military's Command and General Staff College — without the tactics, according to Arnold.

"Make sure you brush up on your English and writing skills," she said. "Critical thinking is also required." But that should not hold anyone back from attending the course. "You know more than you think you know," she said, concluding that SBLM was a "wonderful experience."

For those interested in increasing their promotion potential and broadening their knowledge base AMSC is making a rare visit to Fort Stewart March 4 to discuss the SBLM program and other professional development courses offered at the college for military and civilians. Contact Debbie Kelly at 767-8358 to reserve your seat.

Georgia bill 157 to protect consumers from payday loans

Georgia Watch

Special to The Frontline

In a significant step toward protecting the consumer from unscrupulous payday lenders, the state House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted in favor of state bill 157 Feb 12.

"This bill clearly states that illegal payday lenders can play by the rules or get out of Georgia. It would give Georgia consumers and prosecutors the tools to fight back against payday loan sharks," said Allison Kelly director of Georgia Watch, the state's advocacy and education organization.

Contrary to critics' exaggerated

rhetoric, S.B. 157 would not force businesses that are willing to play by the rules to close shop. Instead, it would establish much-needed consumer protections and serve as a warning to illegal payday lenders who want to continue bilking Georgia's working poor by skirting state law.

The payday-lending agencies in Georgia have been able to skirt state law by renting bank charters, which the bill will now prevent, said Lt. Col. Russ H. Putnam Jr. assistant staff judge advocate at Fort Stewart.

"State Bill 157 will also cause many of the payday companies outside of Fort Stewart to place a

cap on the amount of APR to no more than 60 percent," Putnam said.

Loan agencies have made a living off of Soldiers and anyone needing "easy money." Easy money can have a catch though, which can come in the form of high interest some times higher than 300 percent annual percentage rates, Putnam said.

The high fees often generated by frequent renewals lead to borrowers' paying more than they owe in principal, he said.

"A typical fee for a two-week payday loan of \$100 is about \$15 dollars; that translates into an APR of 390 percent," Putnam

explained.

"Georgia lawmakers stood up for consumers by passing the bill that would hit illegal payday lenders where it hurt and stop them from ripping off the state's military personnel, elderly and working families," Kelly said.

Illegal payday lenders in the state have targeted military personnel stationed in Georgia, senior citizens, single parents and minority communities. Payday lenders let borrowers use their paychecks as collateral and charge borrowers illegal interest rates that force them to pay back as much as 10 times the amount of the original loan.

This bill will help protect Soldiers by keeping them from sliding in over their heads and make them aware that some businesses are out there that make a living off of loans that get bigger the more people borrow, Putnam said.

The state senate will now take up S.B. 157 to consider strengthening and approving it to protect consumers and drive illegal payday lending out of Georgia.

The days appear to be numbered for more than 2,000 payday-lending outlets in Georgia.

Editor's note: Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch, Frontline Staff Writer, contributed to this article.

LIVE FIRE

from page 1A

whatever happens at any time," Floyd explained.

In addition to including different types of targets in the training, 3/69 found another way to spice up the day at the range — invite an audience.

"We bussed in as many of the Soldiers' families as wanted to come out," Madden said.

"It's all interesting," said Janine Deliberti, wife of Staff Sgt. Michael Deliberti. "It's a good idea ... for the kids to be able to come out and see what daddy does, and why he's so deaf every night when he comes home!"

Families were given seats in bleachers facing down range, directly behind the tanks bearing their husbands and fathers, and issued earplugs to protect their eardrums from the up-close-and-personal booming of the tanks' live fire.

"You get to see the targets, see exactly what they'd be doing if they went to war," said Charity Thomas, wife of Sgt. Andy Thomas, a 3rd Plt., C Co., 3/69 gunner. "It's really good for our little girl, because she knows her daddy will be safe."

According to Thomas, Family Readiness Group leaders organized the trip out to the tank range for families to be able to see their Soldiers at work.

"We wanted to support him and what he does," she said.

By midday, the bleachers were filled.

"We're just happy to be here to see our husbands and for our kids to see their dads," Deliberti said.

"It's really loud, but really interesting," Thomas added with a smile.

As for the successfulness of the training, Floyd said confidently, "We're ready to go."



Pfc. Emily J. Daniel

(Above) Nicole Smith covers her 11-month-old son Thomas' ears from the loud blast of tanks firing during 3/69's table 12 training Feb. 18.

(Left) Children of 3/69 Soldiers line up near the bleachers to watch their fathers in action during the unit's table 12 live-fire Feb. 18.

SIM CENTER

from page 1A

their commands back to the field."

Several computer systems allow those in the command posts to train from the team to the corps level, according to Champion.

Champion said that while the Sim Center does not add much to the training, it allows the staff to hone its skills at a fraction of the cost of an exercise involving real maneuver elements.

"It saves time and money for the division's brigades and battalions," he said.

The division is using its second CPX to train new staff that have arrived since the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to Claggett, who is helping run the battle at the Sim Center. Lessons learned during the war and in other training are being applied as the division's new staff comes together.

"We've had a lot of changes in the staff and it's our first

opportunity to go out in the field as a staff. There's a lot of team-building going on, but we're trying to apply lessons learned in OIF and in training to replicated an operational environment."

Claggett said that the tempo of the exercise has been increased since the first CPX.

"The training cycle is constant, so this is simply a continuation (of December's CPX)," he said. "We're trying to increase the tempo as well as the problems they'll be facing. By increasing the tempo, we'll get ourselves into top warfighting shape. The brigades have rotations to the National Training Center they train up to. This is our NTC cycle."

One major change since the last CPX is the division's ongoing reorganization, Claggett said. The exercise is an opportunity for the division staff to get used to exercising command and control with more brigades.

Claggett said the Sim Center is a good tool to use in the training because it allows the division to exercise command and control from the bottom up and the top down.

"The computers allow the staff to integrate everything to make decisions," he said. "From the Sim Center, we're able to send them orders from higher and information from lower to make it as realistic as possible."

Dave Henderson, a systems technician at the Sim Center, said that for those working in the command posts, there is little difference between the exercise and real world situations.

"If you observe one of the cells during the war game, you see the same levels of stress and excitement you'd see during Iraqi Freedom," he said. "They get into it. They may come in and say it's just a simulation, but it doesn't take them long to warm to their roles."

Social workers help families deal with deployments

Laurie Kemp

Winn Army Community Hospital

As part of the Department of Defense's Deployment Cycle Support program, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield social workers have provided pre- and post-deployment support to Soldiers and families since the first 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) troops returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom in June.

And while the tradition of support continues, new players have been added.

Under a new healthcare program, the Deployment Cycle Support Social Work Care Management Program, a team of four licensed clinical social workers are now solely dedicated to providing support for Soldiers and families with concerns related to OIF or Operation Enduring Freedom deployments.

These dedicated social workers are called Care Managers and will be available to Soldiers and families for the next three years.

"We need to be able to support Soldiers and families who have ... deployment concerns," said Lt. Col. Joseph Bird, chief of Social Work Services at Winn Army Community Hospital.

This program is aimed at decreasing

difficulties Soldiers and families may be experiencing throughout the deployment cycle.

The deployment cycle encompasses pre- and post-deployment. The pre-deployment phase is spent in preparation for the deployment and the post-deployment phase is spent readjusting after the deployment. Soldiers have the opportunity to talk to a care manager and undergo a healthcare assessment during each phase.

"One aspect of the Deployment Cycle Support Program is helping Soldiers resolve conflicts before and immediately following deploy-

ments, ideally, before Soldiers take block leave," Bird said.

According to Meryl DeLena, LCSW, care manager, it is important for Soldiers and families to have an opportunity to rectify concerns before and after a deployment.

In the pre-deployment phase, DeLena said, Care Managers are able to help Soldiers and families address concerns, such as getting household affairs in order. In the post-deployment phase, the goal is to help Soldiers normalize what has happened and to give guidance on what to expect during the adjustment peri-

od.

"Soldiers get back and are literally trying to adjust from a war zone to civilian life," she said.

Two examples of concerns Soldiers have are difficulty sleeping and being easily startled. "It's just too quiet here. Some Soldiers have told me they need to put on a war movie just to fall asleep," DeLena said.

DeLena said everyone adjusts at their own pace and the only time to be concerned is if the problem affects work or home life.

Care Managers like DeLena address a variety of Soldier and family concerns ranging from marital problems to financial to feelings of anxiety or depression to substance abuse.

"Often times, if a problem isn't addressed right away, the Soldier will go back to the unit, try to deal with it alone and the problem will escalate before the Soldier knows what to do," Bird said. "The Deployment Cycle Support Care Manager Program allows a Soldier's problem to be addressed immediately."

To speak with a care manager or other social worker, call the Fort Stewart Social Work Services center at 370-6779 or Hunter's Social Work Services center at 352-5236.



Penalties will be enforced for illegal dumping

Directorate of Public Works

Environmental & Natural Resources Division

Each year Conservation Law Enforcement Agents from Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's Directorate of Public Works' Environmental & Natural Resources Division investigate numerous illegal dumping incidents within the boundaries of both installations, and in some cases, they issue citations. Findings related to these investigations indicate that both military and civilian personnel are responsible for dumping and abandoning large quantities of unsightly waste on Stewart and Hunter. The refuse found includes common household

and yard wastes, industrial wastes, old tires, and even furniture and household appliances.

Illegal dumping damages our environment and has a negative impact on the quality of the outdoor experience of our Soldiers, as well as those who hunt, fish, and participate in other recreation activities on the Installations, legally utilizing Stewart and Hunter's bountiful natural resources.

For these reasons, CLE Agents strictly enforce dumping laws and currently patrol all areas on Stewart and Hunter to curtail illegal dumping on both Installations. Violators risk being prosecuted for breaking numerous state laws pertaining

"Illegal dumping damages our environment and has a negative impact on the quality of outdoor experience."

Directorate of Public Works

to illegal dumping. The penalties for violating these laws and regulations carry mandatory fines designed to deter lawbreakers from illegal dumping. If apprehended, violators will be charged according to the cur-

rent state law for defying the following:

- Statute 16-7-43 of the Official Code of Georgia makes it unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw, leave or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of litter on any public or private property in this state or in any waters in this state.

- Statute 16-7-52 of the Official Code of Georgia makes it unlawful for any person to dump waste unless authorized to do so by law or by a duly issued permit in or on any public or private lands except in areas lawfully provided for such dumping.

Violating either of these laws

is a misdemeanor criminal offense and can carry a fine as high as \$1,200. If the weight of the waste dumped is more than 500 pounds or is more than 100 cubic feet in volume and is the second offense for the same violator, the violator may be subject to imprisonment and may be fined up to \$25,000.

Personnel are urged to use proper disposal methods for all discarded materials and to recycle whenever possible. To report illegal dumping on the installation, please contact a member of the CLE staff at 767-2353/7577. For more information on proper disposal and recycling, please contact David Hodges or Carla Goodwin at 767-2010.

Visit on line at www.stewart.army.mil

Army requests termination of Comanche helicopters

Joe Burlas

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — The Army plans to cancel further research, development and planned purchases of the RAH-66 Comanche stealth helicopter.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told the Pentagon press corps late Feb. 23 the Army's Comanche termination recommendation to Congress is about getting the most bang for the buck for Army aviation.

"We have examined closely our resourcing plans for aviation and concluded that some of the capabilities those funds would provide are no longer consistent with the changed operating environment," Brownlee said.

"From a purely business standpoint, it makes a lot more sense to upgrade the capabilities of the current Army aircraft fleet to meet the demands of the contemporary operating environment with the \$14 billion currently slated for the Comanche program versus getting the 121 Comanche helicopters designed for a different environment and a different enemy than the ones the Army faces today," Schoomaker said.

That \$14 billion represents about 40 percent of the planned Army aviation budget through fiscal year 2011.

The decision to cancel the Comanche program stems from one of Schoomaker's early directives to take a close look at Army aviation to determine how it should transform to best meet today's and tomorrow's challenges on the battlefield. The six-month study that ensued recently concluded.

Standardizing what comprises an aviation brigade was one of the study's recommendations.

There are currently seven different types of aviation

brigades in the Army today. That standardization includes the Army Reserve and National Guard. The reserve component has dozens of 1970s airframes like the UH-1 utility and AH-1 attack helicopters that had been phased out of the active Army more than a decade ago.

Given how reserve-component units have been tasked to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom



The RAH-66 Comanche Stealth Helicopter

in the past two years, they should be 'plug-and-play' with their active-Army counterparts — but they are mostly not due in large part to equipment differences, said Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) aviation brigade, recently back from Iraq, will be the first brigade to reset under the standardization plan. The future Army aviation brigades will have two battalions of 24 Apache attack helicopters each; a battalion of 30 Black Hawk helicopters; a utility battalion with eight light utility, 12 Chinook heavy utility and 12 Black Hawk helicopters and a number of unmanned aerial vehicles, for reconnaissance and possibly combat; and a maintenance battalion.

Specials found all through the Commissary aisles in March

Defense Commissary Agency

Special to The Frontline

Another yummy month of chocolate has arrived:

This month spring has sprung, and so has the commissary's great assortment of sweet treats, whether you're celebrating Easter or just the official end of winter! Whether you're looking for a single chocolate gift for a special person or you're all set to fill your shopping cart with sacks of all kinds of sweets, let the commissary be your "Chocolate Central" and savor the savings,

too.

St. Patrick's Day doesn't have to mean corned beef:

If corned beef and cabbage doesn't ring your bell, then just enjoy the "wearin' o' the green" and choose a different meat entree. Thanks to your commissary, you have meat selections that match your tastes and your budget!

If you need a special cut or quantity, let us know and we'll take care of you. That's your commissary, providing both service AND savings.

O.K., it's spring, but think FROZEN just

a little longer!

March brings special excitement to commissary customers around the world as Frozen Food Month makes its 20th annual debut with a month-long "Slam Dunk Savings/Fill Your Freezer" sale!

Check out special promotions and sale prices throughout March.

You belong to best 'club' of all:

Many grocery stores offer "savings cards" customers show at checkout to save on specials offered that week. Don't you wish commissaries had a savings card, too? Well, they do! Your passport to savings is

your identification card. Better yet, you save on every product in the store, not just "loss leaders" offered only to lure you into a store.

Commissaries sell at cost, with no profit, saving you 30 percent or more over retail grocery operations. Some departments offer savings considerably higher than that average, however, such as meat and produce.

Savings for a family of four shopping consistently at their commissary is estimated to be at least \$2,400. The "commissary club" tops the list!

American Legion: Honoring 3ID heroes

Special to The Frontline

The 3rd Military Police Battalion commander and 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) provost marshal will help Post 27 pay tribute to the 44 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom March 20 at the American Legion Post 27 3rd Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at JF Gregory Park in Richmond Hill.

Lt. Col. John M. "Mack" Huey is a native of Tupelo, Miss., a military police officer commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Mississippi, "Ole Miss" in 1982, currently

serving as the commander of the 3rd MP Battalion, division and installation provost marshal and director of public safety at Fort Stewart. During this assignment he deployed and served as the provost marshal for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. to coincide with the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. Post 27 annually honors members of the military who have served our Nation in moving ceremony that highlights their sacrifices for us. Last year Post 27 paid tribute the Columbia Astronauts of STS-107.

The Ceremony is free of charge to the

public and is preceded by The Posts 3rd Annual Bottomless Bowl of Chili Cook-off Fund Raiser. Admission is \$5.00 per person (Children under 12 are Free) Tickets will be available to the public at the Richmond Hill Kroger March 5 through 7 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or can be purchased by sending a check or Money Order to The American Legion Post 27, Attn: Chili Tickets, PO Box 2767, Richmond Hill, Ga. 31324. You can also purchase them on the Web through www.galegionpost27.org Click the donation Button and specify Chili Tickets in the Program Box. This is a secure connection with Pay Pal.



Gate duty serious business for MPs, ICDC security team

Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

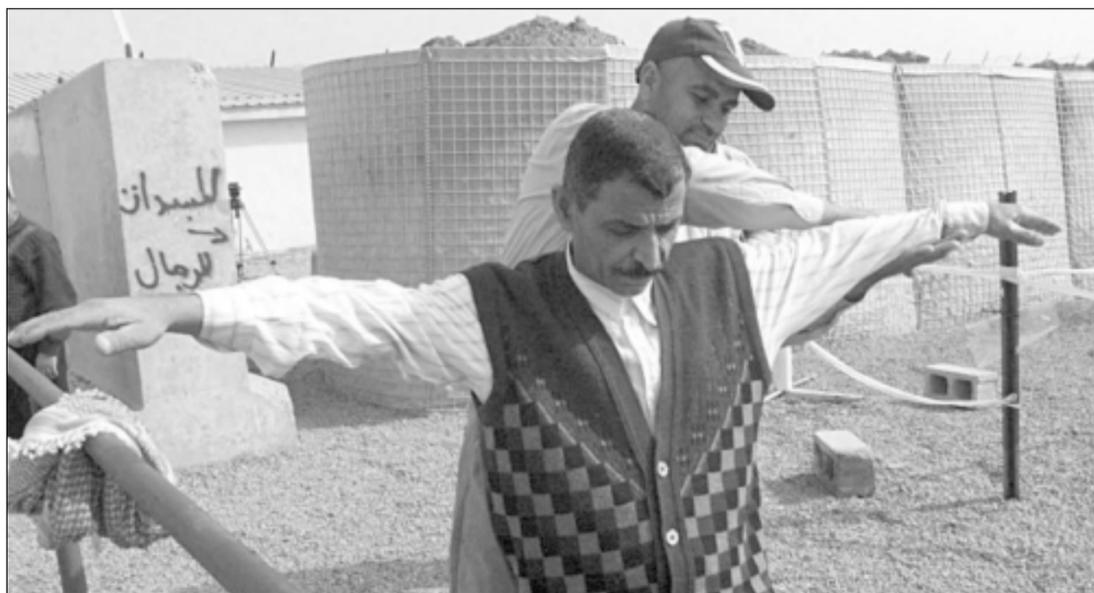
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Protecting an entire military post from enemy attack is a job that military police officers from the 143rd Military Police Company and their Iraqi Civil Defense Corps colleagues take very seriously.

The 143rd, an Army National Guard unit from Hartford, Conn., part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, is responsible for a gate to Forward Operating Base Falcon, home of 1st Armored Division Artillery. With the help of some fellow soldiers from the ICDC, they screen all incoming vehicles and personnel for possible threats to the safety of the post.

"We are maintaining overall security for this post," said Sgt. Kevin Arrojado, team leader with 1st Platoon, 143rd MP Company. "With the present threat of (improvised explosive devices), car bombs and overall terrorist attacks, our presence is absolutely necessary."

The gate is a multilayered defense with high-walled perimeters and lookout towers to deter any threat, said Arrojado.



Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldier searches workman before allowing him to pass through a gate at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad.

Like any military fortification, however, the gate relies heavily on manpower — U.S. and Iraqi manpower.

"We have several lines of defense here at the gate, and the ICDC personnel here are American-trained to help us out

with screenings and traffic control," said Arrojado. "These ICDC (soldiers) are professional and do an excellent job out here."

The presence of ICDC service members is surprising to many Iraqis who enter through the gate and (they) stand as a statement to

would-be attackers and members of the community, said Spc. Armando Bettini, military policeman with the 143rd.

"Their presence shows the Iraqis that we are serious about integrating Iraqis into the country's security," said Bettini.

"Development, coexistence and training with ICDC personnel show Iraqis that we are not leaving until our mission is complete."

It also shows that the Iraqis are taking a greater role in their country's security.

As they enter the gate, drivers are ordered to slow their vehicle and prepare to be searched. Signs written in English and Arabic spell out the consequences of ignoring orders from gate personnel or for trying to run through or avoid the checkpoint.

All "pat-down" searches are performed by ICDC servicemen under the MPs' supervision.

Bettini said that all security searches are conducted with the safety of FOB Falcon's Soldiers' safety in mind, allowing the Soldiers to relax in their living areas during and after carrying out their daily activities.

"We keep the FOB safe so troops can feel safe in a secure environment," said Bettini.

Luckily, the gate has not had any direct-attack incidents under the 143rd, said Arrojado, but the MPs and ICDC soldiers are always alert, prepared and ready for any challenge.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private 2, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, stopping on the roadway
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 26-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane, fleeing/attempt to elude officer
- **Location:** Springfield

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Failure to exercise due care
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Cruelty to children
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charge:** Financial transaction card fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving while license revoked, weaving over roadway
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Expired tag, no drivers license on person, no insurance
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 30-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 70/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** 1st Lieutenant, 26-year-old male, 3rd Brigade
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, open container, crossing median
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 28-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Florence, Ala.

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old female, Division Artillery
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Artillery

- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Simple assault on military or civilian law enforcer, disrespect to a NCO/PO, failure to obey traffic control device, failure to wear seatbelt
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** 1st Sergeant, 45-year-old male, Aviation Brigade

- **Charges:** Improper parking, improper left turn
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Miami, Fla.

- **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Forgery, larceny of private funds, larceny of private property
- **Location:** Richmond Hill

- **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Discharge gun near public street, misdemeanor reckless conduct
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old female, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana

- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Chief Petty Officer, 55-year-old male, U. S. Coast Guard
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, less safe
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 28-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 52/35, driving while license suspended, no insurance, obstruction of an officer
- **Location:** Screven

- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 38-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, mutual affray
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 29-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Enticing a child to commit a lewd act, indecent acts upon a child
- **Location:** Allenhurst

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Paperback kits

Fort Stewart Library provides paperback kits for units, through the unit chaplains, for recreational reading during deployments, exercises and for unit day room collections. Call 767-0805 to pick up your kit.

Marne Tax Center

The Marne Tax Center will be open until April 15. The hours of operation are:

Feb. and March

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday (ending March 13)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The center is located in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. Currently, there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refund in less than seven days.

For more information call the tax center at 767-3909.

National Prayer Breakfast

This breakfast is scheduled for March 4, 7 a.m. at Club Stewart. There is no charge and tickets will be issued to unit sergeants major.

Express Lunch

Express lunch is now being served every weekday at Club Stewart in the Club Stewart Lobby from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Red Cross Instruction

The American Red Cross is asking for your assistance in the handling of emergency messages for Soldiers during National Training Center rotations. All emergency Red Cross messages will be handled by the Fort Irwin Emergency Operations Center which is currently operating with minimal staff.

For additional information, please contact Carrie Mead, Fort Stewart station manager, or Heather Conkle, command relations team leader, at 767-2197.

Hunter

Youth babysitting classes

There will be a babysitting class for ages 13 and up Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The cost for this class is \$10 and all attendees must have a CYS membership.

For more information call 352-5708/6075.

Pay day golf scramble

A pay day golf scramble is being held Friday at noon at the Hunter Golf Club. All members of Hunter and Stewart communities are eligible to compete. For more information call 352-5622.

3ID Purple Heart recipients

The Richmond Hill Chapter of the American Legion have \$5,000 yet to be claimed in their purple heart fund for Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) wounded in combat.

For more information contact John Ellis at 695-0735.

Hunter Tax Center

The Tax Center, located in Building 1279 on Neal Blvd.

(behind the Ranger PT field), is open and currently there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refund in less than seven days.

Hours of operation are:

Feb. and March

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday (ending March 13)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 352-5278.

Women's History Month

Aviation Brigade will host the Women's History Month Observance with a luncheon at Hunter on March 5, at the Hunter Club. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets for \$6.50 through Sergeant 1st Class Lisa Whithers at Hunter Garrison EOA or Sergeant 1st Class Silvia Marchan at Fort Stewart. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrissee, The Adjutant General of the Army.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Baby Basic Training

Baby Basic Training offers fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their child through hands-on training. The class is facilitated by a man and is for men only. Topics will include how to change diapers, bathe and hold an infant, what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery. The class will be held 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Social Work Services building.

For more information, call 370-6779.

Book Appointments Online

Schedule Wellness appointments online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil. Wellness appointments are routine visits to clinics such as family practice and pediatrics. First-time users must complete the one-time online registration prior to scheduling an appointment.

Parking Tickets, Towing

Beneficiaries parking in fire

lanes, as designated by a red curb or orange cones, will be ticketed or towed by the Military Police. Additional parking is available in a parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex.

Intervention Services

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments.

For more information, call 370-6349.

Tuttle Information Desk

Tuttle Army Health Clinic's new Information Desk phone number is 352-6500.

Marne TV

February 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every day of the week. Tune in to the Marne Report seven times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m.	Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m.	MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m.	Air Force News
7 a.m.	Navy News
7:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch
8 a.m.	MARNE REPORT
9 a.m.	Air Force News
9:30 a.m.	Navy News
11:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch

Noon	MARNE REPORT
1 p.m.	Air Force News
4:30 p.m.	Navy News
5 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
6 p.m.	Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m.	Air Force News
7 p.m.	Navy News
10 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
11 p.m.	Army Newswatch
11:30 p.m.	Air Force News

*Bounced checks...***Repayment may not be enough****Provost Marshal Office**

Special to The Frontline

Bouncing a check is never good, but bouncing an out-of-state check in Georgia is considered a felony. The charge for bouncing a check is known as deposit account fraud. The law on deposit account fraud for non-local checks can be an issue for Soldiers who do not realize that non-payment on a check of any amount will lead to stiff penalties.

In the event that a check is returned for insufficient funds, the merchant sends a certified letter to the subject at the address listed on the check. This certified letter informs subject that he has 10 days to pay for the check and service fee, or a warrant may be issued. This letter cannot be forwarded if subject has moved. In the event that the address listed is the unit address, the company may not sign for certified mail. That does not free the Soldier from the obligation, however. The merchant's obligation to make a legal attempt to notify the individual would have been fulfilled, even if the Soldier never saw the letter. On the 11th day, if the check still has not been paid, a warrant can be issued for the subject for the offense of deposit account fraud.

When the Military Police Civil Liaison officer is made aware of a Soldier with a warrant, he will make contact with the Soldier's unit.

The subject will be brought to the Military Police station, processed and turned over to the civil authorities from which the warrant was initiated. The subject will be further processed and required to pay for the check plus the court fees. In Liberty County, court fees for a misdemeanor are \$125. Court fees for a felony are \$155. If the check was written for a state of Georgia bank and is less than \$500, it is a misdemeanor. But over \$500, or for any amount if the check is on an out of state bank, it is a felony. The penalty for non-payment of a bounced out-of-state check is imprisonment or fine in an amount of up to \$1,000, or both.

If a subject cannot pay the full amount, he may post bond with a bails bondsman. This amount is 12 percent of the bond. If the subject posts bonds with a bails bondsman, he will be required to appear in state court for a misdemeanor offense, or in superior court for a felony offense.

Deposit account fraud can turn into a serious problem for Soldiers if it is not taken care of. The end result will be the soldier paying for the check, the bank fees, and the court costs. The only thing the Soldier will walk away with is a criminal record.

Further information can be obtained from the Ft Stewart Department of Defense Officer for Civil Liaison, Lt. Larry Kersey, at 767-8057.

ASK THE JUDGE**Collection Agencies and Post-dated Checks — Are you safe?**

Q: I have been contacted by a collection agency attempting to collect a debt. What should I do?

A: If you disagree that you owe the debt, you need to send a written notification to the collection agency telling them you dispute the debt and requesting that they provide you with verification of the debt. Once you receive this information if you still dispute the debt, contact the legal assistance office for an appointment with an attorney who can help you with the next step. If you agree that you owe the money, contact the collection agency and attempt to negotiate an acceptable payment plan.

Q: I contacted the collection agency, and they told me if I can't pay in full, I have to send a series of post-dated checks totaling the amount owed as a sign of "good faith." Is this a good idea?

A: The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, a federal consumer protection statute, prohibits debt collectors from using unfair or deceptive collection practices in collecting on consumer debts. Under this law, once a debt collector (defined as someone other than the original creditor) accepts a check from you postdated by more than five days, it must wait until at least the date on the check before depositing it. Additionally, the debt collector must notify you in writing of its intent to deposit the

check. This notification must be made between three and 10 business days before it deposits the check. Failure to observe these rules can render the debt collector liable for any actual damages (such as bounced check fees), up to \$1,000 in statutory damages, and your attorney fees and court costs. As long as you are dealing with a debt collector and not the creditor, you should feel confident that an arrangement that includes paying the debt collector with a postdated check is okay. Such an arrangement could help you to negotiate a payment plan that you can live with.

Q: If the business that wants a post-dated check is a creditor not a debt collector, should I write a post-dated check?

A: No. Paying a creditor with post-dated checks is generally a bad practice because it gives you a false sense of security. Under the Uniform Commercial Code, merely post-dating a check imposes no legal obligation on either the creditor or your bank to wait until the date of the check before cashing it. Often, the creditor cashes it in advance of the date written on the check. If the check bounces, which it usually will, you are stuck with the consequences. If you have questions about paying on a consumer debt, call the Legal Assistance Office at 767-8819/8809.

Annual AER fundraising campaign kicks off at Stewart, Hunter**Army Emergency Relief**

Special to The Frontline

The Garrison Commander will kick-off Fort Stewart 2004 Army Emergency Relief Fund Annual campaign on March 11 during a ceremony at 9:15 a.m. at ACS, Building 470. The Garrison Commander at Hunter Army Airfield will kick-off its annual campaign on March 11, at 1 p.m. at ACS, Building 1286. Every dollar contributed to the AER campaign goes directly to loans and grants given to assist Soldiers requiring emergency assistance. Last year, the amount of emergency assistance provided by both Stewart and Hunter AER Sections was over two

million dollars — almost 12 times the amount of the campaign contributions received from our entire region.

AER is a private nonprofit organization within the Army. The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds necessary to help ensure AER's ability to make the required funds available to meet the needs of our Soldiers, retirees, and dependents when they are faced with financial emergencies. Soldiers are asked to help their own organization as well as their fellow Soldiers. Financial assistance is provided in the form of interest-free loans and/or grants.

Stewart and Hunter have a goal of 100 percent solici-

tation for this year's campaign to encourage all Soldiers to contribute to AER as it is all about Soldiers helping Soldiers in need. As all Soldiers' needs are equally important to AER; Soldiers can expect prompt attention to their requests.

AER assistance can help with such emergency needs as: food, initial and delinquent rent or utilities; emergency travel and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; loss of funds; dental/medical expenses, health and welfare.

In addition to contributions received during the AER campaign, the organization gets its funds from repayment of interest-free loans income from investments and unsolicited contributions from individuals.



Stuck in the mud...



Spc Robert Adams

Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command use a FMTB wrecker to pull out a Headquarters and Headquarters Command 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) 2.5 ton vehicle in soggy conditions at the Command Post Exercise Tuesday at Evans Army Airfield.

CENTCOM News

Coalition Forces expand Afghan reconstruction teams

Kabul, Afghanistan — The Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team officially opened its doors Feb. 19, following a ceremony at the Civil Military Operations Center in Asadabad. The Asadabad PRT will serve the provinces of Konar and Nurestan.

This opening represents another step in the PRT expansion process aimed at extending the reach of the Afghan central government by delivering security and dramatically accelerating reconstruction, development and long-term stability across Afghanistan.

Attending the opening ceremony were the Afghan Minister of Health, Dr. Shaila Sadiq, the Senior Advisor to Interior Minister, Shamahmood Miakhel, the Deputy to Minister of Women's Affairs, Najiba Sharif, Konar Governor, Fazel Akbar, Mayor of Asadabad, Sayed Anmin, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalizad, and the commander of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, U.S. Lt. Gen. David Barno.

Ambassador Khalizad said in his remarks that "Better access to roads, health care, water and education are just a few areas that will continue to benefit with the arrival of this new PRT."

PRTs serve as a catalyst for stabilization, building relationships and enabling the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Coalition forces and NATO currently operate seven other PRTs in Afghanistan, with an additional four scheduled to open within the next several months.

4th Infantry operates for the past 24 hours

TIKRIT, IRAQ — During the past 24 hours 4th Infantry Division Soldiers raided three locations and captured six individuals, four of them suspected of involvement in anti-Coalition activity.

The dawn mission targeted individuals suspected of mortar attacks on Coalition forces near Balad on Wednesday. Soldiers also confiscated one automatic weapon and two AK-47 assault rifles.

In a separate event, one attacker was killed after he fired an automatic weapon at soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment Wednesday morning 6 kilometers west of Balad. An AK-47 assault rifle was recovered near the body of the attacker.

The remains of the attacker were turned over to the Iraqi police. Soldiers were in the area searching for individuals believed to be responsible for attacks against Coalition forces and captured two

individuals.

An Iraqi child was killed in Tikrit when a rocket propelled grenade, aimed at soldiers from 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, missed them and exploded near the child Wednesday afternoon. The child was killed instantly, and soldiers were unsuccessful in their attempts to capture the attackers.

Members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment raided a building in Bayji just after midnight Thursday in an attempt to capture former regime loyalists. Nine people were captured including two individuals specifically targeted for suspected involvement in anti-Coalition activity. Soldiers located and confiscated four AK-47 assault rifles, two rifles and one pistol. They went to another location and captured an additional two individuals carrying a bag of AK-47 assault rifle parts, knives and axes.

Task Force Olympia collects more than 5,000 munitions, detains 21 in one week

MOSUL, Iraq — During operations conducted from Feb. 15 through Feb. 22, soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, under the operational control of Task Force Olympia, collected more than 5,000 weapons and explosives and detained 21 suspects in connection with anti-Coalition activities.

Over the course of the past week, Task Force Olympia has collected 1,885 rounds of 60 mm mortar, 16 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 157 RPG rounds and 746 hand grenades and numerous assorted other munitions.

A majority of the weapons collected by Task Force Olympia units came through the assistance of concerned citizens across northern Iraq. Members of the Coalition for Iraqi Unity, a concerned group of citizens in northwestern Iraq, turned in more than 100 RPG rounds and assorted weapons and explosives to 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment over the course of four days.

An anonymous tip to 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment headquarters in Qayyarah led to the collection of 669 rounds of 60mm mortar and the apprehension of two arms traffickers.

In addition to the arms traffickers, units under the operational control of Task Force Olympia detained 21 suspects in connection with anti-Coalition activities.

Task Force Olympia continues to work with the citizens and leaders of Iraq to make it a safe, prosperous, and democratic nation.