

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

Garrison commander addresses state of Stewart

Spc. Katherine Robinson
Editor

Department of the Army civilians gathered at Woodruff theater Jan. 29 to discuss the state of the garrison with Col. John M. Kidd, Fort Stewart garrison commander.

New physical training routes, construction projects in the cantonment area and ranges and the reorganization of the garrison were the main issues brought up in the meeting, according to Buddy Carter, strategic planning specialist for Stewart Plans, Analysis and Integration.

Since Installation Management Agency took effect in October, the garrison no longer operates under 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and Forces Command, Carter explained. As a result of the split, many garrison directorates had to undergo some sort of restructuring.

In the meeting, Kidd outlined the changes in an extensive slide show.

The Directorate of Community Activities and services was affected the least, with merely a name change to the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Carter said. Other organizations, such as his office, underwent more extensive reorganization and mission adjustments.

A few of the key changes to garrison structure included: The movement of Army Continuing Education Services from DCAS to the Directorate of Human Resources, a new directorate; the movement of civilian training to DHR from the Directorate of Training; and the change from the Directorate of Training to the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

"These changes were needed," Carter said. "(They) give us a little more clarity of line definition".

Kidd also emphasized the garrison's new vision and mission at the meeting, which is similar to the old. The new vision reads, *The world's best installation for Armed Forces to train, deploy, live, and raise a family.* The mission

statement reads, *Provide the nation's Armed Forces with a sustaining base and a power projection platform in support of National Objectives.*

"We narrowed it down and made it more concise," Carter explained.

The vision and mission change was necessary because of all the functions for all branches of the service Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield serve, Carter added.

"We are the benchmark on power projection," he said.

Kidd also thanked the civilians for a job well done in mobilizing Soldiers from Fort Stewart. He emphasized that while the working personnel has increased very little, the workload has increased tremendously since Reserve and National Guard Soldiers began to use Stewart as a mobilization station for deployments in support of the global war on terror.

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Spc. Katherine Robinson

Sgt. Alva Brown, A Co., 3/124 Inf. greets wife Tammy and meets his six-month-old daughter Shyanne for the first time Sunday at Newman Gym during one of the many welcome home ceremonies for Fla. NG Soldiers returning from Iraq.

Florida Soldiers return from Iraq

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

More than 700 Florida National Guard Soldiers returned to the United States via Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart after a one-year deployment to Iraq this week.

The Soldiers, members of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 124th Infantry Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment, were activated in late 2002 and early 2003 to serve in operation Iraqi Freedom, said Air Force Lt. Col. Ron Tittle, public affairs chief for the Florida

National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, adjutant general of the Florida Guard, spoke at each redeployment ceremonies held at Cottrell Field and Newman Physical Fitness Center for the returning Soldiers and their families. He read the Soldiers a letter from Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

"Welcome home," he read. "Let us never forget those who have made such tremendous sacrifices for our country."

Douglas said the Soldiers carried the American spirit with them while they participated in the Global War on Terrorism.

"There is no better person in America to go and talk to folks in a foreign land than a Soldier," Douglas said. "Wherever an American Soldier is in the world, there is America. America is right there in spirit, attitude, and enthusiasm. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter where you are in the world, you just want to take care of your family, have a job and live in freedom. Our Soldiers go over there and protect that."

The units were among the first Guard units activated for Operation Iraqi

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Rogue focus prepares Armor Soldiers for NTC rotation

Capt. James Smith
Special to The Frontline

"I felt like I was back in Fallujah."
— 1st Sgt. Jose Mercado, C Co., 1/64

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment conducted Operation Rogue Focus in December in preparation for deploying to the National Training Center.

This time the battalion's platoon external evaluation had a twist, according to Capt. James Smith, an

assistant battalion S-3.

The recent personnel turnover has led to numerous key leader changes in platoon level positions, Smith said. The battalion wanted to ensure the wealth of experience gained from Operation Iraqi Freedom was passed on and to implement lessons learned into their field training exercises.

Rogue Focus is a training event focused on tank platoon level operations. The task was to conduct Rogue Focus at Fort Stewart to train Platoons in selective offensive battle

tasks in order to prepare for future operations. After conducting a Mission Essential Task List crosswalk with the battalion and company METL, 1/64 leaders decided to focus the event's training objectives on two key platoon tasks: conducting an Assault and Destroying an Inferior Force.

By narrowing the training objectives, companies were able to focus on specific tasks for their platoons to

See ROGUE, Page 11A



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Air Force Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, adjutant general of the Fla. NG congratulates 124th medic Spc. Matthew Moss on receiving the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered in Iraq.

Florida Infantry Soldiers awarded Purple Hearts

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody
Staff Writer

Five Soldiers from the 124th Infantry Regiment, a Florida National Guard unit returning from Iraq, were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat during a small ceremony at the National Guard Training Center on Fort Stewart Friday.

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Mateo of C Company, 1st Battalion, 124th Inf. was wounded when his humvee struck a landmine, then was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

"We had four casualties, and we still had to fight our way out," Mateo said.

The retelling of the July 9 attack visibly moved Mateo. He said his injuries have left him limited both physically and emotionally.

"I'm glad for the 17 years I've had in the Army, and all the training I've received," he

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Photo courtesy of 1/64 Armor

Mortar men from HHC, 1/64 Armor act as disgruntled civilians on the battlefield attempting to disrupt Armor Soldiers during a presence patrol.

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 74°	Low 48°
SAT	High 53°	Low 32°
SUN	High 57°	Low 30°

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Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

From a cloud of smoke, Pvt. Sean Dewberry hurls a grappling hook toward his objective, a wire obstacle, in order to clear trip wires and anti-personnel mines from a lane.

Sappers open doors their own way

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Soldiers from B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion practiced destroying anti-tank mines, clearing a wire obstacle and opening locked doors the fast way Jan. 24.

"Engineers have always typically been first on the scene in combat, to clear obstacles, scout routes and make sure the assault force can get through quickly," said B Co. Commander Capt. James Lockridge. "Some of the exercises have been around forever, like using Bangalore torpedoes to destroy a concertina wire obstacle, and some are newer tactics, developed and refined based on what we learned during Operation Iraqi Freedom, like spotting (improvised explosive devices) and destroying them."

A squad of eight Sappers roared across a muddy field in an M113 armored personnel carrier, and stopped about 100 meters from two imposing antitank mines in front of an entanglement of concertina wire and threw smoke grenades in front of the vehicle. From a dense cloud of yellow smoke sailed a grappling hook, which Pvt. Sean Dewberry reeled back in from the prone position as he attempted to clear a lane of trip wires and anti personnel mines.

Dewberry then charged up the lane and expertly dropped the hook right in front of the wire. A safe lane cleared, Spc. Timothy Eddy then ran up to the obstacle with a Bangalore in each hand and shoved them into the mud lengthwise across the wire. The two mines each received a bundle of high explosive gently placed on top of them before the engineers retreated to their APC.

A thunderous crash and a flash of fire marked the end of the wire obstacle's short existence as the sappers rolled forward, dropping traffic cones to designate the lane as safe. After bounding through the crater left by the explosion, the Soldiers circled up for a review of their flawless performance.

"That's how it should always look," said 1st Lt. Christopher Staab, who coached the Sappers through the exercise, which is helping prepare the company for a May rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.,

Media from as far away as Atlanta came to watch the exercise, but what they didn't see was the continuous training that led up to the live-fire event, said battalion S-3 Maj. Kevin Kearn.

"Long before we actually blow anything up in training, we rehearse the

exercise over and over until it's like second nature," Kearn said. "They say the battle of Iraq was won at NTC, and it's true — no other army in the world subjects themselves to this amount of criticism and we're the strongest because of it."

A few miles away from the sappers' latest smoking crater, four engineers from B Co.'s 3rd squad, assault and obstacle platoon, crept toward a plywood building carrying 25 feet of detonation cord, a high explosive rope, taped to a branch. The sappers crouched beneath the building's windows preparing the charge. Sgt. Martin Peters dashed to the door, placed the charge, and raced back around the corner to safety. With a crack the door burst apart, followed by the sappers who cleared the room, then quickly retreated to the woodline they appeared from.

"The science and art of door breaching is determining the right amount of explosive," Kearn said. "Too much of the stuff and you'll do a lot more damage than you want to."

"This is great training for Fort Stewart Soldiers — you never know when you'll need it," said 3rd squad's Staff Sgt. Robert Puckett. "We really enjoy doing this kind of thing — the motivation comes naturally. Any time you get to blow stuff up, it's great."



Puckett and Scaramuzzo make a hasty exit after clearing a room behind the breached doorway.



Sgt. Martin Peters prepares a length of detonation cord to blast a door open as Sgt. Lewis Berwald, Staff Sgt. Robert Puckett and Spc. Louis Scaramuzzo get ready to storm the building.



Spc. Timothy Eddy hurries downrange to destroy the wire obstacle with two Bangalore torpedos.



Sappers mark a cleared route through the former wire obstacle.

U.S. Marshal recognizes 3rd MPs for job well done

Spc. Katherine Robinson

Editor

The U.S. Marshal for the southern district of Georgia presented the officers and noncommissioned officers of 3rd Military Police Battalion with a token of appreciation for law enforcement support Jan. 29 at the battalion commander's office.

U.S. Marshal James Roberts gave a model humvee to 3rd MP Bn. Commander Lt. Col. John Huey on behalf of the officers and a framed picture of an MP in action, bearing the inscription, "The warrior spirit - NCOs. Train tough, lead forward, win battles," to the Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Medley for the NCOs.

Roberts, who spent 34 years in the military police corps, said many of his deputies are also former MPs, and the two agencies have a long history of working together, dating back to the civil war.

"The thing about the military police corps is you are really the old Army and we recognize that," he told the officers and NCOs who gathered in Huey's office for the ceremony. "We want each one of our Soldiers to make NCO decisions ... we want our NCOs to make officer decisions ... those decisions are important because they involve the lives of Soldiers.

Presenting the picture to Medley, Roberts

said NCOs are the mainstay of the MP Corps.

"They do more exemplary things than any other branch of the service," he said. "We expect a lot of our NCOs. They are the mother and father of our Soldiers. They work closely with them and train them."

Huey said the MPs often work hand in hand with the U.S. Marshal and other law enforcement agencies, both local and federal.

"On pretty much a quarterly basis we have law enforcement coordination meetings with the locals," he said. "We have supported them on many occasions for different events ... this is just a token of their appreciation."

The ceremony was a sign of camaraderie and the cooperative spirit between local agencies, Huey added. "We all have one common goal, whether federal, state or military and that's to serve the public."

On behalf of the battalion, Huey said it was an honor to be recognized by the U.S. Marshal and he looks forward to continuing the professional relationship the law enforcement agencies have.

Chief of Police David Lyons, from Garden City, was also present at the ceremony, and Huey recognized him and Roberts with a gift from the Battalion.

He presented each of them with a "Marne Police" glass and a battalion shirt to thank them for their support.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

U.S. Marshal for southern Georgia James Roberts presents a print to Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Medley, 3rd MP Bn., Jan. 29.

Uncle Sam wants you ... to find him recruit referrals

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

A referral program exists in the Army to help recruiters enlist new Soldiers into the Army with the help of current Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians.

If you take care of Uncle Sam, he is going to take care of you — Soldiers and civilians will receive a coin and certificate of achievement from the sergeant major of the Army for every referral they give that results in an enlistment.

The Soldier or civilian with the most referrals that lead to enlistments will be invited, along with his command sergeant major, to the Annual Chief of Staff of the Army, Recruiter of Excellence Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. At the ceremony he will be recognized by the office of the sergeant major of the Army.

The program is called Operation SMART — the Sergeant Major of the Army's



Recruiting Team.

It has been around for a few years and was designed to streamline the referral process and help referrers reap the rewards of their service.

"It came about as an incentive for soldiers and as an extra recruiting tool, not because recruiting was down, but as a part of the partnership between the Army and communities," Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Ramos, Jacksonville, Fla., Recruiting Bn., said.

Remember when you were enlisting, and your recruiter offered you a promotion if you got another person to enlist? The SMART program is the same

idea, according to Ramos.

"The referral system was working (within the recruiting community), so we decided to expand it to the entire Army," he said.

One of the principles of the program is credibility — if a Soldier tells someone he knows how well he is doing in the Army, that person might think, "If it's good for my buddy, it might be good for me," according to Ramos. "Imagine if every Soldier on active duty got a referral today — it could have a very big impact if it was done at all levels."

The SMART program isn't trying to turn Soldiers into

recruiters, Ramos said, just referral locaters. Soldiers will turn in referrals, recruiters will do the rest.

"We realize that not everyone will join — (the Army) isn't for everyone. But it will have a positive affect — It will give us a wider range of people to talk to," he said.

Every Soldier and DA civilian can be a walking spokesperson for the Army, Ramos explained. "All of us can be successful at this — there is no particular mode we're looking for. All of us in uniform are successful — in an Army of One team, we're all good Soldiers."

Here's how the SMART pro-

gram works: When a Soldier or DA civilian finds a person interested in joining the Army; he completes a referral form on the SMART Web Site, www.usarec.army.mil/smart. If Internet access is not available, he can call 1-800-223-3735 ext. 61281.

Upon receiving the referral at United States Army Recruiting Headquarters, the SMART manager will update the database and forward the "lead" to the nearest recruiting station, Ramos said.

That station commander will contact the lead and contact the SMART manager with the status of the lead (enlisted, unqualified, not interested, etc.).

The SMART manager will update the database as status changes.

Awards will be processed when enlistment has been verified. He will notify the referring soldier or civilian, his chain of command, the USAREC command sergeant major, and the sergeant major of the Army.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

President's Day 2004 safety message

Gen. Larry R. Ellis
FORSCOM commanding general

President's Day celebrates the leadership of our first president, George Washington, and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. Our tradition honors both men, as they were instrumental in shaping the course and quality of the life we live today. Both men led the nation in time of war, and both left a legacy of freedom and democracy that deeply enriches the republic to this day.

While we commemorate the uniquely American values these men embody, I remind you that most Forces Command Soldiers are involved in the ongoing fight to preserve these same freedoms — many

will be returning home after combat, and others will be deploying to continue the war on terrorism. These selfless men and women must be at the forefront of our minds during our time of reflection.

Their safety must be our primary focus and the mitigation of risk our leaders' foremost consideration. During the most recent holiday period, four FORSCOM Soldiers died in privately owned vehicle accidents. Privately owned vehicle accidents, caused by the misuse of alcohol, speed and fatigue, as well as the fail-



Ellis

ure to utilize vehicle safety restraints, remain the primary causes of these tragedies. This requires immediate, aggressive action by every leader.

Commanders and subordinate leaders must impress indelibly on the minds of every Soldier and civilian employee the importance of safe driving behavior. This applies especially to motorcycle operators, who should be briefed separately. Only through command emphasis and the active involvement of our leaders can we reach our goal: preventing the further loss of any Soldier or civilian employee.

I wish you and all your Soldiers, civilians and family members a safe and enjoyable President's Day holiday weekend.

Freedom's Guardian!

Try some delicious low-carb information nuggets

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody
Staff Writer

Unlike some of my colleagues and contemporaries, I don't claim to know everything about whatever subject I see fit to expound upon, unless the subject of discussion happens to be large format black-and-white photography under moonlight. It rarely is. I do however know a little bit, at least one fascinating fact, about absolutely every subject under the sun, and several subjects beyond.



Watch out for umbrellas ...

Commentary

People bring up the Civil War and talk about how the Democratic Party arose from the angry southern states, forging its principles of sticking up for the little guy in the face of Northern industrial conglomeration, thereby defending the founding principles of liberty, and think they sound pretty smart and knowledgeable.

What is really important about the Civil War is that William Schrafft of Boston perfected the jellybean in 1861 by combining an ancient Turkish candy recipe with a more modern European one. He then popularized sending packets of them to Union soldiers. The North's industrial mobilization didn't win the war, jellybeans did.

The deadly poison Ricin is currently making headlines, having turned up in the mailroom at a Senate office building. This stuff is so poisonous that a tiny grain of it would be fatal, but only if it were injected into the bloodstream. So a little bit in an envelope isn't particularly dangerous, despite the media industry's best efforts to keep us terrified of our mail. However, we



should really be on the lookout for shady-looking characters carrying umbrellas, especially when it's not raining. Ricin's most famous fatality was Bulgarian journalist Georgi Markov, who was dreaming up his latest anti-Bulgarian government think piece in a London train station when BAM! An assassin jabbed him with a poison umbrella and quickly ended his reign of rhetoric.

Sometimes, with opinions as good as mine, facts aren't so necessary.

Did you know that there is plankton in the ocean that glows green when you wish the water around it? As a reformed field biologist, I know a lot of science types, but none of them can explain why plankton evolved this ability. (Yes, Georgia, EVOLVED — as in EVOLUTION. Ahem.) But I often swim in the ocean on dark nights, watching clouds of green light trail from my fingers, pondering the reasons for this phenomenon, and I'm pleased to say that I've finally got it figured out. The ocean at night is a dark place, filled with huge animals that are often moving pretty fast. The plankton acts like headlights that prevent the denizens of the deep from colliding in a big slimy mess of fins and teeth. Of course! That's probably why the only animals that bump into me on my research swims are sharks. And jellyfish. And the occasional dolphin.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What did you miss most while you were in Iraq?

"How people treat each other and interact here. It's more friendly."

Staff Sgt. Michael Koch
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG



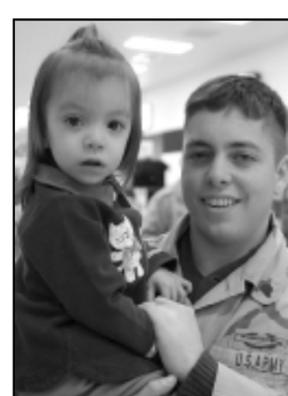
"My two daughters. We wrote a lot of letters."

Staff Sgt. Patrick Bouie
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG



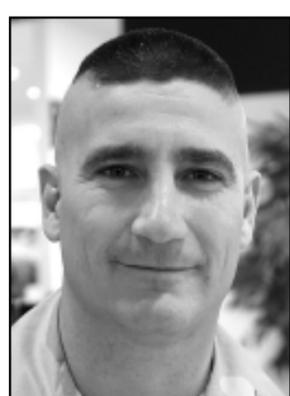
"Civility."

Staff Sgt. Michael McGuinn
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG



"My daughter here, and my wife."

Spc. Renaldo Castillo
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG



"My wife and children. It helped when we could email each other."

Maj. Mike Canzoneri
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG



"Mostly my friends and family."

Spc. Wesley Fannin
3/124 Inf., Fla. NG

BUSTER'S BATTERY

THE FIRST CHAPLAINS

THE CIVIL WAR WAS THE FIRST IN WHICH CHAPLAINS WERE COMMISSIONED IN THE ARMY. ALTHOUGH THE ROLE OF THE ARMY CHAPLAIN WOULD EVOLVE OVER THE NEXT CENTURY, HIS POSITION AS SPIRITUAL GUIDE AND RELIGIOUS LEADER AMONG SOLDIERS OF HIS UNIT WOULD MAKE HIM A MAN A SOLDIER COULD GO WITH HIS PROBLEMS, REGARDLESS OF FAITH.

CHAPLAINS WOULD LEAD SUNDAY SERVICES, BLESS THE COLORS, AND PERFORM BENEDICTION FOR SOLDIERS ABOUT TO GO INTO BATTLE. THEY COMFORTED THE WOUNDED AND THE DYING OF THE MANY BLOODY BATTLES THEY SAW.



Corrections

- In a Page 1A photo in the Jan. 15 issue of *The Frontline*, Sgt. Betty Petties' mother was incorrectly identified as her friend, Lavonya Thompson.
- In a Page 1C photo in the Jan. 29 issue of *The Frontline*, Tishana Thompson was incorrectly identified as Tishana Smith.

The Frontline apologizes for these errors.

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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Marijuana can lead to serious trouble for Soldiers

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

There is a lot of debate in America about the pros and cons of marijuana use and whether or not it should be legalized or de-criminalized. Talk of its medicinal value and its relative "harmlessness" can at times dominate the popular dialogue. But no matter the debate, Cannabis sativa, as it is scientifically known, is illegal, and Soldiers should be aware of the consequences of using it.

"The legal action taken against a Soldier who is caught using marijuana can be absolutely anything," said Maj. Robert Resnick, military justice chief, Staff Judge Advocate. "They can be counseled, given a letter of reprimand, receive an Article 15, have a general, summary or special court martial, or be separated from the Army under a Chapter 14."

Any Soldier who is caught using marijuana or who comes up positive on a urinalysis will have separation paperwork initiated by his unit under Army Regulation 635-200, Active Duty Separations, Resnick said. But a unit can recommend a second chance for the Soldier.

"Since marijuana use is a crime with no victim, you're looking at the Soldier," he said. "A lot of it is about duty performance. Is he a good troop who made his first mistake? The better his duty performance or attitude is, the better his chance for a second chance."

Resnick said the majority of first-time users, who are predominantly E-4s or below, are dealt with by an Article 15 punishment. But second-time offenders often find themselves before a court martial.

"The number of courts martial involving drug use are not automatic, but you don't tend to see first-time users at a court martial. We treat each case according to its facts," he said.

With operational tempo as high as it is, some Soldiers have been trying to fail urinalysis to get themselves chaptered out of the Army before a deployment, Resnick said. But commanders can wait up to two years to initiate any punishment against a Soldier.

"People will try different types of misconduct to get out of the Army, but we work with their chains of command to not give them what they want. There is no rule that says a chain of command can't wait two years to initiate an Article 15."



Photo Illustration by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Besides beginning separation paperwork, units have to refer Soldiers who are caught using marijuana to the Army Substance Abuse Program, Resnick said. They can also be referred to other organizations such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, or referred for psychological counseling, said Ginger White, an addictions counselor at ASAP.

"Marijuana users probably account for about 20 percent of the cases we see," she said. "With it being illegal, one use, regardless of rank, can lead to a lot of trouble. Some don't get to us because their chapter has been started."

Once in the program, Soldiers are educated about marijuana's negative effects and put in group counseling, according to White.

"We try to give them information about marijuana's effects, but it is a hard population to work with," she said. "A lot of them feel there is nothing wrong and compare it to alcohol. The first thing many of them will tell you is they've never heard of anyone dying from

marijuana use."

Marijuana's short-term effects are few compared to alcohol, a similar drug, said Dr. Randolph Capocasale, a staff psychiatrist at Winn Army Community Hospital. Pupils dilate, salivation decreases and eyes redden. But contrary to the beliefs of many users, marijuana does have negative long-term health effects.

"A lot of users will say 'It doesn't affect me physically, so it must be safe,'" he said. "With alcohol, the effects are very noticeable. But marijuana is much more subtle. It does great damage to the central nervous system. Each cell (in the brain) sends out dendrites, which are tiny branches between it and other cells. Imagine your brain as a forest of those branches. Marijuana clips off the branches and thins the forest, which leads to a slower brain." You can have trouble with your memory and your thinking. You can't concentrate."

Capocasale said the damage can be a big issue for certain jobs in the Army.

"Every time there is a helicopter that

goes down or another accident, some of us wonder if someone either servicing or operating the vehicle is using marijuana."

In addition to damaging the central nervous system, marijuana can also cause lung cancer, something more commonly associated with smoking tobacco, said Dr. James Byrne, a staff psychiatrist at Winn.

Marijuana stays in a user's system much longer than alcohol, which is one reason many users think it is not a problem, White said. When someone abuses alcohol, a morning hangover is a symptom of withdrawal, but marijuana's tendency to hang around staves of withdrawal symptoms.

The drug's ability to stay in a user's system also makes it easy to test for, Capocasale. Many Soldiers are caught using marijuana through urinalysis performed after the act.

White said many who have a positive drug test will try defenses such as they were around people who were smoking or they only smoked one time, but neither excuse is particularly valid.

"Being around people who are smoking should never be an excuse," she said. "And those who are caught smoking in the military are rarely doing it for the first time. Soldiers are not naive. They know it is illegal."

Following the urinalysis, the specimen is sent to Fort Meade, Md., where it is put through a chromatography and a mass spectroscopy to test for the presence of marijuana, Capocasale said.

"The testing has a nanogram cutoff, and they allow a considerable amount," he said. "To test positive, a Soldier has to have 15 nanograms of the drug out of 100 cc's of urine. Incidental contamination (such as being around people smoking) is pretty unlikely."

Capocasale said errors in the process are also unlikely.

"After the tests, we have the fingerprint of the molecule," he said. "There is a very small percentage of errors, and they tend to occur at the collection site."

Capocasale said the programs the Army has in place to deal with marijuana use have been successful.

"It's been clearly demonstrated that ASAP and random testing have reduced the amount of usage in the Army by 90 percent," he said. "The purpose of these programs is not to eliminate all usage, but rather to deter it. Together, the programs have been very effective."



**Stop Overpopulation,
Spay or Neuter Your Pet Today!!**

Consumer Protection Week promotes financial literacy

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

Applying for auto loans. Comparing insurance policies. Figuring out the bills. Every day, people make decisions involving some type of financial education and experience. Every decision they make can have an impact on their financial profile and readiness, but many Americans make decisions without all the information they need.

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program is participating in the sixth annual National Consumer Protection Week, which started Sunday and runs through Saturday, to help highlight consumer protection and education, said Jeannie Relaford, FRP manager. The theme of this year's campaign is "Financial Literacy: Earning a Lifetime of Dividends."

"Financial literacy is an asset for all consumers," she said. "Whether you're shopping for groceries, applying for a mortgage, comparing retirement or health insurance plans, or deciding how much of an allowance to give your child, every financial decision has some impact on the quality of your life. There's a wealth of information for everyone who's interested in improving their level of financial literacy."

Relaford said financial literacy is all about managing money and protecting credit.

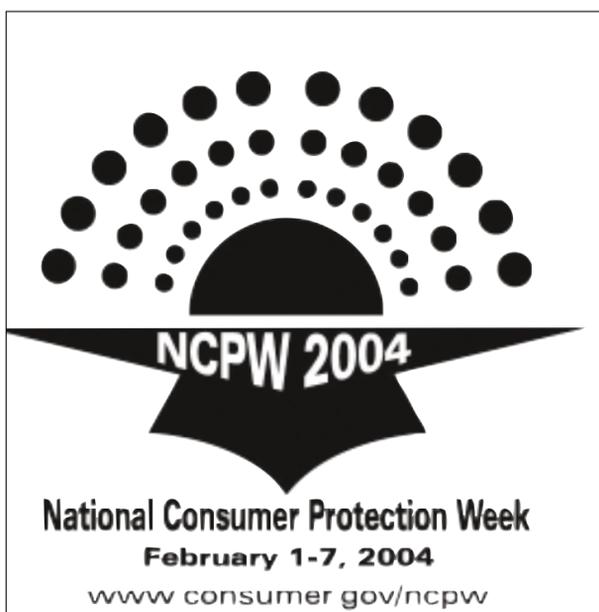
"You have to guard your money and guard your credit history," she said. "We want to help educate Soldiers and get them to understand their personal finances. There is no school for managing our own money, but we try to help people manage their personal finances, their own personal corporation."

ACS' FRP will assist Soldiers and their families with any number of important financial decisions, Relaford said.

"We try to encourage Soldiers to shop around and do

research before they make purchases," she said. "If a Soldier goes downtown to buy a car, why not check the Internet? You can check with us."

Relaford said Soldiers can find information on what



they are buying and who they are buying from at both her office and the Legal Assistance Office.

"We can tell them about legitimate complaints and what to look for to help them avoid scams," she said. "A lot of people go shopping without information about prices and products. When you go in, anything can sound good, but what sounds like a sale might be the

regular price. There is no reason not to arm yourself with information when you can find a lot of it on the Internet."

The FRP can also help Soldiers who have gotten in over their heads with creditors, Relaford said. An FRP representative can call credit card companies on a Soldier's behalf and get them to lower interest rates. Unlike credit consolidation companies who provide the same service, ACS does this for free. Because ACS cannot accept the fees creditors pay consolidation companies, many creditors prefer working with them, she said.

"The creditors would rather work with us because we can't accept fees and we represent military families," she explained. "It's a win-win situation. More of your money goes toward your debt and they get to keep more of the money they receive from you."

Relaford said many Soldiers go to credit consolidation companies because they find themselves in stressful situations and they want someone to take care of it for them.

"Our program helps them realize they made a mistake they have to fix," she said. "You might feel a little more pain, but that way you'll learn the lesson."

The program can also help Soldiers who are looking to make their money work for them, Relaford said.

"Ultimately, we'd like to help Soldiers with savings and investments," she said. "We want to help them build wealth for the future, not only for rainy days, but also for retirement. Once we get Soldiers out of deficits, we introduce them to making money with their money."

Relaford said that ultimately, any financial decision, whether their purchases or investments, require information, and that is what her program is here to do.

"If you don't know what you're getting into, we'll give you the information you need," she said. "Once you buy it, it's yours. We want to help Soldiers save their money. Keep your money. Come see us."

Seven tips to reduce risk of heart disease

Margaret Jones, LPN

Winn Army Community Hospital

Coronary Heart Disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. CHD, caused by a narrowing of the coronary arteries that supply blood to the heart, often results in a heart attack.

Each year, about 1.1 million Americans suffer a heart attack. About 460,000 result in a fatality. Half of the fatalities occur within one hour of the onset of symptoms and before the person can reach the hospital.

Fortunately, everyone can take steps to protect their heart and life and the life of someone else. The key is seeking medical care as soon as possible.

Knowing your risk factors can help you reduce your chances of developing heart disease. There is no single contributing factor that causes heart disease. The more risk factors you have, the greater the chance of developing the disease.

Unfortunately, some risk factors cannot be changed. Heart disease can be hereditary.

African Americans tend to develop car-

diovascular disease related to their increased risk for high blood pressure.

Being a man in a family with a history of relatives who died early due to a heart attack increases the risk of developing a cardiovascular disease.

These seven simple suggestions can help you reduce your risk of a heart attack.

- Get your blood pressure checked regularly.
- Don't smoke cigarettes.
- Recognize and treat diabetes.
- Don't drink alcohol. But, if you like to drink, drink in moderation.

- Be physically active.
- Maintain a healthy diet.
- Have regular medical check-ups. Your age and medical history will determine how often you should be seen.

You can take charge of your life when it comes to heart disease by reducing your risk factors. For more information, talk to your primary care manager or visit www.americanheart.org.

Winn Army Community Hospital's Community Health Nursing section will conduct blood pressure screenings 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Fort Stewart PX.

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

3rd Brigade prepares to return home

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Associate Editor

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — The Soldiers of 3rd Brigade have left the “Box,” the main training area, behind and are now focused on cleaning their equipment so they can head back to Fort Benning, Ga.

To get ready to leave the Soldiers have to get their home station vehicles ready to transport back to Benning by rail, said Sgt. Sederick S. Hill, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment.

They also have to turn in their multiple integrated laser engagement systems and make sure all sensitive items are accounted for such as weapons and night vision goggles.

“In order to turn in the MILES gear we have to make sure that all the equipment is accounted for and then turn them into the operations group,” Hill continued.

“Vehicles have to be cleaned inside and out,” Hill said. “Whatever is broken has to be fixed or replaced. The vehicles have to be returned in the shape they were drawn and then returned to the



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Spc. Tyrone McCombs, HHC, 1/30 Inf., washes his vehicle at the Dust Bowl wash rack Sunday. After finishing, he will take it to the motor pool for inspection before it goes to is shipped back to Fort Benning, Ga.

operations group.”

The equipment that has to be replaced on the vehicles has to be ordered, he said.

Since the unit is deployed the materials will be shipped more quickly than if they were home.

Prior to turning in the vehicles they must be taken through the wash rack and then inspected making sure they are clean.

“Since it is hot here there are mites,” said Sgt. Landell Riley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. “We have to get the sand off to prevent taking the mites back to Georgia.”

The undercarriage and the wheel wells have a lot of dirt due to driving around the “Box,” he said.

Once the vehicles are cleaned they will be taken to the motor pool till they are ready to be shipped back to Benning. The commander will inspect the vehicles and if something is wrong it will be fixed and if still dirty it will be taken back through the wash rack.

3rd Bde. Soldiers spent two weeks in the main training area.

Once they finish cleaning their vehicles and turning them in they can start concentrating on getting a flight to send them back home to see their family and friends.

Supply brings hot chow, motivation to Soldiers

Sgt. Raymond Piper
Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — As there were lulls in the battle or a spare few minutes, Soldiers in the “Box” at the National Training Center would take the time to have breakfast, lunch or dinner courtesy of a Meal, Ready to Eat. While some MREs are tasty, nothing replaces a hot meal.

The supply section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, worked to get hot meals out to HHC’s Soldiers.

“The Soldiers out here train hard so it’s important to get them a hot meal,” said Staff Sgt. Loviet Conner, HHC, 1/30 Inf. supply sergeant. “They look forward to that hot meal.”

The supply section is up before the sun rises to pick up the morning meal from the 203rd Main Support Battalion’s food specialist. The 203rd Soldiers start preparing the meal at midnight.

“It’s a joint effort between the 203rd and the supply sections,” Conner said.

Once everything is loaded and double checked, the supply section convoys out to a meeting point where they meet representatives from each section and deliver their mermitees. The supply Soldiers last stop

is the 1/30 Inf. tactical operation center.

“I really like delivering the (logistical package) ... because we’re not just cooped up watching the radios,” said Pfc. Bradley Townsend, a supply specialist with HHC, 1/30 Inf. “I feel like I’m partaking and accomplishing a mission.”

Once at the battalion’s TOC, they download the last of the mermitees, set up and start serving the hot meal to the Soldiers.

Pfc. William Johnson, an infantry man working in the operations section for 1/30 Inf., said having a hot meal boosts morale.

“When you’ve had food that you’ve had to heat up with water and a bag, a hot meal is a good change. It helps pull motivation up and helps us to want to get the job done,” Johnson said.

During the rotation, Conner said his Soldiers are learning a great deal.

“Many of the Soldiers are new privates who have never been in combat. Running the LOGPAC here helps them to prepare,” Conner said.

For Townsend, this is his first rotation to NTC, and other than Marne Focus, his first real training exercise.

“We had Marne Focus, which helped me prepare for this, but there is more of a real-world feel to this,” Townsend said.



Sgt. Raymond O Piper

Staff Sgt. Loviet Conner, HHC, 1/30 Inf., (front) helps to serve a hot meal to Soldiers at the 1/30 Inf. TOC Jan. 23.



Soldiers conducting physical training need to adhere to the posted PT routes. Go to www.stewart.army.mil, click on The Frontline, then click [view official PT routes map](#)

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

3rd Brigade Soldiers train under live fire conditions

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Soldiers with 3rd Brigade Combat Team exercised real-life scenario training using live ammunition Jan. 27 through Friday in the vast desert region of the National Training Center.

With the help of observer controllers 3rd BCT was able to conduct this training safely and were able to receive productive feedback.

"This is the only place where starting at the brigade level, the commander is able to maneuver the whole brigade with live ammunition," said Sgt. 1st Class William B. Halbrook, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry Regiment scout trainer. "There are not many opportunities for a brigade commander to exercise its headquarters with three subordinate task forces under it.

During the live fire, Soldiers were given various battle scenarios that they may encounter in a high intensity conflict, Halbrook said.

He added after each fight, a battle damage assessment was given to the task force command, individual unit commanders and platoon leaders.

The live fire training is also beneficial for battalion level training, he said.

"When a battalion receives a scenario, they have to develop an order for the enemy and plan like they are fighting a real battle," Halbrook said. "They don't have that opportunity necessarily at home station."

Soldiers fired at various targets, including airplane robots, with a variety of firing devices.

"Our mission is to support the

brigade combat team, and we accomplished that by massing fires at decisive points to suppress or destroy the enemy allowing maneuverability on the battlefield," said Capt. Derrick G. Anthony, B Battery 1st Battalion 10th Field Artillery Regiment commander.

"To get out here and synchronize fires with multiple launch rocket systems, close air support and artillery was excellent training for Soldiers," Anthony said.

The individual shooter goes through all the firing procedures they would actually go through in a battle, which is training that they wouldn't normally get at a home station range, Halbrook said.

"The various targets have systems that can track how they went down, whether it is by malfunction or direct fire," Halbrook said.

"We fired on enemy radar targets, enemy artillery, and dismounted enemy strong points," said Sgt. 1st Class Russell W. Armstead, 1/10 FA battalion fire direction noncommissioned officer.

Although not conducting live fires, scout platoons played an important role in the missions.

During the live fire we did area reconnaissance, guard missions, conductor screens and convoy escorts of the forward aid station, unit maintenance collection point, and the brigade supply and ammunition, said Pfc. Michael D. Bettez, 1st Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment gunner.

"The scout missions confirm or deny enemy obstacles and enemy locations and with this information the battalion commander can make an assessment on what he can attack," said Sgt. 1st Class Juan

I. Rodriguez, 1/30 Inf. scout platoon sergeant.

My platoon is very new and will be together for at least another year, so this exercise alone is an excellent opportunity for them to learn from each other, Rodriguez said.

With all of these units training on the same battlefield, safety was of the utmost importance.

"All units have OC's there to ensure safety," Halbrook said. "A lot of what we do in regards to safety involves the senior live fire trainer, who ensures that all the units separate weapons systems that are going to be fired during a given fight are safely within their minimum safe distances to engage targets."

These trainers are incorporated to make sure that nobody is unsafe, in back-blast areas, or in a surface danger zone and OC's make sure that this organized plan is integrated down to the ground, Halbrook said.

"We also provide force-on-force scenarios prior to the missions and after-action reviews to coach, teach and mentor the unit and Soldiers to make them better for the next fight," Halbrook said.

"The individual firer gets fair and accurate feedback from OC's, who are considered a disinterested party," he added. "We know a unit is good when they come here, but we want to do everything as possible to help them become better before they leave."

Anthony said, "Even after Operation Iraqi Freedom, coming to the NTC still offers training that should not be taken lightly for it doesn't matter what level of training one comes here with, there is always something to learn."



Sgt. Samantha Torres

Sgt. Daryl Shamlee, B Co. 203rd FSB, reloads a 50 Caliber Machine Gun for the gunner, Spc. Kristopher Malay, during the live fire exercise at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Parent Academy Survey

What is The Parent Academy? Parent Academy is a community collaborative effort between teachers and staff from Brittin and Diamond Elementary Schools and the Fort Stewart Child and Youth Services Program. This initiative encourages parental involvement and participation in the education of your children. The Academy also provides opportunities for parents to participate in enrichment and educational courses which will hopefully make them feel less stressed and more informed on how they can help their children in school and out of school.

What are the benefits of attending The Parent Academy? Everything is free! Parents will be able to bring their children to the Academy location where child care will be provided by qualified CYS child care providers. Lunch will be provided to both parents and children. Parents will be able to learn and share ideas about child and home safety, behavior management, child development and much more. In addition, parents will learn how to work together with their child's school to create paths for student success.

Location: Diamond Elementary School, Davis Avenue, Fort Stewart

Date: April 24

Times: Registration starts at 8 a.m.; Classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Who can Participate? All parents who have children in Brittin and Diamond Elementary schools, and all military and non-military parents living in the surrounding area.

Registration: Parents may pre-register at either Brittin or Diamond Elementary Schools, or at CYS Central Registration Office, Building 443, Lindquist Road, next to Corkan Pool. Pre-Registration dates are March 1 to April 9. You may also register on site the day of the event.

Some suggested courses are: Stress Management, Recognizing Behavioral Changes in Children whose Parents are Deployed, How to Prepare and Manage a Family Care Plan, Financial Management, Safety Proofing your Home, How to Advocate for your Child in School, Emotional Growth in the Family, and How to Help Prepare your Child to take Standardized Tests. Please help us make this Academy a worthwhile activity by addressing what courses would be beneficial to you, personally and as a parent by completing the section below.

What Courses Would Help You ? (Please provide your responses below.):

What Courses Would You Suggest?

If you would like more information or would like to be contacted by the School Liaison Office, please provide your name, address, email address and/or telephone number:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please mail this form to School Liaison Office, 500 Lindquist Road, Room 13, Fort Stewart, GA 31314-3321, or you may fax it to (912) 767-5334, or drop it off at Brittin or Diamond Elementary Schools, or CYS Central Registration by Feb. 20. You may also email your suggestions to Smithd4@stewart.army.mil. For more information, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 767-6533.

Reissued and Corrected IRS TD Forms W-2 for 2003

Special to *The Frontline*

Reissued W-2: Reissued W-2 Forms are W-2's not requiring a money amount change but simply a reissuance of the original that has been lost or destroyed.

a. Any Defense Military Pay Office, U.S. Property and Fiscal Office, Reserve Components Pay Support Office, or Regional Support Command/Regional Support Group can provide Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, separated, or retired Soldiers (including intransit and temporary duty Soldiers) who do not have access to myPay a reissued Form W-2. This Form W-2 will show only wages and taxes withheld for the period paid on the Defense Joint Military Pay System-Active Component or Defense Joint Military Pay System-Reserve Component.

b. If the Soldier is separated from active or reserve duty, any activity, DMPO, USPFO, RCPSO, or RSC/RSG, can provide the Soldier with a reissued Form W-2. If the separatee has changed addresses, fax an address change request to DFAS-IN at (317) 510-7915 or DSN 699-7915. DFAS-IN will reissue Forms W-2 for separated Soldiers who do not have access to one of the activities stated above and does not have access to myPay.

c. Student loan W-2's are available in myPay. Soldiers who require a reissued student loan Form W-2 and do not have access to myPay must direct their inquiry to DFAS-IN, toll free at 1-888-PAY-ARMY. Soldiers who require a reissued DITY move Form W-2 should contact the 3rd Soldier Support Battalion travel section at 767-3193.

d. Reserve Component Soldiers who had a prior year debt collected in calendar year 2003 will receive a tax certificate to be used when filing their income tax returns. Soldiers requesting a reissued tax certificate must contact DFAS-IN using toll free 1-888-PAY-ARMY. Tax certificates are not available in myPay.

Corrected Forms W-2C: Corrected Forms W-2 are tax statements that require a money amount change.

a. Active Duty or Active Guard Reserve Soldiers who require a corrected Form W-2C must go to their servicing DMPO or USPFO.

Requests from individual servicemembers will not be accepted by DFAS-IN. The member will be informed to contact their DMPO or USPFO. The servicing DMPO or USPFO must send an e-mail message to DFAS-IN to request a corrected W-2C. Once DFAS-IN inputs the transaction, the Form W-2C will automatically be mailed to the soldier's unit. The W-2C will also be available in myPay.

b. Separated Soldiers who are unable to visit a DMPO or USPFO may write to:

DFAS Indianapolis Center
ATTN: DFAS-PMTCB/IN
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-0875

or fax (317) 510-2992 to obtain a Form W-2C.

Written requests should include all documents that substantiate the need for a corrected Form W-2. They may also call toll free 1-888-PAY-ARMY. Soldiers who separated with a debt and request a reissued and/or corrected Form W-2 should be advised to call DFAS Denver Center customer service at 1-800-962-0648. Reissues may be obtained by calling 1-888-PAY-ARMY.

c. Mobilized Guard and Reserve Soldiers may obtain a corrected Form W-2 through their servicing field finance office. Other Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers will request corrected Forms W-2 by mail, memorandum, fax, or telephone supported by substantiating documentation. The request will include the Soldier's name, SSN, mailing address, and telephone number (including area code). Mail to above address with zip code extension changing to 46249-0840, or fax (317) 510-2992 or DSN 699-2992 or telephone 1-888-PAY-ARMY.

d. As a reminder, Forms W-2C will show only the dollar amounts that were changed from the original Form W-2. For example, if an adjustment was made to only federal wages, the Form W-2C will show the original federal wages field, the corrected federal wages field, and the amount of the increase or decrease between the original and corrected federal wages fields. Thus, Soldiers must use both the original Form W-2 and the Form W-2C when filing their taxes. POC for this Information Paper is 3rd SSB, FINOPS, 767-4679 or 767-3505.

RETURN

from page 1A

Freedom, Tittle said. After training at Stewart, they were deployed to Kuwait in February. After participating in the initial push to Baghdad, the Soldiers conducted security and stability operations in Baghdad, Tikrit, Balad and Ar Ramadi.

The long deployment was tough on the Soldiers and their families, said Karen Moellenbrink, whose husband, Spc. Robert Moellenbrink, a gunner for C Company, 3/124 Inf., deployed shortly after the couple found out they were having a baby.

"I was not happy when I found out he was leaving because I had just found out I was pregnant, and we had just bought a new house and were in the process of remodeling so we could move in," she said. "A lot of people complain that they are over there for this war, but I am glad they were over there. It's an important job they were doing. I know it's hard being away from your family, but people need to help in any way they can."

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Golder, A Co., 3/124 Inf., said it would take some time for being home to set in, but he already had plans.

"(The first thing I'm going to do) is have a big, thick steak and an ice cold (beverage)," he said.

More Florida Guard Soldiers will be returning home in the next three months during the current rotation of forces in Iraq, Tittle said. More than 500 Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment are currently serving in Ar Ramadi and are expected to be home by the end of March. More than 300 Soldiers with the 743rd Maintenance Company and the 269th Engineer Company, both of which are serving between Baghdad and Tikrit, should return within the next three months.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Spc. Jarett Frazier, A Co., 3/124 Inf., greets Sara Overby for the first time in a year Sunday at Newman Gym during one of the many welcome home ceremonies for Florida National Guard Soldiers returning from Iraq.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Spc. Jerry Friend of the 3/124 Infantry embraces his mother Diane as his father Mile and sister wait in line for hugs at a reception ceremony for the Florida Guard's 3/124 Infantry Monday.

GARRISON

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Issues that generated questions and concerns included the new PT routes, traffic flow on post and gate operations.

In answering the questions, Kidd emphasized that the PT routes are in place to keep Soldiers out of danger. He stressed that the routes were carefully designed and will be monitored.

If the routes don't work efficiently after a certain period of time, they will be reevaluated, Carter said.

The gate construction should be done by August, Kidd told the civilians, and in the mean time traffic flow will have to be endured.

However, the number of personnel on gate guard has increased significantly since the civilians from Akal Security began to work the gates, which has helped expedite the flow of traffic, Kidd pointed out.

Another issue that arose in the meeting was the occasional closing of Georgia Highways 144 and 119 for training exercises, an initiative that Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue supported.

Kidd emphasized that closing the roads is a training necessity, but it is also

being monitored and closed for the least and shortest amounts of time possible.

"The state of Georgia is working well with the installation on that," Carter said.

Kidd also touched on construction projects planned for Stewart, and currently being worked on, including the Soldier service center, education center, troop medical clinic, and many others.

The Residential Communities Initiative was another subject Kidd addressed in the meeting. He talked about how housing will improve the lives of the Soldiers once RCI is finished.

Emphasizing that GMH is a partnership, not a contract, he said by the time RCI is done, lower enlisted Soldiers should have houses comparable to his as far as square feet.

Kidd also said while there is no guarantee, there is a possibility Stewart could get a third elementary school in the future, as reorganization causes the division to swell.

The purpose of the meeting overall was to keep the civilian workforce informed and listen to their concerns, Carter said.

PURPLE HEARTS

from page 1A

said.

Also receiving the prestigious medal were Spc. Matthew Moss, Cpl. Howard Fleming and Spc. Joseph Eason. Cpl. Melvin Valderrama was present at the ceremony though his award was delayed by paperwork. Mateo pinned his Purple Heart on Valderrama during the ceremony.

The adjutant general of the Florida Guard, Air Force Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, presented the Soldiers with their medals and said it was an honor to stand among them.

"We're not a stay at home Guard anymore," Burnett said. "Most people have no clue about the penalty Soldiers pay when they answer the call of duty."

Burnett called for better equipment for the Guard, as they have had problems securing even such essentials as Gore-tex and reliable trucks.

"A regular humvee costs \$65,000, while the up-armored version costs about \$188,000," Burnett said. "That is a costly vehicle, but there is no price too expensive to keep our Soldiers safe. As a nation we've got to do that."

Class teaches NCOs to keep Soldiers in the Army

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane

Staff Writer

The Mobile Retention Training Team from Fort Jackson, S.C. came to Fort Stewart Jan. 26 through Friday to train Soldiers on how to retain veteran Soldiers. The team held a weeklong training program at Club Stewart's main ballroom.

The training consisted of a week of performance-oriented instruction to prepare company and battalion level retention noncommissioned officers to have all the information needed to keep Soldiers in the Army.

"The class consists of blocks of instruction on retention tactics, what makes a Soldier prime for retention, and all the paperwork involved in reenlisting the Soldier in the Army," said Sgt 1st Class Jon Bushorn, division retention NCO for 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). "The training also includes educating the NCOs on all the incentives

they can offer with a reenlistment."

Staff Sgt. Michael Lyons, the retention NCO at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Inf. Div., catches Soldiers as they walk in the door. "Are you ready for re-up?" he can be heard asking almost everyone he comes in contact with. Lyons' adamant nature and assertive approach to retention and reenlistment has begun to fill the wall outside of his office with pictures of Soldiers reenlisting in the Army for all types of incentives.

All companies and units have a person like Lyons. Someone who is trained to keep experienced Soldiers in the Army to ensure the Army doesn't lose its strength and have to train new Soldiers for jobs that veterans are already filling.

"A retention NCO is an extra duty position that a Soldier fills on top of his regular duties," Bushorn said.

The military occupational specialty is a class of its own, called 79S. It is important to have this position open at all

company levels to maintain overall Army strength, he added.

"I attended the class last year, and I think it's important for every leader to have the basic information to give a Soldier as far as where they can go and what incentives they can get through reenlistment," said Staff Sgt. Paula Burchett, a career counselor for the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

The class is mandatory for anyone who wants to counsel Soldiers on the next move they should make concerning their career, Burchett said.

"All the Soldiers I have talked to said they really got a lot out of the class when they attended," Bushorn said.

"I also think it's very important for every leader to attend this class, because it's another good way of taking care of Soldiers," Burchett added. "The Army is nothing without its Soldiers, and it is a leader's job to let them know what is out there for them, and why they should stay Army."

ROGUE

from page 1A

train on instead of attempting to train on everything at once, Smith explained. The intended result was killer platoons with a high level of training in specific offensive tasks prepared to conduct company level maneuvers.

"During the exercise, we were able to exercise all of the Battalions systems to include the Unit Maintenance Collection Point, the Combat Trains Command Post and the Field Trains Command Post led by Capt. Chris Mahaffey, who integrated the FTCP into the Brigade Supply Area for the first time," he said.

"In order to create a realistic maneuver training environment; we needed a dynamic Opposing Force to replicate OIF conditions," Smith continued. "There was only one choice: The highly motivated and highly dedicated 1/64 Armor Mortar Platoon reinforced by the battalion headquarters tanks, Sgt. Carlos Hernandez and Sgt. Micah Harvey, and led by the seasoned 1st Lt. Roger Gruneisien."

The OPFOR was given a variety of different tasks to conduct under difficult conditions, to include both mounted and dismounted operations, Smith said. The OPFOR varied their defenses from multiple strongpoints, dismounted, rear, choke-point ambushes, roadside improvised

explosives devices, and intermixing with the local populace in order to provide the friendly forces with realistic training conditions. The OPFOR created a non-linear battlefield that forced 360 degree scanning of sectors of fire and the constant dismounting of Soldiers.

Rogue Focus was initiated with a battalion order given the day prior to departure. While platoon leaders conducted Troop Leading Procedures, the advanced party departed to set up the tactical operations center, prepare the lanes and solve any last-minute conflicts while observer controllers conducted OPFOR rehearsals. By the first day of platoon lanes, the battalion was ready to train high intensity conflict at the platoon level, Smith said.

The Rogue Focus training event was divided into two three-day iterations. During the first iteration the battalion created two lanes: a Destroy an Inferior Force Lane in the north and an Assault Lane in the south. Platoons had to move to attack positions, execute movement formations, movement techniques, contact drills, actions drills, and proper reporting procedures.

"This was an excellent chance for new platoons to create standard operating procedures and to refine SOPs," Smith

explained. "Platoons executed the lanes in three varying degrees of difficulty, ranging from easy to difficult. The endstate was for platoons to be able to execute basic movement and maneuver in difficult terrain, against a non-linear enemy template."

Variable lanes were introduced during the second half of Rogue Focus based on the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Eric Schwartz's assessment of platoon readiness, he explained. The variable lanes were designed to train platoon initiative, build rapid decision-making and planning, and test the platoon's ability to react to unanticipated situations as a synchronized unit. Platoons were initially given the mission to conduct a presence patrol along a designated route with multiple checkpoints. About halfway through the mission, they were given one of three different missions. These missions included: Rescuing a disabled mortar in which all they received was its last known location — the platoon had to navigate to an unknown point, assess the enemy situation surrounding the disabled mortar vehicle and crew, establish mounted and dismounted security, assess casualties, and call in and establish an air medical evacuation.

The second mission was to conduct a

convoy escort mission with an untrained civilian or National Guard unit. Soldiers had to conduct convoy operations, ensure the convoy was briefed on the mission and route, react to civilians on the battlefield and react to ambush along a restricted route.

The last variable was to establish a blocking point. Soldiers initially had to clear the area of civilians, assist civilian casualties, and establish mounted and dismounted security including wire security along high speed avenues of approach.

The OPFOR would constantly test the platoons using dismounted civilians integrated with enemy soldiers. The platoons also had to react to vehicular contact that was attempting to breach their blocking positions, Smith explained.

Overall the training was a great success, he said. The battalion trained fundamental platoon offensive collective tasks and integrated a number of variable missions that caused leaders at all levels within the platoons to adapt to unanticipated situations, and take the initiative by making creative and immediate decisions. The training also tested the platoon's ability to coordinate its' actions in a dynamic environment.

ASK THE JUDGE

What are tax education credits?

There are two credits available, the Hope Scholarship Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit.

Q: What is the Hope Credit?

A: If you paid post high school education expenses for yourself, your spouse or a dependent, you might be entitled to claim a tax credit up to \$1500 per student. This is called the Hope Educational Tax Credit. The credit allows the tax payer to deduct 100 percent of the first \$1,000 of qualified education expenses and 50 percent of the next \$1,000. At most, a taxpayer can deduct \$1500 using this credit.

This credit only applies during the first two years of post-secondary education and is not available to anyone with a felony drug conviction.

To claim the credit, the student for whom the taxpayer paid tuition must have taken at least one half of a full time workload for a semester. For example, if a full time academic load is 14 credit hours per semester, the student must have taken at least seven credit hours in order for the tax payer to qualify for the credit.

Q: What is the Lifetime Learning Credit?

A: The Lifetime Learning Credit is a tax credit that enables you to deduct up to \$2000 per tax return for certain education expenses. This credit is available to taxpayers, who pay for their own education or their dependent's education. The credit applies to ALL years of post-secondary education and for courses necessary to acquire or improve job skills. It remains available for an unlimited number of years.

Q: How does the Lifetime Learning Credit differ from the Hope Credit?

A: Unlike the Hope Credit:

- The Lifetime Learning Credit is not based on the student's workload. It is allowed for one or more courses.
- The credit is not limited to students in the first two years of postsecondary education.
- Expenses for graduate level degree work are eligible.
- There is no maximum period for which the credit can be claimed for each eligible student.
- The amount you can claim as a credit does not vary (increase) based on the number of eligible students for whom you pay qualified expenses. You can only deduct up to \$2000 per return.

Q: Can I claim an education credit if I am married but file separately?

A: No. Neither the Hope Credit nor the Lifetime Learning Credit can be claimed if the individual is married but filing separately.

Q: How do I claim the education credits?

A: The education credits are claimed on Form 8863 (PDF), Education Credits (Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits), which is attached to your Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

Q: Who can claim the tax credits?

A: These credits are phased out for Modified Adjusted Gross Income above \$41,000 (\$82,000 for married filing jointly) and eliminated completely for Modified Adjusted Gross Income of \$51,000 or more (\$102,000 if married filing jointly). If the taxpayer is married, the credit may be claimed only on a joint return.

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: Contact the Marne Tax Center at 767-3909.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, open container of alcoholic beverage, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Reidsville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Drunken driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Corporal, 24-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Improper passing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, terroristic threats, obstruction of justice, interference with government property
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Failure to obey a lawful order
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Family member, 38-year-old female
- **Charges:** No proof of insurance, disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice resisting arrest
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Captain, 27-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, operating an unsafe vehicle, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 2, 24-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving with expired tags
- **Location:** Savannah

JDCB handles juvenile cases at Stewart, Hunter

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

The JDCB is the Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board. The purpose of the board is to establish policies, procedures, and responsibilities for the disposition of incidents involving misconduct of juvenile subjects. Under Georgia code section 15-11-28, juveniles between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, may be prosecuted in a criminal court system.

Juveniles on Fort Stewart are not dismissed from state or federal laws. Juveniles who violate any laws are subject to punishment. The following are crimes that are most frequently violated on Fort Stewart: Shoplifting, Larceny of Private/Government Property, Damage of Private/Government Property, Assault, Affray, Unruly juvenile, Curfew Violation, Vandalism, Domestic Violence, and Alcohol/Drug Incidents.

The procedures for all juvenile cases are the same, no matter what crime the juvenile commits. The juvenile will be processed by the Military Police, with the parents present. This will include Miranda Warnings and a written statement. The juvenile will then be released to their sponsor. The sponsor will receive a notification letter through his unit commander to appear before the JDCB with his/her juvenile. Failure to appear before the board could result in punitive actions for the sponsor, under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The board consists of a panel that will hear each individual case. The panel con-

sists of Lt. Col. Jeffrey Goble, Hunter garrison commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Mittie Smith, Hunter garrison command sergeant major, Cpt. Frederick Lewis, Staff Judge Advocate, Barbara Jenkins, Department of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Maj. Timothy Sowers, Installation Chaplain Office, and Linda Heywood, Social Work Services. The juvenile will appear before the board with his sponsor present. The case will be heard and the board will determine punishment. The juvenile can receive community service, restitution fines, essays, curfew, a BAR letter from the installation, and termination of government quarters for the sponsor.

The board members will determine punishment for each case individually.

All sponsors are required to comply with Fort Stewart Regulation 15-7 and Commanding General Policy 17-1, which pertain to juvenile regulations within the installation. Sponsors are therefore responsible for the conduct of their children at all times. All juveniles and their sponsors will be held accountable for any misconduct.

The JDCB recently convened on Jan. 22. There were a total of five Juvenile cases heard before the panel. The juveniles received 16 to 40 hours of community service, 1000 word essays, 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfews, \$200 restitution to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and a visit to the Youth Challenge Academy. The charges ranged from Shoplifting to Burglary. If there are any questions in reference to the board, please contact Lt. Russell Wilson, MP Investigations, at the MP Station at 767-8957.



3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Town Hall meeting

The meeting is being held today at 6:30 p.m., ACS Bldg. 470.

Valentine golf scramble

This event will be held at Taylor's Creek, Feb. 12, at noon. This will be Shotgun style. The fee is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members. The deadline for registration is Wednesday.

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.

Please contact Faye Dougherty, 767-0805 for an appointment to pick up your kit.

Pot of Gold

There will be a Pot of Gold Awards Ceremony Feb. 9, at 10:30 a.m. Monday, at Club Stewart. The ceremony will recognize family members for their outstanding volunteer service to the Fort Stewart community.

Marne Tax Center

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

- Jan.**
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 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 Building 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.

Annual Technology Show

The annual Georgia Information Technology Show will be held at Club Stewart Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is free to all personnel. Extensive catering will be provided so everyone will have more time to see exhibits.

For more information call 1-888-282-2262, or e-mail: info@atc-expo.com or visit www.atc-expo.com/shows

Celebrate Black History Month

The Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield requests the pleasure of your company at the Fort Stewart Black History Month Celebration, featuring guest speaker command sgt. maj. Mittie Smith, Hunter Garrison command sgt. maj., on Feb. 19 at 1 p.m.

This event is being held at Woodruff Theater and open to all. For more information call 767-1808/2162.

Hunter

Sweetheart Tournament

The Fifth Annual Sweetheart Tournament is being held at Hunter Lanes Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. This event is open to everyone. No league averages required. Scotch Doubles, 9-pin, no Tap Alibi.

Entry fee is \$25. Sign up start at noon and ends at 12:45 p.m.

Pot of Gold

There will be a Pot of Gold Awards Ceremony Feb. 10, at 1 p.m., in the ACS ballroom. The ceremony will recognize family members for their outstanding volunteer service to the Hunter community.

Youth babysitting classes

There will be a babysitting class for ages 13 and up Feb. 7 and 21, 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.

Active parenting

Army Community Service is conducting each Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., until Feb. 18, a session for parents of children ages 5 to 12. In these sessions parents learn styles of parenting, winning cooperation, responsibility and effective discipline techniques, communication skills and building courage, character and self-esteem in their children.

Child care may be provided but participants must sign-up in advance. For more information call Regina Mims at 352-6816.

Pay day golf scramble

A pay day golf scramble is being held Feb. 27 at noon at the Hunter Golf Club. All members of Hunter and Stewart communities 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 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:

- Jan.**
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 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.

Town Hall meeting

The meeting is being held Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., in the ACS ballroom, Bldg. 1286.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Flu Shots

Flu shots will be available for all beneficiaries in the immunization clinic. The clinic is open 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information regarding the shots, call 370-6878.

New OB-GYN Walk-in Hours

The new walk-in hours for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Pharmacy Change

Refill prescriptions must be ordered and picked-up at the refill pharmacy, located in the hospital, or the satellite pharmacy, located at the Post Exchange. Refill prescriptions will not be filled at the main pharmacy. For more information, call 370-6040.

Refill Pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Refills can be ordered by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready for pick-up the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Satellite Pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. New prescriptions can be dropped off and picked up the

next day. Refill prescriptions can be ordered by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready the next working day after 9 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays from Feb. 19 to March 11 or 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 17 to March 9. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays from Feb. 4 to 25. To register for Winn's classes, call 370-5071.

To register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tuttle Information Desk

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

Additional Parking

An additional parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex, is open for patient parking.

"Take Care of Yourself"

The next "Take Care of Yourself" class at Winn will be held 2 to 3 p.m., Wednesday. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register, call 370-5071.

Marne TV

January
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 a.m. Navy News
- 7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
- 8 a.m.** **MARNE REPORT**
- 8:30 a.m. Navy News
- 9 a.m. Air Force News
- 11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
- Noon** **MARNE REPORT**
- 12:30 p.m. Navy News
- 1:30 p.m.** **State of the Garrison**

- 4:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
- 5 p.m.** **MARNE REPORT**
- 5:30 p.m. Navy News
- 6 p.m.** **MARNE REPORT**
- 6:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
- 7 p.m.** **MARNE REPORT**
- 7:30 p.m** **State of the Garrison**
- 10 p.m.** **MARNE REPORT**
- 10:30 p.m. Navy News
- 11 p.m. Army Newswatch

Job well done



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

C. Arland Carroll, president of Carroll and Carroll, Inc., receives a certificate of achievement from Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander Monday. Carroll's construction company led the \$23.4 million runway reconstruction project at Hunter ahead of schedule.

CENTCOM News

One Soldier killed, another wounded in IED attack

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq — One Soldier was killed and another wounded Tuesday during an improvised explosive device attack near Haswah in the vicinity of Iskandariyah.

The Soldiers from Task Force "All American" were conducting counter-IED operations when the attack occurred.

The wounded Soldier was medically evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital.

The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending next of kin notification.

The incident is under investigation.

Arrowhead Brigade detains suspects, collects arms in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) detained personnel suspected of anti-Coalition activities and recovered weapons and other explosives in northern Iraq Sunday.

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment conducted a

cordon-and-knock operation in Mosul and detained four personnel associated with anti-Coalition activities, including one target suspected of involvement in planning attacks on Coalition forces.

Members of the Coalition for Iraqi Unity, a concerned group of citizens in northwestern Iraq, came to the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment tactical operations center in Tallafar and turned in 13 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, seven boosters, 36 hand grenades, an AK-47 rifle, a submachine gun, an RPG launcher, ten 82 mm mortar rounds and 74 .30 caliber rounds.

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment secured two mines, 10 kilograms of TNT and an electronic activation device along a thoroughfare south of Mosul. Members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps removed the improvised explosive device.

ICDC, TF "All American" create safe environment in Al Anbar

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade

Combat Team) under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) uncovered two caches during operations Friday in and around Mosul.

A Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment uncovered a cache of weapons after an unknown number of enemy engaged a patrol with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades in northern Mosul. The patrol returned fire, and broke and moved to a location several blocks away. They then consolidated, reorganized and returned to secure the site. The patrol secured a cache consisting of one grenade, and six expended French Roland surface-to-air missile casings.

In Al Beer, A Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment discovered a cache that included one AK-47, one RPK machine gun, 1,500 rounds of ammunition, 21 magazines, two blocks of demolition cord and 40 electric blasting caps.

The 101st and elements of the 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. continue to work with the citizens and leaders of Iraq to make it a safe, prosperous, and democratic nation.