

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

Webster addresses training, reorganization

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

The commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) talked to Soldiers about their training and their concerns when he visited units training at Fort Stewart Monday.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster III visits Soldiers training in the field at Stewart at least once every

week, said Capt. Andy Hilmes, Webster's aide. Monday he observed Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Corps Support Group during marksmanship qualification at Clifford Range and A Company, 3rd Forward Support Battalion as they trained on tactical scenarios at the Enhanced Skills Trainer.

"The commander is not only supposed to get reports, he's sup-

posed to go out and get a sense of the levels of training," Webster said. "(24th CSG) is going through individual weapons training. It's an example of why we need to increase the training we put support Soldiers through."

With the Army's focus on "Warrior Ethos," support Soldiers will be qualifying on their weapons twice a year, Webster said. In the past, they typically

qualified once a year. It's part of an effort to make "every Soldier a rifleman," he said.

"We've known it for a long time, and it was really driven home during the war," he continued. "We can't afford to wait. Every Soldier has got to be a better rifleman. I tell the troops every week: The enemy is watching us. They know they can't take us head-on, so they're looking for

vulnerabilities. (More training) will build confidence and competence with the weapons. Therefore, every vehicle will be bristling with firepower. That confidence will give the enemy the feeling 'If I mess with them, they're going to kill me.'"

New training, such as the convoy live-fire exercise held two

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Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Soldiers in the 293rd MP Co. load up their belongings before heading out for Iraq Saturday night from their motor pool at Stewart.

293rd MPs say their goodbyes to Stewart, family, friends

Pfc. Emily J. Danial
Staff writer

Soldiers in the 293rd Military Police Company headed out to Iraq late Saturday night from their motor pool at Fort Stewart.

Families and loved ones came to see the unit off for their first Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation, and stayed from the beginning of the evening until the buses rolled out at about 11 p.m.

"Everybody, of course, is going to have

mixed emotions about this, whether or not this is necessary, you know," said Pfc. Torry A. Williams, an MP in fourth platoon.

"But hey, this is our job ... it's just a long day at work, hooah," he said.

The Soldiers had a formation behind their company at about 8 p.m., and then spent the next hour bidding final farewells to their loved ones.

Some, though, found it easier to avoid last-minute send-offs.

"My mom was here earlier, but she

doesn't do long goodbyes," Williams said. "We said our goodbyes earlier, and I put her on a plane at about (1 p.m.) today."

The company returned from its last deployment less than a year ago, but even though most said they weren't looking forward to their deployment, they managed to keep an optimistic attitude.

"From here, we hop on a plane, go do our job, do what we've been trained to do and come home," Williams said with a smile.

At about 10 p.m., the unit marched

from the company to the motor pool, where they loaded their belongings up on trucks and then loaded themselves up on buses.

Families stood on the side of the road across from the motor pool as the buses pulled out, shouting and waving to their Soldiers.

Pfc. Andrew Lee Tuazon, another 293rd MP, said he was anxious to leave.

He added, "A year is a long time, but I can't wait to leave so I can hurry up and get back."

Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch

Spc. Jason Scott Perry reunites with his 20-month old son, Chris, at the welcome home ceremony for returning Soldiers from Iraq at Newman March 4.



Guard Soldiers return from Iraq

Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch
Staff Writer

Soldiers from the National Guard 122nd Engineer Battalion out of Batesburg, S.C. were greeted home in a small ceremony as they returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom at Newman Physical Fitness Center March 4.

"The Soldiers are happy to be home and had received a tremendous outpouring of love and support while in Iraq from the families back

home," said Lt. Col. Brad Owens, battalion commander of the 122nd Eng. Bn., S. C. Army National Guard.

"It has truly been a blessing to work with such fine outstanding Soldiers. I am extremely proud of all of them, they did all they were asked and more," Owens said.

"My husband has been in the service a long time and everyone in his unit knew they'd have to go to Iraq," said Stella Padgett, the wife of Sgt. Joseph E. Padgett. "I

just expected my husband to not have to be there as soon as he had to."

I was surprised when my brother's unit was activated because the war started and next thing you know my brother was getting a call sending him to Iraq, said Joseph Kejr the brother of Sgt. Kevin Kejr A Co., 178th Eng., which was attached to 122nd.

The National Guard unit had been in Iraq for the last 11 months of the fighting and have much catching up to do now.

"I missed my wife and son so much and will be spending a lot of time with them," said Spc. Jason S. Perry of A Co.

The families who were at home kept in contact with the Soldiers through e-mails and constant phone calls.

Col. Robert E. Livingston, Deputy Commanding Officer of the 218th Inf. Brigade South Carolina Army National Guard was the speaker for the evening.

"On behalf of a grateful nation thank you for a job well done," Livingston said.

Weather Forecast

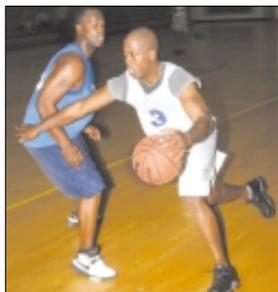
FRI	High 66°	Low 39°
SAT	High 65°	Low 44°
SUN	High 74°	Low 55°

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Stewart archaeologists sift through centuries

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Digging beneath the sandy soil on Fort Stewart, archaeologists are continually unearthing artifacts that date from prehistory to early 20th Century homesteads in a hunt for knowledge of the area's past.

"We find everything from fossils to old farming tools on Stewart," said post archaeologist Jennifer Grover as she pulled a large, rusty wagon wheel from her closet at the Directorate of Public Works. "There are over 2,000 sites here where we've found artifacts."

Because it is on federally-owned land, Stewart is required to survey sites for archaeological interest before building, logging or otherwise disturbing the soil. Grover facilitates these surveys with the help of contractors who often hike through Stewart's huge swamps to dig survey pits in areas that are slated for development.

"Basically anything over 50 years old is of interest to us, and then we have to decide whether the site is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places until we can get everything out of the ground," Grover said. "There are 22 sites on post that are protected by being on the register right now, because we think they can still yield important information."

The oldest artifacts found at Stewart date back over 8,000 years to Native Americans who passed through the area but rarely stayed long. Chert arrowheads, spear points and clay pottery are the most common physical evidence of the ancient people, but Grover said that she sometimes detects post holes or pits that date back to prehistoric times. Chert is a type of flint that was often used to make arrowheads.

"We find most of the really old artifacts along the Canoochee River, which is interesting because the nearest source for chert is about 80 kilometers away," said post archaeological technician Tom Jeanquart.

"They may have brought it themselves, using the river, or traded with other natives."

Some of the pottery that crews have found near the riverbanks is decorated with designs. Often string would be wound around a pot to create a spiral, or native would use a shaped paddle to press designs into a vessel. The ceramic artifacts are almost always broken, but they still reveal valuable information about their makers, Jeanquart said.

"The tiny holes you see in some of these sherds mean that the clay was tempered with plant material, probably Spanish moss, to keep it from cracking when it was fired," Jeanquart said. "Most of the pottery we find isn't decorated — just like us, they had their nice dishes for special occasions."

A crew of contractors led by field director Carrie Williams sifted through soil in the hot sun near the northern border of Stewart Friday at a site where Native American artifacts had been found on a previous survey. The crew's job was to determine whether the site warranted inclusion in the NRHP.

"We've been finding a little bit of chert flakes here but my gut tells me that this site doesn't have anything that a dozen others here don't have," Williams said. "This was probably a small campsite, about 1,500 years old, that a few people used briefly before moving on. With long term habitations you see a much higher concentration of debris, like flakes or pottery sherds — trash is something humans have always left behind."

The chert found at the site was pink, which is an indication that it was heat-treated to make it easier to carve into points, said Ted Roberts as he painstakingly sifted through piles of soil and pulled out pieces of ancient pottery that would be invisible to the uninitiated.

Simply finding the artifacts is not enough to learn from them, Williams said. Knowing the object's precise location relative to other objects and landforms is crucial to forming an accurate picture of the activities that occurred there. When soil has been disturbed or artifacts moved haphazardly, the scientific and cultural value of the object is lost, she added.

"It's really neat to come across an arrowhead and think that thousands of years ago a Native American was sitting right here and grinding this thing," Williams said. "Everything buried here is an important reminder of our heritage. Forget your heritage and you're doomed to repeat the past."

Editor's note: It is illegal to dig or remove artifacts from Fort Stewart. It is also dangerous. There are weapons besides arrowheads buried in the woods. If you think you have found an archaeological site, do not disturb the site in any way and notify Range Control immediately at 767-8777.



Archaeologist Jennifer Grover sorts through a box of artifacts found on Stewart in the DPW's curation facility. She hopes to display some of them in the new headquarters building when it is completed.



Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Archaeological surveyor Tom Lamb points out variations in the soil layers that help him determine the age of the artifacts he unearths at Fort Stewart Friday afternoon. Careful digging and record keeping is crucial to accurately dating the objects and placing them in context, according to Lamb.



Pink chert flakes unearthed Friday show signs of heat-treating by ancient Native Americans.



Grover holds a pail found on Stewart that was used to collect pine sap to be distilled into turpentine. Turps production here boomed in the late 1800's.



DPW archaeological technician Tom Jeanquart examines a large chunk of chert, a type of flint that Native Americans often chipped arrowheads from.

DISCOM gets new top NCO

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Division Support Command received a new command sergeant major in a change of responsibility ceremony Friday at Marne Garden.

Command Sgt Maj. Edward T. Brooks succeeded Command Sgt Maj. Tony D. Bridgewater, who is retiring after 30 years of service.

"This day is one of the hardest of my life," Bridgewater said. "It's bitter sweet but good regardless."

Bridgewater left the 3rd Inf. Div. after five years that he said were, "challenging but also rewarding."

Bridgewater has left the division with a solid foundation of leadership and said he knows that Brooks will lead with respect and take care of the DISCOM Soldiers.

"Command Sergeant Major Brooks, no doubt you are the right man for the job," Bridgewater said.

Bridgewater will leave the military to

work with his sister for a non-profit organization in Florida designed to help tutor impoverished teenagers and earn them their General Education Degrees.

Enlisting into the Army in June 1980, Brooks brings 24 years in the Army to help him with the job.

"Today is a day of thanks and gratitude for the people who helped support and train to get me here for this big task," Brooks said.

He added that his goals are to take care of and lead Soldiers as effectively as Bridgewater did.

Brooks comes to 3rd Inf. Div. from the 703rd Main Support Battalion here. Some of Brooks' prior assignments include: Installation sergeant major, Sarajevo, Bosnia; first sergeant, 2nd Support Corps Material Management Center, Fort Bragg, N.C. and first sergeant of the Mobile Command Post Communications Squadron, Izmir, Turkey.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the

Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Royal Australian Army Parachutist Badge, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal.

Brooks military education includes the Battalion Training Management Course, the Prescribed Load List Course, the Tactical Satellite Repairer Course, the Solid State Electronics Course, the Officer/Noncommissioned Officer NBC Course, the Basic Airborne and Jumpmaster Course, the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (Distinguished Graduate), the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (Honor Graduate), the Battle Staff Course, the First Sergeants Course, the Sergeants Major Academy, and the Command Sergeants Major Course. He holds an associates degree in General Studies, and a bachelor's degree in Electronic Technology.



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Col. Brian R. Layer, HHC DISCOM commander presents Command Sgt. Maj. Tony D. Bridgewater the Legion of Merit at Bridgewater's Change of Responsibility at Marne Garden Friday.

National Prayer Breakfast brings Soldiers together

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

Soldiers gathered at Club Stewart and Hunter Club to remember those past and present that have fought to preserve our nation's freedom at the National Prayer Breakfast March 4 and Friday.

Soldiers celebrated the nation by hearing the National Anthem and George Washington's Prayer for the Nation, and by singing My Country 'Tis of Thee, the Dogface Soldier Song, and the Army Song.

"I'm very pleased to see the turnout," said Lt. Col. Gary Mauck, deputy chaplain for mobilization. "It is great to see Soldiers working together to strengthen their characters and their spiritual lives."

While Soldiers ate breakfast, the main speaker, Retired 1st Lt. Patrick Cleburne McClary, U.S. Marine Corps, motivated the large congregation of Soldiers with his inspirational stories of his past and how it has changed his life.

From the beginning of his speech, he captivated the audience's attention with his dramatic voice and facial expressions.

McClary, from Pauley's Island, S.C., suffered traumatic injuries in



Spc. Robert Adams

Retired 1st Lt. Clebe McClary, USMC, speaks to guests gathered for the National Prayer breakfast at the Hunter Club March 3. McClary, a Vietnam Veteran, lost an arm and an eye during combat operations as a recon platoon leader.

Vietnam, which included the loss of his left arm and left eye. But he has since used his powerful story of courage, determination and strength to motivate audiences throughout the world.

"I didn't plan on becoming a

motivational speaker in the beginning, but when part of myself was taken away from me, God gave me a little extra back to help others," McClary said. "While I was in the hospital, I was so glad to be alive that I would go from room to room

and try to encourage others."

McClary related to the Soldiers by his use of acronyms. He taught everyone that professionalism intensifies guts (PIG) and to have personal responsibility in daily efforts (PRIDE) as well as teaching

everyone to care for those around them.

"It's tremendous how important the people around him were, how he remembers them and is true to their sacrifice, and this helps so many people to understand that in a larger way," Mauck said.

Though originally he only spoke locally, McClary has spoken in all 50 states and around the world numerous times in the past 35 years.

"I really want all Soldiers to know that I appreciate them," McClary said. "It is tough not knowing what's going to happen even sometimes up until the first blast goes off, and I just want to let them know that they need the Lord because you don't what's going to happen."

"His enthusiasm and his ability to take something so negative in his life and make it so positive are really inspiring, and the fact that he lives what he talks is evident by the response he received when he finished," Mauck said.

McClary said, "I want to thank all the Soldiers for what they are doing for our freedom, our country, and our way of life, and that I support them and pray for them."

Corps CDR speaks on reorganization

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. John Vines, XVIII Airborne Corps commander, visited Fort Stewart to speak on the future reorganization of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) March 2.

What is the purpose of your visit here today?

The main purpose is to make sure that we have a common view of the things that we've got to do to reorganize the division to accomplish the missions that we see for it in the future, both potentially being in Iraq or in other places. So it was to synchronize our efforts.

What do you think is important for 3ID Soldiers to know about reorganization?

The purpose is to slow down the tempo for the individual Soldier. The incredible job that they did in Operation Iraqi Freedom put a demand on each Soldier in the Army. We've got Soldiers that are deployed two out of three years, and that is too much. We need to reorganize so that we have enough units to accomplish the missions and to slow down the tempo for the individual Soldier. So they need to know that the purpose of the reorganization that we are doing is so that we won't be asking people to deploy as frequently.

On the topic of the individual Soldier, how important is the aspect of individual Soldier training?

Well, training is critical, but people aren't in the Army, they are the Army. The individual Soldier is what

makes things happen and they make it happen because of their commitment to professionalism and loyalty. They have to be trained. Well trained and well disciplined Soldiers can do anything, and this division proved that. What they did in OIF is historic. It was a textbook land campaign unlike anything that has been done before. And it is because they were perhaps as well trained as any force has ever been when they initiated operations, and it was because of great training, great leadership, and great individual Soldiers.

What is the Corps' role in supporting reorganization of 3rd Inf. Div. and follow-on divisions?

In just this fiscal year, three of our divisions within the Corps are going to have additional units of action. The 10th Mountain Division, the 101st Airborne Division, and 3rd Infantry Division. So we have to synchronize them so we insure that assets that the 3rd Infantry Division uses are not assets that 10th Mountain were expecting to use to accomplish its tasks. So we have to synchronize all that to make sure that we have not only the equipment, but the right people and the facilities to put them in with the right training resources for them.

Do you have anything you would like to say to 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers?

My initial assignment was with the 3rd Infantry Division. And I watched this division from Afghanistan and Iraq, and I can't tell you how proud I was of it and it's Soldiers. It was truly historic what they did, and they reflected great credit on themselves,



Spc. Robert Adams

Lt. Gen. John Vines, XVIII Airborne Corps commander, addressed reorganization issues March 2.

this great patch that they wear, and to the United States. So I think that pride was shared by Americans all across the country. We have asked enormous things of our Soldiers and families, and this high commitment, the Army's commitment to slow down this tempo so that we don't ask them to redeploy to protect us. What many Americans sometimes forget, is that there are many evil people out there that want to destroy this country, and just because we aren't conducting operations in a particular country doesn't mean that there aren't bad people there. So it takes great, courageous, heroic Soldiers like here in the 3rd Inf. Div. to stand between us and those people that want to destroy us. So I want to tell you how proud I am of you and that you are American heroes.

Safety on the roads: the cost of high risk driving

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

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) has experienced seven privately owned vehicle fatalities this fiscal year. POV accidents continue to be the number one cause of injury and death among our Soldiers. The causes haven't changed and some still some fail to recognize the personal risks they assume each and every time they get into their POV. It is imperative we learn from these Soldiers' mistakes and not repeat them:

- On Jan. 4, following a long weekend, a Soldier was returning to duty when he fell asleep at the wheel. He was traveling west on highway 280 near Waverly, Alabama when his vehicle drifted off the road and rolled six times. He was ejected from his vehicle and fatally injured. Contributing factors to

"Each death experience leaves a lasting scar, not only for family members, but also for their respective unit. These tragic fatalities detract from the division's mission."

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
Commanding General

this soldier's death were "Speed, Fatigue and No Seatbelts".

- Approximately two weeks later on Jan. 22, another Soldier was traveling west on highway 84 outside Hinesville, Ga. The Soldier lost control of his vehicle and drifted across the double yellow line, striking the rear tandem axles of a semi-tractor trailer. He was newly assigned to the 3rd Inf. Div. and left behind a wife and 10-month old child. The contributing factor to this Soldier's death was "Speed".

- The most recent fatality occurred 17 Feb. when

a Soldier returning from another long weekend was observed driving aggressively on I-95 South. He entered Stewart on Highway 144 and witnesses informed investigators the Soldier was traveling at a high rate of speed and aggressively passing traffic in dark, rainy conditions. He was fatally injured when he drifted into oncoming traffic, striking a semi-tractor trailer head-on. His speedometer froze at 89 mph due to the force of impact. The contributing factor to this soldier's death was "Speed".

These Soldiers fit the typical High Risk Profile.

That is to say, they were all male, 18-24 years of age, grades E-1 through E-5, and traveling during the hours of darkness in conjunction with weekend travel. Soldiers falling within this high-risk profile are more susceptible to privately owned vehicle accidents, especially when coupled with indiscipline or aggressive driving behaviors.

Commanders, each death experienced leaves a lasting scar, not only for family members, but also for their respective unit. These tragic fatalities detract from the division's mission and the unit's ability to train effectively. Be mindful, we each have a responsibility to reverse this upward trend in privately owned vehicles accidents. Brief your Soldiers on the circumstances surrounding these fatalities and emphasize the consequences and cost associated with high-risk driving behaviors.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Is it important to recognize women's contribution to the military and why?

"Women are just like any other Soldier. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, they did their job just as well."

Staff Sgt. Ted Archer
HHC, 10th Eng. Bn.



"It's very important, because it shows growth in recognizing in the military, and in society overall, women's roles."

Capt. Lorie Barker
MEDDAC

"It's important that all Soldiers understand the role of women. We work to inspire and lead Soldiers to continue the mission of the military."

Staff Sgt. Tomelya Coley
HHC, 3ID



"It's important because women are just as much a part of the military as men are."

Cpl. John Jessee
122 Eng. Bn.

"Many of the Soldiers I work with are women, and they work as hard as men do, if not harder. Overseas, they picked up more than their fair share."

Spc. Sahadat Khan
HHC, 603rd ASB



"Military wives can do more than just provide a support group. Many women would like to have the opportunity to go to the field or drive a tank."

Christen Martinez
Spouse

"Reservist" to be eliminated from lexicon

As a daily indicator of the gravity of the moment — Soldiers in an Army at War serving a Nation at War, we will abolish the word "reservist" from our lexicon. In all communications, official and unofficial, use "Army Reserve Soldier." It is a mark of respect and distinction. Whenever the media, external sources or organizations use the word "reservist," step up to the plate and politely ask them to change too. Soldiering is, as our previous Chief of Staff described it, "an affair of the heart." Our Soldiers and their families, and certainly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, know this. The word Soldier distinguishes an individual's service and sacrifice and the continuation of that honorable tradition by those of us still serving. Thank you for your service. God Bless you, your family, and God Bless America.

Lt. Gen. James Helmly
Chief, Army Reserve

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Write a letter to the editor!

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Focus: Strategic communications leverage

Spc. Lorie Jewell

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — A Soldier tucks a plastic card displaying the Soldier's Creed and the Army values into his wallet.

At a school career fair, students pick up a brochure that describes our Army at war, and how it remains relevant and ready while moving from the current to future force. An action-filled video plays on a television screen, showing the Army's new Stryker infantry carriers on the move.

A senior leader tells the Army story to an audience of executives at a corporate function; a young sergeant shares his take on force stabilization at the family dinner table.

A grandmother surfing the Web clicks on the Army's Web site to learn more about her granddaughter's new duty station.

From small, ordinary gestures and everyday conversations to eye-catching promotional materials and tactical speeches, strategic communications is the method by which the Army delivers its messages to those in and out of uniform. It's one of 17 focus areas Army leaders have developed as a means for strengthening efforts to win the Global War on Terrorism.

"It's about communicating to our audience what's going on in the Army, and explaining it in terms or concepts people can understand, so that they can be a part of achieving the goal," said Col. Nelson McCouch, who heads the strategic communications division in Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. "They can't support something if they don't know anything about it."

For example, a Soldier may hear the term 'force stabilization' and, having read about it in a post newspaper, may understand it in more simple terms as "my family and I will stay in one place for longer periods of time."

'Expeditionary mindset' could translate into "I'm ready to go anywhere you need me to go, at any time, because I know I am well trained and my family is well taken care of."

"The role of OCPA's strategic communications is to develop and implement plans for getting internal and external

media to support the Army's campaign plan with articles that explain what's going on," McCouch said.

"There are two other 'legs' that support the effort to disseminate information — the Office of Congressional Legislative Liaison and the Office of Strategic Communications. OCLL's strategic communications team is responsible for making sure the Army's messages are delivered to legislators on the hill in a timely fashion," said Col. Wayne Sauer, who heads that office.

"The Army wants Congress to know what's going on so they can do something about it during the congressional cycle," Sauer said.

That involves working closely with congressional staffers. If legislators have questions on the Army budget, for example, OCLL makes sure they get answers. When newsworthy events happen — the Army's Comanche program being canceled, for instance — OCLL makes sure Congress knows about it before reading it in the newspaper, Sauer added.

"If they read something in the newspaper and the information doesn't match up, they already have our data on it," Sauer said.

In the Office of Strategic Communications, the mission to deliver the Army story is similar to O C P A . Whereas O C P A focuses on informing Soldiers, family members and the public at large through the

"The Army wants Congress to know what's going on so they can do something about it."

Col. Wayne Sauer
Office of Strategic Communications

media, STRATCOM's audience is expanded to target senior Army leaders — active and retired — business and social executives, and academic and think-tank representatives.

"We are trying to instill a culture of engagement so that everyone at all levels tells the Army story the same way," said Patti Benner, STRATCOM director.

"Benner's department works to develop long-term themes and messages, and how to deliver them over time periods that range from months to five years. OCPA focuses more on getting information out according to daily and weekly news cycles," McCouch said.

How messages are delivered by OSC falls to its outreach program, headed by Kay Stephenson. The program is tasked with building and strengthening relationships with national security decision makers or those with influence; the private sector and not-for-profit organizations; and academic institutions and communities. Its mission also involves providing information to the Army family.

Anyone who gets the Army message, understands it, supports it and passes it along, in essence becomes a partner with the Army, Benner and Stephenson said.

"We are arming our Army ambassadors," Benner said.

As technology continues to drive everyday life, the Internet

proves to be a reliable tool for giving Soldiers, their families and friends, and the general public anything they could possibly want or need to know about the Army, where it's heading and how it plans on getting there, said Lt. Col. Mark Wiggins, director of the Army's Web page (www.army.mil)

and senior leaders' page, accessible to select personnel through Army Knowledge Online. The web site operates under the STRATCOM umbrella.

"Whatever has been released to the public, it's on the Web site," Wiggins said. "It's the place all of our audiences come to read about the Army."

Careful thought goes into how all of that information is presented. This is a nation at war, so the main stories and photos will reflect that, Wiggins said. The lead photo will have a Soldier in it. Every effort is made to portray the joint effort of the war. Wiggins is proud of the fact that there are links to each of the other service branches on the home page of the Web site.

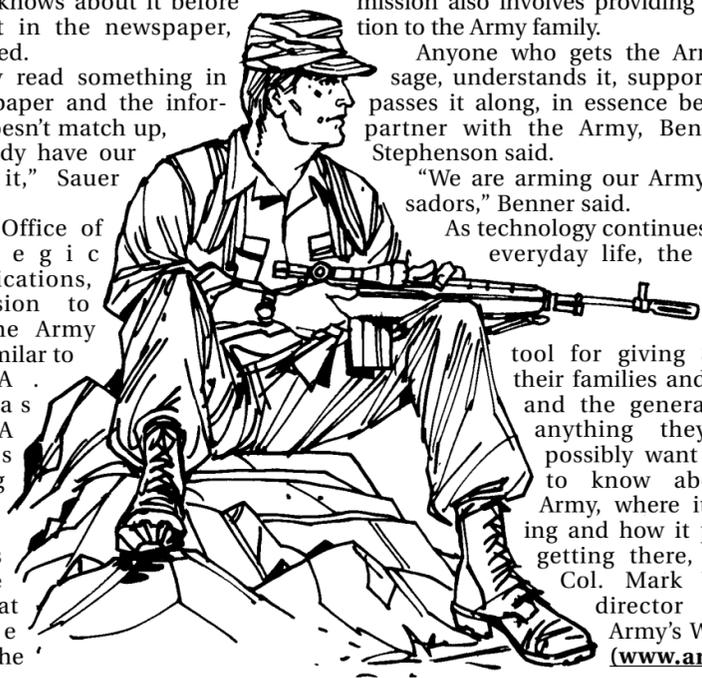
The Army has had a presence on the Internet since 1995. The site was last overhauled in 2001, around the same time the 'Army of One' brand was introduced. It averages just over 4 million hits a month from more than 140 countries, he said.

"We pay close attention to third-party evaluations and we are routinely ranked in the top 1,000 Web sites in the world," Wiggins said. "When you have a global audience, you can't help but be strategic."

The ultimate success of strategic communications relies on all three departments working together to synchronize their efforts, officials said.

"The good news story in all of this is that with strategic communications, we have the methodology and plans to communicate to Army leaders, the Hill and the public what their Army is doing for America," Sauer said. "And that we're doing it in a very succinct and timely fashion."

Editor's note: The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus include: The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Modularity; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics. To view a brief synopsis of each area, visit *The Way Ahead*.



Enlisted Soldiers to soon find out assignments via e-mail

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Human Resources Command will be using the Internet as a means to maintain up-to-date information on enlisted Soldiers to help them choose assignments and manage their careers.

In early March, HRC will begin notifying Soldiers of their next duty assignment within 90 days of their departure, by e-mailing the information to their Army Knowledge Online e-mail addresses. Other Web based initiatives include:

- Sending e-mails that acknowledge receipt when Soldiers update their assignment preferences on Assignment Satisfaction Key, known as ASK the Web assignment preference page.

- E-mail reminders will also be sent out to get Soldiers to update their contact information (home address and telephone number) 90 days after arriving at their new duty station. Then Soldiers will be reminded to update their assignment preferences on ASK after being stationed stateside for 24 months, and 18 months for those overseas.

Out of 407,000 enlisted Soldiers, who have already graduated from Initial Entry Training, 292,660 Soldiers have visited the ASK Web site so far, said HRC officials. Soldiers can be anywhere in the world and

update their preferences through the Internet, officials added.

"The Army is going through a cultural change. We are giving privates career information before their chain of command finds out," said Brig. Gen. Howard Bromberg, the director of Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, HRC. "We will continue to change our policies as necessary to support the global war on terror and a joint and expeditionary Army."

Commanders will still find out about Soldier assignments through traditional means, but the HRC-GRAM, formerly known as the PERSGRAM, that is sent to Soldiers through the mail will be phased out. Soldiers will be able to find out about assignments through e-mail notification or by calling an Interactive Voice Response System at 1-800-FYI-EPMD.

ASK was first introduced to Soldiers two years ago. However, this will be the first time Soldiers will have access to view key personnel information that is used by assignment managers when considering a Soldier for assignment, officials said.

"It is important that Soldiers look at their personnel information to ensure it is correct. If it needs to be updated they need to contact their local personnel office," Bromberg said.

The more accurate information career managers have on a Soldier, the higher the success rate will be in finding an assign-

ment that's right for the Soldier and the Army, Bromberg said. However, Bromberg added that just because the Army is listening to its young Soldiers, that doesn't mean that they're going to always get what they ask for. In assigning Soldiers, the focus is combat readiness, Bromberg added.

Where Soldiers are assigned is only a piece of the Army's stabilization puzzle, Bromberg said. The other parts include the Army's new Manning System, Force Stabilization which consists of unit focused stabilization and home-basing. Home-basing will require initial-term officers and enlisted Soldiers to stay at their first duty station for an extended tour of up to six or seven years.

"These initiatives are about unit over self," Bromberg said. "We're still taking care of Soldiers and getting them the training and care they need. But we're focused on getting units stabilized so they can do the mission at hand."

An example of the needs of the Army coming before assignment preference is: a Soldier serving in Korea who was told that he could go to Fort Hood, Texas, when his tour is over, as part of the program HAAP (home base/advance assignment program). But if during the Soldier's tour, overriding Army mission requirements determine that the Soldier is needed elsewhere, then their HAAP can be renegotiat-

ed. Enlisted personnel assignment managers work with the Soldier, but may, based on the requirements of the Army, assign the Soldier to a new location.

"We're not getting rid of the program, but people think that if we give them an advance assignment, they are guaranteed that assignment," Bromberg said. "What we're saying is that we will try to meet requirements, but we may change, based on the needs of the Army."

Every single Soldier is needed somewhere in the Army, whether it's as an instructor, drill sergeant, recruiter or in a rifle platoon in a deploying unit, Bromberg said. Every skill is important, he added.

In the future, HRC also plans to expand its Web initiatives and get away from using Department of the Army form 4187, Personnel Action Request.

"We still get 4187s up here, signed by the company commander, and after it goes through everybody in the chain of command, it gets here with seven pieces of paper attached to it. We want to eliminate all of that," Bromberg said.

The vision is to have a Soldier volunteer for an assignment electronically. If requests can go up and back down all electronically, the process can be cut from 90 days to 14 days, Bromberg said. The technology is there, he added, and it can be done.

MPs recognized for job well done



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Robert G. Mikell, deputy director of the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, presents a certificate to members of the 179th MP Det. March 4 at the battalion headquarters. The certificate recognized the 3rd MP Bn. traffic enforcement efforts at Fort Stewart. Also pictured are (from left to right) Lt. W. L. Hires, Jesup Police, Ricky Rich, director of special operations with the GOHS, and Senior Patrolman Matt Gaskin, Georgia State Patrol.

Georgia General Assembly passes payday loan bill

Special to The Frontline

ATLANTA — In a vote of overwhelming support for consumers, the Georgia General Assembly passed by wide margins strong protections for working Georgians and military personnel from illegal payday lenders.

"What we saw today was broad bipartisan support for a bill that was recognized as an important consumer protection initiative," said Danny Orrock, Legislative Coordinator of Georgia Watch, the state's leading consumer advocacy and education organization.

Predatory payday lenders have targeted minority communities, single parents, the elderly and members of the military. The loans carry illegal interest rates and force borrowers into a straightjacket of debt.

Nationally, the payday lending industry

has mushroomed into a trade that grew from 10,000 to 15,000 operations between 2000 and 2002 and now generates more than \$4.3 billion in annual fees, according to Stephens Inc.

Although payday lending has long been illegal in Georgia, the state's regulatory and law enforcement agencies have lacked the enforcement tools necessary to bring illegal lenders to justice. Legislation passed in both houses of the General Assembly today gives prosecutors the ability to hold payday lenders accountable for their unscrupulous business practices and force them to close down permanently.

"Payday lenders will soon have a choice: Play by the rules, or get out of Georgia. Victims of payday lending will have the power to fight back and hit illegal lenders where it hurts," said Allison Kelly, Executive Director of Georgia Watch.

PS Magazine consults Stewart Soldiers

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Reporters from PS Magazine converged on Fort Stewart March 2 through 4 to collect information for their publication from 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers.

PS Magazine, which dates back to 1951, is a monthly magazine devoted to preventative equipment maintenance, according to Glen Adams, a senior staff writer.

"Every writer goes to the field three times a year to talk to the guys that turn the wrenches, the ones that do the hands-on work," Adams said.

He said he and other PS writers came to Stewart to talk with Soldiers about problems they've had with their equipment and vehicles and suggestions about how they've been able to fix those problems.

"We want to show Soldiers how to take care of their equipment, how to get the most life out of it," Adams explained.

Adams and another writer, PS senior combat vehicle writer Bruce Cotton, spent some time with 11th Engineer Battalion Soldiers March 2 and 3 to get some input on what they've learned about their machines.

Although most of the Soldiers didn't recognize the name of the magazine when Cotton introduced himself, they nodded with recognition when he produced a copy of his publication to show them, and were quick to share suggestions about their own maintenance procedures.

Pfc. Wesley Davis, B Company, and Spc. Matthew Winters, C Company, were two of the Soldiers Cotton spoke with the afternoon of March 3.

Cotton climbed up into Winters' vehicle to take pictures of the various parts that had been having problems.

"We take lots of pictures because everything in our magazine is drawn," Adams said. "We need to have accurate representations for our artists to replicate."

As Davis showed Cotton the track problems his vehicle had been having, the writer took careful notes and got down on his knees next to the vehicle with the Soldier to make sure he knew exactly what the problem was.

Fort Stewart is a good place for the magazine to come to, Adams said, because Soldiers here really concentrate on maintenance.

He said the aim of the magazine is to give Soldiers outside ideas about how to better maintain their equipment, ideas that they may not have come up with on their own.

"We do this, for example, so some guy in Korea can read

about something that a guy at Fort Campbell, Ky. is doing, and say, 'That's a good idea,'" Adams added.

He said most of the difficulties Soldiers face with their machinery are nothing new, and that someone somewhere has usually come up with a solution for most of them in the past.

"Problems tend to repeat themselves," he said. "I've been doing this for 19 years, and some of the problems I hear about, I've been hearing about for 19 years."

Adams said the magazine goes to great lengths to keep its information current.

"We're always looking for new ideas," he said. "We answer 5,000 letters a year, and when people send us questions, we try to answer within three weeks."

Adams added that PS Magazine is now available over the Internet (at www.psmag@logsa.army.mil), so even deployed Soldiers can have access to its helpful hints.

"We don't distribute to Iraq, but we've found that most Soldiers over there have Internet access," he said.

Adams said that in his opinion, the visit to Stewart had been a successful one, and he said was appreciative of how supportive the installation was.

"Lee Shipley, the logistics assistance officer, and Tony Roberts, (who works in the directorate of logistics), were very helpful," he said.

"This week has been excellent," he concluded. "The Soldiers who have come back from Iraq have a lot of suggestions for us; they've seen the importance of proper maintenance while they were over there."



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

(Above) Bruce Cotton, PS Magazine's senior combat vehicle writer, talks to Spc. Matthew Winters, C Co., 11th Eng. Bn., about the maintenance of his vehicle March 3 at the unit's motor pool.

(Left) Pfc. Wesley Davis, B Co., 11th Eng. Bn., talks to Cotton about problems with the track on his vehicle at the unit's motor pool March 3.

Webster: Red Cross at the top of my list of heroes

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

The Fort Stewart Red Cross chapter held a volunteer appreciation luncheon March 2 at Club Stewart.

The theme of the event was the history of the Red Cross. Some volunteers wore old Red Cross uniforms dating from 1941 through 1989, provided by Shirley Powers, Red Cross volunteer historian.

"We have a very long history with the military. The Red Cross started on the battle field," said Carrie Mead, Red Cross station manager.

Kimberly Webster, wife of Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander, was the guest speaker.

"Without volunteers most everything we do couldn't be done," Kimberley said. "Every time I've been in a mil-



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Minnie Whymns, volunteer at patient affairs at Winn, receives a volunteer of the year award from Lt. Col. Jimenez.

itary hospital Red Cross volunteers come by and offer me books or whatever I want. There is not a place in the

hospital that doesn't love their volunteers."

There are more than 100 Red Cross volunteers at Stewart.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Webster, Mead and Lt. Col. Robert Jimenez, acting deputy commander at Winn Army Community Hospital presented community awards to the volunteers.

"We held this ceremony to make sure we took the time to honor the people who are the Red Cross," Mead said. "We are fortunate to have a wonderful show of support for our volunteers from our command and community."

Winn and Stewart Red Cross volunteers donated over 20,500 hours in 2003.

Every place he has gone there have been Red Cross volunteers to ensure Soldiers were taken care of, Maj. Gen. Webster said. The Red Cross is at the top of his list of heroes.

First lady thanks Army spouses for sacrifices

Molly Miller and Emily Howard

Special to The Frontline

FORT HOOD, Texas — The surprise was hard to hide on the faces of more than 200 military spouses March 5 as America's first lady, Laura Bush, stepped to the podium at Fort Hood's annual Women's Conference.

With thunderous applause ringing throughout Hood's Comanche Chapel, Bush made a speech highlighting the military spouse and thanking those women present for their sacrifices in these times of war.

"Today, we celebrate the spirit of the elite special forces who don't wear uniforms or fly Black Hawks or carry weapons," Bush said. "(Today we celebrate) the sisters who support their loved ones and each other so that America remains a land of freedom."

Bush, whose surprise visit was kept a secret until nearly the hour of her arrival, said she came to Fort Hood to thank the women who help keep America free.

"I know about having your life turned upside down because the man you love wants to serve the country and I know that many of you make sacrifices to help your spouse fulfill his dreams," Bush said.

Bush's visit came as a complete shock to most attendees of the Women's Conference.

"I wasn't expecting her," said Amanda Roybol, who rushed to the gas station next to the Comanche Chapel to buy a disposable camera when she heard Bush would be speaking at the conference. "When she walked in, I just started shaking — I couldn't believe that she had come."

"She didn't even have to speak," one spouse of a deployed 4th Infantry Division Soldier said. "Just having her here and knowing she supported us and understood the sacrifices we are making was enough."

Bush also commended those Soldiers currently deployed and deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Our troops are involved in the historic task of building democracies and in the true American spirit, they are building hope one heart at a time."

A testament to the purpose of the eight-year-old confer-



Courtesy Photo

First Lady Laura Bush signs autographs for Soldiers' wives during a surprise visit to the Women's Conference at Fort Hood March 5.

ence, Bush's remarks served to uplift, enlighten, motivate and strengthen the military spouses in attendance at the two-day event.

With her husband's 13 to 15 month deployment stretching out ahead of her, Gloria Elder, wife of Fort Hood's 13th COSCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, said that with support like this, the long days of waiting might be a little less difficult.

"All we ever say is that we'll take (the deployment) one day at a time," said Elder. "With support like this, though, it makes those days much easier — that's for sure."

Beth Philyaw, new to Hood and a first-time conference attendee, said she was surprised to see Bush and proud to have been able to be part of the unique experience of this

year's Women's Conference.

"Sometimes, the wives feel left behind with all that the Soldiers are doing and it seems like no one notices the sacrifices we are making," Philyaw said. "(Bush's visit) here today tells us we are important and appreciated."

Bush concluded her speech by saying, "All of those who serve in our military deserve our utmost respect and so do those who serve well behind the front lines."

She remained at the chapel after her speech to express her gratitude personally by shaking hands, signing autographs and posing for pictures with Fort Hood's military spouses and female Soldiers.

Editor's note: Mollie Miller and Emily Howard write for the Fort Hood Sentinel newspaper.

Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers may soon collect retirement earlier

CFSC Public Affairs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — At the first annual Senate reserve Caucus Breakfast March 4, Sens. Zell Miller, D-Ga., and Saxy Chambliss, R-Ga., announced legislation that would allow Reserve Soldiers and Guardsmen flexibility in retirement planning while keeping mandatory spending under control. Unlike their active duty counterparts and other federal employees, Army Reserve Soldiers must currently wait until the age of 60 to collect retirement pay. Under Miller and Chambliss's bill, which is also

sponsored by Senator Mike DeWine R-Ohio, they could receive retirement pay as early as age 55.

"Citizen Soldiers have been saving our nation since the Battle of Concord in 1775 when Minutemen fired 'the shot heard round the world,'" said Miller, who is co-chair of the Senate Reserve Caucus. "Today, such patriots are members of the reserves and our military couldn't defend the United States without them. There is no reason why they should be the only federal retirees who must wait until age 60 to collect retirement pay."

"Today from Afghanistan and

Iraq to Bosnia, our National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are shouldering an increasingly high percentage of our defense burden," said Chambliss, who is also co-chair of the Senate Reserve Caucus. "These brave men and women and their families make great sacrifices, and it's only right that we do all we can for them."

"Our (Army Reserve Soldiers) and Guardsmen deserve the option of collecting their retirement payments at an earlier age. The common sense legislation we've introduced is low-cost and provides retirement benefits that are similar to those of federal gov-

ernment civil servants," said DeWine, an original sponsor of the bill.

The Guard and Reserve Retirement Retainer Act of 2004 recognizes the contributions of the Guard and Reserve by offering a lower retirement age option based on the idea of reduced annuity. Similar to early Social Security payments, retirement funds would be redistributed over a longer period while monthly payments would be lowered.

Last week, Miller and DeWine introduced legislation aimed at strengthening one of the Reserve component's most important

recruiting and retention tools — the Montgomery GI Bill, which provides education benefits to eligible individuals in the military. Currently Reserve Soldiers must serve at least two years of continuous active duty to be eligible for the full active duty benefit. The Combat for College legislation would change that requirement to at least two years of cumulative active duty service over a period of five continuous years. This change would be retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, to allow all Reserve Soldiers who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq to be eligible for increased GI Bill benefits.

Army Saves program, helps Soldiers

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

As pay day draws near, have you ever found yourself paying for gas with change?

Filling your entire refrigerator with Ramen Noodles?

How about dating all your checks for the first and 15th of every month?

If so, do not despair — help is on the way in the form of Marne Saves, a new program designed to help Fort Stewart Soldiers and their families save money.

"This is a program that is probably long overdue," said Col. Glenn L. Burch, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) chief of staff. "As we take care of Soldiers in a lot of different way, teaching them fiscal responsibility, both in how to save money for the future and how to get themselves out of debt if they're already there, is just another function of leadership."

Army Saves, a spin-off of America Saves, a nationwide program coordinated by Stephen Brobeck, the executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, specifically targets Soldiers and their families for assistance in managing finances.

Upon arrival at Stewart, Army Saves birthed Marne Saves, which is aimed particularly at Marne Division Soldiers.

"What we are trying to do is encourage and persuade people to begin saving wealth," Brobeck said. "The purpose of Army Saves is to help enlisted men and women and their families save and build wealth more effectively and pay down, pay off high-cost debt."

Fort Stewart is the first installation to adopt Army Saves, according to Burch.

"It's a great privilege for Fort Stewart to be the one location where this pilot program is put into effect," he said. "I will tell you, from (Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general) on down, the chain of command is committed to this, committed to taking care of our Soldiers and teaching them fiscal responsibility."

Although some Soldiers may have been broke so long that they feel their case is a hopeless one, Brobeck assured them that there is a light at the end of their long, dark, destitute tunnel.

"Many young adults think they are not capable of saving and building wealth, but the research is very clear," he said. "In every income group there are savers and there are spenders, and in fact, if when you're young — in your 20s or early 30s — you begin putting away money, you end up buying a home and paying off the mortgage, you take advantage of workplace retirement programs, almost everyone can build six-figure wealth."

So, put that checkbook back in your pocket, and check out Marne Saves — you don't need to be broke.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America and coordinator of America Saves, addresses the launch of the Marne Saves program March 2 at Club Stewart.

REORG

from page 1A

weeks ago by 3rd FSB and more intense infantry training for support Soldiers, will increase during the summer, Webster said.

"Starting this summer, they'll be going through a whole series of training events," he said. "They'll work in Soldier and buddy teams and practice like the infantry."

Webster said the feedback he's received on the new training has been positive.

"Every Soldier and leader is excited about the more intense levels of training we're giving them," he said. "Most men and women come into the Army for the education and the chance to do tasks their civilian counterparts can't or won't do. Teaching them about weapons and defending in various situations leads to more satisfied Soldiers. They like to go out and train with live ammunition and do tactical training. Our job is to keep them motivated."

Webster said the new training is important to the division's reorganization plans. The three current brigade combat teams and 4th Brigade will become five brigade units of action by the end of the summer. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team has already undergone reorganization and will be the first to go to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., as a brigade unit of action later this month.

"We've just started (reorganization)," he said. "We'll start seeing the dividends this summer. Each UA is on a different timeline, but by fall, all the brigades will have been through an intense training cycle."

The division's reorganization is part of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's focus on mod-

ularity, Webster said. All the elements a brigade needs to fight and sustain itself will be included in the new package. In addition, the brigade units of action will be smaller and more easily-deployable. The division's brigade combat teams include about 5,000 Soldiers while its brigade units of action will have about 3,600.

"Modularity is really all about redesigning the Army," he said. "Part of what we're trying to do is make a brigade-sized element that is as effective and lethal as the BCTs were in past but that is more rapidly deployable and has the capability to access other modules (depending on the mission). We're moving toward a brigade-based Army as opposed to a division-based one as the central element for combat."

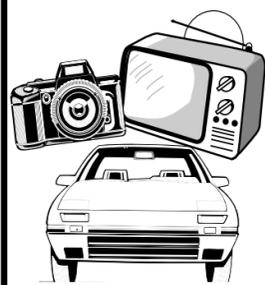
With the recent announcement that the division will deploy back to Operation Iraqi Freedom some time late this year or in early, training and reorganization are important. Webster said he plans to have teams and equipment set up by July.

"We'll stabilize the units by then, through OIF 3," he said. "The training will get very intense from July to October. We'll take al the units back to NTC and (the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.). By November, the brigades will be ready to go."

Webster took the time during his visits to talk to Soldiers about their training and their concerns.

"It impressed me that he came out to watch us," said Spc. Dannatta Moats, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with A Co., 3rd FSB. It shows me there's support out there for all of us."

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3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Sergeants Major Association

The Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Sergeants Major Association is inviting all local active duty and retired Sergeants Major to its next organizational meeting happening at 3 p.m., Friday at Club Stewart.

For more information call Sgt. Maj. Calvin Smithers at 767-0903.

Marne Tax Center

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

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

Red Cross Instruction

The Directorate of Human Resources Army College Education System will host the 27th Annual College Graduation on May 20 at 7 p.m. at Club Stewart. If you are a 2003 or 2004 college graduate, please call the Education Center to participate at 767-8331.

Troops to Teachers

The Georgia Representative for Troops to Teachers, Bill Kirkland, will be available to answer questions at the Fort Stewart Education Center, Bldg 130, on 17 March 2004 from 1000-1100 hours.

Please call the Education Center for more information at 767-8331.

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.

Hunter Tax Center

The Tax Center, located in Bldg. 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 refunds in less than seven days.

Hours of operation are:

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.

Protestant Woman of Chapel

There will be a prayer breakfast March 19, 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Hunter Club. Dee Marvin with Savannah's Intercessory Prayer Group will be the guest speaker with a dance performance by a Savannah Arts Academy group, Praise & Workshop.

Suggested donation is \$2 with limited seats available. For more information call Rochell Crockett at 756-3821 or LaMuir Baze at 961-0895.

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.

Red Cross Cafe Opening

The Red Cross Cafe will open today at 9 a.m. at the Hunter ACS Building.

Winn Army Community Hospital

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 online registration before scheduling appointments.

Dedicated Beneficiary Parking

Effective today, dedicated patient-only parking will be available at the main entrance of the hospital, on Harmon Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Beneficiaries parking in No Parking Areas, as indicated by a yellow curb, will be ticketed or towed by the Military Police.

Winn/Tuttle Training Time

The next training time is March 18. Services at Winn will be limited to sick call, emergency and inpatient care from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. to allow for Soldier/employee training. All services will resume as normal in the afternoon. Services at Tuttle

will be closed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All services will resume after 2 p.m. For more information, call 352-6500.

New OB/GYN 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.

"Take Care of Yourself"

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 2 to 3 p.m. March 10 and 11 a.m. to noon March 24. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. March 24. 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. To register for the March 10 class, call 370-5071.

To register for Winn's March 24 class, call 368-3048 and to register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Marne TV

March 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

If you accidentally discover an archaeological site on Fort Stewart:

1. Cease what you are doing immediately.
2. Notify Range Control at 767-8777.
3. Do not attempt to unearth the object or remove it.



Make a difference right at work with Earth Share, bringing the leading environmental groups together. How? Please visit our web site at www.earthshare.org.

 **Earth Share**
One environment. One simple way to care for it.

Future gate controlled access

New look for Stewart boundaries

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

You may have noticed new gate construction at the Fort Stewart Installation boundaries over the past few weeks.

Beginning March 29 all post highway boundary gates will be manned on a 24-hour basis in order to control access to the installation and ensure the safety and security of our Soldiers, family members, civilian employees, contractors and members of our local communities.

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) will be conducting a significant amount of training and thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers will continue to mobilize and train on our installation. With many unit maneuvers and live firing planned, the Military Police have the responsibility to ensure that only authorized personnel are transiting in and around our installation and those that are authorized drive in a safe manner.

What you can expect to see:

- Military Police will be positioned at each highway boundary gate and will be checking for valid Department of Defense decals or valid permits and

passes.

- Personnel that do not have a decal, permit or valid pass will be issued a temporary 24-hour pass at the highway boundary gate.

- Vehicles with expired or unserviceable decals will be directed to the Vehicle Registration Office (Building 295, near Gate 1) for a replacement.

- Those personnel requiring access to the Fort Stewart cantonment area will still have their IDs checked at all cantonment gates.

- Commercial trucks (log, concrete, gravel) not requiring access to the cantonment area may use the highway boundary gates for access to the maneuver area and ranges.

- Commercial trucks, requiring access to the cantonment area, must still go through the x-ray machine at Gate 7 (15th Street Gate) in order to be scanned prior to entering the cantonment area.

- Trucks carrying ammunition must use the highway boundary gates to access the Ammunition Supply Point and cannot enter the cantonment area.

For your safety and the safety of the MPs at the gates, please observe the reduced speed limit signs

(15 miles per hour). Be prepared for traffic to be stopped at these locations for short periods of time.

We will not be controlling access from the cantonment area (gates 3 and 6) out to the maneuver and range areas. If you entered the installation through any of the cantonment area gates you have already met the security requirements and may have unhampered access to Georgia Highways 144, 119 and 47.

Location of highway boundary gates:

- The boundary gate on Ga. 119 North is located in the vicinity of the fire tower near the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

- The boundary gate on Ga. 144 East is located near the Shell station on 144 East.

- The boundary gate on Ga. 144 West is located at Fort Stewart 1 and Sandhill Road.

- The boundary gate on Ga. 47 and Sunbury Road is located 40 meters north of the Wright Army Airfield turn off.

Further questions may be directed to the Fort Stewart Provost Marshal Operations office during the duty day at 767-1721, or the MP Desk 24 hours a day at 767-4895.

ASK THE JUDGE

Allotments

Q: I'm planning on buying a car and I have heard that the easiest way to pay for it is to set up an allotment to the bank or finance company, is this a good idea?

A: No. Although the vast majority of allotments go to the correct destination occasionally the allotment will become misdirected. If this happens you will be in default on your loan although the money will still be coming out of your check.

Q: But if it isn't my fault then nothing can happen to me right?

A: No, unless there is a provision in your contract protecting you from such an event you will be in default and your car can be repossessed and negative information listed on your credit report.

Q: What else can I do, many dealers require an allotment in order to finance the car?

A: You have a couple of options. First, you can negotiate an addition to your finance contract relieving you of liability for default if your allotment becomes lost through no fault of your own. Second, you can authorize a direct withdrawal from your checking or savings account provided you clearly specify the amount authorized for withdrawal.

Q: Sounds complicated, aren't there problems with both of these two approaches?

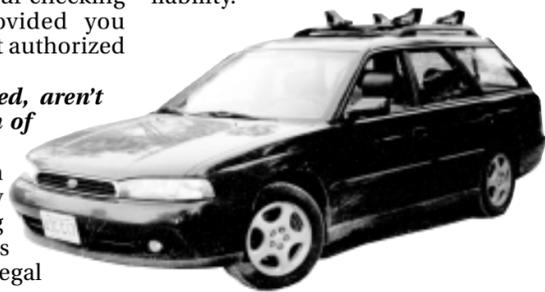
A: The biggest problem with limiting your liability for an allotment is making sure the contract clause is worded properly. The legal

assistance office can assist you in drafting the clause or reviewing a clause written by the finance company (remember to have the contract reviewed before you sign).

Direct withdrawal from your bank account is a good alternative provided you authorize only a specific amount of money and not "the amount due under the contract" or any other such term. If the bank allows a withdrawal exceeding the amount you authorized then you may be able to recover the additional money from the bank.

Q: I also use allotments to pay other bills and to make investments, should I change these as well?

A: Not necessarily. Allotments are a great way to make periodic payments provided you are not required to make the payment each month or be in default on a contract. Therefore if you are saving for retirement or a child's education then an allotment is an excellent tool. However, if you are paying your mortgage, car or credit card bill then you should take the steps discussed above to limit your liability.



Drinking & Driving

Don't Mix



POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Jacksonville, Fla.

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of methamphetamine
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Family member, 30-year-old female
 • **Charge:** Aggravated assault
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 39-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Following too closely
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Contempt of court
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** Communicating a threat, disrespect to other NCO/PO
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 71/55
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunkenness, damage to government property
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male,

separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Financial transaction card fraud
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 2, 24-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Larceny of private property
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful appropriation, false official statement, dereliction of duty
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old female,

Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Improper backing
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 24th Support Group
 • **Charge:** Failure to yield for posted stop sign
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 24th Support Group
 • **Charges:** Drunk and disorderly, disrespect to an NCO, self injury without intent to avoid service, resisting apprehension
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male,

Engineer Brigade
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, noise violation
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving on wrong side of roadway
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunkenness, disrespect to superior

NCO, resisting apprehension, communicating a threat
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Fighting in a public fray
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Civilian, 40-year-old male
 • **Charges:** Carrying a concealed weapon, communicating a threat
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane
 • **Location:** Richmond Hill

• **Subject:** Civilian, 31-year-old male
 • **Charges:** Driving on suspended license Ga. code, no proof of insurance
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Driving on suspended

license, no insurance, driving with suspended registration, tail light out
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 36-year-old, separate battalion male
 • **Charge:** Improper backing
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Larceny of government funds, fraud
 • **Location:** Indianapolis

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving on wrong side of roadway
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old female, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Financial transaction card theft, card fraud
 • **Location:** Warner Robbins

• **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 36-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Fraudulent use of the U. S. Government credit card
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Expired tags, driving on suspended license
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** Improper lane usage, DUI (underage), consumption of alcohol by minor
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old female, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old female, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana
 • **Location:** Hunter

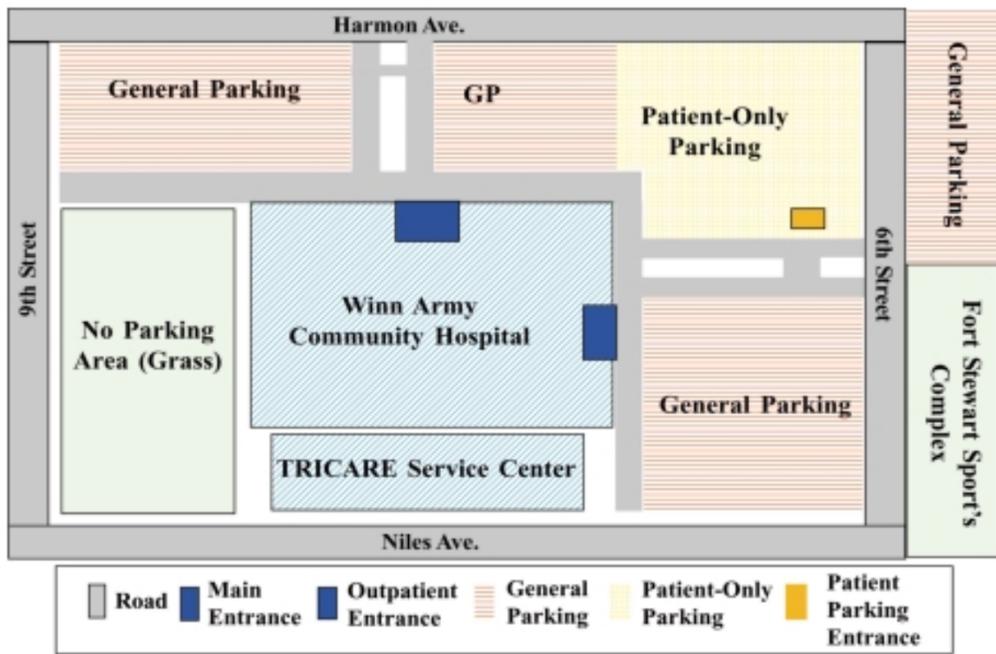
AUSA recognizes 3rd Inf. Div.



Courtesy photo

Retired Lt. Gen. Roger G. Thompson, vice president of AUSA Membership and Meetings, poses with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, 3/15 Inf. and Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general during the Coastal Empire Chapter's 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier Appreciation Night Tuesday at Club Stewart. Gallagher was featured on the cover of the 2003-04 AUSA Green Book.

Authorized parking at Winn



Unauthorized parking will result in tickets.

—CENTCOM News—

TF Olympia collects weapons

MOSUL, IRAQ — Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, under the operational control of Task Force Olympia, continued ongoing weapons collection operations in northern Iraq with two turn-ins March 2.

Members of the Coalition for Iraqi Unity, a concerned group of citizens in northwestern Iraq, approached 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment near Sinjar and turned in 14 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, three RPG boosters, one RPG sight, one 60mm mortar tube complete, 154 60mm mortar rounds, 107 81mm mortar rounds, 42 100mm rounds, 42 110mm rounds, 23 90mm rounds and four hand grenades.

Another concerned Iraqi citizen near Sinjar came to 1/14 Cav. and turned in 16 RPG anti-tank rounds, 63 high explosive RPG rounds, 343 hand grenades, 44 60mm mortar rounds, 17 81mm mortar rounds and 48 miscellaneous artillery rounds.

Rockets fired at green zone

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As many as seven rockets were fired in the direction of the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad's Green Zone at about 7:25 p.m. March 7

At least five of the rockets hit the hotel, but there is no estimate on the extent of damage.

The rockets were fired from a nine-round launcher mounted on the back of a sport utility vehicle outside of the Green Zone. Two rockets did not launch, and the vehicle caught fire. Military emergency personnel responded and have the scene under control.

The incident is under investigation.

Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldier killed in IED attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An improvised-explosive-device attack killed one Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldier and seriously wounded another March 2.

The Soldiers were part of a five-vehicle convoy traveling through Adhamiyah when the IED exploded.

This incident is under investigation.

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