

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

## National Guard deserter turns self in

**Spc. Jacob Boyer**

Staff Writer

A Florida National Guard Soldier who failed to return to Iraq after his mid-tour leave in November reported to Fort Stewart March 17.

Staff Sgt. Camilo Meija, a Soldier with C Company, 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, was accompanied by his mother, Maritza Castillo, and aunt, Norma Castillo, when he returned to the Army after being reported a deserter for not returning to his unit after 31 days. He surrendered to authorities at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., March 15.

Meija, who has been in the National Guard for five years after serving three years active duty, was in-processed at the Fort Stewart Holding Battalion. He

will perform normal duties while waiting for word on whether he will be charged with anything for his absence and going through the process of filing a petition for conscientious objector status, said Maj. Robert Resnick, military justice chief, Staff Judge Advocate. Both processes will be handled separately, and no decision has been made on whether he will be charged or what he will be charged with.

"A decision has not been made," Resnick said. "He will be treated just like any other non-commissioned officer at Fort Stewart. He is not currently charged with anything."

Resnick said the decision to charge Meija will be made based on "all the facts of his absence — the Soldier, his absence and its impact and effects." He could be subject to almost any punishment under the Uniform Code of

**"I cannot pretend that because I'm in the military I have to do what I'm told."**

Staff Sgt. Camilo Meija  
1/124 Inf.

Military Justice, from an administrative separation to a courts martial.

During a press conference held before he turned himself

in, Meija, a native of Nicaragua who is a permanent resident of the United States, told reporters he was opposed to war after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom

See DESERTER, Page 8A



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Sgt. Camilo Meija, C Co., 1/124 Inf., talks to reporters as his mother, Maritza Castillo, looks on. Meija returned to Stewart after surrendering to military authorities March 15. His unit reported him as a deserter after he failed to return following a mid-tour leave from Iraq in November.

## Soldiers honor Irish war hero in Savannah



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Today's sergeants salute heroic and historic Sgt. William Jasper during the Sergeant William Jasper Ceremony in Savannah's Madison Square March 16. The ceremony for Jasper, who died in the Siege of Savannah in October, 1779, kicked off the St. Patrick's Day festivities. See Page 2A for more coverage.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Soldiers being honored at the 3rd Inf. Div. Quarterly Awards and Retreat Ceremony salute as the cannon goes off Friday afternoon at Marne Garden.

## Units recognized at awards, retreat ceremony

**Pfc. Emily J. Danial**

Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) held the first Division Quarterly Awards and Retreat Ceremony to honor several Soldiers and units for outstanding achievements Friday at Marne Garden.

Command Sgt. Maj. Julian A. Kellman, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major, and Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. com-

manding general, presided over the ceremony and presented the Soldier's Medal and other awards.

Award recipients included the Division Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Division Soldier of the Quarter, and nine units recognized for staying DUI-free for more than one year.

Other Soldiers honored in the ceremony were those nominated to receive the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award.

"Ceremonies like this ... are a terrific way to honor Soldiers, and link Soldiers today with those in the past," Webster said. "These units and individuals represent the very soul of the Marne team."

"The record set by these units are really amazing, they are setting standards for the other units to follow," Webster added.

"It is a great honor for me to be able to participate in this ceremony today."

Weather Forecast

**FRI**  
High 79° Low 51°

**SAT**  
High 76° Low 52°

**SUN**  
High 79° Low 51°

### News



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# Heroic, historic sergeant honored in Savannah

*St. Patrick's celebration kicked off at Irish hero's monument downtown*

**Sgt. Mason T. Lowery**

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

The Sergeant William Jasper Memorial Ceremony kicked off the St. Patrick's Day celebration March 16 in Savannah's Madison Square.

About 200 people honored the Revolutionary War hero from Ireland who died during The Siege of Savannah Oct 9, 1779.

Jasper admirers gathered at his monument in Madison Square, including 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers; Savannah Mayor Otis S. Johnson; Bishop Andrew J. McDonald, bishop emeritus, Little Rock, Ark; Irish Government Official Dermot Ahern; and the 2004 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade — Father Joseph F. Ware.

Music was provided by the 3rd Inf. Div. Band and the Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe and Drum Band.

The keynote speaker was 3rd Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Julian A. Kellman. His speech was significant because it was the first time a noncommissioned officer spoke at Jasper's ceremony. Jasper's monument is the only monument to an enlisted Soldier in Georgia, and one of the only ones in this country, according to Vincent Powers, general chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Jasper epitomized ongoing Irish contributions to the United States of America, according to Ahern.

Jasper's career started when he enlisted in the 2nd South Carolina Infantry in 1775. At the Battle of Fort Moultrie in 1776, he rescued the South Carolina state flag while under direct fire.

He was given a commission for his actions, which he turned down, thus "staying true to the Corps (of non-commissioned officers)," according to Kellman.

Following that battle, Jasper joined the Revolutionary forces in Georgia. In the summer of 1776, Jasper and another sergeant — Sgt. John Newton, intercepted British troops escorting American Prisoners of War from a British camp near Ebenezer, Ga., to Savannah. Jasper and Newton freed the prisoners when the British Soldiers stopped to get a drink of water from a nearby spring.

Though Jasper was successful in freeing the Soldiers without losing his life that day, he was later killed at The Siege of Savannah while rescuing his regiment's colors.

Ahern reminded guests that men and women are still fighting for our country today. "On this occasion, our thoughts and prayers are with the brave men and women of the armed services and our hopes are that they will return safely to their loved ones."



Photos by Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

**Sgt. William Jasper is immortalized rescuing his unit's colors during the Revolutionary War in Madison Square.**



**(Above) The 3rd Inf. Div. color guard brings the Marne Colors to honor Sergeant William Jasper, who died during The Siege of Savannah during the Revolutionary War. (Right) The 3rd Inf. Div. Band marches in the procession going to Madison Square to honor Jasper, Revolutionary War hero and Irishman who fought with the Colonial forces.**



**Command Sgt. Maj. Julian A. Kellman, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major, lays a wreath at the base of the Sgt. William Jasper Monument in Madison Square during the ceremony March 16.**



# Outstanding NCOs inducted into SAMC



*Spc. Robert J. Adams*

**Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commander, shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Kenneth Franco, 3/7 Cav., who was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Tuesday in a ceremony at Club Stewart.**

## **Spc. Robert Adams**

Staff Writer

Six sergeants were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at Club Stewart Tuesday.

The induction ceremony was held to recognize 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) noncommissioned officers who exemplify leadership qualities that every Soldier should strive for.

The inductees received an Army Commendation Medal, an Audie Murphy Club medallion, a Forces Command Certificate of Achievement and an Audie Murphy membership card presented to them by Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Julian A. Kellman, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major.

"This is a great opportunity to recognize some of our most outstanding leaders and NCOS," Webster said.

Soldiers and fellow NCOs who served with and witnessed the exceptional work and duty the NCOs have performed during their term of service in the 3rd Inf. Div introduced each inductee.

"This is not a club that has been

put together for personal gain, friendship and pleasure, but this is a club that was originated and continued today for camaraderie of great leadership to recognize NCOs that our Soldiers think are an outstanding example of what they want to be," Webster added.

"It is an honor and privilege to receive these awards," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Sammons, NCO academy senior instructor.

"As a member of the SAMC, I will set the standards for future Soldiers and instill in them the Army values," Sammons said. "It also shows that I'm not afraid to step up to the plate and demonstrate my ability to lead."

To be inducted into the SAMC these NCOs had to demonstrate exceptional leadership skills, have a college education and know the biography behind Sgt. Audie Murphy, the most highly decorated Soldier in American history.

"I want Soldiers to know that being an NCO means being a professional at all times and to be an expert at your job," said Staff Sgt. Tomelya D. Coley, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major administrative

assistant.

Being a professional in and around Soldiers is very important because there are so many people looking at you and you don't even realize the impression you are making on them," Coley added.

Webster said, "They are indicative of the quality leadership that our Army has today that causes young men and women in the country to want to join and to be like them and it is indicative of the quality leadership in the Marine division."

### **New Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Inductees:**

- Sergeant 1st Class Robert W. Sammons, NCO Academy*
- Staff Sgt. Tomelya D. Coley, HHC, 3rd Inf. Div.*
- Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Franco, 3/7 Cav.*
- Staff Sgt. Montoya L. Jones, HHC, 3rd Inf. Div.*
- Staff Sgt. Benjamin C. Richer, C Trp., 1st Cav.*
- Staff Sgt. Jeanette Sutton, NCO Academy.*

# Army focuses on getting equipment to troops faster

## **By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs**

Special to the Frontline

WASHINGTON — Every Thursday senior leaders on the Army staff spend an hour validating equipment requirements from commanders to ensure needed capabilities get in the hands of deploying troops.

Additional body armor, more up-armored humvees and battlefield robots are examples of requests that have been heard and approved by members of the Army Strategic Planning Board.

Getting the right equipment to combatant commanders in a timely manner is only one aspect of the Army's focus area "Resource Processes."

"It's a series of actions that match dollars to desired capabilities," said Lt. Col. Bobby Clafin, an action officer with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, G8.

Nested in improving the Army's "Resource Processes" is supporting combatant commanders, getting re-deploying troops ready for future missions and working with other services to ensure money isn't wasted by developing redundant capabilities, G8 officials said.

The Army Strategic Planning Board was first formed after 9-11 with a primary

focus on supporting the Global War on Terrorism. And even though it works as a gatekeeper, it ironically has proven to compress equipment-fielding schedules from years to months and even weeks, officials said. Unit commanders from company to theater-level submit operational needs statements to their major commands, and if the MACOMS can't fulfill the requests, they are forwarded to

**H e a d q u a r t e r s**  
Department of the Army for resolution, said Col. Mark Averill, chief of ASPB.

"When commanders see a required piece of gear that they need for mission success they can basically write and ask for it," Averill said.

Before requests reach the ASPB's Thursday meeting, Averill hosts a Tuesday meeting where a council of colonels first reviews the requests.

"It's not layers of bureaucracy," said Lt. Col. Michael Komichak, a member of the ASPB. "Instead of walking requests in each of the staff sections and trying to get on the G3's calendar, we provide a forum where multiple decisions directly impact-

ing Soldiers on the ground can be made within 60 to 90 minutes."

The planning board isn't just driven by requests from commanders, Komichak said. Board members also think forward, he said.

They use lessons learned from previous rotations of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to "lean forward" and predict what units will need on the ground, Komichak said.

## **"It's a series of actions that match dollars to desired capacities."**

**Lt. Col. Bobby Clafin**  
action officer, Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, G8

Among the board members are representatives from the Rapid Equipping Force. They look for off-the-shelf technologies that they can get in the hands of Soldiers as rapid-

ly as possible. An example of a REF product is the "Well-Cam," which is being used in Afghanistan. The Well-Cam is a camera attached to an Ethernet cable that enables Soldiers to safely search wells for weapons caches.

By canceling certain projects, like the Comanche, and restructuring other programs, the Army has reinvested \$36 billion towards Army Transformation, said G-8

officials. Technologies and capabilities are being developed that can be applied to the current force, officials said.

In addition to investing in new equipment, major items that have been used in Iraq and Afghanistan are being repaired through the "setting the force" program.

Through the reset program, all returning units will achieve a sufficient level of combat readiness to be able to conduct future missions, officials said.

"The entire resource process has been evolving from independent processes to a synchronized concert that includes the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the sister services," Clafin said.

**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.*

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

# Don't abuse words, they never did anything to you

**Pfc. Emily J. Danial**  
Staff Writer

**Commentary**

As I was walking past a bulletin board in a Hunter Army Airfield building one day, I was struck by a large hunk of irony, and I am still reeling from the impact of the blow.

A sign on the board promoting the importance of education prominently and proudly bore the heading, "SCHOOL INFORAMTION."

I knew something had to be done, because frankly, this problem is getting out of hand.

In an Army where the words "attention to detail" are hammered into young Soldiers' heads since day one of Basic Training, there has been some serious apathy in the area of words and how to spell and use them correctly.

Now, don't get me wrong, all you higher-ups, I'm not saying this is the Army's fault, no indeed. I'm sure it's a common dilemma in the civilian world as well — I repeat, no blame is being passed by this writer.

I do believe, though, that when Soldiers are being given counseling statements so full of sentence fragments, misspelled words and grammatical errors that you can't tell if you are being recommended for a promotion or for an Article 15, something has to be done.

Vocabulary is another serious issue that needs to be addressed.

There is a popular method of language usage known as the "I'm Not Sure How To Use, Or Even Pronounce, This Word, But I'll Give It My Best Shot Anyway" technique. To the even semi-educated listener or reader, hearing or seeing this done is equivalent to having one's kneecaps crushed by large, enraged rugby players.

I'm not even going to get into Army slang — but the next time I hear the phrase, "One more 'gain," someone had better restrain me.

This madness must be stopped. After brainstorming some ways to cure this visibly spreading abuse of the English language, I have finally arrived at a solution, which, viable or not, seems to me to be a surefire way to get Soldiers to express their thoughts in a manner which reflects the ultra-intelligence that I'm sure they all have.

For every public display of written English Language Mistreatment, the offender will be forced to spend a weekend attending a fifth-grade level writing class until satisfactory improvement is made.

Every time someone thoughtlessly attempts to vocally inflict his or her horrendously incorrect grammar or vocabulary on the general public, that person will be simply locked in a crate with a thesaurus and shipped somewhere, because sometimes you just have to put your foot down.

(By the way, those of you who thought just now that a thesaurus was a dinosaur — I'm looking into your eyes as I write.)

Of course, this wouldn't apply to those who make infrequent, harmless goofs. The punishment is meant for those who constantly, carelessly, spit large, incorrect words out of their mouths and try to pass off documents full of inane half-sentences as official records.

It's also for people who, upon hearing a word longer than two syllables, immediately point out that the word is "worth at least a quarter," and, "Ooh, aren't you smart?"

My point is this: it doesn't matter who you are; there is no reason for these basic language skills to not be a part of your life. If you are in the Army, all the education you could ever need is provided to you for free.

So please, do yourself and your fellow grade school graduates a favor and take advantage of that complimentary schooling — your peers will thank you for it.

For more inforamtion, call me.



**Marne Voice**

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

**Is it important for Soldiers to pursue further education and why?**



**"Yes, it's important because ... it further assists them following their Army career."**

**Spc. Kindra Givens  
A Co. MEDDAC**



**"It's important to pursue further education because if you make a career out of the military it will help you when promotions come about."**

**Sgt. Randy Gier  
D Co. 703rd MSB**



**"Yes, Soldiers should further their education and take advantage of the classes available because it helps their career while they are in the Army and when they get out."**

**Christine Martinez  
Dependant**



**"Yes, you should pursue your education because your military background might not be good enough for a nice civilian job."**

**Spc. Corey Hopkins  
123rd Signal**



**"Of course, because when you get out it helps you get a better job. Everything is about education these days."**

**Pfc. Janice Brown  
HHD 703rd MSB**



**"Absolutely, it helps better Soldiers while they are in the Army and when they get out."**

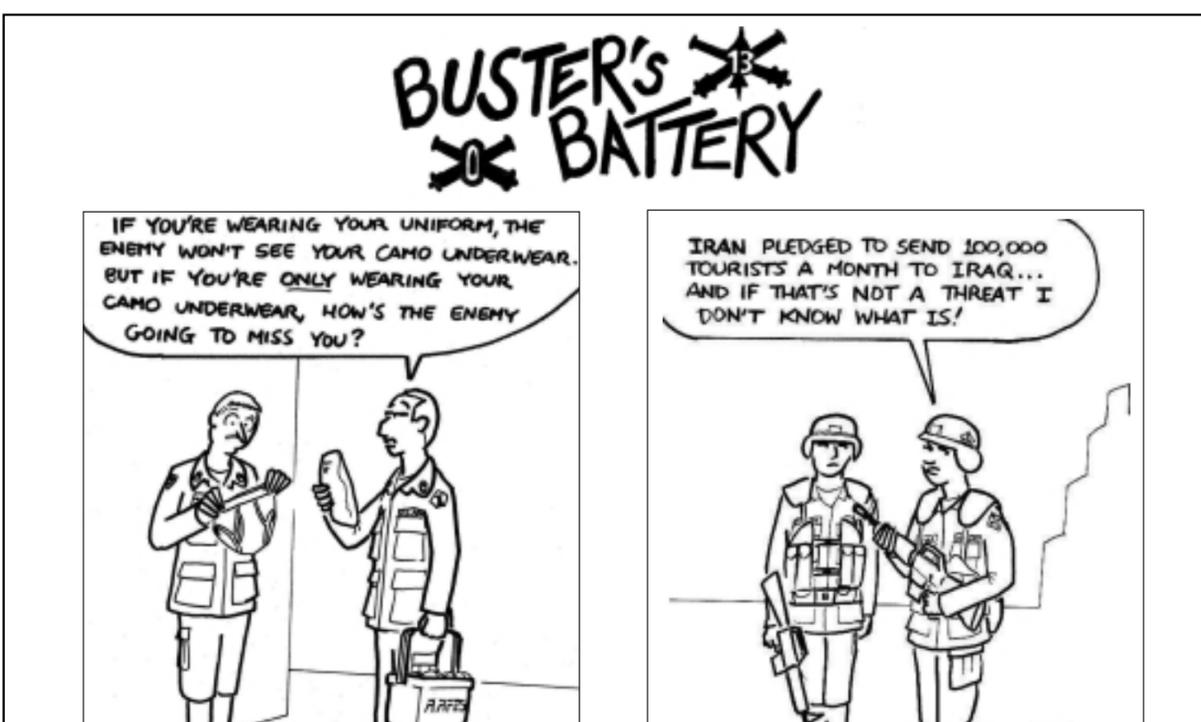
**Capt. Victor Aqueche  
HHC 1st Brigade**



Right on target ...

Joe Burlas

Staff Sgt. Charles Blackwell, 2004 All-Army Small Arms Championships' overall individual champion.



**BUSTER'S BATTERY**

IF YOU'RE WEARING YOUR UNIFORM, THE ENEMY WON'T SEE YOUR CAMO UNDERWEAR. BUT IF YOU'RE ONLY WEARING YOUR CAMO UNDERWEAR, HOW'S THE ENEMY GOING TO MISS YOU?

IRAN PLEDGED TO SEND 100,000 TOURISTS A MONTH TO IRAQ... AND IF THAT'S NOT A THREAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!

**Corrections**

• In a Page 3A story in the March 18 issue of The Frontline, it was incorrectly stated that local high school students got hands-on training at Winn Army Community Hospital through a nursing assistant program offered by the hospital. The program is actually offered through the school's Healthcare Science Technology Education program under the auspices of the American Red Cross.

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Write a letter to the editor!**

**Send to:  
Public Affairs Office  
Attn: The Frontline, Editor  
101 W. Bultman Ave.  
Suite 101  
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941**

THE FRONTLINE

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440  
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526  
Volume 20, Number 12  
Publisher  
3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Commander —  
Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.  
Consolidated Public Affairs Office  
Director — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly using offset printing by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

Deputy Director — Richard Olson  
PAO Supervisor — Master Sgt. Emma Krouser  
Command Information Manager — Jim Jeffcoat  
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31314-5000. Phone number: 912-767-3440 or 767-8072  
Printed circulation up to 22,000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc. a private firm

Staff Writer — Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody  
Staff Writer — Pfc. Emily J. Danial  
Staff Writer — Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch  
Hunter Public Affairs Office  
Chief — Steve Hart  
NCOIC — Sgt. Craig Zentkovich  
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Advertising Staff  
Advertising Manager — Maryann Wilson  
Frontline Production Manager — Juanita Vandenbosch

in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$9 for three months, \$16 for six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are for third class mail, inside the continental U.S.

# Post 27 retires flags, remembers Soldiers

**Pfc. Emily J. Danial**

Staff Writer

Members of American Legion J.E. Lanier Post 27 in Richmond Hill held their annual Flag Retirement and Remembrance Ceremony to properly dispose of unserviceable American flags and honor fallen 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers Saturday evening in Richmond Hill.

Lt. Col. John M. Huey, 3rd Military Police Battalion commander and Fort Stewart provost marshal, was the evening's guest speaker.

"It is a privilege to represent the (3rd Inf. Div.) tonight," he said. "Being one of thousands of Dogface Soldiers, I want to thank the American Legion for allowing me to share in this ceremony."

At the beginning of the ceremony, a roll call was taken of each of the Soldiers who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As each name was called, a candle was lit in that Soldier's honor, and at the end of the roll call, 44 candles glowed brightly in the night sky.

After the roll call was complete, the Soldiers were proclaimed excused.

"These 44 excused are now answering roll call for the Adjutant Post Everlasting," said David James, Post 27 senior vice commander.

Immediately following the tribute, the flag retirement portion commenced with three raps of a gavel by William B. Helms Jr., Post 27 commander.

"My junior vice commanders and senior vice commanders will inspect the flags and

they will report to me that they are unserviceable, and I will tell them to dispose of (the flags)," Helms explained before the start of the ceremony. "There's a proper way of disposing of the flags; it's not throwing them in the garbage can. We have resolutions about how to dispose of these flags in a formal way."

One of these resolutions states, "Whereas these flags laid before the Members of the American Legion J.E. Lanier Post 27 have become unserviceable ... (they) do commit these flags to a clean and purging flame, and be it finally resolved that (they) do humbly transmit the spirit of service and sacrifice embodied in these flags to the Adjutant Post Everlasting for distribution to our comrades now residing there."

Other flags were also put into the fire as a way of paying homage to the fallen 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers.

Post 27, located in Richmond Hill, has adopted several 3rd Inf. Div. units and is primarily concerned with taking care of Soldiers and their families, especially during and after deployments, according to James.

"We're there to help them through that hard time and get them back on their feet," he said. "A lot of times their loved ones are gone and they just need that extra help and encouragement in knowing that someone here does care, and we have been in their shoes."

James added, "We know what they are going through, and we want to do everything we can to help them through this."

Anyone who would like to know more about Post 27, including how to join, can visit its Web site at [www.galegion-post27.org](http://www.galegion-post27.org).

**Greg MacDugal, a member of the Scottish American Military Organization, lights candles in honor of fallen 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers at the Flag Retirement and Remembrance Ceremony Saturday in Richmond Hill.**



Photos by Pfc. Emily J. Danial

**David James, Tom Corcoran and Max Spencer, of the American Legion Post 27, inspect the flag that is to be disposed of and pronounce it unserviceable in a flag retirement ceremony Saturday in Richmond Hill.**



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

**Lt. Col. Bobby Towery, 3rd FSB commander, places a flag at the foot of the tree next to Spc. Edward J. Anguiano's memorial marker Tuesday as Spc. Dannatta Moats stands guard.**

# 3rd FSB honors fallen heroes

**Spc. Katherine Robinson**

Editor

Soldiers from the 3rd Forward Support Battalion formed up to pay tribute to two fallen comrades on the anniversary of their deaths Tuesday at 7 a.m. behind Cottrell Field.

The ambush in which Spc. Edward J. Anguiano and Staff Sgt. George E. Buggs were killed began at 7 a.m. March 23, 2003.

Anguiano and Buggs were driving a 10-ton wrecker, towing the disabled 5-ton supply truck — formerly driven by Pfc. Jessica Lynch and Sgt. Matthew Rose, 507th Maintenance Company — when the convoy began to receive sporadic small-arms fire on Highway 16.

As the convoy turned around to head back to a missed turn, the 10-ton got stuck in the soft sand.

1st Sgt. Robert Dowdy, also 507th, picked Buggs and Anguiano up in his humvee, which was driven by Pfc. Lori Piestewa. Lynch was also in the vehicle.

Dowdy radioed the company commander, and told him he had picked up two Soldiers and that they

needed to get the convoy out of An Nasiriyah quickly. As they traveled south, Buggs and Anguiano began returning fire with an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon from the rear of the humvee.

About 20 minutes after the ambush started, a five-ton tractor trailer came under heavy fire, and its driver, Spc. Edgar Hernandez lost control of the vehicle while trying to avoid hitting an Iraqi truck blocking the road in front of him.

Dowdy's humvee was hit by direct or indirect fire and crashed into the stopped tractor-trailer. Buggs, Anguiano and Dowdy were all killed in the crash.

"It is today at this time we honor our two fallen Ready to Roll Soldiers along with all Soldiers who have fallen in battle to defend our great nation," said Lt. Col. Bobby Towery, 3rd FSB commander.

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Nordstrom, 1st Brigade chaplain, addressed the companies Tuesday.

He read to them a speech he delivered to various 1st Bde. leaders April 1



**Lt. Col. Bobby Towery, 3rd FSB commander, and Maj. Derrick Norman, battalion executive officer, salute at Staff Sgt. George Buggs' memorial marker.**

at the request of then brigade commander Col. William Grimsley.

"Just hours before four of our Soldiers were killed in a terrorist car bomb our president had these words to say. 'We are now fighting their most desperate units. The current generation of our military will not let us down. Though our POWs have been brutalized and executed, U.S. Soldiers are showing kindness and respect to the Iraqi people and treating the criminal acts of our enemy.'

"In other words, we are better because we are dif-

ferent," Nordstrom said. "Our roots are established deep in the soil of freedom. We marched across that land not to enslave the Iraqi people but to liberate them and give them freedom from a wretched government ... that's why Buggs and Anguiano gave their lives and many of you risked yours."

After the formation, the Soldiers marched single file down Warriors' Walk and saluted the markers commemorating Buggs and Anguiano as they passed. At the head of the formation, Towery planted a new flag at the foot of their trees.

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# DoD temporarily extends TRICARE eligibility

Special to The Frontline

Under the National Defense Authorization Act and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004, TRICARE eligibility for some active duty and Reserve Component members separating from active duty service is temporarily extended under the Department of Defense Transitional Assistance Management Program from 60 or 120 days to 180 days.

The enhanced TRICARE provision, which began Nov. 6, 2003, and ends Dec. 31, 2004, is the first of three temporary programs the TRICARE program is implementing this spring under its "Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program," to enhance access to care for active and Reserve Component sponsors separating from active military service and their family members. The only change to TAMP is the temporary extension for the

eligibility period.

"We are pleased to implement these new benefits for separating servicemembers and their families in order to assist the transition to civilian life," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "TRICARE and contractor staff are working to make this temporary benefit work as smoothly as possible," he said.

Eligible sponsors and family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Former active duty sponsors and family members eligible for the transitional program may enroll in TRICARE Prime in locations where TRICARE Prime is available, or they may use the TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard benefits. Under TAMP, active duty sponsors and family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote.

Former active duty and Reserve Component members who are eligible for transitional benefits may

receive dental care at military dental treatment facilities on a space-available basis only. Family members are not eligible for dental care at these facilities. Civilian dental care is not a covered benefit for sponsors or family members under the transitional program. Certain members of the Reserve Component and their family members may, however, receive dental care by enrolling in the TRICARE Dental Program. To determine eligibility and get additional information, contact the TDP administrator, United Concordia Companies, Inc. at (800) 866-8499 or at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).

All claims submitted to TRICARE for sponsors and family members eligible for transitional benefits are processed by the TRICARE claims processor at the TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra active duty family member rate.

To apply for TRICARE reimbursement, sponsors or family members must submit a TRICARE claim form, a copy of the itemized

bill, and an explanation of benefits and receipts (if available) to their regional managed care support contractor for processing.

The sponsor's Service branch determines whether the sponsor and family members are eligible for transitional benefits. Active duty and Reserve Component sponsors who are separating from active duty and need to verify eligibility for transitional TRICARE benefits for themselves and family members are encouraged to contact their nearest Service personnel office for assistance. DEERS eligibility may be verified by contacting the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552.

On Jan. 1, 2005, TRICARE eligibility under the transitional program for active and Reserve Component sponsors who separate from active duty and have fewer than six years of total active federal service and their family members returns to 60 days upon the sponsor's separation. TRICARE

eligibility for active and Reserve Component sponsors who separate from active duty and have six years or more of total active federal service and their family members returns to 120 days upon separation of the sponsor.

Sponsors and family members who need help understanding their TRICARE benefits or processing TRICARE claims, may contact their regional TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator for assistance. A list of BCAC names and telephone numbers for assistance is available at [www.tricare.osd.mil/bcacdirectory.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/bcacdirectory.cfm).

Additional information on TRICARE and the Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is available on the TRICARE Website at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) and the Reserve Component Website at [www.defenselink.mil/ra](http://www.defenselink.mil/ra).

A list of frequently asked questions is available at [www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs) by typing in keywords TAMP or Reserve.

## Parent University Course Descriptions

Registration Deadline April 9

Call School Liaison Office (767-6533/2312/6071) for registration forms and additional information

SESSION #1:

**STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Are you stressed out? Learn new ways to reduce the stressors in your life and effectively manage your daily life.

INSTRUCTOR: Pam Cox, Army Community Service

**PARENT MATH TEAM:** Become part of the Parent Math Team; learn how to evaluate student work using the constructed response rubric adopted by Diamond Elementary School.

INSTRUCTORS: Edith Royal and Ruth Pipkin, Diamond Elementary School

**COPING DURING DEPLOYMENT:** Help your children cope during deployment. Learn what to expect and what you can do to help your child maintain a balanced life.

INSTRUCTOR: Carey Sawyer, Social Work Services

SESSION #2:

**TRUE COLORS TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP:** Provides team development that identifies each participant's individual motivators, contributions, strengths, needs, and priorities.

INSTRUCTOR: Laura K. Arisohn, Special Needs Family Project Educator, Army Community Service

**HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:** Class will illustrate effective ways to prepare their children for a move to a new school.

INSTRUCTOR: David Smith, School Liaison Officer, Child and Youth Services

**EMOTIONAL GROWTH IN THE FAMILY:** Class will address various learning styles and how parents can better understand how to help their child.

INSTRUCTORS: Noel Tillman and Carol Kipp, Brittin Elementary School

SESSION #3:

**GAMES THAT TEACH:** Have fun with your child while he/she learns! Discover ways to help your child spend quality time together.

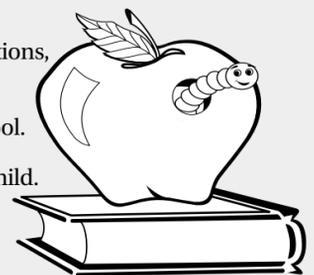
INSTRUCTOR: Edith Royal, Diamond Elementary School

**PARENT TOPICS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Learn about assessments, policies, and at-home assistance. Open forum provided for parents to ask questions to a teacher practitioner.

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Kirschner, Brittin Elementary School

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES:** Learn about the many family and child oriented resources available to you both on and off post.

INSTRUCTOR: Maria Boiza, Outreach Services Director, Child and Youth Services



## DESERTER

from page 1A

and was seeking conscientious objector status.

"All I can tell you is that after my experiences in Iraq, I am against war, period," he said. "What I saw is there is no such thing as a fair war. Innocents are caught in the crossfire and pay with their blood in any war.

"The issue with war is not just with war itself, it's the reasons for war," he continued. "I cannot pretend that because I'm in the military I have to do what I'm told. I have a conscience. I don't believe we're fighting for freedom, weapons of mass destruction or Saddam (Hussein)'s links to terrorists. Every time I try to find a reason to believe, all I find are lies."

Meija said his position was personal, and he hoped other Soldiers would respect his opinion as he respects theirs.

"This is a very personal choice," he said. "Speaking your mind is a Constitutional, human and God-given right. Even Soldiers in the military have the right to speak. Whether you are with me or against me, come forward and speak."

Meija said he always intended to return, and he has been preparing to turn himself in since he failed to report for duty. He said he had been treated with "lots of respect" since his surrender.

"I'm not afraid of going back," he said. "I've been in the Army for nine years. It's like a family. I'm glad to go back. If they do decide to press charges, I'm prepared to fight them in court. I don't feel I have committed any crimes, and I am prepared for whatever action they take."

More than 40,000 Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers have deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom since January 2003, said Rich Olson, U.S. Army garrison public affairs officer, Fort Stewart. Of those, 44 have had absent without leave or desertion cases resolved here.



Maj. Matt Garner

Acting Secretary of the Army, Les Brownlee (center), discusses operations with Maj. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III (right), Coalition Joint TF-180 commander and Lt. Col. Dave Paschal, 2/87th commander in Ghazni, Afghanistan on Sunday.

# SecArmy praises troops in Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

ARNEWS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee visited senior U.S. civilian and military leaders in Afghanistan, March 20 and 21, as part of his latest Southeast Asia military tour.

"You just can't say enough good things about our Soldiers because they're doing such a marvelous job and under very difficult conditions," Brownlee said. "We're lucky to have young Americans who are willing to serve their country in uniform in this time of war ... and they're all volunteers."

Brownlee's visit included an informal lunch with Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, and Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, chief of the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan, at the U.S. Embassy to discuss reconstruction challenges.

Brownlee also took a quick helicopter flight to Bagram Air Base to meet with Maj. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of Coalition Joint Task Force 180, for a mission briefing; and another flight downrange to

visit 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment Soldiers at Camp Albert in Ghazni.

The secretary said he sees tremendous progress in Afghanistan, with the drafting of a new constitution, the standing up of a national army, and the rebuilding of roads and schools. He recognizes the challenges for the troops stationed here, fighting anti-coalition forces and setting conditions for reconstruction at the same time.

Such missions are "never easy ... Soldiers find themselves in an actual combat fire-fight, and a few hours later they're on a humanitarian mission," he said. "The Army right now is doing a very difficult job here in Afghanistan because it's tough to build a nation, and that's what we're engaged in.

"But we have very flexible and adaptive Soldiers who continually amaze me with their ability to go in there and get the job done."

Brownlee is also impressed with the Total Force integration he sees throughout the area of operations. "A Soldier is a Soldier," he said. "Quite frankly, when I was sitting down talking to Soldiers, I couldn't tell who was Reserve or (active duty) because they all

have the same level of commitment, and they are all very enthusiastic about doing their jobs."

He also appreciates the sacrifice made by reservists' families to permit the Soldiers to fulfill their military obligation.

Whatever their component, all Soldiers are concerned about morale, a key issue for Army senior leaders as well, Brownlee said. It's one reason why he travels to deployment areas — to get a personal assessment.

"I am continually amazed at how good the morale is in Afghanistan," he said. "The Soldiers understand the importance of what they are doing here. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices. They're very determined."

More than 75 percent of the 11,500 U.S. service members deployed throughout Afghanistan are U.S. Soldiers. Brownlee said he recognizes the importance of the joint services working together to defeat terrorism.

"I believe, more than any other time in recent history, American people really appreciate what the military is doing for them," he said.

# Transformation on track, say Army leaders

**Spc. Lorie Jewell**

ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — Senior Army leaders gave emphatic assurances that efforts to transform the Army and properly equip the current force fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan are at top speed during their recent testimony to the Senate Armed Services' Subcommittee on Airland.

Sens. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) said that while they support the Army's transformation plans, they are concerned about the cost of developing future combat systems while concurrently restructuring and modernizing the current force.

"I am concerned that current operations will create resource challenges that can adversely affect transformation," Sessions said.

Claude Bolton Jr., assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, said the money being spent on changing the current force into a future force is closely managed. Leaders are mindful of the need to strike a balance between what they need for the future and current needs with available resources, Bolton said.

Bolton added that since he took his position three years ago, 30 programs have been cut.

"I think we've done that well, based upon feedback I've gotten from the Congress, industry and the Army," Bolton said. "And that is to put funds where we need it for the current force as well as the future force."

Army vice chief of staff Gen. George Casey acknowledged, "the pendulum has swung" from the future back to the current, but stressed that Army leaders are planning and implementing change with minds focused on maintaining program stability for the future combat systems. He added that the Army fully intends to stick to its budget.

With all of the activity going on — 325,000 Soldiers deployed in 120 countries combined with the mobilization of more than 150,000 National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers, Casey said it may not seem like the best time to undertake

fundamental change across the Army.

"But we think it's just the opposite," Casey said. "It's an opportunity we can't pass up."

The Army is working toward three main goals, Casey said: reduce stresses on the force, improve capabilities and transform into a more versatile, agile, joint and expeditionary force in the current decade.

The major initiatives to make that happen, he added, are rebalancing the active and reserve component forces to improve strategic flexibility; reorganizing combat formations into modular brigade-based units to improve self-sufficiency and facilitate force packaging; and a force stabilization program to increase unit readiness, reduce personnel turbulence and make life more predictable for Soldiers, units and families.

"What we are doing now, we intend to set us up for the future force," Casey said.

Casey said the fiscal year 2005 budget request will give combatant commanders the land power capabilities they need to fight the global war on terror, facilitate homeland defense, and continue to meet worldwide commitments. It also covers the transformation program, base operations and 15 critical recapitalization systems. The budget request does not fund ongoing missions in Iraq and Afghanistan or recovery from those missions, the general added.

Lieberman said he is worried the cost factor won't allow the Army to do everything it's aiming for. He noted that while the Army received \$42 billion of the \$65 billion in fiscal year 2004 supplemental appropriations, it still had to deal with close to \$3 billion in war-related requirements that were not funded. In the Army's fiscal year 2005 budget request, the unfunded priorities list totals \$6 billion, which includes \$2.4 billion for modularity requirements and \$1.2 billion for fiscal year 2004 reset shortfalls, Lieberman said.

Additionally, Lieberman said he has heard estimates of nearly \$50 billion for the Army's expected supplemental request for fiscal year 2005.

"The resultant shortfall could have a

serious impact again on Army transformation funding in the future," Lieberman said. "And potentially force the Army to delay, or at worst, terminate the future combat systems in order to meet current force requirements."

Bolton said the Army is responding quickly to meet current needs, namely making sure Soldiers have the best protection, equipment and technology available to fight the enemy. As an example, Soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq now have special inserts called SAPI plates that go into their flak vests for added protection. Just over a year ago, the Army was getting about 8,700 sets a month. By April 2003, monthly production more than doubled to 19,000. Current production is at 25,000 sets per month, with a total of more than 163,000 in theater. The goal is 840,000 sets, Bolton said.

Along with that, production of new up-armored Humvees stood at 20 to 30 vehicles a year ago. That number currently stands at 185 per month, with production expected to rise to 220 by May. Officials expect to have 4,149 of the vehicles, with the intention of continuing production to reach 5,000 in theater, Bolton said.

The rapid fielding initiative equipped 27,000 Soldiers last year with arm and kneepads, and different sights for night vision and weapons. This year, 120,000 Soldiers will get them, Bolton said.

Resource shortfalls are not putting the Army behind in moving forward with future force plans, Bolton stressed, describing the Future Combat System as the most complex undertaking the Defense Department has ever done. In breadth of scope, he compared it to the Manhattan Project in the 1940s and the space program of the 1960s.

The Future Combat System will include unmanned vehicles on the ground and in the air; mobile robots with arms that can fire mortars; a non-line-of-sight cannon; lighter vehicles that can fit into a C-130 cargo plane; and blue force tracking, the ability to network sensors from all of those items to give Soldiers the ability to know where the enemy is and what it's doing.

Some of that is already being used to

some degree, the leaders said. The Stryker infantry carriers, on the ground now in Iraq, can be transported in the C-130. One of the first things done in Afghanistan to reduce risk to Soldiers, Bolton said, was to put robots in caves with Web cams to show whether there were weapons inside. Another advancement was finding a way to open locks without breaking them while searching Afghan homes for weapons, reducing burdens on citizens who could not afford to replace locks in the event no weapons were found.

The subcommittee, to include Sens. Elizabeth Dole (R-N.C.) and Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), also heard from Maj. Gen. John Curran. He directs the Futures Center, the lead agent on developing the Army's future force. Work there enables Soldiers to fight better by identifying gaps in capabilities and when possible, infusing — or 'spiraling' future abilities into the current force.

While much of the scope of the center's work involves re-organization, equipment, weapon systems, technology and a joint mindset, Curran stressed that the Soldier is at the forefront of planning and research.

"The human dimension is and will remain the most critical dimension of war," Curran said. "The Soldier is indispensable to the joint team. When we enhance the Soldier's lethality, protection and situational awareness, we enable individual initiative and competence to win battles, wars and peace."

In the interest of beefing up protection for Soldiers, Bolton said the Army has engaged industry and academic types to develop a body suit made of material stronger than Kevlar and about as thick as a shirt. Researchers recently tested one of the prototypes - with the thickness of about two shirts - by stabbing it as hard as possible with an ice pick. With normal Kevlar, the ice pick goes through it, Bolton said — but it did not penetrate the tested material.

"It won't give 100 percent against all threats, but I think it will greatly reduce some of the problems and injuries we've had," Bolton said.

## ASK THE JUDGE

### Preparing yourself to deploy

**Capt. Uma Nagaraj**

Special to The Frontline

We have received the warning order for Operating Iraqi Freedom 3. Now is the time to put all your personal, property, financial and legal affairs in good order so there will be no surprises when it comes time to deploy. You must anticipate what will happen when you are apart from your family at a distant location for an indefinite period of time. You are responsible for your personal and legal affairs. Planning ahead will allow family members to have access to the information that they need and the ability to manage your affairs while you are gone.

The first thing you may want to do is prepare a will. If you already have a will, you should review it to determine if there is anything that you would like to change. Not everyone needs a will. If you are unmarried, have no children and do not own significant property, a will is probably unnecessary. Certain assets such as life insurance will automatically pass to the designated beneficiaries. If you have children you can use the will to appoint a guardian to take care of your children. You should keep your will in a safe place where someone can access it.

You may also want to prepare a "living will" or "medical care directive". These documents allow you to give instructions on handling medical situations such as whether to continue life support if you become mentally incapacitated or otherwise incapable of making decisions for yourself. You should make sure a copy is placed in your medical records and that the person you designate to make the decisions has access to the original.

You may want to consider granting someone a power of attorney to handle your affairs in your absence. The general power of attorney allows the person you designate to anything on your behalf that you could do yourself such as paying bills and opening and closing bank accounts. The second type is a "special" power of attorney which allows the person you designate to do things you specify on your behalf. You should be extremely careful who you select and what you would like them to do. In most cases, it is better to limit what the person can do in

order to avoid potential problems down the road such as someone incurring huge debt that you are later responsible for. It is much easier to execute a new power of attorney than try to take back the original. We would like to remind you that if you have children, you should execute a parental acts power of attorney that allows someone to take care of your children immediately should something happen to your child's designated guardian.

You should make sure you do not have any pending legal actions such as a traffic ticket or a collection matter. If you are in the middle of a criminal or traffic action, contact the court as soon as possible. They are not kidding when they say a warrant for your arrest will be issued for non-appearance. Under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, you can ask the court to temporarily stop the court action if it is a civil matter (not criminal), if you can show that your ability to proceed is "materially affected" by your service duty. Essentially, you will have to show that you cannot appear in court. This will have to be done through your Commander. The Court must grant a stay of 90 days. Furthermore, you may apply to stop the proceedings beyond the 90 days. If the Court refuses to do this, it must appoint an attorney to represent you.

If there is a possibility that you might be gone when it is time to file taxes, you may want to execute a power of attorney to allow someone else to do this for you. Depending on where you are stationed, your taxes may be different this year. You may be entitled to an extension because of your service, and part or all of your pay might be tax free. Our office runs a tax center. It is best if you contact them if you have specific questions.

This article is intended to get you thinking about the legal issues that you may face when it comes time to deploy. We also give legal briefings during the FRG meetings. Remember that preparation is key. The above legal issues are the ones that most people have questions about. If you have questions that pertain to your specific situation, please contact our office so that we can better assist you. We have also included a short checklist below that may be useful to you. Our office has a more comprehensive checklist for your use.

### **DEPLOYMENT CHECKLIST — LEGAL**

- **DA Form 5840-R, Certificate of Acceptance as Guardian or Escort**
- **DA Form 5841-R, Special Instruction Related to Power of Attorney**
- **DA Form 5305-R, Family Care Plan**
- **Written instructions identifying who will accept your dependents and where they will be residing**
- **DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data**
- **SGLV Form 8286, Service Members Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate**
- **Birth Certificates of ALL dependents (notarized or raised seal)**
- **Adoption papers (if applicable) (notarized)**
- **Marriage License**
- **Soldier's ID Card**
- **Divorce Decree (if applicable) (notarized)**
- **ID Tags**
- **Apartment Rental Agreement/Contract (if applicable)**
- **Civilian Medical/Dental Records (Copy) — Medical Documentation for profile conditions**
- **Legal guardianship papers (if applicable)**
- **Last Will & Testament (if applicable)**
- **Court -ordered Child Support (if applicable)**
- **Legal Custody papers if NOT in divorce decree**
- **Power of Attorney**
- **Living Will/Medical Directive**

Motorcycle helmets...

## Safety vs. popularity

**Provost Marshal Office**

Special to The Frontline

A good helmet can make all the difference when a motorcyclist is in an accident. Helmets on the market today vary greatly in the amount of protection they offer to wearers, and riders must take care to ensure the helmet they are entrusting their lives to meets the standard.

In addition to the other safety requirements for riding a motorcycle on post, riders must have a Department of Transportation approved helmet. Helmets that do not meet the minimal DOT certification standards may not be sold as "motorcycle helmets," but this doesn't mean they can't be sold. Many helmets are marketed for motorcyclists that do not pass these tests, and some companies even include a "DOT" label on the back of the helmet to simulate the DOT sticker. The Snell Memorial Foundation is an additional certification source intended to assure motorcyclists that their helmets have been tested to a slightly different standard than the DOT standard. This does not replace the DOT certification; however, it does show that additional testing was done on the helmet.

Based on DOT and Snell guidelines, some things to consider when looking at a motorcycle helmet are:

1. Impact management — how well the helmet protects against collisions with large objects.
2. Helmet position stability — whether the helmet will be in place, on the head, when it's needed.
3. Retention system strength — whether the chinstraps are sufficiently strong to hold the helmet throughout a head impact.
4. Extent of protection — the area of the head protected by the helmet.
5. Comfort — a helmet that isn't comfortable enough to wear won't protect anybody.
6. Visibility — Bright colors and reflective patches will make you more visible to others and therefore less likely to be involved in a collision. (All your riding gear and especially your helmet should be unmistakable, even to the most inattentive driver.)

Don't mistake the popularity of a certain type of helmet with safety. The "skull cap" helmet is a popular model, however, not all helmets designed in this style meet the DOT certification requirements. Wearing a properly fastened (under the chin), DOT approved helmet is required by the Fort Stewart Supplement to Army Regulation 190-5 (Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision). For more information on safety requirements, please see Fort Stewart Supplement to A R 190-5, section D-8, or contact Jeffrey Willis, Installation Safety Specialist, at 767-7878. Questions on any traffic concerns can be directed to the Provost Marshal Office Traffic Accident Investigation section at 767-9595 or the MP Desk at 767-4895.

### **Look Before You Leap...**

Observe swimming safety, year-round!



# 3ID IN BRIEF

## Stewart

**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.

**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.

**Anti-terrorism text message**  
This exercise will be held March 31 in order to test the Early Warning System in the event of terroristic threats.

**Road closure procedures**  
The restricted access control procedures at the installation boundaries scheduled to start Monday, has been put on hold until further notice.  
For more information call 767-6328.

**ACES**  
Army Continuing Education System will be holding its 27th Combined Commencement Exercise in honor of the candidates for graduation on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Club Stewart ballroom. The

guest speaker will be Major General Webster.  
If you are a 2003 or 2004 college graduate, please call the Education Center to participate at 767-8331.

**NTC Rotations**  
The American Red Cross is asking for your assistance in the handling of emergency messages for Soldiers during National Training Center rotations. All emergency Red Cross messages will be handled by the Fort Irwin Emergency Operations Center which is currently operating with minimal staff. In order to facilitate the passing of emergency communications to your Soldiers in a timely manner, please consider the following recommendations:

- Brigades may consider providing Soldier(s) to supplement the EOC staff during their rotation.

- All units should ensure their current Alpha Roster indicates which Soldiers are at NTC and which Soldiers are part of their rear detachment.

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

**ICE Web site helps**  
Comments? Questions? Complaints? Visit the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Web site at <http://ice.disa.mil>. We value your opinion.

## Hunter

**Boat safety checks**  
The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Savannah Flotilla, has announced the April schedule for boat safety checks. This is a free check of the boat's equipment to be sure it complies with federal, state and local safety requirements. The safety checks will be held at the following boat launch ramps from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**April 3**  
President Street Ramp  
**April 4**  
Lazaretto Creek Ramp  
**April 10**  
Skidaway Narrows Ramp  
**April 17 and 18**  
Bahia Blue Marina  
**April 25**  
Turner Creek Ramp  
For more information call Dick Luettich at 598-9375.

**3ID Purple Heart recipients**  
The Richmond Hill Chapter of the American Legion have \$5,000 yet to be claimed in their Purple Heart fund for Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) wounded in combat.  
For more information contact John Ellis at 695-0735.

**Hunter Club**  
The Hunter Club is open for lunch Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to schedule a special event, call 352-5270.

**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 5 p.m.

**April**  
Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
For more information, call 352-5278.

**Thrift Shop**  
The Hunter Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments accepted from military identification card holders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It has a great assortment of bargains from baby clothes to furniture.  
All proceeds are returned to the Hunter Community in scholarships, grants to units, and through other military organizations. Donations are accepted and volunteers are always welcome.

For more information contact the Hunter Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

**Commissary privileges**  
Commissary and PX privileges are now granted to all National Guard and Reservists. For hours of operation and more information, call 352-5007 for commissary and 352-5336 for PX.

## Winn Army Community Hospital

**Third Party Insurance**  
Effective July 1, individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call the Third Party Insurance Office at 370-6037/6947 for more information.

**Book Appointments Online**  
Schedule Wellness appointments online at [www.winn.amedd.army.mil](http://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.

**Tobacco Cessation Classes**  
Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from April 1 to April 22 or 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from Wednesday to April 20. The class will help you kick the habit, whether smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071. To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

**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.

**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.

**Baby Basic Training**  
Baby Basic Training offers fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their children through hands-on training. The class, facilitated by a man for men, will cover topics that include how to change diapers, bathe and hold an infant to what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery. The class will be held 1 to 4:30 p.m. April 7 in the Social Work Services building. For more information, call 370-6779.

**Winn/Tuttle Seek Volunteers**  
Winn and Tuttle are seeking volunteers to help in general administrative and clinical areas. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. The next Red Cross volunteer orientation will be held 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 1.

For more information, call 370-6903 or send an email to [Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil).

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

## 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	1 p.m. ....	Air Force News
<b>5:30 a.m.</b> ....	<b>MARNE REPORT</b>	4:30 p.m. ....	Navy News
6:30 a.m. ....	Air Force News	<b>5 p.m.</b> ....	<b>MARNE REPORT</b>
7 a.m. ....	Navy News	6 p.m. ....	Army Newswatch
7:30 a.m. ....	Army Newswatch	6:30 p.m. ....	Air Force News
<b>8 a.m.</b> ....	<b>MARNE REPORT</b>	7 p.m. ....	Navy News
9 a.m. ....	Air Force News	<b>10 p.m.</b> ....	<b>MARNE REPORT</b>
9:30 a.m. ....	Navy News	11 p.m. ....	Army Newswatch
11:30 a.m. ....	Army Newswatch	11:30 p.m. ....	Air Force News
<b>Noon</b> ....	<b>MARNE REPORT</b>		

## \$200 REWARD

A reward is being offered for information leading to the recovery of stolen property and/or arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of 10 M40 protective masks, 20 crew equipment bags, and 48 combat patrol packs, belonging to C Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion. The incident occurred between Sept. 22, 2002 and Aug. 14, 2003.

## \$1,000 REWARD

A reward is being offered for information leading to the recovery of the property and/or arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for illegally entering building 1630 and stealing six U. S. Government toolboxes. The individual(s) wrongfully appropriated a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle and a High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle from the motor pool area (which were later recovered). Anyone having knowledge, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options to maintain confidentiality. Any information concerning these matters are encouraged to call CID at 767-5030 or MP desk at 767-4895.

## POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Engineer Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Speeding 80/55  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Underage drunken driving, driving without license, expired tags, failure to show proof of insurance  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 30-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Aggravated assault — with a vehicle  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 2nd Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Speeding 83/55, no drivers license  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Speeding 83/55, racing, driving under the influence (alcohol) underage  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old male, Division Support Command  
 • **Charge:** False or unauthorized pass offenses  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 23-year-old male, Headquarters Command  
 • **Charges:** Cruelty to children, simple battery, interfering with 911 call  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

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

• **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female  
 • **Charge:** Disorderly conduct  
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Family member, 28-year-old female  
 • **Charge:** Driving while license suspended  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old

male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Driving while license suspended  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 23-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Suspended license, driving under the influence  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group  
 • **Charge:** Larceny of government property  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Assault with intent to murder, aggravated assault, communicating a threat, wrongful possession of

marijuana, discharge of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, drunk in public

• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, carrying a concealed weapon  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of amphetamines  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Criminal trespassing  
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, Aviation Brigade

• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to wear seatbelt  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 2, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Indecent assault on a child  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Rape of a child by force  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 30-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group  
 • **Charge:** Indecent acts upon a child  
 • **Location:** Federal Way, Wash.

• **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Damage to government property  
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 2, 24-year-old female, and family member, 24-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group  
 • **Charges:** Simple assault, child endangerment,  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Engineer Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Possession of child pornography  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old female, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Failure to use crosswalk  
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Artillery  
 • **Charges:** Simple assault on military law enforcer, drunk and disorderly (underage), disrespect to an NCO  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 2nd Brigade  
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Smithers, W. Va.

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, separate battalion

• **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old female, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Failure to obey traffic control device, driving under the influence, providing false information, underage drinking  
 • **Location:** Richmond Hill

• **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male  
 • **Charges:** Driving on a suspended license, criminal trespassing  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Master Sergeant, 41-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Drunk and disorderly, disrespect towards superior, failure to obey lawful order  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 30-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** Aggravated assault with a vehicle  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Family member, 29-year-old female  
 • **Charge:** Cruelty to children  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, failure to obey lawful order  
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Drunken driving, DUI less safe, failure to obey a traffic control device  
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charge:** DUI less safe  
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Simple battery on law enforcement officer, disorderly conduct, obstruction by hindering, public intoxication, underage drinking, public indecency  
 • **Location:** Tybee Island

# DUI-Free Award self-nomination

Special to The Frontline

The Army Substance Abuse Program is now accepting nominations for the June 2004 DUI Free Awards Program. All units eligible should self-nominate for their DUI Free Award by COB May 3. ASAP will not be able to accept any nominations after COB 3 May 04 (no exceptions). Any nominations received after will be awarded next quarter in September.

To nominate your unit, ASAP will need the name of the unit being nominated (spelled out exactly how you would like to see it on the certificate), the last accountable date a DUI was given to your unit, which award it will be (1st, 2nd, or 3rd), and the point of contact and telephone number for the unit.

ASAP awards certificates to eligible units on a quarterly basis. Future awards are scheduled in the months of June, September and December (unless posted otherwise).

Eligibility: All 3rd Infantry

Division (Mechanized) and tenant military units assigned to Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, to include 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Fort Benning, Ga.

Criteria for Selection: Units must remain DUI Free for a period of 365 consecutive days. DUI Free means ... zero blood alcohol level indicated on official police blotter reports. Any alcohol related incidents are disqualifiers for the award. Brigades and battalions with all of their companies, troops or batteries meeting the criteria will also receive the award. Units must remain DUI free until after the scheduled award date in order to remain on the list and receive the certificate and streamer. If your unit receives a DUI after this date you can keep the certificate but the streamer must be returned to the Alcohol Substance Abuse Program.

Please submit all nominations to ASAP ATTN: Barry L. Graham, 370-7530 <<mailto:grahaml@tewart.army.mil>>.

**Drinking & Driving Don't Mix**

## 3RD ACR Soldier killed in convoy en route to Kuwait

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — A Soldier from 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was killed March 16 while traveling in a convoy that was en route to Kuwait to prepare for redeployment.

The Soldier was killed when a passing vehicle struck his tank, causing a crew served weapon to strike him from behind. The Soldier was treated at the scene and evacuated by air to a combat support hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The accident is still under investigation. The name of the Soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

## Two Soldiers killed, two wounded in Afghanistan

Kabul, Afghanistan — Two U.S. Soldiers from Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan were killed and two were wounded during a fire-fight in Oruzgan province March 18.

Coalition Soldiers, accompanied by the Afghan National Army Soldiers, were patrolling in a village northwest of Tarin Kowt when they were engaged by anti-coalition militia. The Soldiers returned fire, killing at least five terrorists and wounding others.

The wounded Soldiers were evacuated to the Kandahar Air Field for treatment.

The names of the Soldiers are being withheld pending notification

## CENTCOM News

of next of kin.

Coalition and ANA operations continue in the area.

## STRYKER Brigade Soldier dies in shooting

MOSUL, Iraq — A Soldier from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), under the operational control of Task Force Olympia, died from a non-combat related shooting Tuesday.

The incident is under investigation.

The name of the Soldier is withheld pending notification of next of kin.

## Korean Coalition partners open technology center

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq — The 1100th Construction & Engineering Support Group, Republic of Korea, will host an opening ceremony of the new Information Technology Center for Dhi Qar University in An Nasiriyah today.

The construction group, operating out of Tallil AB, provided construction support and assisted in the renovation of the school's sewer system and overall infrastructure.

Additionally, the unit has provided humanitarian support by donating necessities such as clothes, medicine, electric fans, first aid materials and more than 200 wheelchairs.

## Operation Iron Promise Day Four

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iron Promise is a Task Force 1st Armored Division operation targeting former regime elements and other extremists who pose a threat to the Iraqi people and stand in the way of a new Iraq.

In addition to enemies captured, the Task Force seized 14 AK-47 assault rifles and a pistol, 20 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 30 mortar rounds, 100 mortar fuses and assorted small arms ammunition.

The Task Force also conducted 538 patrols, including 38 joint missions with Coalition and Iraqi Defense Force partners, and 35 escort missions.

Iron Promise, along with many other actions involving U.S. and Iraqi Defense and police forces are part of an ongoing campaign to bring stabilization and security to the country and people of Iraq.

## 1ST ID Soldier killed, two injured in Bradley accident

TIKRIT, Iraq — A 1st Infantry Division Soldier died and two were injured when their M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle overturned near Baji at approximately 11:35 a.m. March 17.

The injured Soldiers were evacuated to the 67th Combat Support Hospital at Forward Operating Base Speicher for treatment.

The incident is under investigation.