

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

Mejia found guilty of desertion

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Staff writer

Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia was convicted here Friday of deserting his unit, C Company, 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, of the Florida National Guard to avoid hazardous duty.

A panel of four noncommissioned officers and four officers delivered a guilty verdict and gave Mejia the maximum sentence allowed by military law under a special court martial.

Mejia was sentenced to 12 months of confinement, reduction to the rank

of private, forfeiture of pay and a bad conduct discharge.

While serving in Iraq, Mejia, a dual citizen of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, asked his commander, Capt. Tad Warfel, for leave to go home and take care of some green card issues, as he feared he would be deported upon returning home. Warfel agreed, and sent Mejia home for two weeks. Mejia vanished for five months, and turned himself in to military authorities in March after his unit had returned from Iraq.

The defense, led by Boston attorney

Louis Font, put forth three motions to dismiss the case. The first motion was that Mejia was denied access to off post meetings with his defense team. Font argued that under the sixth amendment, Mejia had the right to build a proper defense.

The second motion was that Mejia was not a citizen of the United States, and under a treaty with Costa Rica, no citizen of that country can be compelled to serve in the U.S. military. When Mejia reached his end of time in



Pfc. Ben Brody

Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia sits in a military police vehicle after being convicted of deserting his unit in Iraq.

See MEJIA, Page 2A



Catherine Caruso

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general and Col. Edward C. Cardon, 4th UA commander display the colors for the new unit of action at the 4th UA activation ceremony Wednesday.

4th UA activated, Eng. Bde. deactivated

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

Soldiers and family members turned out as the 3rd Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade was deactivated and became the foundation of the newly-formed 4th Unit of Action in a ceremony Wednesday at Cottrell Field.

"Today, we have inactivated the best Engineer Brigade in our Army and activated a new combat brigade to meet the new challenges that face our military," said Col. Edward C. Cardon, 4th Unit of Action commander.

The reorganization of the Engineer Brigade is part of the Army-wide reorganization planned by Army Chief of

Staff Gen. Peter Schoemaker to improve the combat effectiveness and versatility for the challenges the Army faces on the modern battlefield.

Cardon said the change over will help the Army by providing self-sufficient combat brigades that are able to respond more rapidly to a crisis.

See ACTIVATION, Page 3A

G-8 to increase Hunter security

Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs Office

The air space above Hunter Army Airfield will be bustling in two weeks with scores of aircraft from around the world.

Officials, delegates and media from more than 10 countries will descend on the airfield en route to the G-8 Sea Island Summit June 8 to 10.

Along with the heavy air traffic in the area, it is expected that soldiers, civilians, and family members who live or work on Hunter can expect to have their routines and schedules altered or delayed.

"Increased traffic flow in support (of G-8) will cause the greatest delays on post," said Ed Foerstel, Hunter Army Airfield deputy garrison commander and installation coordinator for the G-8.

The most substantial change to installation operations will be the closing of Montgomery Gate from June 6 to 10. During that time, all post traffic will enter or exit through Wilson (24 hours) or Rio Gates.

"We're attempting to substantially increase the number of personnel manning the gates so more cars can be checked at a time," Foerstel said. "There shouldn't be any delays at the gates."

Given the number of heads of state attending the summit, the security, handled by the U.S. Secret Service and State Department, is expected to be tighter, according to Foerstel. "If for some reason there are increased security measures required, people coming on post should expect a 15 to 20 minute delay."

Department of Morale Welfare and Recreation services schedules will also be altered. Lotts Island recreation area will be closed for the same time span as Montgomery Gate. The skeet range

See SECURITY, Page 3A

Smith takes charge of NCO Academy

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy said good bye to outgoing commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Albert D. Newton and welcomed incoming commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Mittie A. Smith during its Change of Command ceremony Friday at Cottrell Field.

Smith is taking over for Newton who is retiring after over 30 years of service in the Army.

Newton served as the NCO Academy Commandant from May 2001 through 2004 and has worked with the 3rd Inf. Div. since 1986.

The NCO Academy program has had a high turn-over of graduates during

Newton's term.

"The academy currently has the highest graduation rate in the Army at 98%," said Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman, division command sergeant major.

Newton's overseas assignments include Italy, Korea, Germany, Southwest Asia, Haiti, and Bosnia.

Not only has Newton received many awards and decorations, but he is also a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and a recipient of the Samuel Sharpe Medal.

"Remember the basic principle: do unto others as you would have done unto yourself," Newton said to the graduating Primary Leadership Development Course class 6-04. "Have pride in the division and in everything you do," Newton added.

Before becoming the new

Commandant, Smith was the garrison command sergeant major at Hunter Army Airfield.

"This is a rewarding challenge," Smith said. "I will make sure all Soldiers continue to meet the standard."

Smith joined the Army in Nov. 1981 and has held numerous leadership positions including first sergeant, detachment sergeant, senior drill sergeant, PLDC instructor and Chief, Administrative Services Division.

"I expect everyone that comes through the academy to learn and follow the three Golden rules: do what's right, do the best you can and treat others as you want to be treated," Smith said.

Smith said, "The training that we allow to leave the academy is what is going to shape the future of the Army."



Spc. Robert Adams

Command Sgt. Maj. Mittie Smith passes the NCO Academy colors back to 1st Sgt. Randy Ray after being appointed its Commandant.

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 96°	Low 70°
SAT	High 96°	Low 70°
SUN	High 95°	Low 72°

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Florida Guardsman Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia is escorted from court by two MPs to a waiting police vehicle Friday after being convicted of deserting his unit in Iraq.

MEJIA

from page 1A

service date, under the stop-loss act he was subjected to compulsory service. Another law states a non-citizen who has not applied for citizenship cannot serve more than eight years in the military. Mejia said he felt as if the military had no jurisdiction over him after that time was up.

The third motion given by the defense was that Mejia was ordered to perform a duty that was against the law, and under the Geneva Convention he had the right to make a conscious decision to refuse to follow illegal orders.

All three motions were denied by Staff Judge Advocate Col. Gary Smith.

In every enlistment contract a Soldier signs, there is a section that states every Soldier may be subjected to a stop-loss for up to six months after his ETS. Mejia signed his enlistment contract and therefore was compelled to serve, Smith said.

The defense brought in Soldiers who served with Mejia in Iraq. All of them said he was a great leader and always took care of his men.

"From what I experienced, he was very truthful — I would trust him with my life," said Spc. Oliver S. Perez, a member of Mejia's squad. "He always reacted very bravely, and he was always in control of his men. He had the confidence to lead his men."

Mejia told the court that he had tried to bring the eight-year law to the attention of his chain of command, but could not get closure on the issue. He said he went as high as his battalion commander to solve his problem.

When asked by the panel why he did not go further up his chain of command, Mejia stated that because his battalion was an attached element, he did not know who his higher chain of command was.

"I thought I had every right to be discharged, but the government did not uphold the law," Mejia said.

Capt. A. J. Balbo, the lead attorney for the prosecution, asked Mejia why he did not contact his unit after his leave expired, and why he hid from authorities in the Northeast until his unit returned.

"I did not feel that if I surrendered to military authorities I would be fairly tried," Mejia said. "I felt if I turned myself in I would have been punished and would not get any help from the military, so I looked for outside help."

"In his view he thought that the military had no jurisdiction over him, and that one day this matter would have to be settled in court," Font said.

"This case is not complex, in fact, it could not be simpler," Balbo said. "This case is about a deserter."

"The fact that he is a citizen of Costa Rica and a resident alien is not an issue," Balbo continued. "That is a slap in the face to all resident aliens who are serving now and are accountable for their actions."

After deliberating for a little more than an hour, the panel announced the guilty verdict.

"You may disagree with me, and I sit here convicted, but I believe it did the right thing," Mejia said. "You have the power to send me to jail, but I have to tell you from the bottom of my heart that I sit here a free man. From behind bars I will be a free man. I have no regrets, not one. I will take it because I will go there with my honor."

"When he made a conscious decision not to come back, he left his men behind," Balbo said. "He feels he did nothing wrong. He has no regrets. Even though he knows he abandoned his men, not once did he say 'I'm sorry.'"

Mejia was led from the courtroom in handcuffs by military police as his supporters cheered and clapped. He will be transferred to a military confinement facility.

"I am in pain for what has just happened, but I am not surprised," said Maritza Castillo, Mejia's mother. "The Army gave the harshest punishment, but my son is a free man. He followed the voice of his conscience."

"The defense counsel said he accomplished all his missions," Balbo said. "He did, except for the most important one — showing up."

Photos by Pfc. Ben Brody



Activists from Code Pink: Women for Peace show their support for Mejia.



Mejia hugs a supporter outside the courthouse while awaiting the verdict.



Maritza Castillo, Mejia's mother, answers questions from the press after her son was sentenced.



Francis A. Boyle, a law professor at University of Illinois in Champaign, entertains reporters and Mejia's supporters with his interpretations of military law during the trial Friday.

ACTIVATION

from page 1A

"Our chief had said we need to grow from 33 combat brigades to somewhere between 43 and 48 combat brigades to face both today's threats and the threats of the future," Cardon said.

With maneuver and support units reorganized from existing brigades within the 3rd Inf. Div., the 4th UA supports the Army's Task Force Modularity Plan.

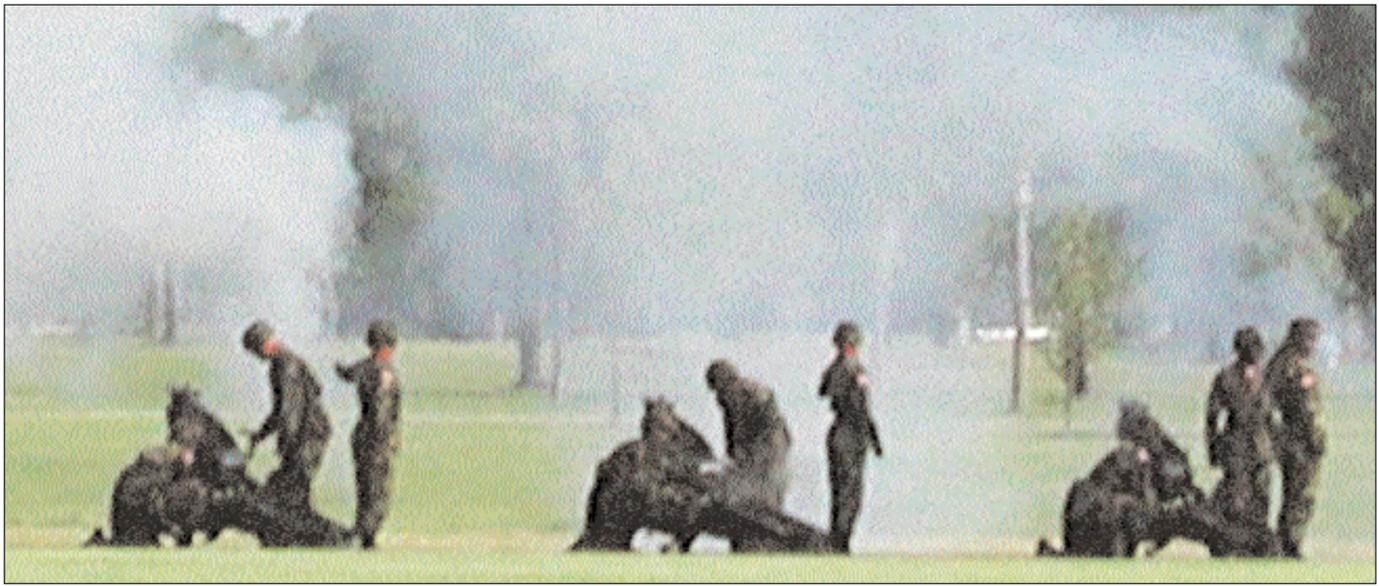
"The 4th UA will be a more independent unit, not reliant on other units for support," Cardon said. "I'm confident that we'll be able to handle it with the large numbers of combat veterans and physically fit and well trained Soldiers we have."

"This new brigade has an improved organization, enhanced equipment and capabilities and a changed way that it will train," Cardon said.

"We have streamlined our units to permanently task-organize the way we plan to fight. And because dividing three brigades into four brigades does not work equally, we have created new units," he added.

"This UA has engineers, infantry, armor, and logistics Soldiers that belong to the unit, which doesn't require any tasking of any other unit's Soldiers."

"This team now lives, trains and fights together," Cardon said. "It's a bigger job for the leaders with the wide range of fields assigned to their commands but it



Katherine Caruso

Soldiers set off canons to pay respect to the incoming commander at the 4th UA activation ceremony at Coffrell Field.

will provide the UA to be more capable to do their assignment."

The 4th UA is composed of Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 4th Brigade Engineers; 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment; 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment; 1st

Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 703rd Main Support Battalion and 4th Special Troops Battalion.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general and reviewing officer of the troops at the ceremony said the reorganization puts a great deal of work on the young leaders of

the division, but they are responding well, taking it in stride, because it's a very important job."

"Bringing in combat units to the UAs will allow for a 25 percent increase in combat readiness," Webster said. "The increase in readiness will allow for Soldiers to spend more time at home."

SECURITY

from page 1A

on South Perimeter Road, as well as the Hunter Golf Club will be closed for a period during that time.

"(Hunter Golf Club) being closed will be the biggest inconvenience."

Other establishments expected to change their operating hours are Hunter Gym, Hunter Club and Hunter Lanes.

"We've recommended to units that

soldiers do not go off post during this time," Foerstel said. "If they do, we ask that they car pool if possible."

According to Foerstel, daily activities altered due to G-8 will not be effected for too long. "By June 11, everything (at Hunter) should be back to normal."

See info box for specific dates and times of Hunter closures and schedule changes during G-8.

Hunter Announcements Concerning Upcoming Events

- Montgomery Gate will be closed June 6, 5 a.m. — June 10, 9 p.m.
- Wilson Gate will be open 24 hours June 6, 5 a.m. — June 10, 9 p.m.
- Lotts Island will be closed June 6, 5 a.m. — June 10, 9 p.m.
- Hunter Golf Course will be closed June 8, 5 a.m. — June 10, 9 p.m.
- Hunter Skeet Range will be closed June 5, 5 a.m. — June 11, 9 p.m.
- Limited use of Hunter Gym from June 4, 5 a.m. — June 11, 9 p.m.
- Recreational bicycle riding will be suspended June 6, 5 a.m. — June 10, 9 p.m.
- Hunter Club will be open for buffet lunch only from June 6 — June 10
- Hunter Lanes will open only for Lunch June 7 to 10

EXPECT INCREASED SECURITY AND DELAYS AT ALL GATES

G-8 Summit: Stay Safe

Over 10,000 protesters will be in and around the Savannah and Brunswick areas for the G-8 Summit in the first few weeks of June. Due to the number of protesters, the environment can become dangerous, volatile and unpredictable.

Possible violent protest day tactics

- **Trojan Horses** which are colorful carts that are used to conceal hidden items that may include weapons or explosives.
- **Projectiles** including rocks, paving stones, bottles, batteries, billiard and golf balls, nuts and bolts and any other projectiles.
- **CS (tear gas)** canisters and pepper spray
- **Containers** filled with water, gasoline, urine, blood, ammonia, bleach and battery acid.
- **Smoke bombs**, hose bombs and fireworks
- **Molotov Cocktails** (flammable liquids in glass bottles)
- **Vandalism** and graffiti

Safety measures for Soldiers in the area

- **Use common sense** so you don't put your family or yourself in a dangerous situation.
- **Avoid areas** where large crowds of demonstrators are assembled.
- **If caught** in an area where protesters are, avoid conflict and keep a low profile.
- **If you are traveling** in the area, make sure your vehicle is in good working condition and has a full tank of gas.
- **Have a cell phone** handy in case of an emergency.
- **Expect traffic** to be backed up.
- **Avoid road rage** against protesters and law enforcement.
- **Fast food restaurants** and large stores in the area could be targets by protesters.

REMEMBER — SAFETY FIRST!



Whatever it is...



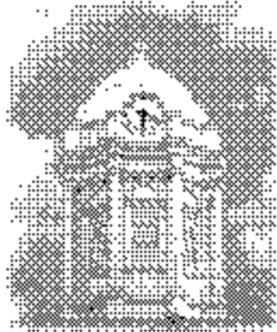
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VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Garrison Sends

IMA shortfall affects many; three to lose jobs

Col. John M. Kidd
Fort Stewart Garrison Commander

There's been talk recently about the results of the Installation Management Agency (IMA) mid-year review to the Department of the Army. Yes, there is a shortage of funds and we will all be affected, but only three temporary positions will be terminated.

We will have to tighten our belts and drive on until we have more available funds. That means we will

implement a hiring freeze and release all temporary employees. Term positions not directly in support of the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) or modularity will not exceed their expiration date.

Civilian training and development will not be funded by IMA through the end of the fiscal year, so we must take full advantage of



Col. John M. Kidd

ACTEDS training dollars that are still available through career program channels and the Army G1. Only mission essential temporary duty trips, and those trips

directed by higher authority in support of the GWOT or critical mission requirements will be approved through the end of the year.

This cannot deter our communication and teamwork. I encourage you to employ video teleconferences and conference calls to try and lower costs.

Bottom line is that we will be okay, and we will have our jobs. We just need to pull together, like we've always done, and conserve our resources to make it through. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. Please address your concerns through your supervisors.

Lane Down Range

All gave some, some went into hiding

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
Staff Writer

In life, there are not many chances to feel like you have really accomplished something. These moments don't come often, and when they do, you have to grasp the situation in such a manner that you can say "I did the best I could." People will describe you as having character, bravery, selfless service, compassion and guts.

In the civilian world, people in everyday situations are not faced with many moments like these. Most people who have any sort of nerve seek out places to be able to come in contact with hazardous situations. The Soldiers in our Army are a prime example.

A man in a movie once said, "I don't want to die without any scars. How much do you know about yourself if you've never been in a fight?" These are words to live by in my book, because in a dangerous situation your true nature is displayed.

There are people in this world who let these chances pass them up, and spend the rest of their lives regretting it.

I am very proud to be a part of the Army. Many people live and die and are never a part of anything.

I was at Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia's court martial, and I heard every word that was said. I really tried to listen to both sides without bias, but as the defense was presented it became obvious to me what the true issue was.

Staff Sgt. Mejia deserted his men in Iraq.

The defense failed to touch on the core issue. Why did Mejia go into hiding for five months?

Mejia was only able to give one answer. He followed his gut feeling. Unfortunately the decision he made concerning his future and the well being of his men in Iraq failed him.

I had an opportunity to speak with his mother about the case. She could not give a legitimate reason for his

Commentary

absence either. I asked her why he didn't stay in Iraq and fight the issue from there. She said that as a man, he followed his heart. His heart led him to some serious negative consequences.



A man who had a chance to be a leader, show his men a path to victory, and come home a hero, failed to do the right thing. He was, in my opinion, sick of being in Iraq, scared of dying, and took the first train out. He mentioned that the missions they went on were dangerous and men were being needlessly injured. I wonder how many of them ran away.

Mejia had a future. He was sensitive, and was going to get a graduate degree in psychology. He had a daughter to look after.

Like so many men before him, he was in a bad situation. But there are true heroes, like Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, who had a wife and kids and still gave everything without asking questions or worrying about his own well being.

When you sign up for the Army, you make a commitment. If you can't adhere to your oath, don't sign the paper.

Mejia signed the paper twice, and while everything was calm and he was enjoying the benefits of being a Soldier, he was fine with it. When he realized he might die, he objected to being a Soldier. When his subordinate Soldiers realized they might die, they fought harder.

Nobody forces us to become Soldiers. You even get to pick the type of job you want to do. There isn't anyone who can tell you to be an infantryman against your will.

God bless the combat arms. They are the force up front, the ones the rest

of us try to support. For one of the combat arms guys to turn and run into hiding, what does that say about our military? I have seen the faces of these men and talked to them extensively. Anyone who knows them can say they are our bravest, out in front showing the world what courage and dedication means. For God's sake, they picked that job and then re-enlist for the same thing!

Everyone is against the war until an invader blows up innocent members of their family. Do you think we won our freedom from kisses and hugs and protests? If someone was to break into your house and try to kill your family, would you flash a peace sign and try to talk sense into them? Hell no — you would fight for what is dear to you with everything you had.

If you can't fight, you hide behind the brave men and women who are willing to fight for you. What do you do if the ones who are there to protect you run and hide? Somewhere deep inside these men and women have a sense of duty to protect what is sacred to them by volunteering to be our rocks in a time of turmoil. They don't compromise their values for personal safety.

That is, if they have any sense of pride, character or bravery. Otherwise, they would try to find a way out of standing up for a greater cause and use loopholes in the system to make themselves feel better. But as I have said in other commentaries, would they be able to look in the mirror and be totally satisfied with what they see?

I think that when you let the chance to be a hero pass you by, you regret it forever. But when you turn and run from danger, everyone involved regrets it. Some people will never be able to redeem themselves from such an act of cowardice.

Servicemembers who die in pursuit of the greater good and the defense of their country get national holidays named after them. People who run from the fight get jail sentences.

Marne Voice

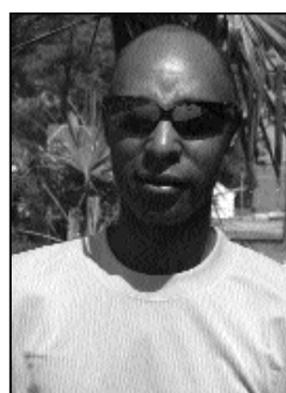
THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Is it ever important to put a leader's needs before those of a subordinate?

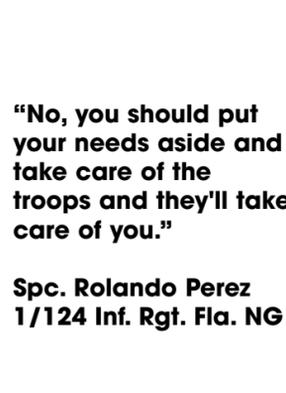
"No, you should take care of your Soldiers first. The Soldiers' needs should take precedence over your own."

Spc. Deborah Frank
HHC, 123rd Signal Bn.



"The military motto is 'lead by example' and if you lead by example your troops come first."

Master Sgt. John Watts
489th Trans. Co.



"No, you should put your needs aside and take care of the troops and they'll take care of you."

Spc. Rolando Perez
1/124 Inf. Rgt. Fla. NG



"No, leaders have a responsibility to take care of their Soldiers because they are their priority."

Spc. Diana Cortez
3rd SSB



"No, because putting yourself before your Soldiers could endanger their lives and the situation."

Pfc. Johnathon Mathis
HHC, 3rd Inf. Div.



"No, because a leader's role is to take care of his Soldiers."

Spc. Brian Harris
293rd MP Co.



BUSTER'S BATTERY



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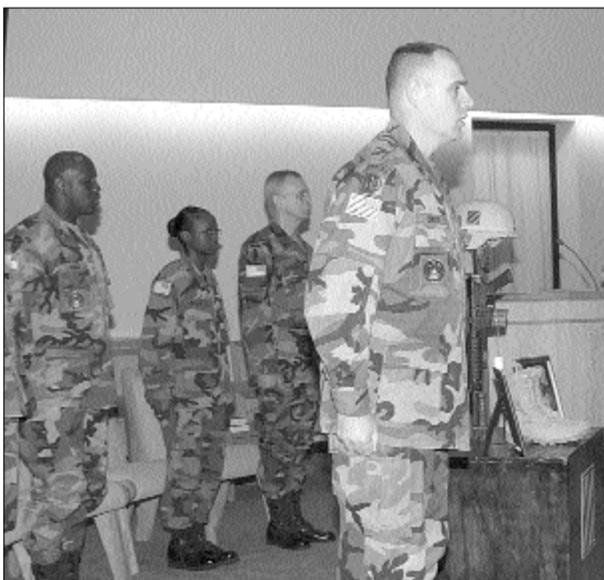
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Pfc. Emily Danial

Sgt. 1st Class Willard A. Smoot, Spc. Andrew L. Tuazon's former platoon sergeant, does roll-call at his memorial service May 18 at Marne Chapel.

MPs salute Soldier KIA

Pfc. Emily Danial
Staff writer

Soldiers from 293rd Military Police Company held a memorial service to honor Spc. Andrew L. Tuazon, a 293rd Soldier killed in action, at Marne Chapel May 18.

"Tuazon was the type of Soldier noncommissioned officers long to have under their leadership," said Lt. Col. John M. Huey, 3rd MP Battalion commander. "Soldiers like him confirm why we all train so hard and wear this uniform so proudly."

Tuazon, a Chesapeake, Va., native, joined the Army in 2002 at the age of 19. After training, he reported to Fort Stewart, and deployed with 293rd to Afghanistan shortly thereafter in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to Huey, Tuazon showed no frustration at being deployed so quickly after arriving at his first duty station, which would ultimately be his last.

"He was exceptionally motivated," Huey said. "Spc. Tuazon continually displayed traits of not serving for himself, but for the good of others."

Tuazon was known among his fellow Soldiers as being a comedian, Huey said. His attitude was never a pessimistic one, and he possessed the ability to stay calm under pressure.

"His calmness was a force multiplier," Huey said. "On one occasion, he volunteered to accompany some of the Soldiers in his unit on a convoy during their deployment. The convoy was ambushed, and Tuazon's level-headedness was what got their

vehicle out of danger."

During OEF, Tuazon's duties were that of a gunner, and during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was a driver and gunner. He also conducted patrols and public relations within the city limits of Mosul, Iraq in support of OIF II.

Tuazon was killed by a sniper while on patrol in Mosul May 10.

For his sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

"We were immediately struck with sadness for (Tuazon's) family, his unit and the MP Corps," Huey said. "He will never be forgotten in the heart, minds and souls of the 293rd family."

HHB 1/3 ADA pays tribute to fallen Soldier

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Staff Writer

703rd Main Support Battalion held a memorial service May 21 at Victory Chapel at Fort Stewart.

The memorial paid tribute to Pfc. Cedric D. Jackson, who died May 14 on Airport Road after forgetting to buckle his seatbelt.

"Jackson was a Soldier who always took responsibility of his actions. He went to work always bringing a smile, which made other people smile," said 1st Lt. Bernetta Carter, E Company, 703rd MSB commander.

"We both arrived at the 703rd the same day and throughout the time I knew him, he kept me happy and sane through the rough times everyone can experience in their life," said Pvt. Ilania Pacante, 92nd Chemical Company.

"Jackson was a good friend and father. He was so down to Earth and my best friend and buddy while we went through training," said Pvt. Damion Jones, B Company, 703rd MSB.

Jackson was born to Ned Jackson and Madeline Jackson and raised in Omaha, Nebraska.

Jackson attended One Station Unit

Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After completing his training, he was awarded the Military Occupation Specialty 74D, decontamination specialist.

He was then assigned to E Co., 703rd MSB, where he served as a decontamination specialist.

"Jackson was a good Soldier and it's such a tragic loss that we are faced with one less Soldier but we must and will continue on as a team," Pacante said.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.



Pfc. Cedric D. Jackson

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*Shrek 2 (PG)	1:45 4:00 6:30 8:45
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ASK THE JUDGE Report of Survey System

1st Lt. Jacob Lilly
Special to the Frontline

Q: I was just told that I am being recommended for financial liability in a report of survey of my equipment that I lost in the field. My duffle bag fell out of a vehicle, and we were never able to find it. Now my unit has informed me that I must pay for all of my TA-50 that was in the bag, and this amount is more than one month's base pay. I thought financial liability for reports of survey were limited to one month's base pay. Why are they holding me liable for the entire amount of the equipment, and what do I do now?

A: In most reports of survey, financial liability is limited to one month's base pay. However, in certain situations, individuals may be assessed the full amount of the Government's loss. According to AR 735-5, paragraph 13-42, when a soldier loses personal arms or equipment, that soldier may be assessed the full amount of the government's loss. Personal arms or equipment include TA-50 issued by CIF.

What you should do now is make an appointment to see a

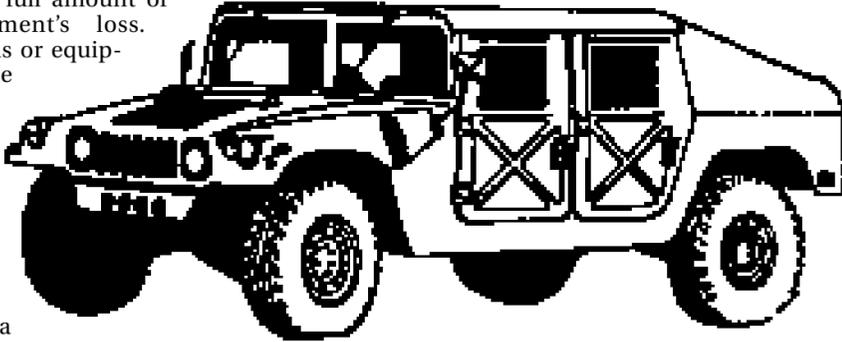
legal assistance attorney. You have seven days from the date you received notification of the survey officer's recommendation to hold you liable, to submit a rebuttal and tell your side of the story.

Your rebuttal, along with the report of survey recommending financial liability, will then be forwarded to the approving authority for a decision as to whether you will be assessed with financial liability.

Q: I was just notified that I am being held financially liable for damage to a government vehicle that I was driving. I did not submit a rebuttal, because I didn't think that I would actually be held liable. Now I've been told that the approving authority has determined that I have to pay for the damages. Is there anything I can do?

A: Yes, you should make an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney to help

you submit a request for reconsideration. Your notification should have informed you that you have the right to submit a request for reconsideration. You have 30 days from the date of your notification of financial liability to submit a request for reconsideration. If the approving authority denies the request, the request is then forwarded to the appeal authority, who is either the assistant division commander (maneuver) or assistant division commander (support), depending on your unit designation. The appeal authority has several options. The appeal authority may deny the request, the appeal authority may direct the approving authority to reopen the report of survey for further investigation on specific issues or the appeal authority may grant the appeal in whole or in part. Your next action should be to make an appointment with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Legal Assistance Office at 767-8809.



Soldier receives multiple medals



Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas congratulates 1st Lt. Brian Johnson after awarding him an Army Commendation Medal for valor, a Bronze Star Medal for service and a Bronze Star Medal for valor at Hunter Tuesday. Johnson received the medals for his actions and service while assigned to 3/69 Armor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



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\$15 tickets at Club Stewart, Sports USA, Marne Lanes
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Tickets also at Savannah Civic Center, Lester's Florist
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Tickets are \$20 day of show. Call 767-3695 for information.

**FREE Martial Arts Intro Classes
for Youth Center members**

Fort Stewart Youth Center located in Bryan Village, near
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Tuesdays & Thursdays and end June 17.
Call 767-4491 / 4493 for information

**Auditions coming for
2004 Army Festival of Performing Arts
Talent Show**
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Register now for June 26 auditions.
Call 767-6212 or 2697 to register or for information.

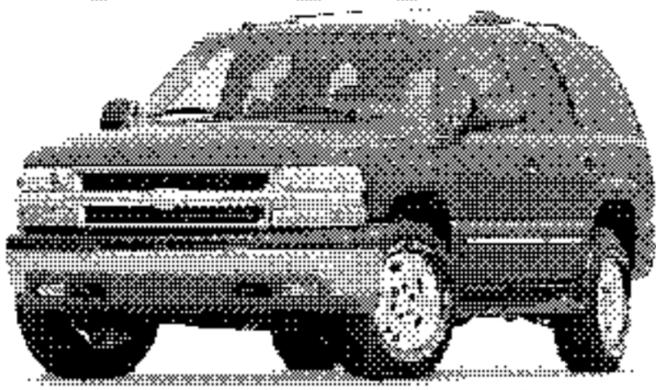
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POLICE REPORTS



- Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female
- Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving on suspended license, failure to maintain lane
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 1/9 Field Artillery
- Charges:** Following too closely, fleeing the scene of a traffic accident
- Location:** Statesboro

- Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 3rd Soldier Support Bn.
- Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 703rd Corps Support Bn.
- Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 3rd Infantry Division
- Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- Location:** Savannah

- Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 3/7 Cavalry
- Charges:** Underage drinking, drunk and disorderly, failure to obey order, failure to obey regulation
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 43-year-old male, 24 Corps Support Group
- Charge:** Larceny of private property
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 3rd Infantry Division
- Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old male, MEDDAC
- Charges:** Driving with a suspended license, speeding
- Location:** Liberty County

- Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 3/7 Cavalry
- Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Civilian, 30-year-old female
- Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful possession of drug paraphernalia
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 123 Signal Bn.
- Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Petty Officer 3rd Class, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- Charge:** Furnishing alcohol to a minor
- Location:** Tybee Island

- Subject:** Specialist, 38-year-old male, 110th Quartermaster Co.
- Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at a posted stop sign

- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 512th Quartermaster Co.
- Charges:** Failure to obey lawful order, failure to wear safety belt, no driver license on person
- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 3rd Infantry Division
- Charges:** Driving under the influence, weaving on roadway
- Location:** Hinesville
- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 43-year-old male, 118th Field Artillery
- Charge:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 75/35
- Location:** Midway
- Subject:** Private, 26-year-old male, Medical Hold
- Charge:** Indecent assault
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1/64 Armor
- Charges:** Driving under the influence—refusal, failure to obey traffic light
- Location:** Jesup
- Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 3/7 Cavalry
- Charge:** Driving while license suspended
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, Main Support Bn.
- Charge:** Driving under the influence of alcohol, no license on person
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 1/3 Air Defense Artillery
- Charge:** Deposit account fraud
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Staff Sgt., 41-year-old male, Medical Hold
- Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property, Theft of public property, Identity theft
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 110 Quartermaster Co.
- Charge:** Damage to private property
- Location:** Hunter

- Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 703rd Corps Support Bn.
- Charges:** Driving under the influence, No driver's license on person
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Sgt. 1st Class, 44-year-old male 2/121 Infantry Bn.
- Charges:** Improper backing
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 3/69 Armor
- Charges:** Simple assault consummated with battery
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, Division Artillery
- Charge:** Shoplifting
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 2/3 Aviation
- Charge:** Failure to notify after striking a vehicle, Failure to report accident, Leaving accident, Failure to give aid/info
- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old female
- Charge:** Simple assault
- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Sergeant, 38-year-old male, 2/3 Aviation
- Charges:** Driving on a suspended or revoked license
- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 3/7 Cavalry
- Charges:** Simple battery
- Location:** Fort Stewart

- Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, separate battalion
- Charges:** Improper loadage
- Location:** Fort Stewart
- Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, 4/3 Aviation Regiment
- Charges:** Improper backing
- Location:** Hunter
- Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, 2/3 Aviation
- Charge:** Driving on a suspended or revoked license
- Location:** Hunter

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3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Information Wanted

Information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of person(s) involved in the offense of larceny of private property. Between 12 p.m. and 9 a.m., May 12, person(s) unknown by unknown means entered building 813 and stole a laptop computer.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, who does not wish to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the US Army CID office located on Fort Stewart at (912) 767-5030/3971. (POC is SA Shane Tuttle), or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart (912) 767-2822.

\$200 Reward

A reward of \$200 is being offered for information leading to the recovery of the property and/or the arrest and conviction for the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a general mechanics tool kit from HHC, 2/7 Infantry, Fort Stewart, GA 31314. The incident occurred between Dec. 18 and Jan. 5.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, who does not wish to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the US Army CID office located on Fort Stewart at (912) 767-5030. (POC is SA Castorena), or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart (912) 767-4895.

MEDPROS Assistance

MEDPROS training and assistance for units is available through the MEDPROS

Readiness Coordinator located at Winn. For more information call 370-6992 or send an email to michael.thompson4@se.amedd.army.mil.

Volunteers needed

The ACS volunteer coordinator and the installation volunteer coordinator have information about a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in the ACS center and other agencies at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Volunteer orientation at Hunter ACS is the first Thursday of every month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome and much-needed at ACS.

For more information, call 352-6816.

Join Toastmasters

Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home parent, or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your leadership and communication skills. The Dogfaced Soldiers Toastmasters International Club meets at noon every second and fourth Friday of the month at Club Stewart. Open to everyone.

For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Jay Bowen at 767-0383, or email him at bowenja@stewart.army.mil, or call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903.

Offshore Fishing

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division unit financial advisor Staff Sgt. Mike Lyons, is offering offshore fishing trips for interested Soldiers on weekends. Great-tasting dolphin fish are in season. Bait and fuel are provided for a small fee. Contact Lyons at 767-1806.

Hunter

Candle Light Service

In honor of Memorial Day, The Vietnam Veterans of America will hold a candle light ceremony on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Emmet Park on Bay street in Savannah. All military and civilians are invited to participate.

Memorial Day Ceremony

The American Legion will hold their annual Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. All military and civilians are welcome.

Armed Forces Festival

The Armed Forces Festival will begin tomorrow and continue through Sunday on River street in Savannah, Ga. Featured guests include the 165th Airlift Wing from The Georgia Air National Guard. All military and civilians are invited.

Relationship enhancement

The chaplain's office is sponsoring free couple's communication and relationship enhancement classes at Hunter Club.

For a list of the classes and more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers at 572-8605.

2004 Miller Lite Concert

Buy your tickets in advance for the 2004 Miller Lite Concert featuring "Train" at Hunter Lanes.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 after May 8 and \$20 on the day of the concert, June 17.

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 Golf Club

The Hunter Golf Club is hosting a Payday Activities Golf Scramble tomorrow at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Tommie McArthur at 352-5622.

Swimming pool

The Hunter swimming pool will open daily beginning tomorrow.

Hours of operation will be from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Sidewalk sale

The Commissary at Hunter will hold a sidewalk sale tomorrow through Sunday.

Golf sweepstakes

Drive to Win at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's "Lucky Bucket Sweepstakes 2" promotion. Sharpen your golf skills and win some great prizes in the process. Through June 30, one orange "lucky" ball will be drawn out each week at each golf facility. Win instantly if you find the orange "lucky" ball in the bucket of balls you purchase at the driving range. In addition, an "Enter to Win" sweepstakes form is available for local and national grand prize drawings at the end of the promotion.

The promotion is a Business Programs initiative to help installations "Build Their Business."

For more details about the event, contact Tommy McArthur, golf course manager, at 912-352-5622 or 912-767-2370.

Winn /Tuttle

New Appointment Line

The new appointment line phone number is 370-6633.

Intervention Services

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.

Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6349.

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.

Tobacco Cessation classes

Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from today to June 3 or 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday until June 1. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The class will help you kick the habits of smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071. To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Winn and 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. June 3. For more information, call 370-6903 or send an email to Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil.

"Take Care of Yourself" Classes

The next "Take Care of Yourself" class at Winn will be held 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register at Winn, call 368-3048 and to register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Full Service PX Pharmacy

The PX Satellite Pharmacy is now open for full service business. Patients may fill new prescriptions and refill prescriptions here 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Baby Basic Training

Baby Basic Training offers fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their child through hands-on training. The class, 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. June 2 in the Social Work Services building. For more information, call 370-6779.

Marne TV

May 2004
Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday.
Tune in to the Marne Report six 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
Midnight **MARNE REPORT**

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Screven holds 10th Annual Memorial Service



Gail Aldridge

Col. Roberta Woods, 24th Corps Support Group commander, addressed a group of Screven County Veterans and citizens in Sylvania Monday for the 10th Annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony. Area veterans from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Military Retirees Association gathered for the special event held in the social hall of the First Baptist Church of Sylvania. Those in attendance also included U.S. Congressman Max Burns and wife Lora, Sylvania Mayor Margaret Evans, County Commission Chairman J.C. Warren, President of the Military Retirees Association G.W. Blackburn, Screven County Middle School Band and many local citizens. A luncheon reception was held after the ceremony in the social hall of the First Methodist Church.

Stewart graduates Soldiers and civilians

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Education Center recognized Soldiers and civilians who studied while working at the 27th Annual Commencement Exercise May 20 at Club Stewart.

"The ceremony is a yearly celebration to honor the individuals who strive to better themselves and achieve something great," said Col. John M. Kidd, Stewart garrison commander.

Kidd added, "Sometimes paying the price in time and money, the people learning through the education center are doing something important and doing it right."

The graduates from Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and various other places all came to the Army Education Center in pursuit of finishing or beginning a degree.

At this ceremony, Col. Glenn Burch, chief of staff of 3rd Infantry Division, and various college representa-

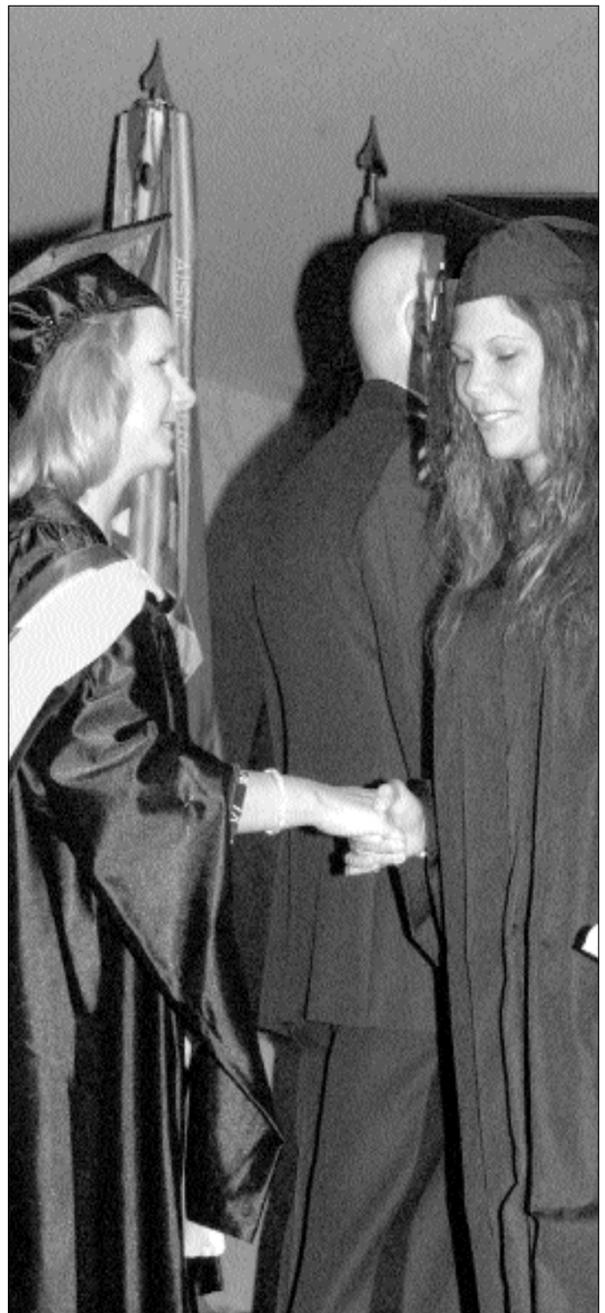
tives recognized the outstanding students, who completed their degrees," said Pam King, chief of colleges and counseling for Stewart and Hunter. The graduating class of the Army Education Center had 191 for this cycle with 450 people in the program.

"It's a big day and milestone for many people's everyday lives," said Staff Sgt. Lisa Kessen, 703rd Main Support Battalion.

Kessen said that what makes this graduation truly special is that, "In the military you have to consider the mission first and take education on a secondary plate."

"Education makes good Soldiers better and makes the Army team stronger so any program that betters the military is a good thing," Kidd said. "Their success builds success for others, and their accomplishments will better us all because education is proven to enhance skills."

Anyone interested in furthering their education through the military should contact Ms. Pamela King, chief of colleges and counseling Army Education Center, at 767-8331.



Photos by Pfc. Ricardo Branch

(Above) Crystal L. Stokes shakes the hand of Pamela H. King after being awarded the Associate of Arts Degree from St. Leo University.

(Left) Soldiers and civilians of the 2004 graduating class line up to receive their much earned degrees during the 27th Annual Commencement Exercise May 20 at Club Stewart.



Pulaski Elementary on its way to Hunter

Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs Office

For years now, children of Soldiers at Hunter Army Airfield have gone outside the gate to receive their education.

Located on the busy intersection of DeRenne and Montgomery Streets in Savannah, Pulaski Elementary School has served as the lone elementary school for Hunter youth for more than 20 years.

That's all about to change.

"The (Savannah) school system is in the planning phase of refurbishing older schools ... one of those being Pulaski," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble, Hunter garrison commander. "To do so, they would have to transplant students from Pulaski into different schools while renovations

took place.

"(The Savannah-Chatham County School District and I) thought there was a better idea."

Instead of moving Hunter children to different schools, the SCCSD is going to move Pulaski Elementary onto Hunter, into a yet-to-be constructed facility.

"Currently, the 550-student school is poor ... run-down ... not in the most optimally secure location," Goble said. "When the new facility opens, it will house up to 600 students ... on 20 acres of land off of South Perimeter Road."

Conceived a few months ago, the motivation behind the idea, according to Goble, was the improvement of education for the roughly 200 children from Hunter that attend Pulaski.

"The recent (Army-wide) trend has been to enter into partnerships with school districts outside installation and have those schools moved on post," said Goble. "It provides a more secure learning environment for military children ... with much greater convenience."

Though the assessments, contracts and plans are yet to be drafted and signed, Goble believes the new school should be open for academic year '06 - '07.

"The number of families living on post in the next three years will increase 50 percent because of the residential community initiative," he said. "With the new housing being built in the same vicinity, the location of the school will be ideal."

A potential concern for the Hunter

community may be the security of the installation, according to Goble.

"We're going to have faculty and students who are not affiliated with the military coming on post to go to school as well," he said. "These individuals will have certain restrictions when on the installation ... and will not disrupt the daily lives of Hunter residents."

Overall, Goble is excited to be bringing Pulaski onto Hunter, and sees nothing but positives resulting from it.

"It's a win-win situation for Hunter Army Airfield and (SCCSD)," he said. "It increases and solidifies our partnership immensely."

He added, "Most importantly, though, it's about the quality of education for our children."



Spc. Lorie Jewell

Michel Thomas takes a few moments to himself after receiving the Silver Star at the National World War II Memorial. Thomas was nominated for the medal 60 years ago for his service with the Army's 45th Infantry Division in World War II.

Veteran gets Silver Star at WWII memorial

Spc. Lorie Jewell
Special to the Frontline

Washington — As a lieutenant with the French Resistance, Michel Thomas battled tyranny alongside American troops as an attached member of the 45th Infantry Division in World War II.

Thomas was nominated for the Silver Star in 1944. Now 90, he finally has it. Former Sen. Robert Dole and Sen. John Warner, both WWII veterans, presented Thomas with the Army's third-highest award for combat valor at the National World War II Memorial May 25.

"It's taken 60 years," Dole noted of the medal and official recognition of Thomas' contributions to the allied victory. "I'm honored to be in his presence."

The private ceremony also included Thomas' adult children, Micheline and Gurion; WWII comrades Theodore Kraus and Bedford Groves; and French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte.

Thomas, whose family was killed by Nazis at Auschwitz, survived two years of slave labor and deportation camps in Vichy, France, before joining the French Forces of the Interior, Marquis Commando Group. He fought with them for two years before being attached to the Army's 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Inf. Div.

From August to September 1944, Thomas led reconnaissance patrols into enemy territory — sometimes three a day and sometimes alone, without regard for his own safety — to get information to help allied forces, the award citation said.

"Lt. Thomas was instrumental in capturing many enemy prisoners whom he personally interrogated and obtained much vital information," said Dole, reading the citation. "His fluent knowledge of various languages was beneficial in interrogating enemy prisoners and capturing slave laborers and French civilians."

Levitte thanked Thomas for his service, as well as the United States.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank you," said the ambassador. "The American people saved France twice. We will never forget."

Thomas expressed gratitude in return, not just to Levitte, but also to the senators, his comrades and others whose work led to the medal presentation, such as Alex Kline, a San Francisco private investigator, and Robert Wolfe, a retired senior archivist with the U.S. National Archives. Sen. John McClain, who couldn't attend because of scheduling conflicts, and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney acted on Thomas' behalf by asking the Army to revisit the award recommendation in September 2003.

"It is with great pride that I stand here with you today, and with our fellow comrades in that worthy battle to defend both freedom and the sanctity of human life," Thomas said, reading his prepared remarks. "I am deeply moved and humbled by this gesture from each of you, and immensely honored to receive this recognition from the United States of America. Thank you."

Afterwards, Thomas said he was deeply moved by receiving the medal, especially at the memorial, and with all of the people who traveled to witness the presentation.

Kraus, who witnessed many of Thomas' deeds as a Counter Intelligence Corps agent and commander, came from Connecticut for the ceremony. He was elated to see his friend honored after all this time.

"I've had tears in my eyes all day," Kraus said. "It's the culmination of a great effort by many people."

Gurion Thomas said that while his father has shared the stories of his service over the years, he never held any bitterness or regret that the Silver Star nomination didn't move forward, until now.

"He did not fight for medals, that's why he didn't pursue it," said Gurion Thomas. "He felt that fighting with the U.S. forces was honor enough. He's always said the

American Army is the best fighting force in the world and he was honored to serve with them."

Momentum for the award started building about two years ago, after a reporter for the Los Angeles Times wrote an article about Thomas' biography, "Test of Courage," by Christopher Robbins. The book recounts a number of incredible feats by Thomas: his 1943 escape from Klaus Barbie, known as the Butcher of Lyon, and his later testimony against Barbie in his 1987 war crimes trial; and his participation in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, where Thomas interrogated and photographed workers with then — Lt. Col. Wilson Gibson, who died in 1947 in New Orleans.

Robbins also described Thomas following a truck convoy to a paper mill near Munich in May 1945, where he prevented the Nazi Party's worldwide membership card file and other Third Reich documents from being destroyed; and how, in 1946, Thomas and Kraus together captured Gustav Knittel, a notorious war criminal who was eventually convicted for his role in the Malmedy massacre of American prisoners of war at the Battle of the Bulge.

Thomas, and many others, believed the Times' article attacked his reputation by questioning the credibility of his accounts. That's when Kline, the private investigator, got involved. Although Thomas had many documents to back up his claims, Kline's research unearthed more and led to Wolfe, who examined the documents Thomas still had in his possession and verified their authenticity. Wolfe also wrote a paper that described how Thomas was responsible for saving the documents, which were instrumental in the Nuremberg war crimes trials and became the centerpiece of the Berlin Document Center.

Wolfe said he and others knew a CIC agent who saved the records from being destroyed, but the agent's identity was a mystery until he was asked to verify Thomas' account. Wolfe said he made it a point not to meet or speak to Thomas, who was a stranger to him, until the day Thomas delivered the documents he still had possession of.

"One of the documents had Heinrich Himmler's signature," Wolfe said, referring to the Nazi general who headed Adolph Hitler's secret police. "I ran my fingers over it and the raised signature told me it was original. I looked at Michel and said 'You're the guy.'"

The two have since become friends. Any suggestion that Thomas lied or exaggerated about his history makes Wolfe bristle.

"He did a job few of us did, or could have done," said Wolfe, also a WWII veteran. "And I'm a twice-wounded infantryman."

Thomas sued the Times and the reporter who wrote the "Larger Than Life" article for libel, but a judge dismissed the suit before it went to trial, ruling that the article was more of a commentary piece than a hard news story, and protected by the First Amendment since Thomas was a public figure.

The Silver Star and all of the ceremony surrounding it is vindication for his father, Gurion Thomas said.

"To be honored finally by the U.S. government and military means a lot right now," he said.

Kline agreed. After three years of working to repair Thomas' reputation and getting congressional leaders involved in the medal pursuit, Kline felt exhilarated as he watched Warner pin the star to Thomas' chest.

"All of the delays actually worked in our favor," Kline said. "We're here in front of the World War II memorial. There's just no better place to do this. And to have it presented five days before the dedication by the man (Dole) who spearheaded the effort to get it built is just incredible."

Headquarters
3d Infantry Division (Mech) & Fort Stewart
Fort Stewart, Georgia

POV ACCIDENT

SERIOUS INCIDENT

1. **SPEED and NOT WEARING SEATBELTS** were contributing factors in another serious accident involving two 3D Infantry Division Soldiers. On 8 April 2004, at approximately 1300 hours, two soldiers traveling in West Virginia were seriously injured and their passenger killed when their vehicle crossed the center line while negotiating a curve at a high rate of speed and collided head-on with an approaching vehicle.
2. Investigation by the West Virginia Highway State Patrol revealed the military driver had been driving recklessly just prior to this accident. According to witnesses, he had been passing other vehicles at a high rate of speed, in curves and at no passing zones. The investigation also determined neither the military driver nor his passengers were wearing seatbelts.
3. The driver was 22 years of age and suffered severe injuries to include: head trauma, a torn aorta, and multiple fractures to both legs and is currently in critical condition. The rear passenger, 21, suffered swelling in the brain and is still in critical but stable condition. A female passenger, 18, sitting in the front passenger seat of the vehicle was killed on impact. The driver of the second vehicle remains hospitalized in serious condition. The passenger in the second vehicle was wearing his seatbelt and walked away from the accident with no serious injuries.
4. The consequences of speeding and failure to wear seatbelts can be and are often dire. We must all be mindful that each of us have a responsibility to do what is right, both on and off duty. Our actions can forever impact the lives of others.
5. Commanders, inform your Soldiers of the circumstances surrounding this accident. Emphasize the consequences and costs associated with speeding and the importance of using seatbelts. While speed was the primary causal factor in this accident, not wearing seatbelts contributed to the seriousness of the injuries and the loss of life.

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SERIOUS INCIDENT

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PM DWTS connects 3rd Inf. Div. with CSS VSAT

Stephen Larsen

Special to The Frontline

FORT. STEWART, Ga. — The Army's Product Manager, Defense Wide Transmission System conducted training and fielded Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal satellite communications systems Infantry Division May 5. According to participants of the 3rd Infantry Division, it was more than just part of the Army's G-4 initiatives to 'Connect the Logistician.'

"In Iraq, it becomes a force protection issue," said Maj. Angel Nieves, the combat service support automation management officer of the 3rd Inf. Div. "We can take Soldiers off the road and minimize the time they're in harm's way. Literally, it's a lifesaver."

"This product will save lives — logistics people won't have to make extended road trips for communications," said Rick Forrest, a former Sergeant Major in the U.S. Marine Corps, who headed the PM DWTS fielding team. "Connect the Logistician' is more than just a slogan, it's a lifesaver."

"This is a paradigm shift — CSS VSAT will fundamentally change the way support operations are executed in the Army," said Maj. Michael Devine of PM DWTS to the Soldiers as he opened the first training session. "It will give you the capability to reach back and touch information systems back home — right there where you stop. And it will reduce 'sneaker net' and make it safer," he added, referring to the practice in which Soldiers need to save logistics data on a disk and then drive — or walk — the disk to another location — hence the term "sneaker net."

"I came out of the tactical environment to help develop solutions," said Devine, telling the group of when he had deployed to Kosovo in 1999 as a Brigade Signal Officer with 7th Corps Support Group during Task

Force Hawk, and initially had no means to transmit logistics data — until he received a satellite-based communications 'flyaway' package from PM DWTS, which is part of the Project Manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PM DCATS).

Connected to a global network

Devine told the Soldiers that the CSS VSAT system can provide Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network access via satellite to CSS users almost anywhere in the world through a global network, connecting remote users to one of several hub stations around the world.

After Devine addressed the group, Forrest's fielding team conducted classroom instruction and then hands-on training, during which the Soldiers experienced first-hand how easy it is to assemble, operate, and then disassemble the CSS VSAT system — which is packed in only five transit cases.

The CSS VSAT system includes built-in Global Positioning System receivers, a motorized satellite antenna and a laptop computer which runs the CSS VSAT software program — enabling individuals with little or no satellite communications training to set up a satellite communications link and acquire NIPRnet access almost anywhere in the world. The system software determines the current location of the antenna, determines the satellite to be used, configures the modem and automatically points the antenna, via GPS.

The system can be connected to either a local area network, via a hub, router or switch, or to a wide area network, via a wireless interface, such as the Combat Service Support Automated Information Systems Interface — another PM DWTS product — which allows the operator at the terminal to be up to four miles away from the antenna, greatly increasing survivability from incoming rounds.



Bob Fowler

3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers receive hands-on training in assembling, operating and disassembling CSS VSAT satellite communications systems at Stewart May 5.

The future is now

"We're not reinventing the wheel, we're repackaging COTS (commercial-off-the-shelf equipment)," said Devine, adding that this first fielding to the 3rd Inf. Div. was with prototype terminals, to be followed by fielding of production terminals starting in August of this year, and to be completed by September — "supporting the transformation of the 3ID," he said.

Nieves was impressed by how rapid, rapid development — with improvements to follow — was giving his Soldiers much-needed communications capability — now.

"In less than a year, we have the capability — it's not a pipe dream somewhere, it's in the hands of Soldiers," said Nieves.

The Army previously rapidly deployed a limited number of CSS VSAT systems during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where the systems got high marks, according to Brig. Gen. Charles Fletcher, Jr., the Army's assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics (G-4), in his remarks at Industry Day of the Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems in Arlington Va. on March 17.

"VSAT was a lifesaver," said Fletcher. "This is going to become our division standard for transmission of logistical data," said Nieves.

Forrest added, "This is 'tip of the spear' technology, the first of its kind to Connect to the Logistician."

Ways harmful chemicals can enter your body

Capt. Paul W. Fowler and Raymond W. Bliss

Special to The Frontline

There are over 19 million chemicals known to man. Some of these chemicals have harmful properties from which we must protect ourselves.

Each day we come in contact with hazardous chemicals. If we don't take steps to limit our exposure, these substances can cause immediate or long-term health effects.

Hazardous chemicals enter

your body in three primary ways: inhalation, absorption, and ingestion. All three should be avoided.

Inhalation: The most common and significant way that harmful chemicals enter your body is through breathing. Once inhaled, your lungs can absorb hazardous chemicals. Some chemicals do damage to the lungs directly; others cross the lung and enter into your bloodstream. Once in your blood, these chemicals can travel to, and accumulate in, vital organs and tissues. At that point,

the damage may already be done. Carbon monoxide is a good example of a colorless, odorless gas that when inhaled at high levels, can kill a person in minutes.

Absorption: The second most important way that chemicals can enter the body and be absorbed is through the skin. This may be more likely to happen if your skin has been cut. Harmful substances that are easily absorbed through the skin include common solvents, fuels and thinners.

Ingestion: At work, people often unknowingly eat or drink

hazardous chemicals. Chemical dusts, fumes or mists can settle on food, drinks, or cigarettes. You can also pick up chemical residues from surfaces on your hands and unknowingly transfer them to your mouth. Heavy metals are commonly absorbed by ingestion and can accumulate in the body over time.

Unchecked and unprotected, hazardous chemicals can easily enter your body. As a result, long-term exposures and chemical buildup in the body often result in serious health consequences.

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