

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

President remembered ...



Pvt. Dan Balda

Members of the 1/39 Field Artillery Salute Team participates in a 21-gun salute to honor President Ronald Reagan's funeral at Marne Garden Friday. Every United States military installation honored the memory of Reagan with two separate 21-gun salutes. One was held at noon and the other at 5 p.m.

Soldiers, units awarded on Army's birthday

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division celebrated the Army's 229th birthday by recognizing and awarding Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers and units at the Division Quarterly Awards and Retreat Ceremony Monday at Club Stewart.

The division recognized the NCO and Soldier of the quarter, inducted five new Sergeant Audrey Murphy Club members, and awarded six units for being free of Driving Under the Influence offenses.

"As we celebrate the Army's birthday, it's time to think about the awesome achievements of the generations of great Soldiers

that have carried arms in defense of our American nation and all of its ideals, as we reorganize to better defend our nation once again," said Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general. "Typically in the past, this day is another work day, for something else needs to be done, there is another mission to be accomplished and Soldiers to take care of and so we move out."

In honor of all the wars the U.S. Army has been involved in, streamers were placed on the Army flag, each recognizing major battles it has fought.

"Today's Army is the best land fighting force in the history of the world," Webster said. "It is strong and great because of the

Soldiers who wear the uniform."

Webster congratulated and awarded several Soldiers and units that stood out over the past quarter and year.

"Not only as Soldiers, but as human beings, we enjoy to get recognized for achievements that we do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Louis A. Garcia, garrison command sergeant major. "Soldiers like to be recognized and receive awards because that is a mark of achievement."

The NCO and Soldier of the quarter were selected after going through battalion, brigade and division boards.

"It is a great honor to accept this award, not only on my part

See BIRTHDAY, Page 5A



Spc. Robert Adams

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general places a SAMC medallion around the neck of Staff Sgt. Marcus Richardson, E Co., 4/64 Armor, Tuesday at Club Stewart.



Pfc. Emily Danial

Col. Roberta A. Woods, 24th CSG commander, turns over the 87th CSB guidon to Lt. Col. Steven E. Lambert, the battalion's incoming commander, during a ceremony Friday at Cottrell Field.

87th CSB welcomes new commander

Pfc. Emily J. Danial
Staff Writer

Lt. Col. Andrew W. Bowes, 87th Corps Support Battalion commander, handed his Soldiers over to incoming commander Lt. Col. Steven E. Lambert, in a change of command ceremony Friday at Cottrell Field.

"I don't have time to say what's on my heart, but you are unsung heroes," Bowes said to his battalion. "You have many reputations, but one of them is, 'When there's a tough job to be done, give it to the 87th, because they can make nearly anything happen.'"

Bowes led 87th CSB dur-

ing Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During OIF, the battalion distributed more than 3.4 million gallons of fuel, issued more than 5,000 meals, purified and distributed 360,000 gallons of water, issued more than 4,000 short tons of ammunition, and completed more than 561 direct support jobs.

"You come and go from Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield on back-to-back deployments with little or no muss and fuss," he said to his Soldiers Friday. "You have all never been in the same country at the same time."

Four days after taking command of 87th CSB,

Bowes deployed with the battalion, and said the pace has not slowed down.

"It's been an honor to serve as the steward of the base of the pyramid and as your commander," Bowes said. "Thank you for all your service, hard work and sacrifice."

Bowes' previous assignments include Logistics Exercises and Operations Branch Chief, J3, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii; Executive Officer, 106th Transportation Battalion; Division Transportation Officer, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.;

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Weather Forecast

FRI	High 92°	Low 74°
SAT	High 94°	Low 74°
SUN	High 94°	Low 74°

News



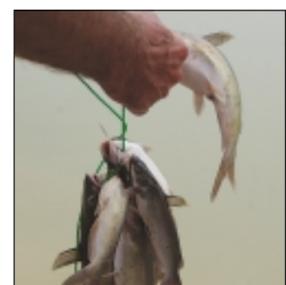
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Most Soldiers train to fight, others to save lives

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — In many battles there are Soldiers out there waging a different kind of fight, the fight to save lives.

Spc. Deibra P. Nerve, 11th Engineer Battalion's senior medic is a trauma specialist whose role is to provide aid and treat battlefield injuries.

"When I have to do my job, that means someone has gotten hurt," said Nerve. "Most injuries out here are heat casualties or carelessness when handling equipment."

While the unit has been at the National Training Center, she hasn't had to treat anything serious, Nerve said.

"What I've seen out here that haven't been training have been things like a broke finger, bad bruises or bumped heads," Nerve said.

Nerve said that she is glad her job is going slow because that means Soldiers are doing their jobs well.

During the battalion's involvement in the force on force battles that made up the first two weeks in NTC's training area, Nerve's job included simulated injuries inflicted on Soldiers in battle.

"I would get like 15 casualties a day and had to treat them from their various cards the observer controllers gave them," Nerve said.

Staying close to the front lines of the battles allowed Nerve to treat a variety of injuries and assess who she could provide aid to and who had to be sent back further for higher treatment.

Nerve said that she may have not seen much in the way of serious injuries at NTC, but she is confident that she can perform her duties based on her experiences in Iraq.

"In Iraq I was exposed to things like gunshot wounds and serious burns and cuts," Nerve said. "I did my job there and can do it here."

Nerve said that despite not seeing serious injuries at the NTC training area, she can treat them from experiences.

"I can treat most serious injuries from burns, gunshot wounds, and broken bones, but I would send those to Charlie Med," Nerve said.

Nerve, who had deployed to Iraq with 3rd Infantry Division, said that NTC brings a challenge her way in that she is running long shifts to treat people anytime of day.

"Being a medic means being on call 24-hours a day, which can be very hard," Nerve said.

With her job slowing down, as the battalion's NTC rotation is almost over, Nerve is glad with her unit's training.

"The slowing down of my job means that nobody is being careless," Nerve said.

With battles taking place, the



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Spc. Deibra Nerve inserts an IV needle into Spc. Dana Parker, multi-channel systems operator and maintainer, A Co. 1-3 BTB May 14 at the aid station. Soldiers coming to the aid station suffering from dehydration due to the high temperatures can receive an IV to replenish lost fluids.

job of a medic can be a crucial task to undertake with much hardship coming along for the ride.

"This job is definitely not one for people who could get faint at the sight of blood," Nerve said.

"It's an important job to have

because without a medic, an injured Soldier won't get treated and that's one Soldier down," Nerve said.

A lone gunman ...

Soldier wields the powerful 240 Bravo

Spc. Kevin F. Stabinsky

11th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Like a figure out of the Old West, Pfc. Chuck Roberts, 2nd platoon, A Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga., talks small and carries a big gun.

As a 240B gunner for his platoon, Roberts is responsible for handling the heaviest piece of firepower.

"The 240 Bravo is the most casualty producing weapon on the ground," Roberts said.

Though a high casualty inflicting weapon, Roberts said it is mostly a suppression weapon, used to keep the enemies' heads down while the rest of his squad mates finish them off.

Still, with a standard combat load of 1200

rounds of 7.62 mm ammo, a cyclic rate of fire of 650 to 950 rounds a minute, and effective ranges of 1800m and 1100m for area and point respectively, the 240B is a weapon to be respected and feared on the battlefield.

It is the respect for this gun that gives it the first priority for cleaning on downtime or when on security missions such as traffic control points are conducted. The crucial mission of this gun ensures that no checkpoint is without one 240B at the ready.

It is also a weapon to be feared. Its heavy firepower and loud noise makes it ideal to start an ambush, giving both deadly fire and a psychological advantage to the attacker.

Still, a piece of equipment is only as good as the person operating it.

To ensure the 240B falls into capable hands, a series of qualifications are conducted to make sure the handler is capable of

wielding this weapon of destruction.

Roberts, who volunteered to be the 240B gunner for his platoon, said a 240B gunner has to shoot expert on a target range with targets ranging from 500 to 800 meters.

Soldiers begin the qualification rounds shooting paper targets, known as tombstones, at 25 meters.

"It is all about shot grouping, getting a tight group of shots on suppression mode," Roberts said.

Soldiers then go to the range for three qualification tests; a day fire, a night fire, and an NBC fire. Armed with 200 rounds per test, and an assistant gunner, who does not necessarily have to be the 240B gunner's normally assigned assistant gunner, the Soldier must shoot 9 out of 20 targets during the day test and 7 out of 20 targets during the night test.

The NBC test has the same qualifications as the night fire, only it is conducted during the day.

Upon successful completion of these tests, the Soldier is capable of handling the responsibilities of being part of a 240B gun team. To remain on the team, gunners must qualify every six months.

The gun team consists of the gunner, an assistant gunner who helps put the gunner on target for ranges greater than 700m and an ammo bearer. Roberts said ammo bearers are becoming obsolete thanks to Bradley fighting vehicles ferrying the ammo around.

However, the Bradley is not making the 240B gunner obsolete. With dismounted patrols and checkpoints still conducted by the Bradley's crew, the 240B gunner is still a vital member of the squad.

Hot food does a body good at NTC

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — When Soldiers are in the field or deployed to an area where Meals Ready To Eat are the only available source of food, hot cooked food can be a great morale booster.

The supply section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-3 Brigade Troop Battalion worked to get hot meals out to the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers and various other units attached to the May through June rotation in the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"The Soldiers out here training work hard, so it is important to get them a good hot meal," said Spc. Tabitha Harter, HHC, 1-3 BTB, food service specialist. "We provide them a hot meal for every dinner. Sure an MRE can give you



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Spc. Tabitha Harter, HHC 1-3 BTB, food service specialist, serves food May 12 to a Marne Soldier waiting in line at the mess tent.

the energy needed to get your training done, but a hot meal can make you work that much harder."

"A hot meal is nice in the morn-

ing especially if you've been cold and wet, hot coffee is always good," said Sgt. Joseph Eros, HHC, 1-3 BTB, S-3 combat engineer.

The supply section is up before

most people even rise from their sleeping bags at 4 a.m. in the morning getting the morning meal prepared for the Soldier beginning the duty day.

"For the first half of NTC we prepared a light meal of fruits and drinks with bread and peanut butter and jelly for the Soldiers to eat in the morning," Harter said. "Now for the last few days of NTC we are serving a hot breakfast also."

Lunch time at NTC consists of Soldiers eating the MREs brought in the field for them.

During the lunch time, the supply section rolls out of the forward operating base to the brigade support area to pick up the rations allotted for the day for the meals.

"We move out at 3 p.m. to get the rations for a day or two so we have the food necessary to get the Soldiers their meals," Harter said.

Being at NTC gives the supply

section the opportunity to see how their role will be in a combat situation.

"Out here it's training, but it gives us the chance to see how our surroundings will help us to feed the Soldiers in combat. You need to be set up in a good area to be able to get the job done," Harter said.

In any given day the mess tent feeds a large amount of people.

"We have about 150 to 200 people come by to get a meal," Harter said.

"We have a crew of four people that run the mess tent," Harter said. "It's a good crew. We get along well and work hard to get the job done."

Harter said, "It's a good thing when we are finished getting the meals out because that means we did a good job and that is what really matters."

Soldiers discuss value of training

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, rolled out of Fort Stewart May 16 and traveled for real-life combat scenario training at the National Training Center here.

With 22 days of training behind them, the Soldiers were finally given down time, as 1st Brigade Combat Team needed to regroup for further training.

The down time allowed some of the Soldiers to discuss their recent training at NTC.

"We arrived here so that the

Soldiers of 3/69 Armor can get trained for war and to expose them to what they can possibly expect in combat," said Sgt. David Littman, 3/69 Armor battalion ammo noncommissioned officer.

Several Soldiers who have been to NTC before agree that arriving at Fort Irwin is to be immersed in some of the most realistic and unique training environment the Army has to offer for battle scenario driven training.

"Coming here is really important because the terrain and climate is so similar to Iraq that it's an excellent area to train for future (Operation Iraqi Freedom) deployments," said Sgt. 1st Class

Rhuel Pringle, F Company, 3/69 Armor first sergeant.

"I came to NTC back in November of '02 and by March of '03 we were in Iraq," Littman said. "The training we did back here helped us for what we did in Iraq. Now back at NTC again, the units are being taught some of the things learned from the OIF deployment."

There are many things recently incorporated into the NTC training from the OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom deployments, some examples are; perimeter defense, pulling security, dealing with civilians on the battlefield and refueling operations.

"The deployment to Iraq taught us that a reemphasis on perimeter defense was necessary," Littman said.

While at NTC, units are engaged with the area's OPFOR, a highly trained unit that specializes in testing the battle mettle of a unit's combat strength.

"The OPFOR knows the terrain and have established good capabilities because of constant field training," Pringle said. "It's a big challenge to go against the OPFOR here, so if we win it's a big reward. The training is great; every Soldier should come to NTC at least once for that alone."

Most Soldiers agree that the

training at NTC consists of long duty days and having to deal with high temperatures that many people may not be accustomed to, but it is all for a purpose.

"Soldiers need to come and get the hands on training offered here," said Pfc. Alan Lorenzo, F Co., 3/69 Armor. "They may arrive to Iraq and think they are prepared but if they don't get the opportunity to train in a desert region, they won't have much training to fall back on."

Pringle said, "We went out to fight a war the first time, now we're going back make sure the people are provided for after the war."

Army Guard provides security for G8 Summit

Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Special to The Frontline

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. — Georgia Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt commanded two large teams at the same time last week during a very public international event taking place on coastal Georgia.

It's called the Group of Eight, or G8, Sea Island Summit for the leaders of the world's major industrial countries. And the world was watching.

A reported 3,000 journalists from around the globe covered the event, which took place June 8 through 10.

The world, it was said, had come back to Georgia.

It was not the Olympics or the World Series, and Nesbitt's teams were on the same side for the 30th G8 Summit. Security against terrorists and demonstrators out to make trouble was their main mission.

Nesbitt is the first National Guard general to ever do what he did. That involves commanding Army and Air National Guard troops, who are on state or active duty status and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, who are on federal, or Title 10, status.

Nesbitt commanded several thousand of those service members during the informal meetings taking place on Sea Island among the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. European Union leaders are also here.

President George W. Bush and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue had to approve the idea of a single commander for military forces on state and federal duty. After months of planning, the pieces were all fit together during the first week of June.

"The idea is to provide unity of command and unity of effort for support of the

G8 Summit," Nesbitt explained. "It is being looked at, I think, as a model for future homeland defense and homeland security operations so that same unity of command can be put in place to support other homeland security operations or other special events."

President Bush hosted the summit, which was held in this country for the fifth time. Security was one of the biggest concerns while those world leaders discuss economic, political and security issues on the exclusive, secluded Georgia island about 80 miles south of Savannah.

The summit was designated a national security special event as was the Super Bowl last February in Houston.

The security force, being led by the U.S. Secret Service, has been widely reported to number about 10,000 people. Although no one is talking publicly about specific numbers and what everybody did, Nesbitt's Joint Task Force G8 includes a large percentage of that force.

The National Guard was one of the major participants. Guard troops from Georgia and 12 other states, split into two major task forces, supported local law enforcement agencies in Savannah and in the Brunswick area, where Sea Island is located.

Guard members staffed vehicle checkpoints and helped to keep traffic flowing along the coastal highways. They flew helicopters. They guarded the perimeters of sensitive sites. They drove foreign dignitaries. They were prepared to help control crowds if they have to.

It is the National Guard's largest national security event since the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. It is the biggest such event for the Georgia National Guard since the 1996 Summer Olympics in and around Atlanta.

It was also a test in command for Nesbitt, who cut his military teeth as a

Special Forces officer in Vietnam 1967 through 1968 and who joined the Georgia Army Guard in June 1973.

About 31 years later, he was responsible for two different teams that play by essentially the same set of rules — with some specific differences. It's like baseball's designated hitter rule. The American League has it. The National League doesn't.

National Guard troops on Title 32 state status can assist police forces within their state. Troops on Title 10 federal status can't perform law enforcement duties. It's against the law. They are performing other missions.

Having one commander responsible for both groups only made sense, said Dan Donohue, spokesman for the National Guard Bureau. "As opposed to setting up two parallel headquarters, you have one focal point and a single commander who can respond to the U.S. Northern Command, the federal military force responsible for homeland defense, and to the governor."

Nesbitt had staff members monitoring the state and federal groups to make sure that everyone was doing what they were supposed to and that nobody crossed the state-federal duty line.

The average person in south coastal Georgia was likely to see more troops in state status working with deputy sheriffs and local and state police than they are troops operating in federal status. But it was hard to tell the difference. The troops were not wearing signs on their uniforms.

And everyone had essentially the same mission at heart, to keep the world leaders and their staffs safe, to keep the peace and to work together.

"Our people have not dealt with these other agencies, such as the Secret Service, the FBI, and 50 state and local police departments, since the '96 Olympics," said Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, the



Sgt. Roy Henry

Pfc. Cassandra Prescott, an MP with the 48th Brigade Combat Team, radios for instructions while guarding the entrance to a compound where troops were housed near Brunswick, Ga., during the G8 Summit.

new commander of the Georgia Army Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team and the commander for the Brunswick task force.

The real challenge, he said, was to maintain command and control of his troops spread over a fairly wide area and "to not disrupt the rhythm of civilian life" for the inhabitants, who wanted to shop and get to work and back home while the summit was going on.

His Soldiers were in place the Sunday before the summit began, Rodeheaver reported, and the only serious situation he had encountered was that local people kept asking to have their photos taken with the Soldiers.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Rumsfeld: Practice summer safety

Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

We continue to lose service members in motor vehicle crashes. Last year, we lost 113 service members in private motor vehicle crashes between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We must stop this needless loss of life, and I want every commander and supervisor in the department to focus on this issue. To that end, I expect everyone to enforce the use of

seatbelts. Almost one-third of vehicle fatalities in fiscal year 2003 were unbelted victims.

Remind your people to wear seatbelts when they are driving and tell them to make sure their passengers are wearing seatbelts. The Department of Defense has joined the Click it or Ticket Program for seat belt enforcement. Eliminate impaired driving. Over 20 percent of vehicle fatalities involved alcohol.

Make sure your people know the

danger and foolishness of driving drunk. We have joined the national program you drink and drive; you lose to help prevent these fatalities. Insist on motorcycle helmets. We've seen a sharp increase in motorcycle fatalities.

Be sure riding without an approved helmet is not being tolerated - on or off-base. Talk to your people. Remind them about the risks and how to avoid those risks. Enjoy the summer, but enjoy it safely.

My dad is the coolest, all year round

Pfc. Emily J. Danial
Staff Writer

I haven't gotten my dad a Father's Day present yet. It's just so hard to choose — Home Depot has such an amazing selection.

Actually, even though that is a pretty good excuse, I've decided that this year I want to give my dad something a little more meaningful in honor of the one specific day in the year when he doesn't feel obligated to wash the dinner dishes, so here it is.

Over the years, my father has been an inspiration to me in myriad ways, from inspiring me to clean my room by refusing to let me leave the house until I did it, to inspiring me to graduate from Basic Training by refusing to let me back in the house unless I did it.

He's always been a source of enlightenment

for me, like when he enlightened me to the fact that when I wrecked his car, his insurance doubled, and when I stayed out till three in the morning, his blood pressure tripled.

Although my relationship with my father has had its rough times, as relationships tend to, it's not the rough times that have stuck with me.

What has stuck with me? Riding with him in his restored '59 Volkswagen Beetle, singing a duet of "Big Girls Don't Cry" a cappella because the radio always was kind of moody.

Playing kickball with him in the driveway, and watching him go make excuses for my brother and I when the ball almost

knocked out Mrs. Maggio's

Commentary



window across the street.

Being read the *Chronicles of Narnia* when I was sick in bed, and being introduced to the fantastic combination of marshmallow fluff and peanut butter.

Recovering from a car accident that happened on my 11th birthday to find a cake that read, "Hope your birthday is a real smash."

There are many more instances I could name, but since I don't want to bore non-family members, I'll hold back.

I realize that I'm extremely lucky to have been raised by a father as wonderful as he is, and that it's rare to find a dad so well-rounded and yet so supremely entertaining as mine.

He's given me everything I could possibly need to live a good, productive life as an upstanding citizen.

I joined the Army instead, but after the initial shock wore off that his peace-loving daughter had decided to become "trained to kill," he supported me all the way, and continues to do so.

Call me a daddy's girl, but I look forward to the regular e-mails and phone calls, the cards in the mail for no particular reason, and even the grimaces and rolled eyes when I come home with yet another tattoo, because it means he cares.

So Happy Father's Day, Daddy. I love you, and I hope you enjoy the set of wood clamps I'm bringing you as a present, because as you've always said, no guy can ever have too many of those.

Desert training not without purpose

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Staff Writer

So I had to come recently to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for some intense battle training for my military occupation specialty.

My initial reaction was excitement, NTC is a great opportunity to test basic Soldier skills, and it serves as an outstanding way to refresh, as well as, learn the Army way to get things done.

Upon arriving at Fort Irwin, however, I was shocked to see a barren wasteland with sparse if any vegetation. Reaching temperatures in upwards of the high 90s and low 100s, the true test of my stamina in a desert climate began.

It was going to be a long rotation. I repeated to myself the phrase, "The grass is greener on the other side" like a mantra to keep my mind off the annoying things that made me testy in the desert.

The first couple of days out were a bit of a challenge, getting acclimated to the dry heat of Irwin and all.

Commentary

After some time of fuming to myself of the purpose of my visit, I realized the military machine, known as the Army, has a purpose in the big picture of things.

It just might take a while to see the whole big picture.

The Army doesn't just send people to harsh places for just no reason.

There comes the purpose of NTC. It serves as a good model for Iraq and Afghanistan because of their harsh climates. Several Soldiers, who have been deployed in support of both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom agree that the climate and terrain of NTC are familiar.

Granted, the heat is not as hot as Iraq or Afghanistan, but it still serves as a good way to familiarize Soldiers with the climate and situations they might face in combat.

Since arriving at NTC, I've seen perimeter defenses take place, convoys respond after coming under attack and participated in various other live fire scenarios that made

me realize that I'm with a great unit, a strong Army and greatest country anyone could ever ask for.

The training conducted at NTC builds on the training done at any unit's regular post and beyond because many posts don't just have the sheer area to conduct training on the scale done at Fort Irwin.

With that in mind, I just want to say that if you're ever in an area you would rather not be at, think and look around and you just might see some high speed things going on.

A drill instructor in basic training once told me, "Go to deployments and training operations as often as possible because when combat does happen, you'll be the one people will want in their foxhole."

Remember that when you're in an area you would much rather not be at and the momentary annoyance of a harsh place will not seem as bad when you consider its benefits to your military career.

If anything, NTC will teach you what your job will be like in a real world mission.

Marne Voice

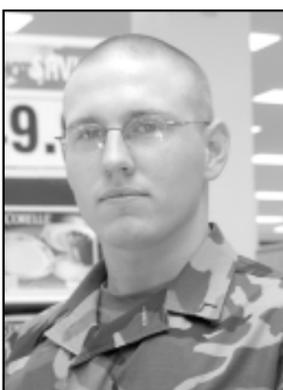
THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What is one of your favorite memories about your father?

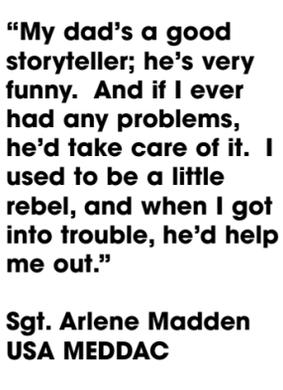
"My dad would take me and my little brother fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving in Florida when I was 13 or 14 years old."

Spc. Johnny Jozsa
51st Mvmt. Patrol Team



"At my last high school football game, my dad came all painted up, no shirt on. He went out on the field after the game screaming like a girl to embarrass and congratulate me."

Pvt. Jonathan Bischoff
549th MP Co.



"My dad's a good storyteller; he's very funny. And if I ever had any problems, he'd take care of it. I used to be a little rebel, and when I got into trouble, he'd help me out."

Sgt. Arlene Madden
USA MEDDAC



"When I decided to enlist, I was already on a full ride for college because of soccer. My mom thought I was crazy, but Dad always stuck by my side and was supportive."

Pvt. Meghan Towne
549th MP Co.



"My dad always pushed me to the limit to do the right thing. He taught me to always work hard for everything I do, ever since I was young."

Sgt. Dave Mercado
3/7 Cav.

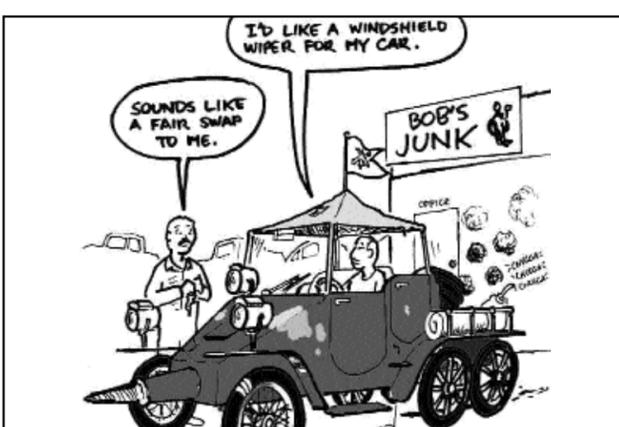


"I was the second out of five in my family to graduate high school. My dad was at my graduation, telling me how proud he was that I had taken that step."

Spc. Miguel Balderas
6/8 Cav.



BUSTER'S BATTERY



BUSTER'S HANNIBAL TWIN-8

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Write a letter to the editor!

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BIRTHDAY

from page 1A

but for the division and all my fellow Soldiers," said Spc. Bobby Stepro, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment Bradley gunner. "It takes a lot of dedication, hard work, integrity, and confidence in yourself to win this award."

Some of the criteria that was looked over at the division board was physical training scores, unit average PT score, number of Soldiers, said Sgt. Robert D. Braun, A Company, 4UA Special Troops Battalion switch operator.

"The most important thing is that my Soldiers learn from me, I lead by example and that I set a high standard for them to follow," Braun said.

The ceremony not only recognized awardees, but gave everyone the chance to learn about the Army's history and tradition.

"We need to remember that our Army is built and based on traditions and we need to continue those traditions," Garcia said.

Webster said, "For the past 229 years, our Army has always answered our nation's call and we will continue to answer the call for the next 229 years."

Division Quarterly Awards

NCO of the quarter
Sgt. Robert Braun, A Co., 123 Sig. Bn.

Soldier of the quarter
Spc. Bobby Stepro, B Co., 2-7 Inf.

SAMC inductees
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bisel, C Btry., 1-39 FA
Staff Sgt. Lainnie Daley, NCO Academy
Staff Sgt. Robert Gasman, B Co., 4/64 Armor
Staff Sgt. Marcus Richardson E Co., 4/64 Armor
Staff Sgt. Yara Griggs, DISCOM

DUI free awards

First Year Awards
416th Trans Co. 455 days
A Co., 3-69 AR 509 days
NCO Academy 556 days
D Troop, 1-3 Avn. 892 days
50th PAD 949 days

Third Year Award:
C Btry., 1-41 FA 1439 days



Spc. Robert Adams

Webster places streamers on the Army Flag representing major Army battles dating back to the Revolutionary War.

CSB

from page 1A

and Chief, Air Deployment Division, U.S. Army Transportation School, Fort Eustis, Va.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Joint Services Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster) and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

Lambert, who will be taking Bowes' place, was most recently assigned as the chief of J-4 Operations with Joint Task Force — Civil Support, U.S. Northern Command.

His awards and decorations include the Legion

of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Staff Badge.

"As the captain of this team, simply put, I will give you my very best," Lambert said. "I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit."

Col. Roberta A. Woods, 24th Corps Support Group commander, addressed Lambert at the ceremony.

"I think your ride here will be just as exciting and challenging as Bowes'," she said. "I promise you, you will never be bored."



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Lt. Col. Steven E. Lambert, incoming 87th CSB commander, salutes Col. Roberta A. Woods, 24th CSG commander, and Lt. Col. Andrew W. Bowes, outgoing battalion commander.

New TDY payment system simplifies process

Pfc. Jacqueline Watson

Staff Writer

The Department of Defense has initiated a new, more efficient process at Fort Stewart for Soldiers and civilians to receive their temporary duty travel payments.

In the past, receiving compensation for travel expenses meant filling out a DA form 1610 at least two weeks before the scheduled trip and collecting several signatures — sometimes ones that were difficult to get.

Now, Soldiers leaving on TDY can make all the arrangements they need for financial reimbursement online. The Defense Travel System Web site is up and running, with many options to make TDY travel plans easier, quicker and less of a hassle.

The DTS Web site boldly states at the top of its main page that it represents "a new era of government travel." The online system makes it possible for those traveling TDY to receive their payments electronically more quickly than ever, said Lt. Col. Bill Jeffers, director of resource management at Fort Stewart.

Soldiers simply have to fill out the online travel voucher and submit it to DFAS through the site. Once they've sent the online form, Soldiers can expect their payments within 24 to 48 hours of their return, as opposed to two or three weeks, "That is the biggest advantage to the Soldier," Jeffers said.

Travel vouchers still need to be submitted within five days of returning from the trip, he said.

In addition to accelerated payments, Soldiers no longer have to keep track of their travel receipts, because documents can be scanned into the system immediately and saved in an online file.

And if they lose their travel voucher or 1610, they can easily go into the system and reprint it, said Shirley Johnson of the DOD program management office for DTS.

Another benefit of the DTS online system is the ability to book travel arrangements like airline flights, rental cars and hotel reservations, explained Mary Antalan of the Lead Defense Travel Administration, Sharon Ingram of the Organization Defense Travel Administration, and Johnson.

"It's all at one stop. At the time they're doing the 1610, they're also making travel arrangements," Antalan said.

"It gives you a menu of things to choose from. Pick an airline, the flight you want," Johnson said.

"Only things that are authorized within the per diem rate that you're authorized for that location are there for you to

choose from," Jeffers added.

"So it's fool proof, because any of those you can only choose from what's already authorized. Any of those you choose will come in under the per diem rate.

And it's set up like other travel Web sites, easy to use," he said.

This makes it more convenient for the Soldier, especially if they need to leave immediately, Johnson said.

"They can make the arrangements themselves, get the approval, and fly out," said Antalan.

Every Soldier and Army civilian is qualified to use the DTS Web site. All they need to have is

a Common Access Card, an AKO account and a computer with Internet access, Jeffers said.

"If you travel a lot with a laptop, as long as you have a CAC card reader, you can even change or adjust your travel orders

from your hotel room," he said.

The online system is user-friendly, Jeffers said, because it includes easy-to-understand Web-based training.

There are cases in which Soldiers do not have access to a computer or for another reason are unable to make their own arrangements through the DTS site. For this reason, there is still a TDY clerk at most battalions who can still do the orders on behalf of the Soldier or help him with the process.

Right now, the system is up and running only for routine TDY; it isn't for PCS yet, Antalan emphasized. It will be for PCS in the future — hopefully by October, she said, but for right now it is just for TDY travel.

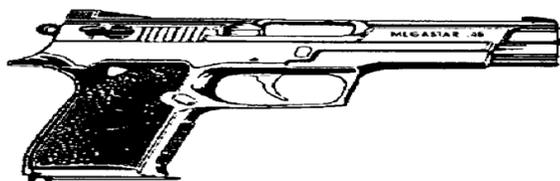
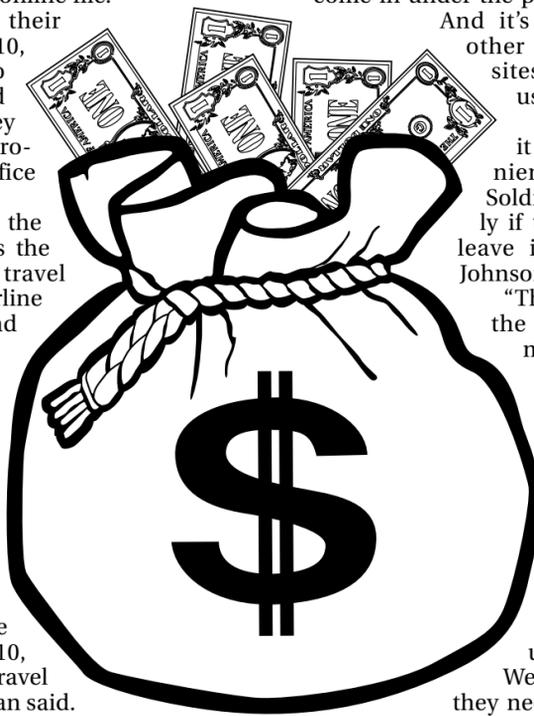
The scheduled implementation date for the DTS online system at Fort Stewart is July 9, 2004.

"For units that are in the middle of reorganization, at NTC or deployed, we will delay their implementation until things settle down," Jeffers said.

Not everybody is going under the system July 9. All the garrison is, as well as some of the units.

DTS training sessions were held for every representative from every battalion in the past two or three weeks, Jeffers said. Almost every unit sent a representative, so if a Soldier has any questions as to whether his unit is under DTS or about how to use the system, he can contact the TDY clerk at his battalion personnel to find out.

The DTS Web site address is <http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil>.



**Guns don't kill people, people kill people
teach your children that guns aren't toys**

Stay safe and secure this summer

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

With summer upon us, Soldiers and families will have opportunities to enjoy the warm weather, recreational activities and long evenings here at Fort Stewart and in the surrounding area. By following a few simple procedures everyone can have an enjoyable time. Please ensure that all juveniles, sponsors and guardians are aware of the Stewart Curfew Policy. Parents or guardians are responsible for compliance with this curfew. Juveniles must be inside their home or someone else's quarters during the designated curfew hours unless they are under the supervision of an adult (18 years or older).

This policy is punitive. Sponsors who do not supervise their children may be charged with failure to obey a general order under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. Failure to comply may also result in referral to the Fort Stewart Case Review Committee and/or Juvenile Disciplinary Control board. More information can be found in FS Regulation 210-5 (Ch. 5). Report violations to the Military Police at 767-4895 (Stewart) or 352-6133

(Hunter Army Airfield).

If your vacation travel plans will take you away from your quarters be sure to follow basic security procedures in order to safeguard your personal property. Before departing Stewart be sure to stop by the Military Police station and provide the desk sergeant with the dates of your travel plans and the address to your on-post quarters. This information will ensure that Military Police patrols make regular checks of your quarters while you are away. Always remember to keep your vehicle and house locked when unattended. This greatly reduces your chances of being victimized by theft. Record serial numbers of all high-value items, and keep receipts for expensive equipment.

It is easier to track and recover stolen equipment with documented serial numbers. Keep bicycles locked, and when possible place them out of view from the street. Don't hide keys outside your home, and if you have a sliding glass door put a piece of wood in the doorframe to enhance the security.

Residents are also encouraged to report suspicious activities in the housing or barracks areas. There's nothing worse than coming home from an enjoyable vacation to find that your house has been broken into and your valuables taken.

By following these simple guidelines you are less likely to become a victim of theft.

Have a great, safe and secure summer.

Installation Curfew Hours

12 years or younger
9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

13 to 14 years
10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

15 to 17 years
Midnight to 6 a.m.

ASK THE JUDGE

Christine Quinn

Special to The Frontline

Q: Now that family housing is run by GMH, how will that affect my ability to file a claim for personal property stolen or damaged in my quarters?

A: The new privatization of on post housing has left some Soldiers confused about whom to go to when there is damage or loss of personal property in their quarters. The Army Claims office is no longer the first stop when looking for money to help replace damaged goods.

The terms of the lease you signed with GMH provides for \$20,000.00 of renter's insurance. This insurance policy is meant to cover losses you may incur due to theft, vandalism, fire or water damage. However, the GMH insurance policy stipulates a \$250.00 deductible for each separate event or occasion of damage or loss of personal property. This means for each individual claim you file with GMH you are responsible for covering the first \$250.00 of loss. For example, if your quarters are broken into and the thief steals only your VCR valued at \$75.00 and nothing else, and you file a claim with GMH, you will not receive any compensation because the amount of loss you suffered falls below the \$250.00 deductible. But, if the thief takes your VCR and your stereo (which has a value of \$500.00) GMH will cover \$325.00 of your loss-remember, your deductible means that you must cover the first \$250.00 of loss.

It is recommended that each Soldier supplement the GMH insurance with a private renter's insurance policy, because, the value of your belongings may surpass the coverage provided by GMH. Also, many renter's insurance policies provide for full-value (or replacement-cost) coverage, while the Army Claims Service will only reim-

burse you for the depreciated value (cash value at the time of the loss) of your property. Keep in mind that different levels of personal property coverage can vary by company and policy. A basic policy can cost as little as \$5.00 per month for \$2,500.00 worth of coverage, while a more comprehensive policy can offer \$100,00.00 worth of coverage for as little as \$30.00 per month. And remember, private renter's insurance allows you to adjust the deductible-by paying a higher premium each month you can lower (or even eliminate all together) your deductible.

Renter's insurance will also protect your financial well-being by providing you with liability protection, such as covering the medical expenses for people on your property who are unintentionally injured by your negligence, i.e. tripping over your child's roller blades. Or, if you happen to leave an iron on and a fire breaks out, your mistake could leave you personally responsible for damage to the building owner and your neighbors for loss of their property.

If you experience loss of your personal property in your quarters, you must first file the claim against the GMH insurance policy before filing a claim with the Army Claims Office. Finally, remember that even though you are covered from some losses to your personal property in your quarters, as described in Clause 11 of your lease with GMH, there are still events that will not be covered under your lease. For example, if you suffer damage or loss of property due to a power surge — this will not be covered. Make sure you read your lease and insurance provisions so you are fully aware of what is covered and look into the benefits of a supplemental renter's insurance policy.

If you have any questions about the above information, please call the Claims Office at 767-8185.

**SOMEONE
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THE
BEANS!**



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THE FRONTLINE

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to place
your ad
today!

FIND IT IN THE CLASSIFIED SECTION 368-0526

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 25-year-old male
- **Charges:** Unlawful transfer of plates, headlight requirements, operating vehicle without valid plates
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Aviation
- **Charge:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Civilian, 19-year-old male
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old female, Aviation
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Civilian, 54-year-old male
- **Charge:** Too fast for conditions
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, possession of a concealed weapon, failure to obey general order
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to obey lawful order or regulation, loud music
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, registration and license requirements, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 37-year-old male, 2nd UA
- **Charge:** Battery
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd UA
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, wrongful mak-



ing, altering or tampering with military identification card, possession/use of alcohol by underage person

- **Location:** Springfield

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd UA
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of open container, loud music
- **Location:** Flemington

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended or revocation, speeding 70/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, Aviation
- **Charge:** Driving on revoked license
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Simple battery, cruelty to children, underage drinking
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 53-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 4th UA
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, possession of stolen property (pistol), wrongful disposition of government property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old female, Aviation
- **Charges:** Failure to obey lawful order, criminal trespassing

- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 1st UA
- **Charge:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, Aviation
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunkenness
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd UA
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of open container, loud music
- **Location:** Flemington

- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male
- **Charges:** Entering military installation while on post suspension, fraudulent driver's license, obstruction of justice by hindering, failure to exhibit driver's license
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Aviation
- **Charges:** Wrongful making, altering or tampering with military identification card, failure to stop at posted stop sign
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** 2nd Lieutenant, 23-year-old male, 4th UA
- **Charges:** Failure to obey a lawful order, disorderly conduct, disrespect towards a superior commissioned officer
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Simple battery
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Captain, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Improper left turn
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 4th UA
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, conspiracy
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of methamphetamines
- **Location:** Savannah

10 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment



1. Use water-based paints.
2. Recycle your household trash.
3. Compost yardwaste.
4. Plant trees.
5. Conserve energy.
6. Buy non-aerosol products.
7. Carpool.
8. Keep your car engine tuned.
9. Recycle used motor oil.
10. Choose less packaging.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

6th Street closure

The section at Essayons (DOL Facility) to 15th Street is closed to allow for the construction of the 4th UA billeting, administration and maintenance areas.

This area will remain closed until Oct. 1.

Visitor passs

24-hour visitor passes will no longer be issued at Gate 3 (Murray Ave.) and all 24-hour visitor passes will be issued at Gate 1 (Main Gate).

Individuals requiring a 24-hour pass need to utilize the far outside inbound lane as dictated by the two signs for access control registration that are located in the center median when approaching Gate 1.

The 24-hour visitor passes will be issued this way until the completion of the new Visitor Center. For more information call 767-7908.

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 Club meets at noon every second and fourth Friday of the month at Club Stewart. Open to everyone.

For more information, con-

tact 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. Call Lyons at 767-1806.

Housing Mayors Hotline

If you have issues or concerns, call Army Community Service, 767- 3276. Volunteer as a housing mayor and make a difference in your community.

Special Forces

1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta is the U.S. Army's special operations unit organized for the conduct of missions requiring a rapid response with surgical application of a wide variety of unique special operations skills.

All Soldiers in the rank of specialist through master sergeant, and captain through major may apply. For more information please contact the Special Missions Recruiting Team at sof6.recruiting@us.army.mil.

Hunter

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.

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.

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.

Golf sweepstakes

Drive to Winn 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.

Library

There's Something for Everyone! Check out books, newspapers, magazines, videos, DVDs, Books-on-Tape& use our computers, typewriters, email system, internet, Galileo Inter-Library Loan Service and more.

For more information call 353-2403.

Volunteers needed

Volunteer orientation at 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.

Winn /Tuttle

"Take Care of Yourself"

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes 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 for Winn's June 23 class, call 368-3048 and to register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

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.

TRICARE Service Center

The service center is moving Monday and will be located at 740 General Stewart Way in Hinesville. The Heath Benefits Office will remain co-located with Winn Army Medical Center. For more information call the TSC at 368-3048.

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 through Friday.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from June 24 to July 15 or 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from June 22 to July 13. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday from July 7 to July 28.

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.

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.

Marne TV

June 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

Soldier finds her purr-fect job in vet clinic

Pfc. Jacqueline Watson

Staff Writer

You have probably heard people say, "If you find a job doing something you love, you'll never work another day of your life."

It's become cliché, and many Americans, having tried and tried to accomplish that dream, ultimately throw their hands up in frustration. They end up settling for a job that simply pays the bills.

At Fort Stewart's Veterinary Treatment Facility, one Soldier has proven that it's still possible for people to do what they love for a living.

Pvt. Ashley L. Cassibo, a 19-year-old from the town of Cannon Fall, Minn., has been working at the VTF as a veterinary technician since December, and said she loves everything about her job.

"In high school, I wanted to be a vet," she recalled.

Cassibo planned on going to college to study veterinary medicine right after she graduated, she said. But when a recruiter called and told her the Army had a veterinary job for her, the offer was too good to pass up.

"I'm going to take a civilian technician course while I'm in, so I can get a job in the civilian world later as a vet," Cassibo said.

As a veterinary technician, she performs day-to-day duties like administering shots, physical exams, and nail trims, and also helps manage the kennel.

Cassibo takes care of many of the cats and dogs brought in to the VTF, but she said she loves the puppies the most. After

the puppies have come in for two or three check-ups, she starts to get to know them, she said with a gleam in her eye.

The kittens are fun too, Cassibo said. But she was quick to add, "Being in a closed room giving a kitten its shots can be a little unnerving — especially when they start scratching."

Even so, she said she loves all the animals that come into the VTF. She even saw a turtle brought in once.

She can't have a pet here because she lives in the barracks, but Cassibo does have a dog back home — a husky named Lady.

Just because she loves her job, not every part of it is fun, she said. There are times animals need to be put down, and Cassibo's job requires her to be there to assist the veterinarian during the process.

"It's a part of the job," she said. "I don't let it bother me."

Sometimes being an Army veterinary technician means working extremely long hours. One day, she had to help rush a dog to the emergency room in an ambulance in order to save its life. It turned out to be a 17 hour work day for her, but even long days like that, she said, she doesn't really mind.

Out of everything she does at the VTF, Cassibo likes educating the animals' owners about their pets the most, she said.

She strongly feels that owners should be knowledgeable about the needs of their pets — such as how to deal with heartworm and fleas.

"There's really nothing bad about my job," Cassibo said with a smile.



Pfc. Jacqueline Watson

Part of Pvt. Ashley L. Cassibo's job at the vet clinic includes administering shots to animals, some of whom can be better behaved than others at times.

When she isn't drawing blood or trimming nails, Cassibo said she likes to spend time shopping in Savannah, watching movies, and occasionally going bowling.

It is clear to both her customers and coworkers that Cassibo enjoys being at work.

"She's always cheerful," said Sofeya L. Graham, a VTF employee. "You can tell she loves her job, and love for your job is one of the best things you can have."

"She's always got a smile on her face," said Christine Waterstripe, a regular VTF customer.

Cassibo really knows her job, said

Graham, which is the reason she is so good at what she does.

She said she likes people to know what they're getting into.

"She answers questions before they're even asked," Graham said.

In our society, sometimes people find it hard to look forward to going to work every day.

Cassibo's experience provides hope that it's still possible to have a job that truly is enjoyable.

The VTF is located on Bultman Avenue and is available for retired and active military personnel and their families.

DRINKING  **& DRIVING**  **DON'T MIX** 

SOLDIER SERVICE CENTER

The Soldier Service Center, Bldg 253, located at 55 Pony Soldier Avenue opened for business on May 15. Listed below are offices which are located within this facility, along with telephone numbers and customer service hours.

Military Personnel Services Division/Adjutant General

Telephone Numbers:

Jake Umholtz, Mil Pers Off/AG - 370-7525
 Judy Waynick, Ch Pns & Ops/Dep - 370-7510
 Charles Gillison, AG IMO - 370-7535
 Travis Mobley, Intern

No set customer service hours - open to customers all day.

Casualty Area Command

Telephone Numbers:

Casualty Operations - 370-7520/7551
 Funeral Honors - 370-7552
 Line of Duty Investigations - 370-7513
 Casualty Assistance - 370-7555
 Mortuary Affairs - 370-7518

No set customer service hours - open to customers all day.

Reassignment Processing (LEVY)

Telephone Numbers:

Marcia McMullen, Chief - 370-7514
 Paul Carey, Team Chief - 370-7516
 Donna Lee, Briefing Team - 370-7562
 Beverly Carradine-Gilmore, Officer Asgmts, Special Mgmt - 370-7564

Recruiters & Drill Sergeants

Debbie Potts - Customer Svc (A-G) 370-7624
 Patricia Battle - Customer Svc (H-O) 370-7548
 Mary Thomas - Customer Svc (P-Z) 370-7545

Customer Service Hours:

S1s - Anytime
 Monday - Thursday are from 1300-1600
 Friday - 1300-1500

AG - Administrative Support Branch

Telephone Numbers:

Sue Pisenso, Chief - 370-7522
 Carol Taylor, Lead Orders Clerk - 370-7565
 SPC Carter, Distribution - 370-7502
 Jackie Whitfield, MMRB/Sponsorship - 370-7543
 Glenda Skrine, Congressionals - 370-7542
 Gene Royster, Dial-the-Boss - 370-7541
 Mark Swindal, AG Supply - 370-7526
 Andrea Everett - HQ Cmd S1 - 767-1198

No set customer service hours - open to customers all day

Retirement Services Office

Telephone Numbers:

Karen Smith, Ret Svcs Officer - 767-5013
 B.J. Culbreth, Officer Ret - 767-3326
 Melvin Cannon, Enlisted Ret - 767-3096
 Margaret Tatum, SBP Appts - 767-0418

Customer Service Hours - 0900-1530 hrs Monday thru Friday

Scheduled appointments; Retired Personnel Customer Service and Hunter Enlisted Applications - 0900 -1530 hrs
 Fort Stewart Enlisted Applications - Walk in Basis - 1300-1500 hrs

Separation/Transition Point

Telephone Numbers: 767-1858 and 767-1817

Customer Service Hours for Terminal Leaves: 1330-1430 hours, Monday thru Friday.

Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Telephone Numbers:

ADCO - 370-7528
 Admin - 370-7530
 Admin Asst - 370-7534
 Prevention Coordinator - 370-7536

Customer service hours: 0730-1615 Monday thru Friday, to include training holidays.

Biochemical Testing Lab is open from 0730-1100 and 1300-1500, Monday thru Friday, to include training holidays.

Lab Telephone Numbers:

IBTC - 370-7532
 Asst IBTC - 370-7533

Reserve Component (RC) Transition Office

Telephone Number: (912) 767-5599

Customer Service Hours: 0800 to 1600 Monday thru Friday

Personal Property Section (Household Goods)

Telephone Numbers:

Outbound Section (Departures) - 767-8154/7971
 Inbound Section (Arrivals) - 767-8130/4208/2889
 Quality Control Section - 767-6120/5920
 Non-Temporary Storage Section - 767-4226/4227
 Passenger Travel - 767-4687
 Passports (FS) - 767-2163
 Portcalls (FS) - 767-4478

Customer Service Hours: 0900 - 1100 hrs and 1200 - 1500 hrs Monday thru Friday

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC)

Telephone Numbers: 767-8358 (Central Number)

Job Information Number - 767-5051
 Job Information Customer Service Hours - 0800-1600 Monday thru Thursday

Identification (ID) Card Section

Telephone Numbers: 767-4909/2277

Customer Service Hours are 0900-1600 hrs Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 0900-1530 on Thursday

Records Section

Telephone Numbers: 767-7868/8778

Customer Service Hours are 0900-1630 hrs Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 0900-1530 on Thursday. These hours are impacted by the number of Soldiers that are inprocessing at Fort Stewart.

Finance Section

Telephone Numbers:

Travel Inquiries - 767-3193
 Milpay Inquiries (In/Outprocessing) - 767-5722
 Separation Inquiries - 767-5724
 OIC, SSC - 767-6335
 NCOIC, SSC - 767-4543
 NCOIC, In/Outprocessing - 767-0826
 NCOIC, MilPay - 767-05310
 NCOIC, Separations - 767-3014
 NCOIC, Travel - 767-5389
 NCOIC, Collections - 767-8076

Customer Service Hours - 0900-1600, Monday thru Wednesday and Friday 0900-1500, Thursday

Inprocessing

Telephone Numbers:

Admin -
 SGM David - 767-1031
 Mrs Hagan - 767-3007
 SPC Delaine - 767-3007

Customer Service Hours are 0730 - 1700, Monday thru Friday

Outprocessing

Telephone Numbers:

Mr Lockett - 767-2156
 Mrs Holloway - 767-2025
 Mr Scott - 767-1852

Customer Service Hours are 0900 - 1615, Monday thru Friday

Veterans Administration (VA)

Telephone Number: 368-6950

Customer Service Hours are 0800-1200 and 1300-1600, Monday thru Thursday, 0800-1200 Friday

Army Community Service (ACS)

Telephone Numbers: 912-767-5058/5059

Hours of Operation are Monday - Thursday 0730-1700, Friday 0730-1600

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

Telephone Number (For Red Cross Emergency only after duty hours/Federal Holidays) is 1-877-272-7337

Hours of operation are Monday thru Wednesday 0900 - 1600, Thursday 1200 - 1500, Friday 0900 - 1530

Bravo Co., 3rd FSB defends the front

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — On their 20th day of training in the barren wasteland known as the National Training Center's "Box," Bravo Company, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Soldiers were given a mission.

The order was to defend the perimeter against incoming attacks on the brigade support area, a vital staging place for ammo, food, water, fuel and various other essential supplies needed to accomplish the mission.

"If the BSA (brigade support area) was to be taken out, Soldiers would have a hard task ahead of them because supply lines would be stretched thin and with that comes a longer turn around time for the brigade combat team to get supplies," said Sgt. 1st Class Nixon Camper, support operations noncommissioned officer in charge.

Beginning after lunch, the perimeter of the BSA was faced with a large scale simulated attack by pop-up silhouettes representing enemy troops and vehicles on their western front.

"This perimeter training at NTC is designed to get Soldiers familiar with their weapons in battle and attacks on their base," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Johnson, NTC observer controller.

"This is imperative to success because without the BSA we wouldn't be successful," said Capt. Kathryn Jackson, company commander B Co., 3rd FSB.

Using the M8, M4 and M16 rifles, supported by .50 caliber machine guns and squad automatic weapons, the Soldiers of B Co., successfully took out the targets repelling the simulated attack on their BSA.

"Without us defending the perimeter of the BSA, the supplies necessary for success won't arrive and then the units engaged against the enemy can't go forward with their job," said Spc. William C. Bechtel, communications specialist, 3rd FSB.

The Soldiers displayed all their best efforts and skills and the outcome prompted many of them to agree that it's a good thing to come to NTC and do this type of training.

"I think this type of training is very helpful because it builds confidence in yourself and your team when you see that they can get the job done," Bechtel added.

"The kind of things thrown at you is all preparation for Iraq," said Sgt. Dennis Martinez, 3rd Shop office, 1st Platoon, B Co. "We have to know how to defend ourselves because all we have is ourselves to rely on in combat.

"Some Iraq veterans know and have conducted perimeter defense there, so it



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Soldiers from B Co., 3rd FSB, rescue injured Soldier Staff Sgt. Antonio Hi, 1st platoon's platoon sergeant, B Co., 3rd FSB, in the perimeter attack on the BSA June 4 at NTC Fort Irwin, Calif.

serves as a good refresher for us and a good opportunity for new Soldiers to have experience in this type of area," he added.

With the mission thrown at them now over, the Soldiers of B Co., 3rd FSB call it a night and wait for tomorrow with the awaiting scenarios and duties they'll perform not on their minds, as sleep is the only concern.

Martinez said that heat is one of the hardest things you have to deal with here.

"Most of the time sleep is what seems to matter the most," he added.

"The Soldiers are doing a good job here. They are learning a lot of stuff to be better and more efficient. I'll be satisfied to go into combat with any of them," said Sgt. Michelle Boyer, training NCO, 3rd FSB.

JAG trains for operational law at NTC

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — The 1st Brigade Operational Legal Team is learning a different side of their career field while training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"We're doing operational law," said Pfc. Dawn M. Widynski, a paralegal specialist. "What we do out here in the field is more along the lines of claims, fiscal law, rules of engagement fratricides and law of war. We do that stuff to a certain degree back at

the rear, but not to the same extent.

"For example, in a combat environment, claims are geared toward civilians, while back at the rear, claims are processed mostly to help military people," she added.

Claims made in Iraq are paid mostly to civilians who have had damage done to their property through an accident caused by the military.

"There are pretty much two ways a person can go about making a claim," said Capt. Chris Geier, a 1st Brigade legal

advisor. "Most of the time if property is destroyed through the fault of the military, like vehicle maneuvers, units have an appointed person who will investigate the claim and send it up to us. We then review it and determine whether or not it is a meritorious claim. The paperwork is sent back and the individual is paid by someone at battalion level.

"The other way we do it is to go to the actual towns and set up claim shops where people can make claims directly to us," Geier continued. "After we

investigate to find out proof of ownership of the damaged or destroyed property, we then pay the claim."

The training done in the field gives Soldiers a chance to hone their skills in a hostile situation and deal with aspects of the law that they usually don't get to experience while in garrison.

"I'm working in a totally different environment," Widynski said. "I've been in the Army for two years and this is the first time I've been in the field. I'm learning more on how to serve not only as a Soldier but as a

(judge advocate general) Soldier."

"This training has afforded me with the opportunity to understand and integrate operational law, ROE, and international law into my unit's wartime mission," said Staff Sgt. Sean C. Tyndall, the noncommissioned officer in charge of 1st Bde. Operational Law Team. "It has also sharpened my leadership in terms of understanding the depth of my responsibility during armed conflict. This is the best example of 'train as you fight.'"

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Sign up now for Marne Day tournaments

Nancy Gould

DMWR

Soldiers and family members at Fort Stewart will celebrate Marne Day on Friday, July 1 this year. The day kicks off at 6:30 a.m. with a division run at the headquarters command building and continues on Donovan Field at 9 a.m. with "Earth Mama" — a fun, environmental program for children. Activities, including music, food, kiddy rides, wildlife displays, and a magic show, begin 11 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Evening festivities begin 8:15 p.m. with a country/southern rock performance by "Southern Shadow." Bowling and golf tournaments, athletic competitions and Single Soldier events are also scheduled at various locations and times and the day is topped off at 9:30 p.m. with a spectacular fireworks display that rivals the best in the area.

The wide-ranging events give Soldiers and families at Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield convenient, yet fun, outdoor events without leaving the post, according to Larry Cutchens, recreational activity chief for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Soldiers who want to participate in

Marne Day tournaments should sign up now while teams are getting organized. Trophies will be presented to first, second and third-place event winners at 7:30 p.m. on Donovan by Maj. Gen. William W. Webster, 3rd Inf. Div. Commanding general.

4-Man Scramble at Taylors Creek Golf Course

The 10 a.m. shotgun tournament will cost \$20 per person, which includes cart and greens fees. Sign ups continue until June 27 and are on a first come basis with space to fill 100 slots with a maximum of 25 teams. Units may enter multiple teams until other unit submissions are completed. If slots are left, teams that previously signed up will be added to the competition roster. Trophies to first, second and third place winners, along with longest drive and closest to the pin winners will be awarded. For more information, contact Tommie McArthur, 767-2370 or Dawn Mangon, 767-2370.

Adult Bowling Tournaments

The Marne Day Handicap Tournament, held three times- 10 a.m., 1



p.m. and 3 p.m.- will consist of 34 teams (four men per team) that will bowl during each timeframe. The cost per bowler is \$3 and a 90 per cent handicap of 210 is allowed.

Sign ups end June 30 and the entry fee is due at that time.

Units may enter multiple teams and teams can enter twice. Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place teams winners.

Snack bar specials for the day are \$3.50 and include a steak and cheese sub with fries and soda, and a hamburger with fries and soda. For more information, contact Jerry Evans, 767-4385 or 4866.

Athletic Competitions

Softball, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and soccer competitions, along with swimming relays, are scheduled at various locations on Stewart.

Trophies will be awarded to first, sec-

ond and third place winners. Call Perry Yawn, 912-767-8326 to sign up.

Single Soldier Events

Beginning at noon, free events for single Soldiers are scheduled around post, and include eight ball, air hockey, and arm wrestling tournaments.

Specific schedules will be posted prior to the events at Sports USA — also the site for a watermelon cutting event during late afternoon.

Other events/activities on Donovan Field are free and open to the public. include:

- 11 a.m. to noon, Rock group, Deranged Minds
- Noon to 1 p.m., Kix 96 with country music DJ
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., I-95 rock music DJ
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., E-93 with urban DJ
- 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Magic Show
- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Gospel Music
- 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Hinesville and Cumulus Radio DJs
- Food and drinks sold by Family Readiness Groups and local vendors
- Food and alcoholic beverages sold by MWR.

Questions regarding Marne Day events should be directed to Larry Cutchens, 767-2697.



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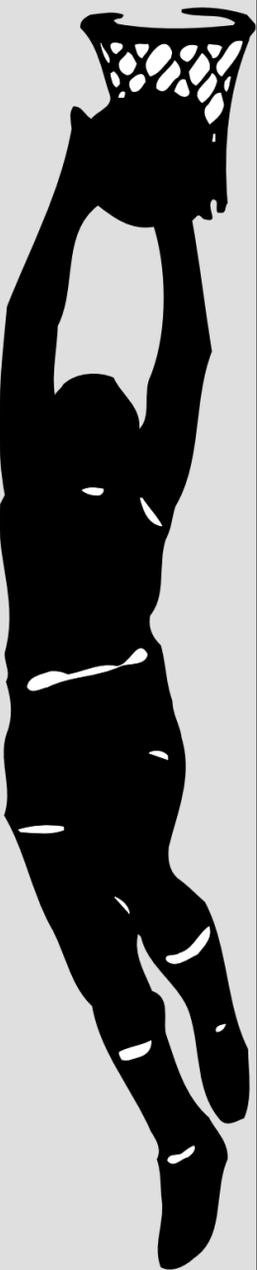
a CFC participant



If you accidentally discover an archaeological site on Fort Stewart:



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



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CENTCOM News

Iraqi Air Force acquires first two aircraft

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The new Iraqi Air Force purchased its first two aircraft in Jordan June 10.

Delivery is scheduled for mid-July in Basrah.

The two Australian-manufactured SB7L-360 Seeker Reconnaissance Aircraft are the first purchases toward a tentative force of 16 surveillance aircraft. The aircraft are intended to assist in the protection of the nation's energy assets as well as aid in border and coastal security.

"This purchase represents a significant leap forward in the Iraqi's ability to surgically find and respond to sabotage on infrastructure," said Office of Security Transition, Air Reconnaissance Plans Officer, Marine Corps Capt. Jeremy DeMott.

"These aircraft represent the rebirth of an air force that will fly in cooperation with Coalition forces for the first time in almost two decades," he added.

Iraqi Air Force pilots will receive basic training on the aircraft, with special attention directed to sensors and reporting skills. During operations, pilots will communicate suspicious activity to Iraqi and Coalition forces on the ground.

Seeker aircraft are fitted with high-resolution surveillance systems, digital

video recording hardware and other reconnaissance technology.

The Iraqi Air Force currently stands at nearly 150 personnel with most still in training. Plans are to grow the force to 500 by December 2004.

The Jordanian government has offered a gift of 16 helicopters and two C-130 aircraft to augment the force.

Al Sadiya sewing facility breaks ground

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Groundbreaking for the renovation of an Al Sadiya sewing facility took place June 8 in the Al Rasheed district of Baghdad.

The 45-day renovation will cost \$499,500. The sewing factory employed 995 Iraqi women before it was closed more than a year ago, said Capt. Michael Levy, Civil Affairs Officer for 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The featured speaker of the groundbreaking ceremony was the Sadiya Neighborhood Advisory Council Chairman, Hassan Alwan Hussein. Through an interpreter, he commended the 5th BCT for the help with the community.

Over the 45 days of renovation, the building's ruined electrical circuits and plumbing will be repaired, and many of the broken walls and windows will be

replaced, said Spc. Raina Burton, director of women's projects for 5th BCT. The facility will also be equipped with new sewing equipment and a starting supply of fabric to work with, she said.

In its pre-war state, the sewing facility manufactured uniforms for the Iraqi Army. Now, the plan is for the facility to make rugs and clothing to be sold in a marketplace outside the facility. The marketplace will also be built with the project budget, Burton said.

First Infantry Division commander announces ICDC transition date

TIKRIT, Iraq — The commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Army Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, recently set a target date of Oct. 1 for the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps to take over security responsibilities for the Salah Ad Din province.

Batiste made the announcement during remarks to Coalition and ICDC Soldiers June 13. The division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team is currently responsible for the province's security.

Batiste pointed out that the ICDC will play a critical role in Iraq's transition to sovereignty. In the future, when Coalition forces are gone, the ICDC will be responsible for security and training their own forces, he said.

Soldiers bring medical relief to Al-Tarmia

AL-TARMIA, Iraq — Working with Soldiers of the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment provided free medical care to villagers here June 9.

Applying lotion to chicken pox, removing decayed teeth, and treating minor skin irritations, the medical personnel also provided patients with medicine to take with them. Villagers with more major medical needs were referred to free clinics or other medical facilities in the surrounding area.

Civil affairs teams work to improve Iraqi lives

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq — Marine civil affairs teams recently visited to continue progress on several quality of life initiatives for residents of the Al Anbar province. In Kharma, Marines paid \$7,000 on a \$32,000 contract to build a youth center. The total amount paid on the contract so far is \$27,000.

Civil affairs teams in Khalidiyah discussed construction of a new health clinic with city officials. An Iraqi doctor has already stepped forward to volunteer at the clinic.

Faith on the front lines at NTC

Spc. Kevin F. Stabinsky

11th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Since ancient times, priests have played a vital role in the armed forces.

In Joshua 6, which describes the fall of Jericho, the Israeli priests march with the armed men around the city, playing an integral role in the city's collapse. While today priests may not be sounding the trumpet blasts, chaplains are still out there serving along side their fellow Soldiers.

"Chaplains are combat multipliers. Just like any Soldier we are here to promote the ability to do our mission effectively," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Matt Temple, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment. "We are here to help the commander meet his goal. We do this by upholding the spiritual, moral, ethical and religious dynamic of the Soldier's life, which is a huge dynamic."

The main way chaplains do this is by deploying with the Soldiers into a combat environment to ensure religious freedom, by providing the means for each Soldier to practice his religion, Temple said.

In addition to upholding Soldiers' moral aspects, chaplains also help multiply the force by upholding Soldiers' morale. Like medics who heal the wounds of the flesh, chaplains also help the commander perform their mission by healing the spiritual and emotional wounds.

"Our whole goal is to help the commander effectively perform their mission, and that is why we try to keep the morale up. If a Soldier is worrying he can't keep his head in the game," said Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Sears, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Reconnaissance Squadron. "Our job is to try to heal the family, heal the Soldier, keep the morale up so the commander can move forward. We deal with the people."

Though it may not be as lethal as an enemy bullet, low morale can just as effectively keep a Soldier out of the fight.

"One of the chaplain's main goals is to keep the Soldiers' morale up," said Pfc. Ignacio Ortiz, 1/3 ARS chaplain assistant.

Much of the monitoring of morale comes from a ministry of presence, or actively moving about with the Soldiers, speaking with them and gauging their problems. To help the chaplain in this role, each is assigned one chaplain assistant. Together, the chaplain and assistant make up a unit ministry team.

"Chaplain assistants play a really important because there is only one chaplain per battalion. With about 860 Soldiers in my battalion, I've got all these Soldiers to see and that is a lot for one person," said Temple.

The help becomes very important as the deployments move on.

"Numbers of Soldiers seeking help increases as the deployment goes on. A lot of Soldiers come with personal and family problems. We're here to listen and help them with their problems," Ortiz said.

"You just need to spend time, try to encourage the soldiers, be a friend when they are in trouble," Sears said.

Sears said most of the problems that Soldiers seek help on concern their children, spouses and pay problems. He said family stressors are major concerns. Guilt also plays a major role in hurting troops morale.

"Sometimes Soldiers miss special events — birthdays, anniversaries — and feel guilty about things they can't control," Sears said. "Sometimes families wonder why (the Soldier) can't be there, so the Soldier feels guilt."

To help control this guilt, Sears recommends holding some events early before the

Soldier leaves.

Still, problems can still pop up and Soldiers may need to seek help for these problems. While some Soldiers may be embarrassed seeking help or approaching a chaplain officer, Spc. Damien Mohorne, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment chaplain assistant, said there are other routes to follow.

As a chaplain assistant, I'm trained to help the Soldiers with their problems as well, he said, adding that chaplain assistants are good resources because as enlisted Soldiers other enlisted Soldiers are usually more willing to approach them.

Mohorne also adds that everything is private, so Soldiers don't have to be embarrassed by speaking about their problems.

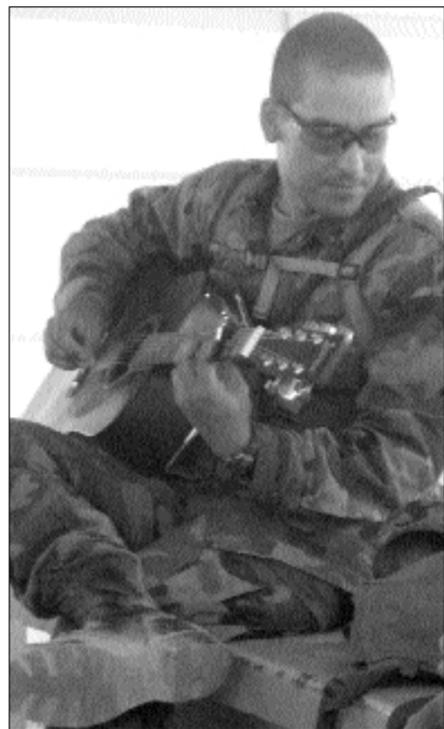
"Everything they say is confidential, unless they threaten harm to themselves or others," Mohorne said.

In situations like these, chaplains have other resources besides themselves they can turn to, such as family life counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, and the Army of One source, a program that was put together in Iraq and Afghanistan that Soldiers and their spouses can call 24 hours a day, a trained counselor to talk and get a referral for six sessions at an off-post counseling center.

While Sears said resources are tougher to get together in the field due to finances, he said it does not necessarily negatively affect the mission, stating that unlike garrison life where Soldiers have set work time and use most their free time with their families, in the field there are no set work hours so chaplains are available 24 hours a day.

"Life is simpler in the field," Temple said. "There is always a purpose, always a mission for the Soldier. It's harder to get in trouble in the field."

Still, problems do show up. However, the chaplain is there to help the Soldier deal



Spc. Kevin F. Stabinsky

A chaplain assistant plays worship songs on his guitar during a protestant worship service at the rotational unit bivouac area during a recent National Training Center rotation. In addition to performing at worship services, chaplain assistants also help the chaplain perform their jobs.

with them.

"You just have to keep the Soldiers focused to keep their morale up," Sears said. "They need to know that God loves them and will take care of them."

Army gets new combat uniform

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — The Army will be fielding a new combat uniform designed by NCOs and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October.

On the Army's 229th birthday, senior leadership introduced the Army Combat Uniform during a Pentagon cake-cutting ceremony. Soldiers were on display, suited-up in the wrinkle-free uniform with a digitized camouflage pattern.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at Army training centers. Even more are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

There were 20 changes made to the uniform, to include removing the color black and adapting the digital print from the Marine Corps uniform to meet the needs of the Army, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the Clothing and Individual Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge.

Black is no longer useful on the uniform because it is not a color commonly found in nature. The drawback to black is that its color immediately catches the eye, he added.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor. The pockets were also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the name-tapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the patches. Also the cost to get patches sewn on will be eliminated, he added.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert cam-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, Program Executive Office NCOIC, sports the Army Combat Uniform, the recently approved wear for Soldiers. It contains 20 new improvements.

ouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

The life of the ACU began in January 2003 when PEO Soldier teamed with Myhre, Master Sgt. Alex Samoba and Staff Sgt. Matt Goodine — from the 1st Stryker Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The team looked at a number of uniforms and took the best part of each uniform and combined it into one. They built their first prototype and delivered 25 uniforms to Stryker squads at the National Training Center.

After listening to their comments, the team went back to the lab and created prototype two.

Twenty-one uniforms were then delivered to Stryker Soldiers at the Joint Training and Readiness Center, Fort Polk, La.

"We watched them as they entered and cleared rooms, as they carried their rucksack and all of the things they had to be able to do in the uniform, and then we came up with prototype three," Myhre said.

Two issues of the third version were given to the Stryker Soldiers deploying to Iraq. Three months ago, Myhre was among a team who visited Iraq to get more feedback from Soldiers.

"We would talk to Soldiers right after they had completed a mission while the benefits of the uniform were still fresh in their minds. We wanted to know how did the uniform help the mission."

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston is one of the ACU's biggest supporters. He said major command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and give advice toward the final version.

Uniform changes include:

- **Mandarin collar that can be worn up or down**
- **Rank insignia centered on the front of the blouse**
- **Velcro for wearing unit patch, skill tabs and recognition devices**
- **Zippered front closure**
- **Elbow pouch for internal elbow pad inserts**
- **Knee pouch for internal knee pad inserts**
- **Draw string leg cuff**
- **Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure**
- **Three-slot pen pocket on bottom of sleeve**
- **Velcro sleeve cuff closure**
- **Shoulder pockets with Velcro**
- **Forward tilted cargo pockets**
- **Integrated blouse bellows for increased upper body mobility**
- **Integrated Friend or Foe Identification Square on both left and right shoulder pocket flap.**
- **Bellowed calf storage pocket on left and right leg**
- **Moisture-wicking desert tan t-shirt**
- **Patrol Cap with double thick bill and internal pocket**
- **Improved hot-weather desert boot or temperate-weather desert boot**
- **Two-inch, black nylon web belt**
- **Moisture-wicking socks**

"We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) were introduced in the early 1980s," Preston said. "This new uniform performs well in multiple environments. Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."

Afghan president thanks Soldiers at Drum

Spc. Antonietta Rico

Special to The Frontline

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai visited Fort Drum June 8 to thank Soldiers for their role in ousting the Taliban regime.

Karzai, who was in the U.S. to attend the Group of Eight industrialized nations summit in Georgia and to meet with President George W. Bush, became the first foreign head of state to visit Fort Drum since the 10th Mountain Division's reactivation in 1985.

During a ceremony on Magrath track to salute the Afghanistan president, Karzai joined Maj. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, 10th Mountain Division and Drum commander, and Gen. Dan K. McNeill, U.S. Army Forces Command commanding general, in presenting awards for actions in Afghanistan. They presented a Silver Star and a Purple Heart to Spc. Victor Thibeault, 110th Military Intelligence Battalion. McNeill also presented a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart to Sgt. Danny Swank, also with the 110th MI Bn.

A man threw a grenade into Thibeault's Humvee, Dec. 3, 2003, in a crowded marketplace

in Kandahar. Instead of throwing the grenade back out into the crowd, Thibeault placed the grenade underneath his seat. He and Swank, the Humvee driver, were seriously wounded in the ensuing explosion.

"They demonstrated in a way I can never express what the coalition and what the American service member is doing day in and day out in Afghanistan," Austin said. "We went there to help liberate the country and obviously not to conquer it. Likewise, Victor Thibeault went there to free the Afghan people and not to hurt them."

Karzai nodded his head in agreement with Austin's words.

After Austin's speech, Karzai thanked Thibeault and Swank as well as all other Soldiers who have served and continue to serve in Afghanistan.

"I am pleased to begin my visit to the United States by meeting the men and women who are at the forefront of the war on terrorism. On behalf of the Afghan people, I thank those of you who have served in Afghanistan. With your help, we have reclaimed our country from terror and oppression."

He expressed his "deepest gratitude" to all Soldiers, espe-

cially those who were killed in Afghanistan.

"We, the people of Afghanistan, mourn them as we mourn our own," Karzai said.

"I would like to take a moment to pay a special tribute to the brave men of the 10th Mountain Division who gave their lives in Afghanistan, and to their families I say my deepest sympathy and gratitude: Chad Fuller, Adam Thomas, Evan O'Neill, Phillip Albert, Shawn Clemens, Robert Cook, Justin Scott, Benjamin Gilman, Nicholes Golding, Anthony Lagman and Michael Esposito."

Spc. Tomiwa DaSilva, A Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, served with O'Neill in Afghanistan. He was among a group of Soldiers to whom Karzai spoke.

DaSilva said he was moved when Karzai honored by name the Soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan.

"Last week I went to see Pfc. O'Neill's father," DaSilva said. "Now I can tell his father that people do appreciate what we did over there."

10th Mtn. Div. Soldiers were among the first on the ground in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center Towers and the



Spc. Antonietta Rico

Afghan President Hamid Karzai congratulates Sgt. Danny Swank, 110th MI Bn., who received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart during Karzai's visit to Drum.

Pentagon.

Afghanistan's Loya Jirga, or "Grand Council," a group of Afghanistan's top tribal leaders, elected Karzai to a two-year term as president in June 2002.

Karzai bid goodbye to Fort Drum by telling Soldiers that the

people of Afghanistan will always keep them in mind.

"The things you have done for us will remain in the best memories of Afghan history. We will write that in golden letters of our memories, for our future, to see and to remember."

Integrated sight unit allows Bradleys to see at night

Spc. Kevin F. Stabinsky

11th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — As the sun goes down, it seems to be a natural reaction that fear and anxiety begin to raise. Be it the concealing nature of the dark, the eerie silence, or conditioning from television and movies where bad things always happen in the dark, the night never brings the sense of security the day does. However, for members of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga., thanks to the technology of their Bradley fighting vehicle, the night is nothing to fear.

When darkness blankets the landscape, 2/7 members are covered in a blanket of security thanks to the integrated sight unit installed in their Bradleys. This system, which picks up heat given off by objects, allows the gunner crew to see even the smallest creatures.

"If it gives off heat, we can see it," said Spc. Mark Mohler, Bradley gunner.

The system works by taking the infrared heat given off by objects and displaying it on the eyepieces at the gunner's station. Depending on the amount of heat given off by an object, it will show up as white, red or black, with white being the hottest, red being warm, and black being the coldest.

Because the system picks up heat, as opposed to amplifying light like night vision goggles, the system can give the gunner better images as well as the option to use it during the day.

"On a good and clear night you could tell how many canteens a squad has at 1000 meters," said Sgt. Rick Moore, Bradley commander.

The system also holds the advantage over NVGs in that by equipping a certain plate to their vehicles, the ISU will pick up a different color for that vehicle. Thus, even at night, the gunner can tell what vehicles are friends or foes, greatly decreasing the potential for friendly fire.

The ISU also contains a feature to range target distance. By shooting a laser that reflects back to the system once it hits the target, the ISU can effectively gauge the distance to a target. This feature allows precision fire at 3000m from the Bradley's 25mm main gun, 3750m with its TOW missiles, or the ability to move a dismounted squad to engage the target.

With all these features, combined with the ability to rotate 360 degrees and zoom in and out on targets, the ISU makes the Bradley an effective fighting machine day or night. So when night falls, the only ones who have anything to fear are the 2/7th's enemies.