

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

## Inside The Frontline News



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# New chief of staff takes office

WASHINGTON — In a small, inconspicuous Pentagon ceremony Gen. Pete Schoomaker came out of retirement Friday and swore to uphold the duties as the Army's 35th chief of staff.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was the first to make remarks during the ceremony, which was held in the office of Les Brownlee, the acting Army secretary. More than once Rumsfeld thanked Schoomaker and his wife, Cindy, for returning to duty.

"I'm absolutely delighted that General Schoomaker is going to undertake this responsibility," Rumsfeld said. "It's an enormously important one — not just for the Army but for the country."

Before retiring in August 2000, Schoomaker served 31 years in the military. He said that he knows this Army is very different from the one he entered.

"I truly feel blessed to be part of the Army's future," Schoomaker said. "I have the opportunity to contend and help the Army as it becomes more relevant and ready."

Schoomaker will lead the Army on the heels of retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, the former chief of staff of the Army. Shinseki started the move toward Transformation and later oversaw an Army transforming while at war.

The War on Terror is not a new war, according to a statement Schoomaker released shortly after his swearing-in ceremony. Twenty-three years ago in the Iranian desert during Operation Desert One, Schoomaker said he lost eight of his comrades.

Schoomaker said he knew grief, but he

See CHIEF, Page 5A



New Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker is sworn in as the 35th Chief of Staff by Les Brownlee, acting Army Secretary, in the Pentagon Friday.

Jerome Howard

# Getting it clean ...



Randy Talbot

Soldiers form Task Force 1-64 Armor wash equipment as part of the turn-in process at the Combat Equipment Battalion, located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The tanks and Bradleys will be reset for future Army needs.

# DoD examines options before requesting more troops

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — If needed, Department of Defense will ask Congress to authorize more soldiers. But first officials at the department would like to see if there are other ways to handle deployments and not raise the troop ceiling, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference Tuesday.

If after careful consideration, Rumsfeld decides that the military needs more service members, he will recommend that to President Bush. But first, there are a number of other methods to extend the span of U.S. forces.

American service members are participating in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Sinai and Bosnia. In addition, there are U.S. troops based in Japan, Korea and Europe.

Rumsfeld said the department is addressing

**"We need to get the personnel system passed by the Congress so that we have the ability to manage our civil service system."**

Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

the problem. Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said the military is not stretched too far now, and it can handle its missions.

Rumsfeld listed a number of options: He said the military can put in place a more efficient deployment and redeployment process. The

services also should examine — as the Navy is — using technology to cut down manning necessary for ships and other weapons systems. He said the services must look at "rebalancing the reserve component with the active force component so that we don't have to have the kinds of call-ups that we do now."

The United States might examine using more service members from allies in some operations and, in the case of Iraq, manning the army, civil defense forces and the police with Iraqis.

The United States also needs to keep close watch on deployments and continue the draw-down in Bosnia and Kosovo and the Sinai.

Another option is take the 300,000 to 380,000 U.S. military members who are in jobs better done by civilians and return them to military

See TROOPS, Page 5A

# Ceremony to welcome new ADC-M to Stewart

Staff Report

3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers will welcome Col. (P) Robert L. Caslen, Jr., incoming Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), during a ceremony here 9 a.m. Aug. 15 at Marne Garden.

Caslen comes to the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) from the 10th Mountain Div. (Light Infantry) and Fort Drum, Fort Drum, N.Y., where he served as the chief of staff. As the assistant division commander (maneuver), Caslen will oversee the plans, operations, and training of the XVIII Airborne Corps' contin-

gency missions.

Caslen was born in Connecticut and received a commission as a lieutenant of infantry from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Caslen's initial assignment was with the 9th Inf. Div., Fort Lewis, Wash., where he served as a rifle platoon leader, company executive officer, mortar platoon leader, and company commander in the 2nd and 3rd Battalion, 47th Inf. regiment.

Following graduation from the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course, Caslen served in several positions on the faculty at West Point, including Army football

coach and company tactical officer in the 1st Regiment, Corps of Cadets.

After his West Point tour, Caslen served at Picatinny Arsenal as an operations research officer. He then attended and graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Caslen was then assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., as the Brigade S-4 for 3rd Bde., battalion executive officer for 2nd Bn., 187th Inf. Regt. (during the Persian Gulf War), and later as the 3rd Brigade S-3. From June through December 1992, he was assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo in Honduras as the Director,

J-3.

From 1993 to 1995 Caslen commanded the 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div. (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Following this assignment, he deployed with the 25th to Haiti and served as the executive officer to the commander of the Multi-National Forces, and then to the commander of the U.S. Forces United Nations Command during Operations Restore and Uphold Democracy.

From 1996 to 1997, Caslen served as the senior brigade C-2 observer/controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort

See WELCOME, Page 5A

## Weather Forecast

**FRI**  
High 88° Low 72°

**SAT**  
High 87° Low 71

**SUN**  
High 89° Low 71°

# 'Dog Face Soldiers' return

Staff report

More than 1,000 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers have returned since July 17 on several different flights and were welcomed by families and friends at Cottrell Field.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the 92nd Engineer Battalion and the 703rd Main Support Battalion was one of the main units that returned to Stewart over the last week.

As the soldiers marched across the field cries of "there he is" and "I see him" preceded the clapping and cheers of families in joy at the sight of their loved ones.

When the soldiers stood on the field in formation Friday and Saturday, Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (support) greeted the heroes.

"To the family and friends that are here we appreciated the support that you have given to your soldier," Riojas said. "To the Dog Face soldiers, the world watched you all ... and marveled at your sacrifice and victory".

Riojas knew he couldn't hold back the crowd of people behind him, but there was one more thing the soldiers had to do - join him in singing the "Dog Faced Soldier" and the "Army Song" before the soldiers were released to their eager families.

"God's been with him all the way," said Kevin Miller, father of returning 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery soldier, Spc. Kevin Miller Jr.

"I told him before he left, don't worry. If he's going to pray, don't worry, and if he's going to worry don't pray. He prayed a lot when he was over there, and I'm thankful he's back! God bless America!" screamed an elated Miller.

Spc. Kevin Miller's wife Tawinka and children Tawinna and Chasse were present with the rest of the family to see the return.

The troop commander was given the command to release the soldiers and quicker than you could say fall out, families came rushing from the stand to meet their soldier.

Riojas shook hands with a lot of the soldiers on the field and also welcomed them home.

Sgt. Oscar DeMoss Jr., a returning soldier, was greeted by his wife, Lakeisha, his two daughters Lanaisha and Laneisha, both 8-years old and two sons Oscar 4-years old and Octavius 2-years old at a return ceremony Friday.

"It's been hard dealing with my husband being gone. I had four children to worry about, but it's his job," Lakeisha said.

"I'm glad it's over and he made it home," she added.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fred Catchings, commander and bandmaster of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) band, brings his unit to all the major redeployments. The band not only plays the "Dog Face Soldier" song and the "Army Song" at the ceremonies, but also plays other songs beforehand.

"To maybe get a little bit of the anxiousness out of their minds," said Catchings. "Bands have been doing this for as long as there have been redeployments. We are really honored to be a part of this."



Spc. Jonathan Slack

Sgt. Oscar DeMoss, a returning 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) soldier, greets his wife Lakeisha, twin daughters Lanaisha and Laneisha, 8, and son Oscar, 4, at a welcome home ceremony Friday at Cottrell Field.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Spc. Kevin Miller Jr.'s family, parents Kevin and Susan, aunt Sandra, wife Tawinka and brother Kedrick wave signs while eagerly awaiting his return.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Soldiers from a returning Marine Division unit march triumphantly onto Cottrell field to meet waiting family and friends.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

(Above) The 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) band plays on as soldiers arrive at Cottrell Field Sunday. (Right) Elated family members race to greet their newly arrived soldiers.



Talk about an office with a view ...

# Hunter gets new, improved ATC tower

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

When a person gets older and parts become less useful and functional than they may have originally been, those parts are generally removed or repaired — or, if they are essential to the day-to-day operation of the body, replaced.

Military installations can also be looked at as bodies, and here at Hunter Army Airfield a vital body part recently underwent some major reconstructive surgery.

Due to the state of disrepair of Hunter's original Air Traffic Control tower (a fundamental element of any airfield, but especially here, where deployments and redeployments necessitate the constant arrival and departure of aircraft), a brand new tower was constructed — a long-awaited development, according to Charlie Corbell, chief of the Hunter ATC tower — and was opened for business June 16.

"The necessity of a new control tower was recognized in the early nineties," said Corbell. "Plans were studied and changed. Different configurations were considered and more plans were submitted. Unfortunately, as with some governmental projects, funding became an issue. After several false starts, the project got off the ground when a contract was finally awarded Aug. 3, 2001."

The ATC mission is to provide air traffic control support for the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Stewart/Hunter, all major subordinate commands, tenant organiza-

tions, and aviation user groups. This is done through the use of associated radar systems, interfaced Federal Aviation Administration and related ATC facilities and equipment to provide for the safe, orderly and expeditious movement of air traffic operating in that airspace assigned to the ATC Branch.

The old tower was simply not cutting the proverbial mustard, according to Corbell.

"The old control tower was an Air Force design that had outlived its usefulness," he said. "Outdated electrical systems and grounding problems had almost eliminated any possibility for expansion and installation of new equipment. Over the years, weather had taken its toll on the structure itself. Water in the building was non-potable and air conditioning systems were not capable of maintaining the temperatures required to keep solid-state electrical equipment operating at optimal levels."

The tower, which had been built in 1954, was far past being a fixer-upper, according to Corbell — its limited room and debilitated state made renovation impossible.

"The building was in such disrepair it took only two days for a demolition crew to completely raze the structure," he said.

It was out with the old and in with the new — so what came in with the new?

"The new tower is over twenty-five feet taller at the tower cab level," said Corbell. "The Ground Controlled Approach facility that was previously housed in a different building is now on the sixth floor of the new structure. This allows dual-rated controllers to more

effectively maintain their currency requirements in both Tower and GCA Facilities. The new tower, with its customized controller consoles, takes advantage of a new terminal voice switch that gives controllers more flexibility in radio and control position configuration. An elevator that operates to the sixth floor has eliminated the need for personnel to carry heavy objects up vertical ladders to access operating areas."

The tower is also equipped with an environmental control system, elevator, carpeting, modern latrines and new furniture, he said.

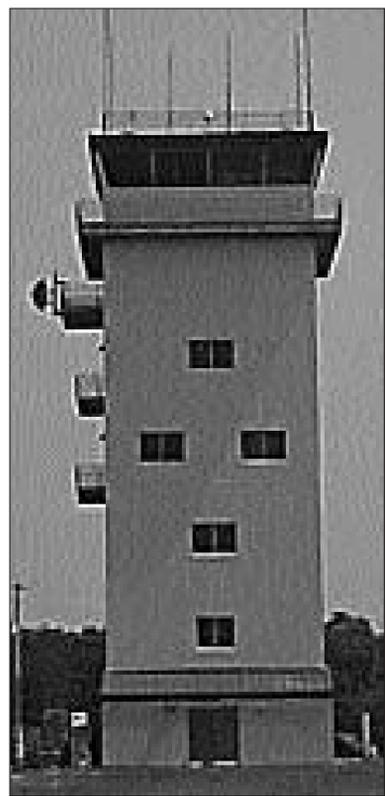
All these perks weren't cheap — the final cost added up to \$2,660,509 — but were definitely worth it, according to Staff Sgt. Dean Merkins, GCA facility chief.

"It's a very nice facility, state of the art," he said. "It's going to help the soldiers of today prepare the way for the Army of tomorrow."

Merkins, one of 15 military air traffic control specialists and six civilian currently providing air traffic control services, said the new tower made his job easier controlling traffic and coordinating with other ATC agencies.

"(It's been) a morale booster for the entire controller workforce," said Corbell. "Personnel are pleased with the new structure and are becoming more comfortable in the new environment. As most will tell you, anything would be an improvement over what controllers here have had to work with for the past half century!"

From what he's saying, the magnitude of this improvement makes it doubtful that this tower will have to go under the knife for quite some time.



Courtesy photo

The new ATC tower, completed in June, stands 25 feet taller than the old structure. The additional height "allows controllers the ability to visually observe almost all aircraft movement areas on the airfield," said Charlie Corbell, tower chief.

## OCS phases out helmet liners from uniform

Pfc. Chris Stephens

Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For more than 60 years, students in the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., have worn the M1941 helmet liners as part of their uniform.

However, when OCS Class 05-03 graduates Aug. 7, they will become the last class to wear the distinctive helmets.

"It's sad to say, but the time-honored sight of OCS formations marching to class or the mess hall, accompanied by drums and the guidon, will be nearly indistinguishable

from other troop formations on post," said David Stieghan, Military History Division. "The only distinction will be the black or white ascots they wear bearing the entwined letters 'OCS.'"

From now on OCS students will wear a black ascot as a basic officer candidate, a blue ascot as an intermediate officer candidate and a white ascot as a senior officer candidate.

"Although many candidates will say that the helmet liners were a hassle to wear, most will agree that it is an honor to wear them," Fabiano said. "I know the cadre will tell you that they will miss being able to identify

their candidates from quite a distance."

The helmet liners were part of the Model 1941 helmet set issued to the U.S. military forces from early in World War II until the mid 1980s.

"After the introduction of the PASGT Kevlar helmet, the M1941 Helmet Liner was retained until now at the only Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Army," Stieghan said.

The M1941 helmet with its unique liner has not been produced since the Vietnam War, Stieghan said.

The tradition of the helmet liners began back in the early 50s. Even then, the senior

officer candidates wore the distinctive blue helmets to signify their officer candidate status.

"The color of the helmet has always been a way of recognizing an officer candidate's status," said Dan Turner, who went through OCS in 1967.

Class 5-03 said they are proud of the fact that they are the last in a long line of candidates to wear the helmet liners.

"Many of the candidates wish the liners could stay," said Capt. Stephen Fabiano, company commander. "But they will always

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## VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

## CofS: American soldier remains indispensable

Friday I stood in the office of the Secretary of the Army and was sworn in as the 35th Chief of Staff of the Army. Thirty-four other distinguished leaders have preceded me — well-known stewards of our Army. It is a great honor to walk in their footsteps.

Twenty-three years ago I stood in another place — in the Iranian desert on a moonlit night at a place called Desert One. I keep a photo of the carnage that night to remind me that we should never confuse enthusiasm with capability. Eight of my comrades lost their lives. Those of us who survived knew grief ... we knew failure ... but we committed ourselves to a different future.

There were some important things we did not know about the future that night. We did not recognize that this was a watershed event ... that the military services would begin a great period of renewal that continues to this day. We did not know that we were at the start of an unprecedented movement to jointness in every aspect of our military culture, structure, and operations ... a movement that must continue.

We also did not realize that we were in one of the opening engagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism ... a struggle that would reach our homeland and become known as the Global War on Terror.

Today, our Nation is at war and we are a critical part of the joint team — an Army at war. This is not a new war. Our enemies have been waging it for some time, and it will continue for the foreseeable future. As the President has stated, "This is a different kind of war against a different kind of enemy." It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life.

War is both a physical reality and a state of mind. War is ambiguous, uncertain, and unfair. When we are at war, we must think and act differently. We become more flexible and more adaptable. We must anticipate the ultimate reality check — combat. We must win both the war and the peace. We

must be prepared to question everything. What is best for the nation? What must endure? What must change?

This war has demonstrated that our soldiers, civilians and families are up to the task. It has also provided new insights into the current operating environment. Can we sustain our high performance with our current methods of preparation? Can our Combat Training Centers better reflect the joint context in which we will fight? Are we organized for the long haul?

We must answer these questions and more. We need to be mindful that the world has changed and it will never return to what we knew before. As my great friend, Dick Meadows, always said, "The Army ain't like it used to be ... and it never was."

Sustained engagement of our Army will be the norm, not the exception. How do we man the Army in a way that provides cohesive, high performing units in this reality of continuous engagement?

Our recent combat operations reinforce the requirements for units and echelons that are flexible and tailorable. Can we balance our force structure and develop increased modularity so as to enhance our critical role in effective joint contingency operations while maintaining our campaign qualities?

We have already shown that we have innovative and adaptive leaders. But our enemies are adapting as well. Will our development programs continue to produce leaders who can meet this challenge?

Leadership and courage are easily recognized as prerequisites at the tactical level, but they are essential at the operational and strategic levels as well. Are we developing the George C. Marshalls for the new era?

The National Guard and Army Reserve are indispensable, full members of the team. Do we have the proper mix of both active and reserve units? Are we properly balanced? Is all of our structure readily accessible to meet the requirements of this and future

Wars?

As we transform the Army from the current force to the future force we must ask these questions and more. While some things will change, others will not.

The American soldier remains indispensable. Our Soldiers are paramount and will remain the centerpiece of our thinking, our systems, and our combat formations. As General Creighton Abrams taught us, "People are not in the Army, they are the Army."

We are, have been, and will remain a values based institution. Our values will not change and they are non-negotiable. Our soldiers are warriors of character. They exemplify these values every day and are the epitome of our American spirit. They are the heart of the Army.

As long as the United States Army has existed we have transformed ... and we always will. For four years under General Shinseki our Army has asked hard questions and made tough choices. We will continue to go where the answers to those questions take us. Our azimuth to the future is good. The Army must remain relevant and ready.

Our Army has much to be proud of. It is the preeminent land force in the world — and continues to be respected by our friends ... and feared by our enemies. We set the standard.

We were part of the joint team that defeated the Taliban in Afghanistan and took down a brutal regime in Iraq. Today we are deployed and conducting contingency operations at an unprecedented pace. Our soldiers, civilians, and their families set the standard every day for selfless service.

The Army continues to serve our great nation well and faithfully as it has in the past. For more than 228 years, the Army has never failed the American people, and it never will.

As an American soldier, I have never left your ranks; but it is a great privilege to wear our uniform once again.

**Gen. Peter J. Schoemaker**  
35th Chief of Staff of the Army

## "Stolen valor" dishonors nation's heroes, veterans

**Lt. Col. Stan Heath**  
Army News Swervice

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Medals for valor are paid for with sweat, blood, and in too many cases with the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Surviving families don't ask for a crisply folded flag or a posthumous award for their loved ones' bravery. They would much rather have their soldier safely home and out of harm's way.

We recently learned that all citizens don't understand the true meaning of integrity regarding medals for valor. The U.S. Army Personnel Command awards branch recently assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation in bringing to closure an allegation that a Rhode Island man had fabricated documents to upgrade his Bronze Star to the Distinguished Service Cross.

Unbeknownst to the Army, a congressman presented a fake certificate and store-bought DSC to him in 2000. The veteran's secret went undiscovered for three years. The Vietnam veteran recently admitted that he fraudulently created a letter from the Army to a congressman advising him that the Army had awarded him the DSC, the military's

second-highest honor.

"Actions of stolen valor dishonor all warriors whose valorous deeds have earned them every citizen's respect, appreciation and love for protecting our way of life," said retired Col. Roger Donlon.

Donlon, the first Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, was a captain in 1964. He commanded Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a Viet Cong battalion attacked the camp. Donlon was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

Medals of valor are never won, they are earned in actions against a hostile enemy and these actions go above and beyond the call of duty. Every recipient of such an award accepts these sacred honors with the highest sense of responsibility. They dedicate themselves to upholding the dignity of each award for all who have served honorably and continue to serve.

Freedom isn't free and valor awards are not meant to be bought and sold on the Internet or engraved in trophy shops.

**Editor's note:** Lt. Col. Stan Heath is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Personnel Command.

## Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What improvements or changes would you like to see at the PX?

"I wouldn't change anything. I think the PX is a good place to go to take advantage of not having to pay taxes, especially on high price items."

**Sgt. Juval Blue**  
3220th



"More concession stands. It helps people just starting out with their business."

**Cristian Lavoie**  
AAFES employee



"More tools and auto accessories."

**SusanJean Dunn,**  
Contractor

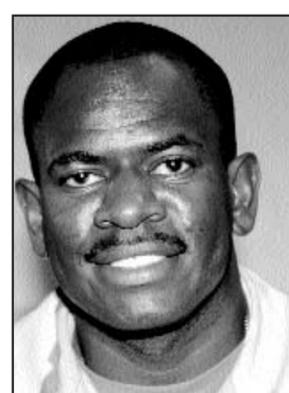


"Bigger aisles, especially in the checkout lanes. One can hardly fit a cart through there."

**April Curtis**  
Army spouse

"I'd like to see more baby and designer clothes."

**Dana Almonrode**  
Spouse



"I'd like to see more variety in the larger sizes of clothing."

**Sgt. L.K. Hooten**  
Bco 703rd MSB

## BUSTER'S BATTERY

By Capt. James "Doc" Crabtree

YEAH KID, I KNOW THE PRESIDENT. WHO DO YOU THINK GOT ME THIS GREAT PARKING SPOT?



Voice your opinion!  
Write a letter to the editor!

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Public Affairs Office  
Attn: The Frontline, Editor  
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Deputy Director — Richard Olson  
PAO Supervisor — Master Sgt. Kenneth Russ  
Chief Command Information Branch — Jim Jeffcoat  
**Editorial Staff**  
Managing Editor — Jim Jeffcoat  
Editor — Sgt. Raymond Piper  
Associate Editor — Spc. Jonathan M. Stack  
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**50th PAD**  
Staff Writer — Sgt. Craig Zentkovich  
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Public Affairs NCO — Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp  
Editor — Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke  
Staff Writer — Spc. Jacob Boyer  
Staff Writer — Spc. Adam Nuelken  
**Hunter Public Affairs Office**  
Chief — Steven Hart  
Deputy Chief — 1st Lt. Amy Phillips  
Staff Writer — Pfc. Emily Danial  
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## CHIEF

from page 1A

didn't know that he was in the opening engagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism.

"Our enemies have been waging (this war) for some time, and it will continue for the foreseeable future," according to the statement.

"As the president has stated, 'This is a different kind of war, against a different kind of enemy.' It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life."

Schoomaker's vast experience in both conventional and special operations, along with his genuine care and concern for soldiers and their families qualifies him to lead the Army at a very critical time in history, Brownlee said in a press release.

The Army's newest chief of staff is the first retired four-star officer ever to be called back to serve as the U.S. Army chief of staff. He and his father are also one of the few father-

and-son teams to serve in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army.

His father, Fred Schoomaker, who also had a long-standing military career, was the assistant to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold Keith Johnson from 1964-1968.

Schoomaker comes from a household of career military men. His younger brother, Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, is the chief of the Southeast Regional Medical Command.

Before hanging up his uniform in 2000, Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Prior to that he commanded the Joint Special Operations Command, United States Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Then he became commanding general of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg until October 1997.

## OCS

from page 3A

be able to say they were the last class to wear the liners.

"It's just like anything else in the military," Fabiano said. "Being the first or last to do something so visible and historic is always a chance to exercise bragging rights."

As far as the effect it will have on the Army, Stieghan said that any time a positive, time-honored tradition is ended that does not affect individual efficiency or unit readiness, the Army loses.

"There is only one Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Army, and the school's distinctive uniform reflect the unique challenges and sacrifices of officer candidates," Stieghan said.

"For more than 60 years, OCS candidates at Fort

Benning proudly wore the painted Model 1941 helmet liner to distinguish their formations from the other enlisted and officer training units in training," Stieghan said. "While the fatigue uniforms of candidates in training has changed, the gloss black or ski blue helmet liners of the candidates marked to all those soldiers who accepted the challenge to become Army officers in the high-stress challenge of Officer Candidate School."

"The normal drumbeat that is heard around Infantry Hall will still be present," Fabiano said. "But, as people look to watch another OCS class marching to (Infantry Hall), I am sure they will miss seeing the distinctive headgear."

## TROOPS

from page 1A

roles.

"We need to get the personnel system passed by the Congress so that we have the ability to manage our civil service system, and not have to constantly put military people into positions that don't require military people," he said. "That is a pile of people. They need to be doing military functions."

Rumsfeld said officials should re-examine war plans in light of the new information gleaned from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The new methods, technologies and capabilities need to be used to their utmost, he said.

Rumsfeld said that before he tells the president the department needs more people, he would like to try all these options.

Myers made another point.

He told reporters that personnel accounts — including medical and other quality of life options — are expensive.

"It's a very expensive solution," he said. "And it's not a solution that comes on line right away. You can authorize it, even provide the

money for it, but it takes you time to recruit, train and so forth. So it's not an immediate solution to any of the issues that people want to raise right now.

"If you're going to do it, you're going to have to live with it probably for a long time, and you better think that through carefully, since that's a significant part of your budget."

Rumsfeld said such a step should be taken carefully. "We have a big department," he said. "We're absolutely open-minded about how many people we have in the services. We want to have the right number. And the way to get to the right number is not the first time you feel the effects of a spike in activity — as we do right now with Iraq — immediately decide, 'Well, the solution's to that to increase end strength.'

"Now we get about the task of really running this place right and seeing that we're respectful of the taxpayers' dollars and see that we make the most effective use of the force. And that's what we're in the process of doing."

## WELCOME

from page 1A

Polk, La.

In August 1997, he returned to Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as the division/installation chief of staff. Following his chief of staff assignment, he commanded the 2nd Bde. (Strike), 101st Airborne Div. from August 1998 to July 2000.

Following his brigade command, Caslen assumed duties on the Joint Staff as the assistant deputy director for Strategy and Policy, J-5.

After his assignment on the Joint Staff, Caslen deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, in May 2002 as the chief of staff of the Coalition Task Force Mountain, 10th Mountain Div. He returned to Fort Drum when the division redeployed in September 2002 and assumed responsibilities as the division/installation chief of staff of the 10th Mountain Div. and Fort Drum.

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# Love of country, God, family helps soldier while deployed

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**

Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Scott Miller, 92nd Engineer Battalion, has been in the Army for more than 17 years. His career suddenly changed in April when he, like most Fort Stewart soldiers, was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Like a story from the second day in Boccaccio's *The Decameron*, Miller found new fortune from adversity in a renewed relationship with his family, the Army and God.

"It was really challenging. This was the first time I've been deployed since I became a father," he said.

Miller is married to Leslie, and has three young children, Hunter, age 5, Tori, age 2, and Dustin, age 1. He said that he thought about the family constantly while he was overseas. It helped him get by through the strain of the war. Miller also sent a steady stream of e-mails and letters as well as phone calls at any chance he could, to bring his family as close to him as he was

able, under trying circumstances.

"Thinking about the good times with the family and lots and lots of praying," and a belief in the righteousness of his mission liberating the Iraqi people from the wicked tyranny of Saddam Hussein completed the formula for keeping Miller in such an optimistic frame of mind.

"From what they could understand, (the young children) have all been really supportive (of me and the mission)," Miller said about when the family found out he was going to be deployed.

"He's so proud of his country and the fact the he was given the honor of serving in the greatest Army in the world," said wife Leslie.

She attributed her husband's unwavering set of beliefs as one of the pillars of her family's strength, during Miller's deployment.

Once he returned to the U.S. in July, Miller was put through a long redeployment process where he was screened for any possible medical or psychological conditions that may have developed while in the Middle East. He said that it helped

him pick up the pieces that were left behind.

"It was like a new beginning. Everything was just wonderful!" said an elated Miller.

The first thing on Miller's mind when he got back was to get to know his wife and children again.

"We're trying to make up for the whole summer in just two short weeks," he said. Miller took leave when he returned and said that he has taken the family to the zoo and the movies and other activities that the kids missed doing without their father.

Leslie said that her husband wouldn't dream of getting out of the Army because of this.

Now that his leave is almost over, Miller is getting ready to return to duty. He said that he is going to remain in the Army for at least three more years, at which point he will decide whether to retire or re-enlist.

"It's a sacrifice you've got to make (for your country). There are good parts and bad parts ... just keep a positive attitude (and you'll realize how important this is)," he said.



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

(Above) Staff Sgt. Scott Miller is greeted by his family at the 92nd Eng. Bn. redeployment ceremony.

Sgt. Sam Hoffman

(Left) Staff Sgt. Scott Miller, 92nd Eng. Bn. eats pizza at Cici's with his children, Hunter, 5, Dustin, 2, Tori, 1, and wife Leslie.

## Coalition forces continue to clear Mosul area of weapons

**Pfc. Thomas Day**

40th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq — More than 500 tanks, trucks and artillery formerly used by Saddam's forces has now been collected by the soldiers of the 1-377 Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. Additional mortars, missiles and land mines are also in the process of being removed the Mosul area as part of a joint effort with European non-governmental organization titled "Task Force 20."

The Mine Advisory Council, a non-for-profit organization based in Great Britain, joined coalition forces in first stockpiling, then destroying the weapons in safe locations.

"Stuff that can be used against American soldiers, we grabbed it first," said Lt. Col. Tracy Lear of Anthony, Kan., 1-377th battalion commander. Ammunition has been picked up at more than 200 sites throughout the local area, according to Lear.

The project of clearing the Mosul area of unexploded ordnances and deadly weapons used by Saddam's forces, according to Lear, will take years. The operable weapons collected by the coalition forces could be recycled for use by the new Iraqi army.

"Most of it, you can see, is unserviceable," Lear said.

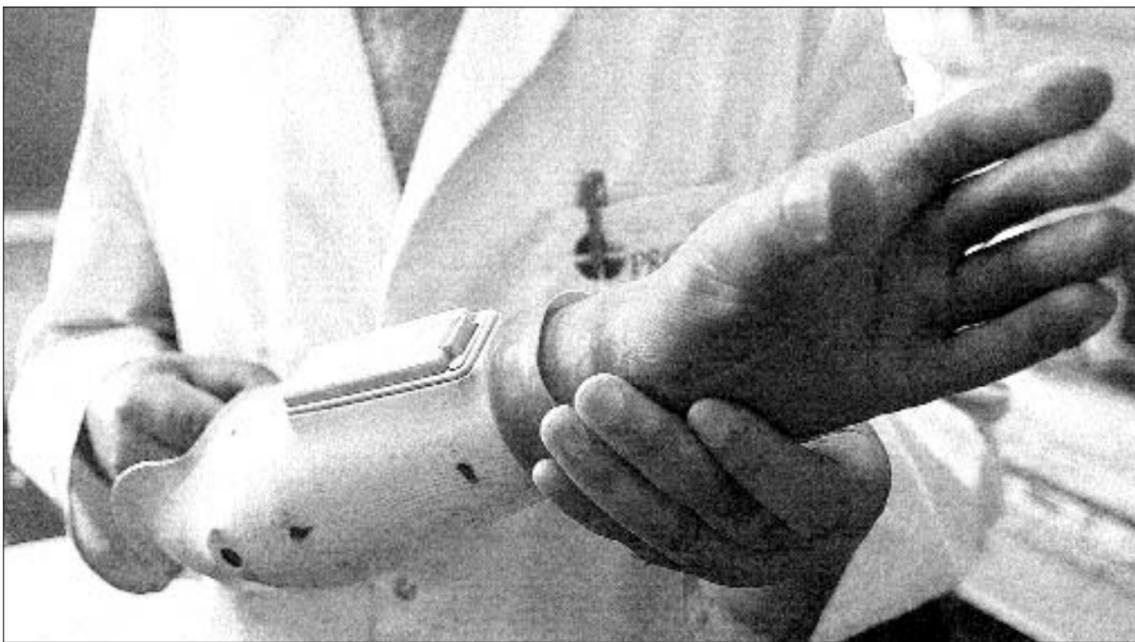
All of the weapons collected by Task Force 20 are currently being held at a site in East Mosul before being destroyed. According to Lear, many local citizens have come to the site looking to help the forces find weapons, as well as seeking medical help for injuries sustained from an unexploded ordinance.

"It's amazing how many children we've had to treat," he said. Lear has even brought his battalion surgeon along to the collection point in the event that a local is in need of medical attention.

Portions of the weapons found in the Mosul area were provided to the Iraqi military by the United States in support of Iraq and Saddam in the Iran-Iraq War.

*Pfc. Thomas Day*

**Spc. Dustin Hall, 1-377 Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., loads tank missiles onto a truck to be moved to a safe location and destroyed.**



*Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso*

**An Iraqi intern demonstrates how a prosthetic hand works at the Spinal Injury Center in Baghdad, Iraq.**

## CA assesses Iraq's Spinal Injury Center

**Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso**

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — It is difficult to bear witness to the brutalities a human being might endure. It is intolerable to see anyone with extensive wounds and injuries lie on a rusty stretcher and stained sheets in a dilapidated clinic.

Capt. Stacey Simms, special functions team chief of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Greensboro, N.C., assessed progress to restore and resupply the Spinal Injury Center building in Baghdad July 30.

Formerly run by Iraq's Ministry of Defense, the Spinal Injury Center was used mainly for Iraqi military personnel and for the stockpiling of caches of uniforms, helmets and gas masks. According to Simms the center is the only one of its kind in Iraq.

Used for emergencies and long-term rehabilitation, the center presently holds 70 Iraqi patients in the few wards sanitary enough for proper care.

Due to post-war looting and vandalism, a great deal of the equipment has been stolen or destroyed. More than half the center is still covered with dust and rubble. Prior to the assessment, the first priority in providing aid to the center was to provide food, blankets, clean sheets, clothing and personal hygiene items.

"This building had a half-life of 10 years," said Dr. Kaydar Al Chalaei, director of the Spinal Injury Center. "That was 20 years ago."

Chalaei explains that for the past 21 years the center has been operational, but no piece of equipment the center signed for could be discarded, sold or donated, even if an item was considered obsolete or inoperative.

Now outdated, junky equipment is scattered inside and outside of the facility. Looters have stolen most of the good equipment such as computers, air conditioning units, wheelchairs, beds, blankets and sheets.

"I am short of beds inside the ward," Chalaei said. The wards in use are below sanitary standards. While some wards are sanitary, useless medical equipment occupies space in the facility. With nowhere to store or dispose of the unusable equipment, patients are confined to a handful of rooms.

"They are lacking an awful lot right now," Simms said. "Their pediatric ward is loaded with old equipment, old files and rubbish."

There are six wards ready for use, said Chalaei. After the wards are sanitized, he plans to start a pediatric spinal care unit, an intensive care unit, a rehabilitation clinic and a neurology clinic.

There are lecture halls and classrooms that need repairs to be operational again. These repairs will allow the center to continue training interns and resident doctors.

Chalaei's initial goal is to have a clean and tidy building so that the staff can start to work in sanitary conditions.

"One of the first things we are going to do is a big clean-up project within the next week. We are going to try to improve the quality of life for the patients there," Simms said.

The second phase will be to get the medical labs operating, to establish security and to start making essential repairs to the facility.

"We are going to put in two separate requests," Simms said. "One for permanent cleaners and one for a temporary crew." The temporary crew would be involved in the initial trash removal inside the facility.

# Wave of the Future ...

## Uniform concept remains decades ahead of its time

U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center

NATICK, Mass. — Nothing works on Future Warrior, and that's the way it's supposed to be. The uniform ensemble, first assembled at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., in 1999, was redesigned for 2003 to better depict technology decades from reality for soldiers.

While the Objective Force Warrior soldier weapon platform prepares for fielding within the decade, Future Warrior is set apart as a mostly visionary tool for researchers, said Cheryl Stewardson, the integrated protection functional area leader for the Natick Soldier Center's OFW program.

Future Warrior was reintroduced at the May 22 opening of the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, a new partnership between the Army and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We wanted to showcase now the concepts they're working on for the future," she said. "Seeing (concepts) on a human form helps us see how (technologies) might be used and their limitations."

During the past three years, scientists and engineers have experimented with concepts to determine their feasibility with OFW, Stewardson said. What's out of bounds for OFW ended up on Future Warrior.

Looking menacing in an all-black, custom-fit uniform from head to toe, Future Warrior is portrayed by Sgt. Raul Lopez, liaison sergeant with the Operational Forces Interface Group.

Replacing the modified motorcycle helmet used in the previous Future Warrior concept, the custom-designed helmet Lopez wears is leaner and incorpo-

rates several features representing upcoming technology. A blue-tinted visor signifies agile eye protection against tunable lasers, while inside a new projection display technology based off the Joint Strike Fighter helmet is now more accurately shown.

"We have sensors now for thermal and image intensification, but making them small enough, fusing the images and projecting them onto the visor—that's the leap," Stewardson said.

Openings at the top of the helmet fit in with the idea of a 3-D audio and visual sensor suite. They restore natural hearing lost in an encapsulated space and enhance long-range hearing. Cameras enhance vision from the sides and behind. A smaller halo on the helmet represents a tracking system for friendly and enemy forces. By reshaping the helmet, Future Warrior has an expanded field of view.

Protection against chemical and biological agents is more realistic with a respirator tube that attaches to the back of the helmet and connects to a low-profile air purifier that forces cool air into the helmet for comfort and visor defogging.

"It was envisioned to come down very sleek into the body, but we couldn't find a material to do it in the short time we had to put this concept prototype together," Stewardson said.

Another major change in the uniform is the addition of protruding, interconnecting black pieces of plastic on the legs that represent a lower-body exoskeleton. It will connect through the boots up to the waist and enable the wearer the ability to carry up to 200 pounds.

Above the waist, MIT's research on nanomuscles for advanced arm and torso strength may be linked to the exoskeleton to give Future Warrior potentially superhuman

ability to move or carry. A flexible display on the forearm of Future Warrior glows when switched on and draws attention to the simulated touch screen keypad for information input and output for tasks such as navigation, physiological status monitoring and command communication. The display is connected into a compact computer worn on an armored belt around the waist.

Attached to the arm is a slim box representative of the remote control unit for any system that might be used, such as a robotic mule or unmanned aerial vehicle.

Found near the top of the torso front and back are what look like quarter-sized buttons built into the fabric depicting a nanostructure sensor array to detect weapons of mass destruction, friendly or enemy lasers, or even weather.

"(The sensors) could trigger a response in the uniform to open or close the fibers depending on temperature or precipitation," Stewardson said.

Black was chosen as the color to clue observers that it's the future, she said, although the aim is for a uniform that's invisible.

Speaking of stealth, much of the futuristic capability can't be shown at least in part because of nanotechnology.

Along the black stretch fabric are custom-fitted plastics and foams that take the place of liquid body armor that will instantly solidify when struck. "All the parts are much harder than we wanted. We haven't figured out how to portray (liquid armor)," Stewardson said.

Through nanotechnology, multifunctional materials will be able to transport power and data. The materials will also be able to fend off chemical and biological agent attacks, self-decontaminate and become waterproof.

"I believe nanotechnology is going to give us much more than we can even envision today. This is just a sampling," Stewardson said.



In many ways, the revised Future Warrior is the same. A microturbine will provide power for items such as the microclimate conditioning system for heating and cooling. The weapon remains a fire-and-forget system using soft-launch seeking missiles. A transdermal nutrient delivery system provides the nourishment to get through a battle. He's still going to be a moving target for researchers, shedding workable technology for the next greatest thing.

"There's always going to be a Future Warrior," Stewardson said. "In the soldier business, you can never rest on your laurels. Somebody is always out there to beat you."

## 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.

# NG Signal unit mobilizes, face wartime mission

**Spc. M. William Petersen**

11th Signal Brigade PAO Chief

CAMP FRANKLIN, Baghdad, Iraq — Like most soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the troops of 151st Signal Battalion are a long way from home.

For National Guard units, however, “home” is life in the civilian world, a far cry from the heat of the desert, the occasional mortar attack from hostile forces and the challenge of maintaining a piece of the largest signal network in military history.

After a long journey from their home state of South Carolina, 151st Sig. Bn. of the Army National Guard joined with the active-duty 11th Signal Brigade in providing secure and non-secure communications for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Headquarters and A Companies of 151st Sig. Bn. provide 170 telephones, 150 non-secure and 50 secure Internet lines in Baghdad to Joint Task Force Special Operations Forces, 43rd Area Support Group, 541st Quartermaster Battalion, 105th Military Police Battalion and other units. The battalion also has companies supporting soldiers at camps Virginia, New York and New Jersey.

The road to Iraq was a long one both geographically and chronologically, according to Lt. Col. Heather Meeds, commander of 151st Sig. Bn. That road began with the unit being called up to mobilize for deployment.

“After getting over the initial shock of being mobilized, the thing that stood out in my mind was that we were getting ready to leave our families and jobs for possibly a year or more,” said Maj. Wallace A. Hall, executive officer for 151st Sig. Bn.

Mobilization was a long and tedious process, according to Meeds. The unit was alerted Feb 5. Soldiers set aside their civilian lives, packed their gear and reported for duty only five days later. Prior to deployment, the unit prepared their soldiers and equipment for the move to the Central Command area of responsibility.

“We had done a lot in preparation for the first mobilization station, but the station changed when we got the alert,” said Meeds. “All of our prior planning had to change.”

While pre-deployment training had been completed within 21 days, the unit didn’t leave for Kuwait until April 19 due to logistical difficulties. The unit’s equipment was spread out on 10 ships, the first of which arrived May 12.

“After all that waiting, they still did an excellent job getting all the equipment set up and the installing the network,” said Meeds. “It had been four months since the soldiers touched the equipment, but they met the challenge. The network has been up and running solid since then. It’s a testament to the loyalty and dedication of these soldiers.”

Once they had deployed, 151st was given mission-essential data package equipment with which the troops had no experience or training.

“We basically got brand-new equipment to install. The soldiers really put their hearts and souls in to learning the single shelter switches,” said Master Sgt. Tim Cleveland, training NCOIC for 151st Sig. Bn. “Any questions we had or training materials we needed, 11th Sig. Bde. would help us.”

“We’ve had a lot of support from different organizations in the 11th Signal Brigade in training. Now we’re confident enough to put in the equipment anywhere on our own. Fortunately, 11th Sig. Bde. didn’t just hand it to us and say ‘install this,’” Meeds said.

While the soldiers of 151st Sig. Bn. had no experience with the data package, they prepared thoroughly for their duties in the

field. The National Guard troops grabbed at every opportunity to get field training time, according to Cleveland.

“We started off with training exercises with 11th Sig. Bde. and [Network Enterprise Technology Command.] In the past we’ve also taken part in exercises with 3rd Army and worked with some data packages there and did a lot of training,” Cleveland said.

The many training exercises in which 151st has taken part include Lucky Warrior, Lucky Main, Lucky Sentinel, Grecian Firebolt and the last two Bright Star exercises.

“Our soldiers have performed well mainly because of their attitude; they don’t quit. If something is not working, they won’t stop working until it is. We have enlisted soldiers whose skills are very sharp. They also bring a lot of experience to the unit from the civilian world,” Cleveland said. “Also, our warrant officers were instrumental in our success training on and installing the data package.”

The battalion is unique in that they have a 93C satellite van, which other National Guard units don’t have, according to Meeds. The soldiers of 151st Sig. Bn. were also the first National Guard soldiers to go through the full-time satellite technician training at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Despite their extensive training and preparation, the soldiers of 151st still had lessons to learn during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“They’ve learned to be flexible due to the logistical and transportation factors; it’s very fluid and not necessarily timely. They’ve learned to understand that and adjust to something they have no control over,” Meeds said. “We also learned that it helps to have the support of 11th Sig. Bde. and to have them bring you in and treat you like one of their own battalions. I’ve talked with other National Guard units, and most of them get nowhere near the support we’ve had from 11th Sig. They helped

logistically by giving us things like air conditioners and laptops that we didn’t have in South Carolina. Also, 504th Sig. Bn. has taken care of our people extremely well and has treated us as their own.”



Photos by Spc. M. William Petersen

**Capt. Jeffrey Heaton, assistant Operations Officer for the 151st Signal Bn, South Carolina National Guard, cleans the windows of his vehicle in preparation for a convoy through Iraq.**



**Lt. Col. Heather Meeds, commander of the 151st Signal Bn, takes a short break with two other members of her battalion during a convoy through Southern Iraq. The 151st is currently providing communications support to the Joint Task Force Special Operations Forces, 43rd Area Support Group, 541st Quartermaster Battalion, 105th Military Police Battalion and other units in Iraq.**

# Strykers conduct first overseas live-fire

Sgt. Lisa Jendry

8th U.S. Army Public Affairs

YONGSAN, Republic of Korea — A platoon from the Army's first Stryker Brigade traveled to Korea this week for training and to demonstrate its capabilities to the international community.

The platoon conducted a capabilities demonstration Monday for the Korean and international news media and a live-fire exercise Tuesday for U.S. and Republic of Korea senior military at the Rodriguez Range Complex in North Kyungki Province.

The training was part of the first overseas movement of a Stryker unit. A total of six Stryker vehicles were involved in the exercise conducted by members of 3rd platoon, Company C, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) from Fort Lewis, Wash. The exercise demonstrated an infantry platoon's assault onto a simulated enemy command site.

"It's a great honor for the Army to be bringing an element of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team to Korea," said Lt. Col. Joseph J. Piek, the I Corps and Fort Lewis Transformation and Stryker Public Affairs officer.

Three years ago, the U.S. Army identified a capabilities gap between its heavy and its light forces. So, the Army built the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which is centered on the Stryker vehicles. The entire Stryker Brigade has about 300 Stryker vehicles and about 1,200 total vehicles.

"The Stryker vehicle is designed to be a very fast, very agile, and adaptive infantry carrier vehicle," said Piek. "It is not a tank and is not designed to be a tank — it is an infantry vehicle for moving infantry soldiers."

Capt. Eric Beaty, C Co. commander, said the training objectives during their visit to the Republic of Korea include movement training via airplane from the United States to the ROK, training in the restrictive terrain that the ROK offers, as well as demonstrating the Stryker Brigade's capabilities to ROK officials and 8th U.S. Army.

The Army plans to field six SBCT's. Currently, one Stryker brigade has been completely fielded and it completed its certification training last month.

Ten different variations of the Stryker vehicle will be constructed, eight of which have already been built.

Brig. Gen. Jack Gardner, I Corps and Fort Lewis' deputy commanding general for Transformation, said that the primary reasons for the trip were to practice strategic movement, and to give the platoon the opportunity to see a different type of training.

"We've trained in the desert at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., and we've trained inside an urban area at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana," said Gardner. "This gives us the chance to take the platoon into a different kind of terrain."

In addition to the SBCT's training in Korea, it was announced that the first Stryker Brigade will be a part of the Army's rotation plan going to Iraq and will deploy sometime this fall.



Sgt. Lisa Jendry

**Stryker infantry carrier vehicles speed out of the woodline toward their firing positions at the Rodriguez Range Complex to begin a Stryker's capabilities demonstration, Monday.**

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Davis, platoon sergeant for 3rd platoon, said that he is proud of his Stryker soldiers: "They've worked hard and this is the culmination of all their training and what the concept is all about."

Davis also lauded the Stryker vehicles: "They're an awesome vehicle. We can be anywhere in the world by air, if need be, and that's something that you just can't do with a heavy force."

Staff Sgt. Aron Alexander, squad leader, said Korea provides a great opportunity to train in restrictive terrain.

"It's a little more humidity than we're used to, but things look pretty good," he said. "We're just focused on training right now but we're ready for whatever the Army wants to hand to us."

Pvt. Robert Curtis, M-249 squad automatic weapon gun-

ner, became a part of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team right out of basic training.

"It just feels awesome to be a part of all this new technology," Curtis said. "It's excellent training and the Strykers definitely got a future."

Staff Sgt. Daniel Allemani, a squad leader, referred to the Strykers as a "different part of a different force."

"We're not mechanized, yet. We're not light infantry," he said. "We're more like light infantry with a cool vehicle."

Allemani said he's been in units where you had to march 25 miles before taking out an objective.

"With the Stryker, you get taken to the closest terrain feature at a thousand meters and you move a thousand meters into it, so you've got fresh soldiers that are ready to rock right when they get off the vehicle."

# VA takes major step in CARES process

## Veterans Affairs Press Release

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi today presented the draft National Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Plan to the independent CARES Commission, which will play a critical role in assessing the proposed plan for the future of veterans' health care.

CARES is a landmark study of the nation's largest health care system, operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"VA can effectively manage and implement an important program such as CARES and deliver results for veterans," said Principi. "These results may come with difficult choices. As VA enters the process of making these choices in communities across the country, it is important to remember the broad outcomes it seeks — more effective use of VA resources to provide more care, to more veterans, in places where veterans need it the most."

The draft National Plan is an important milestone in VA's CARES program to assess veterans' health care needs and develop a national plan to meet those

needs in the future.

"The draft National Plan's goals are to find savings and reinvest them in doctors, nurses and modern health care equipment — resources crucial to direct patient care," said Dr. Robert H. Roswell, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It makes sure the decisions we make today and in the future are in line with the health care needs of veterans. Bottom line — the draft plan will allow us to avoid imbalances between the size and location of health care facilities and veterans' demand for care tomorrow."

The approximately 100-page plan is divided into 20 chapters and has hundreds of pages of appendices. The draft plan contains key new concepts like Critical Access Hospitals and greater collaboration with community resources to meet veterans' needs and improve access. The entire plan can be viewed at [www.va.gov/CARES](http://www.va.gov/CARES).

The under secretary's review was built into the CARES planning process to assure it has a national perspective and a sharing of best practices and solutions to provide equity and balance.

In July 1999, a General Accounting Office study found that VA was spending a million dollars a day on unneeded or unused facilities. CARES was developed

to identify the infrastructure VA will need to care for veterans in the 21st century, redirecting resources from unneeded buildings to veterans' care.

"VA's mission to provide quality health care for America's veterans has not changed since its inception. But how that job is done — at what kind of facilities, where they are located and which types of procedures are used — has seen dynamic change as a result of medical advances, modern health care trends, veteran migrations and other factors," said Roswell. "The draft National CARES Plan embodies a national roadmap for managing a vital element of that change: the capacity and placement of facilities, their accessibility and the acute care infrastructure necessary to meet future needs of veterans."

It is important to note that the draft National CARES Plan is still an interim step of the CARES process. No final decisions have been made. The plan now goes to the CARES Commission. During the three months of commission review and hearings, veterans and other stakeholders will have ample opportunity to comment on the plan before it is presented to the secretary of veterans affairs for final decision in December.

## VA to fill private doctor prescriptions

### Veterans Affairs Press Release

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — Some veterans waiting to see Department of Veterans Affairs physicians for the first time may be eligible to receive medications from VA mail-out pharmacies that were prescribed by private doctors, under a new policy announced July 24.

"This policy should ease the minds of veterans with pharmaceutical needs who have been waiting too long for their first appointment," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This decision will help these veterans while preserving our ability to serve others."

To be eligible for the new benefit, veterans must meet all

of the following conditions:

- Have enrolled in VA health care before July 25, and
- Requested their first primary care appointment with VA before July 25, and
- Must be waiting more than 30 days for their first appointment with a primary care physician on Sept. 22.

The first prescriptions will be filled under the new program on Sept. 22. Eligible veterans will be unable to get prescriptions filled before that date. The period between announcement of the program July 25 and filling the first prescriptions Sept. 22, is necessary to

allow VA to identify and contact eligible veterans and to put new systems and procedures in place to deliver this benefit.

Principi stressed the policy is a short-term measure to assist veterans who were enrolled and waiting for the appointment before July 25, when details about the new benefit were published in the Federal Register. It will not apply to veterans who are put on the waiting list after July 24. VA estimates that 200,000 veterans will be eligible for the benefit.

"Traditionally, an examination and a prescription — both

by a VA physician — have been required before VA would provide pharmacy benefits to veterans," Principi said. "By improving the process of giving veterans the medication they're seeking, we can enhance their health care treatment and reduce the waiting lists for everyone."

Veterans covered by the new rule will receive information by mail from their nearest VA medical facility about filling prescriptions by mail from non-VA doctors, including information for the doctors themselves.

Principi credited Reps. John Mica (R-Fla.) and Rob Simmons (R-Conn.) with "playing an important role in launching this new benefit due to their keen interest in improving prescription coverage for veterans."



# VA Q&A

**Editor's Note:** Following are typical questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

**Q:** Is it true that VA has changed a long-standing policy and now will fill prescriptions by non-VA doctors?

**A:** VA recently announced a program to fill prescriptions written by non-VA physicians for some veterans waiting to see a VA doctor. To be eligible, veterans must have enrolled in VA's health care system and requested their first primary care appointment before July 25. Also, they must have been waiting more than 30 days on Sept. 22, when the benefit goes into effect.

Veterans will be charged a VA copayment of \$7 if the medicine isn't for a condition related to their military service. This benefit does not apply to veterans who have seen a VA primary care provider or those waiting for appointments with specialists or follow-up appointments. VA will mail instructions to eligible veterans. For more information, call the toll-free number on VA health benefits: 1-877-222-8387.

**Q:** I have heard that military service members held as prisoners of war for less than 30 days do not qualify for VA POW benefits. Is that true?

**A:** Current federal law requires that a former POW must be detained for at least 30 days in order to qualify for the full range of POW benefits. Responding to the needs of service members who were POWs during Operation Iraqi Freedom, President Bush proposed legislation that would eliminate that 30-day requirement.

The proposal also would improve dental care eligibility and exempt former POWs from current copayments for medications unrelated to service-connected conditions. VA maintains a Web site with detailed information on its benefits for former prisoners of war at [www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits-POW/](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits-POW/).

**Q:** What is VA's "national shrine commitment"?

**A:** When Congress transferred the national cemetery system from the Army to VA in 1973, it declared these veterans cemeteries "shall be considered national shrines as a tribute to our gallant dead." VA-run national cemeteries are places where the grounds are a beautiful and inspiring tribute to those who sacrificed for the nation's freedom. The "National Shrine Commitment," begun in 2001, is a VA initiative to enhance appearance and maintain a respectful setting in VA national cemeteries. Through 2002, VA had renovated 98,000 gravesites and cleaned or aligned 356,000 headstones or markers.

For further information about VA financial payments, call 1-800-827-1000.

For information about VA health care, call 1-877-222-8387.

Visit VA's web-page at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

# CENTCOM News

## Work done to make Iraq secure

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Support and cooperation from Iraqi citizens is enabling Coalition forces to seize weapons and detain former regime loyalists.

Acting on a tip from a source about an extensive weapons cache stored at a former regime loyalist house in Baghdad, 1st Armored Division soldiers seized the weapons in a raid conducted on Monday. Confiscated weapons and military gear included 31 protective mask canisters, 11 bayonets, 33 7.62 mm magazines, more than 550 rounds of ammunition, two protective masks, three swords, two AK-47s, two axes and various documents. Four individuals were detained.

Based on a tip from another source of a weapons cache location, 1st Armored Div. conducted a raid in Baghdad Tuesday resulting in 500 ammunition rounds, 10 loaded AK-47 magazines and one rocket-propelled grenade being confiscated.

An Iraqi turned himself into the police in the 4th Infantry Division area of operation claiming that local former regime loyalists were forcing him to conceal weapons for them. Three AK-47s, one 60 mm mortar, five 60 mm mortar rounds, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, six rocket-propelled grenade rounds and 250 rounds of 7.62 ammunition were turned in.

In a separate incident, an Iraqi citizen turned in a rocket-propelled grenade and an assortment of materials used to make improvised explosive devices to the 4th Inf. Div. The Iraqi citizen also provided information on a man who teaches people how to construct IEDs.

A large cache of weapons was reported by a local Iraqi to the 4th Inf. Div. Saturday. An inventory of the cache completed Tuesday revealed more than 1,700 rounds of various ammunition, more than 900 mortar rounds, more than 37,000 anti-aircraft rounds as well as various other weapons and explosives.

In the last 24 hours, coalition forces conducted 18 raids, 965 day patrols and 722 night patrols and conducted 164 day

patrols and 181 night patrols jointly with Iraqi police.

## Soldier killed in accidental fall

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A soldier from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) was killed when he fell from the roof of a fixed site at approximately 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Mosul.

The soldier was evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital and was pronounced dead at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The name of the soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

## Coronary takes U.S. soldier

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — A U.S. soldier assigned to Coalition Forces Land Component Command died earlier today from an apparent heart attack.

The soldier complained of having chest pains while performing convoy duties between Camp Arifjan and Camp Arlington west of Camp Wolf.

The soldier was taken to the Kuwaiti Defense base and transported to the 801st CSH.

Name of the soldier is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

## MP, IP try to make Iraq safe

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In the last 24 hours, coalition forces conducted 25 raids, 885 day patrols and 709 night patrols and conducted 176 day patrols and 165 night patrols jointly with Iraqi police.

Acting on a tip from a local Iraqi that a religious man was firing his weapon at other Iraqis in a Baghdad mosque, 1st Armored Division soldiers along with Iraqi Police officers conducted a raid at the mosque. Two Iraqis were detained and two AK-47s, one rocket-propelled grenade launcher and one rifle were confiscated.

A gun battle observed between two Iraqis was defeated by a 1st Armored Div. military police patrol. The patrol gunner fired

rounds at the men's location when one of the men turned toward the patrol causing both men to flee.

An improvised explosive device consisting of a fuel can connected to batteries was discovered in Baghdad by a 1st Armored Div. patrol. An explosive ordnance detonation team defused the IED without incident.

Acting on a tip received from a local Iraqi citizen, a raid was conducted by 4th Infantry Division soldiers against individuals suspected in mortar attacks on Coalition forces in Ba'qubah resulting in significant finds. Weapons confiscated in the raid included five 60 mm mortar rounds, three AK-47s, a number of loaded AK-47 magazines, a crate of 7.62 ammunition, one mortar sight, and grenade fuses. Five individuals were detained.

A weapons cache consisting of 50 120 mm mortar rounds was discovered in the Mosul area by 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers. An EOD team was called to dispose of the cache.

## Raids net results

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Former regime loyalist and weapons were seized in numerous successful raids and patrols conducted by Coalition forces throughout Iraq on August 2.

Raids conducted by the 4th Infantry Division resulted in 26 detainees including two suspected key mid-level former regime loyalists. Additionally, 162 hand grenades, 9 rocket-propelled grenades, 10 AK-47's, four blocks of dynamite one heavy machine gun, various ammunition and explosives, and 200 million Iraqi Dinar were seized.

Twenty former regime loyalists, including a targeted leader, were captured in a series of raids conducted by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Sunday.

In the last 24 hours, coalition forces conducted 22 raids, 836 day patrols and 605 night patrols and conducted 154 day patrols and 164 night patrols jointly with Iraqi police.

**Editor's note:** CENTCOM News information is taken from CENTCOM press releases.

# Shoppers give commissaries high grades

Rick Brink

DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — A steady rise in customer satisfaction continues as commissary shoppers gave high marks — a 4.42 overall score out of a possible 5.0 — in the latest commissary customer service survey, Defense Commissary Agency officials announced.

“We’re extremely pleased with the high regard our customers have for their com-

missaries and the commissary benefit,” said Bob Vitikacs, DeCA’s executive director for operations and product support.

“We know that it’s the whole shopping experience — clean, attractive stores, courteous employees, convenient hours, speedy checkouts — along with our great prices and quality products that keeps our customers coming back and attracts new customers.”

The results of the 2003 mid-year customer service survey, which was conducted

in April, mark a steady rise in customer satisfaction going back to 2000. In 2000, customers gave commissaries an overall score of 4.23. By 2001, the score had risen to 4.33, and by November 2002, the score had risen to 4.39.

The survey has been conducted annually since the agency’s inception in 1991, and survey frequency increased to twice a year in 2002. It tallies the responses to 14 questions from more than 20,000 commissary customers worldwide. The increased fre-

quency makes it easier for the agency to measure improvements and identify improvement opportunities.

The 2003 mid-year survey showed customer satisfaction rose slightly in each of the 14 targeted areas compared to the November 2002 survey. The greatest improvements since the last survey dealt with time and ease of shopping. “Checkout waiting time” improved from 4.39 to 4.46 while “Store layout and time required to shop” went from 4.39 to 4.45.

## Commissary Fast Facts

Kids Headed for School? Head for Your Commissary!

School bells will be ringing before you know it, and the age-old question returns: What do I put in my child’s school lunch? Not to worry. Your commissary has the answer.

If you are crunched for time each morning, a good choice would be Grab ‘n Go prepared sandwiches and other ready-to-eat items. Other popular foods associated with going back to school are fruit cups, breakfast bars, cheese snacks, snack packs, lunchables, vacuum-packaged drinks, salty snacks, cookies and pudding cups. And don’t overlook the produce department for those luscious apples, tangy oranges, juicy peaches, plums, grapes, crispy celery hearts, carrot sticks and other fruits and veggies for back to school or after school snacks. And when all else fails, rely on the old standby: peanut butter and jelly. Now,

does all of this ring a bell?

### Worldwide case lot sale

This huge sale will be the third annual “World’s Biggest Case Lot Sale” with most of your favorite products available by the case, all at rock-bottom prices. The actual sale dates will vary from commissary to commissary during the month of September so check the locations link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) for the dates and times at your commissary. Don’t miss this one! It’s a great opportunity to stock the family pantry.

### DeCA makes the grade

The Defense Commissary Agency has earned a B+ rating from the Department of Defense in its fiscal 2002 small business

contract awards. With small business contract awards totaling \$666.3 million from a total of \$4.5 billion in contract awards, the agency ranked fifth among 20 agencies in total dollars.

Only the Army and Defense Logistics Agency scored higher than a B+.

While some small business owners think they don’t stand a chance of being awarded a contract with the U.S. government, DeCA begs to differ. DeCA’s total small business award dollars increased from \$628.7 million in FY 01 to \$666.3 million in FY 02, representing significant increases in all types of socioeconomic categories.

### Healthy snacks at the commissary

Snacking sometimes gets a bad rap. Our “junk food” culture instills in many

people the idea that snacking is bad. In fact, if done wisely, snacking is the opportunity for our bodies to refuel in between meals.

A snack-savvy consumer will fill the pantry and refrigerator with these items from the commissary: cheese, nuts, cereal and granola, milk and yogurt, peanut butter and jelly, fresh fruits and vegetables, bread products including English muffins, frozen biscuits and bagels, and boxed gelatin.

For children, snacking can be not only nutritionally sound, but necessary. Children need to refuel their growing, active bodies many times throughout the day, and their small stomachs are suited for frequent, small portions. Check out what your commissary has to offer for all your snacking needs!

Visit DeCA on the web at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

## Nature has no allergies ...



## Keep yourself safe from the ones it gives you

Al Mitten

Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colo.

Have you heard of "hay fever"? It affects one in every five Americans. Millions of school days and work days are lost each year by people suffering from hay-fever symptoms. Lost productivity costing billions of dollars per year occurs because of allergic diseases. Although childhood hay fever tends to be more common, this condition can occur at any age and usually occurs after years of repeated exposure to allergic substances.

Hay fever is a misnomer. Early descriptions of sneezing, nasal congestion and eye irritation while harvesting field hay promoted this popular term. Many substances cause the allergic symptoms noted in hay fever and hay represents only a small percentage.

"Allergic rhinitis" is the correct term used to describe this allergic reaction. "Rhinitis" means irritation of the nose and is a derivative of "rhino" meaning nose. Allergic rhinitis can occur throughout the year. For example, fall is the time of year for weed allergies, such as tumbleweed and ragweed pollens. In the winter it may be caused by pet allergies.

Symptoms include nasal congestion, a clear runny mucus from the nose, sneezing, nose and eye itching, and teary eyes. There may also be general tiredness, inability to think straight and difficulty concentrating.

According to Dr. William Storms, a clinical professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center who has published more than 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals on asthma and allergy, there is no reason to suffer from allergy symptoms. The key to relieving symptoms is rapid recognition and treatment by your primary physician.

One way to treat the allergy is to avoid the allergen. This may be possible for people with pet allergies. It is less practical for those who are sensitive to pollens and molds.

Storms said most over-the-counter medications offer little, if any, temporary relief and in fact can make the allergic conditions worse. In fact, some of the over-the-counter medications cause drowsiness and decreased mental alertness and can render you unfit to drive a motor vehicle.

He recommends an early visit to your primary physician, who may prescribe either an intranasal steroid spray or a non-sedating antihistamine (neither of which will cause drowsiness).

With successful treatment of allergies, symptoms should improve. Any new or worsening symptoms should be reported to your physician. Failure to treat allergies early can predispose an individual to sinus infections and asthma.

*Adapted from the Fort Carson, Colo., Mountaineer*

# Ask the nurse: allergy vs. cold

Marsha Ladner

Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Ky.

**Q.** I have a cold quite often. It doesn't last very long, but I sneeze a lot and my eyes water. A friend told me I have allergies. What's the difference?

**A.** Allergies come in many forms. Hay fever is the most common allergy, with its symptoms of itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; a runny, stuffy or itchy nose; temporary loss of smell; headache; and tiredness. Dark circles under the eyes (allergic shiners) or postnasal drip may also accompany hay fever.

A child with allergies may snore, wake up with a sore throat, breathe through the mouth, and frequently rub the nose. Allergy symptoms are often like cold symptoms, but usually last longer.

The most common causes of allergies are particles in the air, such as pollen, dust mites, mold, mildew, or animal dander. Allergies seem to run in families. Parents with hay fever often have children with allergies. Hay fever usually develops in the early teens, but can occur at any age.

You can often discover the cause of an allergy by noting when symptoms occur. Symptoms that occur at the same time each year (especially during late spring, early summer or early fall) are often due to grass, weed or tree pollen.

Allergies that seem to persist all year long may be due to dust mites in household dust, mold spores or animal dander. Animal allergies are often easy to detect. Staying away from the animal clears up the symptoms.

There is no practical prevention for hay fever. Avoiding the substance that causes allergy attacks will help. If you can discover the source of your allergies, avoiding that substance is the best treatment. Keep a record of your symptoms and the plants, animals, foods or chemicals that seem to trigger them.

**If your symptoms are seasonal and seem to be related to pollen:**

- Keep the bedroom as dust-free as possible, since most of your time is spent there.
- Avoid carpeting, upholstered furniture, and heavy draperies that collect dust. Vacuuming doesn't pick up dust mites.
- Cover your mattress and box spring with plastic covers and wipe them clean weekly. Avoid wool or down blankets and feather pillows. Wash all bedding weekly in hot water.
- Consider using an air purifier with a special HEPA filter. Rent one before buying to see if it helps.

**If your symptoms are year-round and worsen during damp weather, they may be related to mold or mildew:**

- Keep the house well-ventilated and

dry. Keep the humidity below 50 percent. Use a dehumidifier during humid weather.

- Use an air-conditioner, which removes mold spores from the air. Change or clean heating and cooling system filters regularly.
- Clean bathroom and kitchen surfaces often with bleach to reduce mold growth.

**If you are allergic to a pet:**

- Keep the animal outside, or at least out of the bedroom.
- If your symptoms are severe, the best solution may be to get rid of the pet.

**General information on avoiding irritants includes:**

- Avoid yard work (raking, mowing), which stirs up pollen and mold. If you must do it, wear a mask and take an antihistamine beforehand.
- Avoid smoking and other people's smoke.
- Eliminate aerosol sprays, perfumes, room deodorizers, cleaning products, and other substances that may add to the problem.
- Antihistamines and decongestants may relieve some allergy symptoms. Use caution when taking these drugs and do not drive or operate heavy equipment.

*Reprinted from the Fort Knox Insider The Turret*

## Ask the dietitian:

## What happens when you overdose on vitamins?

1st Lt. Cheryl Chmielewski

General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

**Q.** Since having several consecutive illnesses, my mom, even though I am a grown woman now, insists on me taking a multivitamin, zinc supplement, vitamin C and echinacea every day, and I was already taking a huge calcium tablet! Is all of this necessary and does it really help the immune system?

**A.** This could have some benefit if you lacked vitamin C and zinc. The problem is many people think a pill, and especially a pill in megadoses, is the answer to all that ails us.

Not so!

Unless prescribed by a medical doctor, taking single-dose vitamins and minerals can be harmful. Our bodies are chemical works of art, and when we start throwing in this vitamin and that mineral, the chemical balance can be disturbed.

Another point to ponder is that most single-dose vitamins and minerals have more than 100 percent of the recommended daily allowances (RDA) for those vitamins or minerals. Rarely is there a need for more than 100 percent RDA unless a medically diagnosed condition exists.

In fact, taking more of certain vitamins or minerals than recommended can damage your health by causing your body to store toxic levels of what are normally good nutrients or by disrupting utilization of other nutrients.

Can you see how this can throw your body's chemical balance off kilter?

In your case, the single-dose vitamin C and zinc are probably greater than 100 percent RDA, but check your labels.

Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin that is usually excreted from the body even when taken in excessive levels.

However, some people may experience rashes and skin discomfort from vitamin C overdose.

On the other hand, too much zinc throws off the body's chemical balance and inhibits the absorption of copper, which could be followed by failure in iron absorption and lead to anemia. That whole cascade of events can result from just one little pill. Since zinc is a metal, if megadoses are taken continually, it could eventually damage the liver and kidneys.

Studies indicate that echinacea can be effective if taken at the first sign of a cold and discontinued as soon as symptoms fade. Echinacea should not be taken continuously because evidence shows prolonged use may actually depress the immune system.

Do not use echinacea if you have tuberculosis, autoimmune disorders, or allergic reactions to plants in the daisy family.

My advice is to discontinue use of the single-dose zinc and vitamin C, first because of health reasons but also to be kinder to your pocketbook. If you are eating an adequate variety of foods, remember that you get plenty of zinc and vitamin C right there.

Continue with the multivitamin, which will also contain zinc and vitamin C, but choose one that contains no more than 100 percent RDA of all vitamins and minerals.

If you wish to continue with echinacea, use sparingly and always with caution.

Relying on pills to feel better or to be superhuman may cause just the opposite result if those pills are taken inappropriately. If you have questions, please contact a health-care professional for advice.

*Reprinted from the Fort Leonard Wood Guidon*

## 3ID IN BRIEF

## Stewart

**Frank Cochran and Wilson**

The traffic signal at the above intersection was re-activated Tuesday.

Motorists are urged to exercise caution when approaching the intersection and be alert for the other driver.

**Main Gate**

Gate 1 has only one accessible inbound lane and one accessible out bound lane. All inbound traffic entering through Main Gate is routed to a new four-way stop located where General Stewart Way intersects with Memorial Drive and proceeds to General Screven Way.

Construction will be on-going during this period. To alleviate the traffic flow 4th Street Gate (Gate 2/Troupe Gate) is open.

**Army Family Action Plan**

Training for facilitators, recorders and issue support staff Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to noon at Club Stewart. Youth AFAP conference Sept. 6 at 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Club Stewart. Delegate training Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Stewart. AFAP conference Sept. 9, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fort Stewart. Contact Vicki Wiginton or Stacy Thompson at 767-5058 for more info.

**Family Assistance Center**

Army Community Service at Fort Stewart scaled back its Family Assistance Center hours of operation. New hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekends will be handled with an on call roster and phones forward-

ed to EOC.

**Childcare needed**

Military wives are needed to provide childcare in their homes. Free training and assistance offered through Youth Services' Family Childcare program. Why not consider this opportunity to make money?

For more information call 767-2311.

**Education Center hours**

The Main Education Center, Building 130, will continue with expanded hours due to the high demand for service. The 1st Brigade/Divarty Learning Center will return to regular business hours.

Computer access is available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

**Traffic Alert**

A new traffic signal is now at the intersection of DIVARTY and Wilson Ave. at 8 a.m., Tuesday. Motorists are urged to exercise caution when entering the above intersection and be alert for the other driver.

**DFAS**

Effective Aug. 11, a new version of WinIATS will be implemented. Unfortunately, a learning curve may slow down our turn around time for Travel TAT. Contact MSG Jones to make an appointment at 767-4679/5776 for assistance.

## Hunter

**Free BBQ and pool party**

This event is hosted by the American Red Cross at the Hunter pool 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday. For more information call 651-5314/5352.

**Welcome home/school sale**

The PX is serving cake, punch and give aways for visitors Saturday and Sunday for a welcome home and back to school sale.

**After-school program**

The Hunter Youth Center is now signing up students in the 6th grade level and higher for a free After-School Program. First through 5th graders may also sign up, however, space is limited. Those who are interested can register at Building 1286.

**Phatt Katz Comedy Show**

The Phatt Katz Comedy Run will present shows at the Hunter Club on Wednesday starting at 9:30 p.m. Performances will feature two comedians and one headliner.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations call 269-0277.

**Continuing education**

Family members, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen can continue their education during their relocation to Hunter Army Airfield, regardless of their specific unit, at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center, Building 1290. For more

information, call 352-6130.

Classrooms are also available for training and FRG meetings. For additional information about these locations, or the ACES program, call the Main Education Center at 352-6130.

**First Steps Program**

The First Steps Program needs volunteers. This is a program that provides information and support to expectant and new parents stationed at Hunter. Volunteers make home visits to expectant parents and provide a 12 month phone call follow up. Volunteers are paid mileage reimbursement and enjoy flexible hours. For more information, call 756-6516.

**Morning road closure**

N. Perimeter Road from the 117th Tactical Control Squadron to the Stephen Douglas Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6-7:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri. to support unit physical fitness programs. Ask your unit first sergeant or contact the Hunter Safety Office for Hunter's physical training policies at 352-5814.

**Bible study**

A weekly Bible study will be held in the building adjacent to the post chapel Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

**Burger King**

Burger King at Hunter PX will be closed on Aug. 4 for renovations and will re-open Sept. 20. During this time Burger King will operate from a portable grill in front of the PX.

## Winn Army Community Hospital

**TRICARE class**

Retirees and retiree dependants age 64 can attend the TRICARE Prime to TRICARE for Life class 9-11 a.m., Aug 20. at Hunter's Army Community Services building. TRICARE for Life begins on a retiree's 65th birthday. For more information, call 692-8724.

**3rd Thursday training**

Services at Winn and Tuttle will be limited today for staff training. Winn will be closed 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will offer emergency care only during that time. Tuttle will be closed 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Expectant Mothers Group**

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. Aug. 19 at Club Stewart. The group is open to all expectant mothers whose significant other is deployed. For more information, call 370-6779.

**Bereavement Support Group**

The next Bereavement Support Group meeting will be 7 to 8 p.m. Aug. 12 in the chapel. The group is open to beneficiaries who have lost a loved one. For more information, call 370-6661.

**Exceptional family member**

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m. Aug. 28 in Patriot Auditorium.

Meet other families and learn about other community support services. For more information, call 370-6505.

**"Take Care of Yourself" class**

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes will be 2-3 p.m. Aug. 13 at

Winn and 10-11 a.m. Aug. 27 at Tuttle. 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 the Winn class, call 370-5071. To register for the Tuttle class, call 368-3048.

**Tuttle Army Health Clinic**

Tuttle's full-service screening is available by appointment only. The one-time appointment will walk the child through each required clinic. Appointments are held from 12:15 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until August 15.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-652-9221.

**Preventive Medicine**

The Department of Preventive Medicine has relocated to buildings PB473 and PB474, across from Army Community Service. For more information, call 370-5085.

**Coping Support Groups**

The Coping Support Group is for adults having difficulty dealing with the stress in their life. The group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday. The Coping Support Group for Children meets 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday for children ages 6 to 9 and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for children ages 10 to 13.

For more information, call 370-6100.

**Physical Exam Clinic**

The clinic has been relocated to Soldier Family Health Clinic #2, Building 612, 767-7750.

## Baghdad tourism school graduates first class since war

**Spc. Ryan Smith**

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Part of making Baghdad a prosperous civic center, where international business and tourism can thrive, requires that the hotel and tourism industry in the city be run by people who are knowledgeable and experienced.

For the first time since the war in Iraq, the Baghdad Institute for Tourism and Hotel offered a graduating class to the country's travel industry. The vocational school held a commencement ceremony on its grounds in Baghdad August 2.

Soldiers from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn, restored the institute after the war thanks to efforts. A detachment from the 411th runs the Civil Military Operations Center located behind the school.

The school building was heavily damaged by looting after the war, said Maj. Ralph Roper Jr. 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, director of the Tissa Nissan CMOC. "The air-conditioners and furniture were taken and the equipment inside was destroyed," he said.

However, the school has been mostly restored, and classes resumed there recently. This year's class graduated before an audience

of military representatives and other dignitaries, including Col. Bradley May, commander of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Ambassador Pietro Cardone, the Italian ambassador to Iraq and senior adviser to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture.

Speaking to the audience of graduates, soldiers and other guests, May said he was proud of the soldiers who helped restore the school and of the soldiers who provided security for the area, as well as of the graduates for completing their studies.

The 2nd ACR is working to provide a secure environment in their area of responsibility in Iraq so that institutions such as the tourism

school can improve the quality of life for people in Iraq, May said. "It's important for the Iraqi people to get their lives back in order."

"This is the future of Iraq," Roper said. "Tourism is one of the things that will determine how successful Iraq will be because it brings a great deal of revenue in to the economy."

The tourism industry will also allow people around the world the opportunity to see the thousands of years of history and unique culture in Iraq.

"We've done a lot here, but we still have a lot more to do," Roper said. "Working together with the Iraqis, we're going to be successful."

# Open window will give captains new career options

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When a transportation officer was told that after working 14 years in his field that he was going to have to take a different career path he was not surprised or upset.

"I asked for it," said Maj. Dennis McCallum, a force management officer.

Now a 90-day window is open to give 27,000 captains the chance to ask for their second career field. Junior captains in the 1998 year group have from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 to submit their preference [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil), the Army Knowledge Online Web site.

For the first time, the officers can choose their branch career field, which was assigned to them after they were commissioned into the Army.

If you don't make a selection, that doesn't mean that you're

choosing to stay in your branch career field, said Maj. Jason Lerner, the chief of Military Schools Section at the Total U.S. Army Personnel Command. No selection means that you don't have a preference, and can be assigned based on Army requirements.

Most officers never work in the second field that they opted for, Lerner said.

"However, it's a decision that shouldn't be taken lightly," McCallum said. "If they're only looking ahead four to five years, they're off target. Considering factors in making the decision should be experience, background and where they want to be in future."

McCallum said he's very content in his current field. He manages equipment and makes sure that soldiers get what they need to do their job. While mentioning peers of his that are unhappy with their career-move decision, he shook his head.

"They're still in those jobs," he said.

The decision to choose a second career path is given to junior captains after five or six years of service. It's referred to as functional area designators that are technical or skill-based jobs such as public affairs, foreign area and nuclear research operations.

Lerner will continuously keep track of how many captains have submitted a functional area preference. Any officer who does not comply should expect a phone call or e-mail message from his branch manager, Lerner added.

By placing constant reminders in their ears, more captains are taking the time to choose their top three functional area designators.

We tried this approach last year and the return rate was 90 percent — previous years were extremely lower, Lerner said.

More information on the Army's 18 functional area designators and step-by-step instructions on how to submit preferences can be found on the PERSCOM homepage at [https://www.perscom.army.mil/opfamdd/FAD\\_Upcoming\\_Boards.htm](https://www.perscom.army.mil/opfamdd/FAD_Upcoming_Boards.htm).

## POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old male
- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds
- **Location:** Hinesville, Ga.
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 20-year-old male
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, larceny of private funds, forgery, larceny of private property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 75/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 38-year-old female
- **Charges:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 36-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Simple assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** 1st Lieutenant, 25-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Smuggling automatic weapons, larceny of private property, depositing prohibited matter in U.S. Mail, conspiracy
- **Location:** Iraq
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 30-year-old male
- **Charges:** Indecent assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** 2nd Lieutenant, 24-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** 2nd Lieutenant, 33-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Larceny of NAF property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male
- **Charges:** Possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 27-year-old female
- **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old female, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds, fraud
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 35-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Hunter
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding
- **Location:** Savannah, Ga.
  
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville, Ga.
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Reckless driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 45-year-old female
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old female, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Following too close
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 22-year-old female
- **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way, no insurance
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license revoked
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 30-year-old female, Division Support Battalion
- **Charges:** Self injury without intent to avoid service
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 34-year-old male
- **Charges:** Assaulting and resisting certain officers and employees
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Criminal trespass
- **Location:** Savannah, Ga.
  
- **Subject:** Family member, 20-year-old male
- **Charges:** Attempted burglary, underage consumption of alcohol
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Careless or reckless driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, failure to maintain control of vehicle
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 41-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 40-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 74/55, no license, obstruction of law enforcement officer
- **Location:** Liberty County, Ga.
  
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Civilian, 24-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Speeding 79/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
  
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Safety restraint violation, driving under the influence, possession of alcoholic beverage while operating a vehicle
- **Location:** Savannah, Ga.

it's always someone else's baby until it's yours.



**immunize**

1 out of 4 babies is not fully immunized. your child could get a deadly disease. get all your baby's shots before age two.

1 800 232 2522



How can you help protect the desert and the dolphins?

Simple. Ask your employer about Earth Share. The workplace giving program that brings the leading environmental groups under one umbrella. And over 90% of Earth Share contributions go directly to the groups. To learn more please visit our website at [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org).

One environment. One simple way to care for it.

**Earth Share**

# Monument to recognize fallen soldiers

**Spc. Casandra Bolton**  
372nd MPAD

The Hinesville Military Affairs Coordinating Committee is sponsoring a memorial addition to Marne Gardens for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Donations are being accepted to help with

the funding of the memorial.

"Anyone wishing to make a donation can make their checks out to the 'City of Hinesville, Military Affairs Coordinating Committee,'" said David Anderson, chairman of Military Affairs Committee.

The address that donations can be mailed to is 115 M. L. King Dr., Hinesville, GA, 31313.

"Col. (Edwin) Marrero and our Mayor Thomas Ratcliffe had talked about the idea of the memorial," Anderson said.

"At our last meeting, Col. Marrero was present and he presented the plan to the committee," he said.

After the plan was presented, the committee voted and accepted the challenge of sponsoring

the Operation Iraqi Freedom memorial monument.

The addition to Marne Gardens is going to add another walkway that leads up to a memorial to honor the soldiers who fought in the war.

"It is important that we remember those who gave their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom," Anderson said.



## Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Monument Fund

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

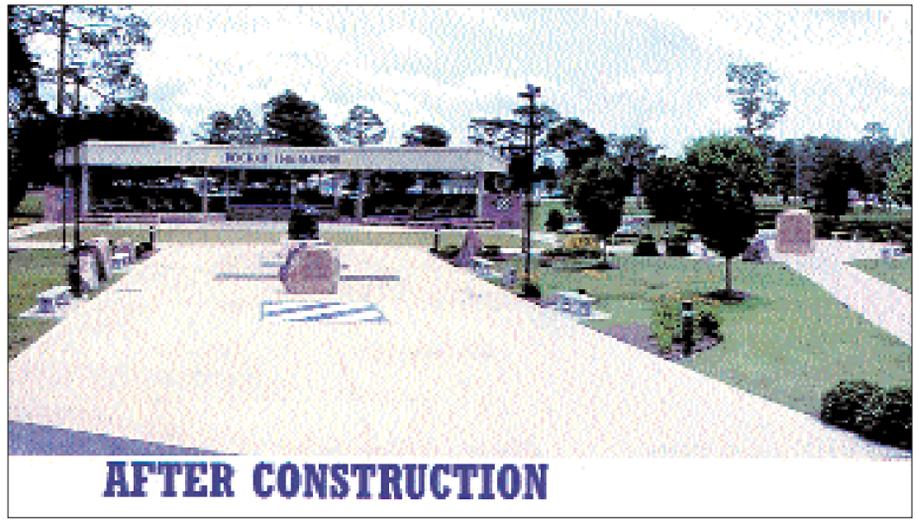
**Organization/unit** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

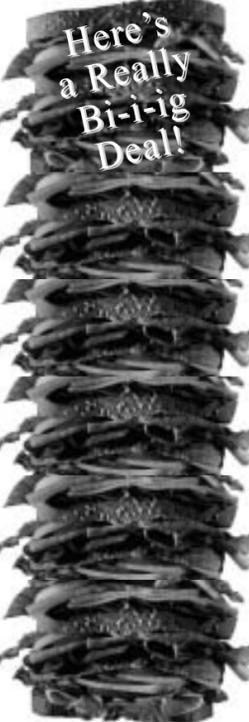
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

I give the OIF Memorial Monument Committee and the Hinesville Military Affairs Coordinating Committee permission to publish my name in any print, broadcast or online publication.

Make your tax deductible donation check or money order payable to:  
City of Hinesville  
Military Affairs Coordinating Committee  
Mail to:  
115 East ML King Drive  
Hinesville, GA 31313



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# LIFE & TIMES

B SECTION

## On Post

### Officer's Spouses Club

On Aug. 12 you are cordially invited to the Fall Sign-Up. This event will be held from 7 to 9 pm at Club Stewart. The evening will consist of good information, great food, and fellowship among the OSC and local vendors. Tables available for private vendors, military and non-military organizations.

For more information, call Kara Collins, 368-4048 or Lisa Wilson, 369-3341.

### International Day Slated

Army Community Services is looking for volunteers to participate in this year's International Day Celebration slated Sept. 15. Participants may present information, displays and entertainment depicting their heritage, culture and history at the celebration.

For more information contact Linda McKnight or Ethel Jemison at 767-5058.

### Swimming lessons

Classes are open to military adults and children, DoD civilians, retirees, National Guardsmen and Army Reservists.

The two-week sessions will be held at Corkan Gym and Bryan Village Pool in July. The cost is \$25 for youth and adults, \$15 for infants and toddlers.

Call 767-2312 to sign up for swimming lessons.

### CYS Central Registration

The CYS Central Registration, Building 443 will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday by appointment only; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only and all day Wednesday for walk-in.

Pick up records from your child's program (SAS, CDC, FCC and YS) prior to update.

For more information, call 767-2312.

### Framing Class

Learn to professionally mat and frame your treasures and personal prints.

Free classes are open to the public.

Pre-registration is required to order necessary supplies.

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until finished.

New mats and moldings available on special order. Prints available at great prices. Special introductory demonstrations and classes available for all types of groups — FRG, church groups, OSC, ESC and BOSS.

For more information, call RoseMary at 767-8609.

## Off Post

### Coastal Hospice

Volunteers needed patient care, office assistance, special events, public information and bereavement care. Please contact Jillian Bradshaw, Community Relations Director at 876-5220 or toll free at 877-876-5221.

### Summerfest 2003

On August 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Chamber is seeking participants for the BBQ cookoff, and food and craft vendors. Squeal about the summer fest to all your friends!

Cash and prize for best barbecue, great food, live entertainment and kids games. There will also be a 5K road race/fun run and walk. The race is at 9 a.m. and the fun run/walk is at 8:30 a.m. For details, contact the Chamber at 368-4445.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.

# New PX offers big variety

## Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer, 372nd MPAD

Ask yourself. Is a lunch hour too short to purchase new battle dress uniforms, get a haircut and have lunch? Well, not when the new Post Exchange opens.

So fret no more.

At the new PX, everything can be accomplished in one easy stop. Military Clothing and Sales will be moving into the new complex as well as alterations and dry cleaning, according to Floyd Wynn, General

manager of Army Air Force Exchange at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Wynn is one of the many people who are making sure that the new PX is fully stocked and ready to serve the soldiers.

The new store will have

twice as much as the first PX has according to Wynn.

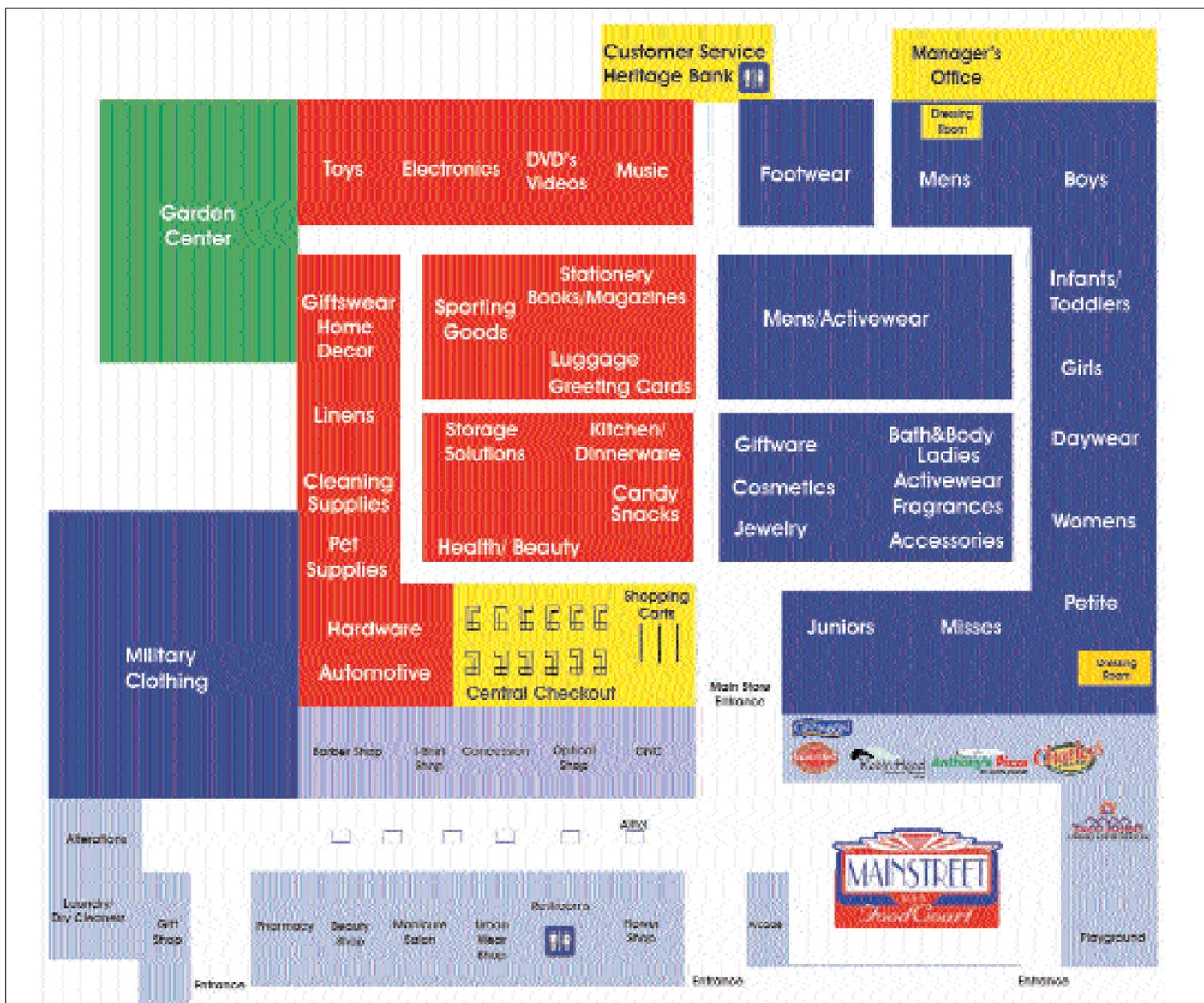
The new Post Exchange building is twice the size of the old building. The actual size of the building is 63,000 square feet.

They are offering everything from automobile

accessories to an expanded garden center.

There will be more clothing for everyone according to Wynn. There will be a better variety as well as bigger

See PX, Page 3B



AAFES Photo

The new AAFES Post Exchange will offer a variety of different stores to suit people of all different ages. The grand opening is slated for Sept. 12.

# Army marching forward to change

## Nancy Gould

DCAS Marketing

The Directorate of Community Activities and Army Community Service will sponsor the annual Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference at Fort Stewart, Sept. 9, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Club Stewart, building 405. The Youth AFAP will be held at ACS, building 470, on Sept. 6, at 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Training for conference delegates is sched-

uled Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Stewart, and for facilitators, recorders and issue support staff, Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to noon at Club Stewart. An open AFAP forum is scheduled at Hunter, on Aug. 12, 9 a.m. to noon, to collect issues and concerns for the conference from the HAAF community.

Those who wish to voice issues at the conference as a delegate must contact Vicki Wiginton, AFAP program manager at 912-767-5058 or 5059, or Stacy Thompson, 912-767-5058 to complete an application.

Delegates are drawn from seven work groups—Medical/Dental/Tricare; Force Support; Entitlements/Benefits; Family Support; Education/Youth; Employment; and Retirement and consist of single soldiers, junior enlisted soldiers, non-commissioned officers, officers, dual military soldiers, National Guard/Reserve, family members, youth, military retirees and their families, and civilian employees.

This year's theme, AFAP – The Total Army

See Changes, Page 3B

# Conference to vote on issues in Army life

## Nancy Gould

DCAS Marketing

Kathy Jones is passionate about the Army Family Action Plan, AFAP, and the "say" it gives soldiers and their families about military life at the annual conference each year.

"Most people think it's too good to be true," said Jones, the spouse of an active duty soldier, mother of three and community volunteer. For the last several years Jones has volunteered her time to Army Community Service's annual AFAP program because she likes how it gives soldiers and their families a way to "fix" areas of military life that don't work. But prior to the

conference each year when Jones begins talking about the program and trying to get her friends involved, she finds most don't share her excitement or interest. Their hesitation to attend the conference and voice complaints and valid concerns puzzle her since they discuss them freely with each other.

"I tell them things can change when they speak up about what's wrong to the right people," Jones said, adding, she's seen that happen at the installation level, at Army Forces Command and Department of the Army levels with issues that require guidance up the chain of command. She acquired that first-hand experience as she

watched issues get elevated up the ladder to those levels in years past when she worked as a delegate and facilitator at conferences at those locations.

Jones also reassures her peers that there's no rank at the conferences—that it's truly an open and equal forum.

"If someone does attend in uniform, they're required to cover up their rank with tape," she added. Delegates conscientiously address and work to resolve all the issues at the installation level—the lowest level they're brought to the table. Jones said Fort Stewart is especially conscientious in resolving those issues and

See AFAP, Page 3B

### AFAP Facts

- AFAP was the brainchild of Army spouses.
- Each AFAP success story originated as an idea that someone decided to pursue.
- The Army is the only branch of DOD that has such a program.
- Almost 500 issues have entered the AFAP in its 17-year history, at the national level.
- Many AFAP improvements impact quality of life for all services.

AFAP is year-round. Issues are continually being monitored and worked toward resolution at local levels, MACOMs, and HQDA.

### Upcoming AFAP Dates to Remember

- August 12, 9 a.m., HAAF - Open forum to collect military issues/concerns
- August 21, 9 a.m. to Noon, Club Stewart - Training for facilitators/recorders/issue support staff
- September 6, 8:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Club Stewart - Youth AFAP conference
- September 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Club Stewart - Delegate training
- September 9, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m., Club Stewart - AFAP conference

With fun, games ...

# Hunter youth prepare for homecoming



Children at Hunter Army Airfield got an opportunity to get ready for their deployed parents' imminent return at Hunter's Army Community Service building July 31.

Joyce Cassino, a family childcare outreach worker at ACS, said the get-together was a chance "to help children prepare for and get comfortable with their parents' return home through fun activities."

One of the activities planned involved the kids painting small flowerpots (generously donated by the Home Depot, said Cassino) and planting a flower that they would be able to take care of with their returning parent.

"It's something they can do as a family, to watch the flowers grow together," said Cassino.

About 45 kids and their families were expected to attend the event, and those who did had no qualms with exercising their bragging rights about their own personal hero.

"He just made his E-7," said Jackie Washington about her hus-

band, Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Washington. "We love him very much, and we can't wait for him to come home."

Jackie's daughter Tiffany, 13, was busily helping some of the smaller children with their crafts while her older brother Tyrone helped put on a puppet show for the kids.

"When (my dad) comes back," Tyrone said, "I'm going to beat him in basketball ... I love him and miss him ... and I can't wait to drive his car!"

Cassino said another volunteer, Carmil Torres, "spearheaded this activity," and organized with families to make a huge "Welcome Home" banner that hung on the wall inside the ACS building.

All the kids attending were energetically involved in different activities such as coloring pictures, blowing bubbles, painting the flowerpots, or just enjoying one another's company.

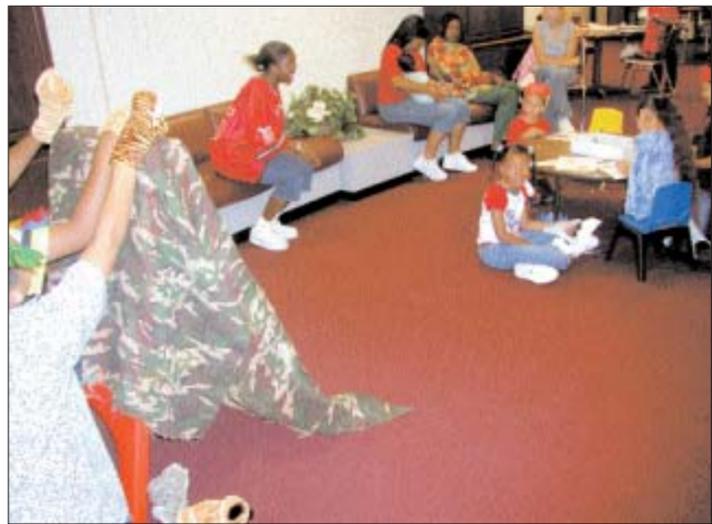
One thought, however, seemed to be shared by all:

"I can't wait for them to come home!"



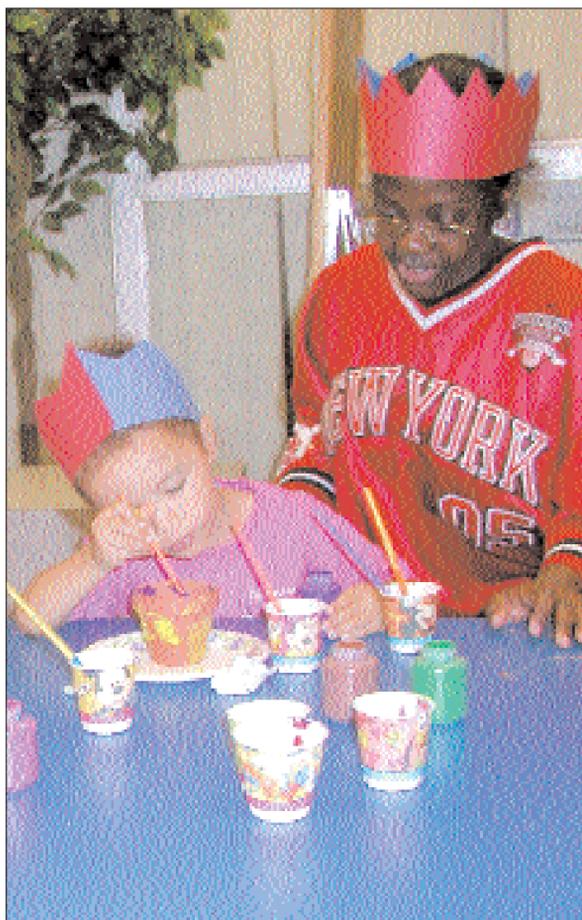
(Above) Hunter children with the coordination of Hunter spouse Carmil Torres made a welcome home banner that hangs prominently in the ACS building.

(Below) Teen volunteers entertain the youngsters with a free puppet show.



Photos by Pfc. Emily Danial

Children chase bubbles at the Hunter ACS building July 31 as they prepare for their parent's homecoming.



(Above) Children color pictures for their deployed parents at the Child Reunion Games. (Left) Tiffany Jackson, 13, watches as Camil Torres, 3, paints flowerpots.

# Adults, children 'celebrate being a kid'

**Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**

Staff Writer

Mothers have a day to celebrate being mothers. Fathers have their day too. Even grandparents and secretaries have a day. Kids across America wanted a day to celebrate and be appreciated for being kids. They got their wish. Last year the Boys and Girls Club of America set aside every first Sunday in August as the official Kid's Day.

The 2nd Annual Kid's Day sponsored by the Directorate of Community Activities and Services was held Saturday, between 1 and 4 p.m. at the Bryan Village Youth Center.

"The official Kid's Day is the first Sunday in August, but since nobody wants to do anything on Sunday, most of the activities are on Saturday," said Stiles.

Activities included, a cakewalk, duck pond, ring toss, arts and crafts such as picture frame making, face painting, and a two on two-basketball competition. Free t-shirts were given away to everyone who participated in

the tournament.

"We had a very good turnout. According to the sign up roster 210 adults and children attended," said Ollie Robinson, a program assistant for the Youth Center who operated the front gate.

Everyone who signed in received a raffle ticket. Prizes were given away every 20 minutes, including two \$20 and \$25 gift certificates from AAFES, and a \$100 gift certificate from Wal-Mart.

McDonalds provided free hamburgers and Krispy Kreme provided free doughnuts. Free chips and drinks were also available.

Entertainment consisted of a dance troupe from The Faithful Temple in Hinesville who performed a few numbers, and a youth star search that turned into an all out karaoke competition between the contestants and the crowd.

"Everyone seemed relaxed and was just walking around enjoying themselves," said Robinson. "Luckily the rain didn't come until after everything was over."

## AFAP

from page 1A

Marching Forward to Change – derives meaning from the work accomplished at yearly conferences. Those who attend the conference raise issues and discuss the concerns about Army life submitted previously to them by single and married soldiers, retirees, family members, dependent youth, members of the Reserve component and Department of the Army civilians. The delegates work to resolve these issues at the local conference and decide which ones should be submitted up the chain of command to senior officials for resolu-

tion.

According to Wiginton, Army leaders developed AFAP because they recognized the importance of addressing and resolving day-to-day problems in producing a satisfied, productive Army workforce.

The 112 delegates who attended the DA AFAP conference last year evaluated 146 issues and recommended 23 for entry into the AFAP. They voted for the "Top Four Most Valuable Services," the "Top Five Conference Issues," and the "Top Six Critical Active Issues."

In the 19-year history of AFAP, 77 new pieces of legislation have been passed, 126 new or revised Army policies passed and 139 new or improved programs or services updated or created.

If you have an Army issue you wish discussed at the AFAP conference, complete and clip the form below and return to ACS, building 470 at Fort Stewart or at HAAF, ACS, building 1286.

Please print your issue, scope and recommendation clearly. Up to three recommendations can be submitted for each issue.

### 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.

## PX

from page 1A

quantity.

The construction for the new complex began last February. The grand opening is slated for 9 a.m. Sept. 12. There will be a grand opening special with door busters. There will be a ribbon cutting, followed by a concert and of course, plenty of shopping.

"Our focus is to welcome home 3ID," said Wynn. "While you were out fighting for our country, we were building you a new store."

The bigger store will help to eliminate having to go to several different

places to get shopping done.

It is basically a place where one stop shopping can be achieved according to Wynn. The new store will have a Cinnabon, Charlie's Steakery, Taco John, and of course the AAFES in house Robin Hood and Anthony's Pizza. Inside the mall, or the general area of the entrance, there will be an urban store, military clothing sales and an alterations shop that will tailor to the soldiers and family members.

"We will have a lot more to offer," said Wynn.

The current staff, with approximately 420 workers, is compiled of AAFES employees from different bases, not just Fort Stewart.

"We look forward to everyone being here on Sept. 12," said Wynn.

The shelves are presently being stocked quicker than you can say "AAFES." The staff that is working on the new PX are energetic and high-spirited.

The old PX will be transformed into a furniture store and will be the largest AAFES furniture store in the continental United States.



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Debi Herron, Fort Stewart PX cashier, helps to stock shelves in the new exchange.

## Changes

from page 1A

sends them to agencies or people who can fix them, even one as simple as a complaint about a pothole on a certain street that needs to be repaired.

Tougher issues are sent to FORCOM and if they're not resolved there – to DA.

So far this year, ACS has received few conference delegate applications compared to last year when 70 delegates attended the conference, according to Vickie Wiginton, AFAP program manager.

If you want to make your voice heard and

raise an issue (along with a recommendation for resolution) that you want addressed at the conference, or if you want an application to become a delegate, call Wiginton at 912-767-5058 or 5059.

Keep in mind that your voice can make a difference- in the 19-year history of the national level AFAP, 77 new pieces of legislation have been passed, 126 new or revised Army policies passed and 139 new or improved programs or services updated or created.

— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER —

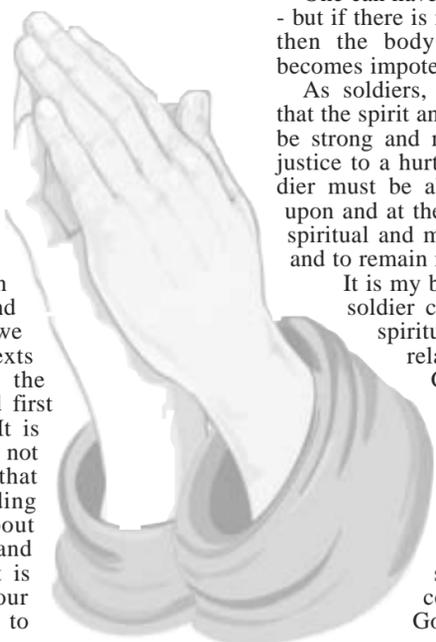
# The Kingdom of God is within you

**Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Craig**

1/39th FA Chaplain

There are many who look to the heavens for the Kingdom of God. The hope is that there will be a final end to suffering and hurt — evil and treachery.

However, in both the Old and New Testaments we find that the texts teach us that the Kingdom of God first lies within us. It is from within, and not from without, that our understanding and wisdom about how to live and thrive begins. It is from within our minds and hearts to



which gives us the motivational and psychological strength to endure to the end.

One can have all the brawn in the world - but if there is no inner peace and resolve then the body grows weak and spirit becomes impotent.

As soldiers, we must first understand that the spirit and mind of the soldier must be strong and resolved in order to bring justice to a hurting nation/state. The soldier must be able to strike when called upon and at the same time must have the spiritual and mindful strength to restrain and to remain moral in combat.

It is my belief and contention that a soldier can only have this kind of spiritual knowledge through a relationship with God. For

God made us each perfectly and will, in the end, hold all of us accountable for our stewardship of His creation.

May God watch over our soldiers and families and may we all seek the strength that ultimately comes from the Kingdom of God within us all.



## Pet of the Week

**E**lektra is a 12-week-old female, brown and white boxer mixed puppy. As you can see, she is playful and will warm the heart of anyone she contacts.

If considering adopting Pebbles or another pet, please contact the Fort Stewart Veterenary Clinic, located on W. Bultman Ave.

## Worship Opportunities

### Fort Stewart

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Victory	7 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.
<u>Protestant</u>		
Sunday "Protestant Worship"	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.
<u>American Samoan</u>		
Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
<u>Jewish</u>		
Friday Shabbos Service	Marne	6 p.m.
<u>Muslim</u>		
Friday Jum'ah	Bldg. 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Bldg. 9182	5:30 a.m.
<u>Seventh Day Adventist</u>		
Saturday Sabbath School	Vale	9:15 a.m.
Saturday Divine Worship	Vale	11 a.m.
<u>Lutheran</u>		
Sunday Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
<u>Contemporary Service</u>		
Sunday Worship	Marne	6 p.m.

### Hunter Army Airfield

<u>Protestant</u>		
Sunday Service	Post Chapel	11 a.m.

# Volunteer Spotlight



Debra Vukovich

Debra is a high school summer volunteer at the Public Affairs Office on Fort Stewart. This is her second year at PAO and when asked how she became interested in volunteering she replied "the first year my mother strongly suggested I volunteer, but this year it was my idea. I've learned how PAO works and how the newspaper is run and I also got to see how Marne TV is operated. I have gained experience in preparation for obtaining a job and met several friendly and helpful people".

If you would like more information about becoming an ACS volunteer, visit ACS at Building 470 on Fort Stewart, Building 1286 on Hunter Army Airfield or for more information, call Vickie Wiginton at 767-5058.



# WOODRUFF THEATER

Aug 07 — Aug 13

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

General admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.

**\$1 Showings**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**

## Justin to Kelly (PG)

Starring: Kelly Clarkson, Justin Guarini  
Tonight

Three young girls from Texas and a trio of college boys find adventure in Miami during spring break.  
Run time: 82 minutes

## 28 Days Later (R)

Starring: Cilliam Murphy, Naomi Harris  
Friday and Wednesday

A group of people in London turn into zombie-like creatures by being exposed to a virus that has wiped out most of the Earth's population. The virus was unleashed accidentally by an animal rights group.  
Run time: 113 minutes

## Charlie's Angels:

### Full Throttle (PG-13)

Starring: Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore  
Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

The sequel reunites the captivating trio as the indomitable crime fighting heroines. Once again they demonstrate their expertise in espionage, martial arts and disguise.  
Run time: 106 minutes



## Birth announcements

July 21

**Amy Darrellyn Hill**, a girl, 8 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Sgt. Darrell Allen Hill and Calissa Ann Hill.

July 22

**Kasey Lynn Martinez**, a girl, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Donald Lee Martinez and Mi J. Martinez.

July 23

**Deontaye Jamone Gregory**, a boy, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Sgt. Sh'Voda Maurice Gregory and LaToya Renee Gregory.

**Cheyenne Faith Humphrey**, a girl, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. Jonathan M. Humphrey and Silke Humphrey.

**Cameron Mashak**, a boy, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. Cyrus Hamilton Mashak and Michelle Anne Mashak.

July 24

**Zoie Makahla Fleenor**, a girl, 6 pounds, 5 ounces, born to



Spc. Gary D. Fleenor and Tabatha Nicole Fleenor.

**Julia Chambless Thompson**, a girl, 9 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Spc. Matthew K. Thompson and Paige Thompson.

**Keontae Kyheem Middleton**, a boy, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Sgt. Tammy Middleton.

**Hailey Alexis Gray**, a girl, 6 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Capt. Nathan M. Gray and J. Renee Gray.

July 25

**Tobias Tramell Huston Jr.**, a boy, 6 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Spc. Tobias T. Huston and Jareese Bea-Anna Huston.

**Joel Daniel Ryals II**, a boy, 5 pounds,

15 ounces, and Jonathan Dale Ryals, a boy, 6 pounds, born to 1st Lt. Joel Daniel Ryals and Candie Dianne Ryals.

July 26

**Kaithlyn Ashley Gorman**, a girl, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, born to John Michael Gorman and Staff Sgt. Julie Ann Gorman.

**Myschia Sherlon Byrd**, a girl, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Charles W. Byrd and Sgt. Linda L. Byrd.

**Janavya Lasha Johnson**, a girl, 6 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Spc. Cecil Johnson Jr., and Spc. LaJessica Johnson.

**David De Wayne Owens Jr.**, 6 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Spc. David D. Owens Sr., and Julie A. Owens.

**Joleigh Annah Crockett**, a girl, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Spc. Elijah Andrew Crockett and Jessica Marie Crockett.

**Kara Lyn Grace Lott**, a girl, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Spc. Jarrid Lott and Sheri Lott.

July 28

**Emma Nicole Moody**, a girl, 9 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Staff Sgt. James J. Moody and Michelle Moody.