

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

Marne Six Sends

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.

3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Its hard for me to describe how extremely proud I am to be here with the Soldiers, civilians and families of this great division and installation.

At our commander's conference I discussed my command philosophy with the senior leadership teams of the division. I want all of you at your level to remain focused at all times on **MISSION, SOLDIERS AND TEAMWORK.**

MISSION accomplishment for the nation is why we are here. Fighting wars; enforcing a shaky peace somewhere; protecting our nation's interests; relieving suffering; staying trained, ready and relevant. All are actual or potential missions for us. We must anticipate, stay on our toes, and be prepared for any and all missions we get, large or small. We must be prepared for multiple missions, simultaneously, and failure is not an option. We will receive many missions and must prioritize to get them done right.

Next week... SOLDIERS the heart and soul of the DIVISION TEAM.

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'No segregation in treatment'

Command addresses Reserve, Guard barracks, medical care

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Staff Writer

Many of the mobilized Reservists and National Guard Soldiers on a medical hold status have made their voices heard about the medical treatment they have received on active duty and the barracks they live in.

There are 740 Soldiers in the Medical Hold Battalion here, of which 633 have a medical condition. Some of the Soldiers have claimed that they are not getting the proper treatment or are put at the bottom of the list for treatment.

Pfc. Matthew Conner, 122nd Engineer Battalion, a South Carolina National Guard unit, said he and a staff sergeant were talking about the order of precedence for

medical care, in which the National Guard and Reserve come last.

Although the perception among many of the Reserve and Guard Soldiers is of this hierarchy, Col. John M. Kidd, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, said, "The Army provides all of its Soldiers the best medical care available. Every Soldier is given equal access to the full spectrum of health care.

"There is no segregation in treatment or the way we deal with Soldiers on this post. There is no priority given to active, National Guard or Reserve Soldiers — sick or injured Soldiers are sick or injured Soldiers," Kidd said.

Spc. Timothy Smith, who works in the Orthopedic Clinic and is a medical hold himself, said he feels

all of the doctors take their code seriously.

He added, "I know the providers are double and triple booked but they are doing the best they can."

"We provide first class medical care to all of our Soldiers and they deserve and receive equal care," said Col. Joe Barthel, Winn Army Community Hospital commander. "If they have issues, we have dedicated medical staff to meet their needs. It's a total team effort between the medical hold battalion and the medical staff to provide care."

According to Barthel the medical care that the Army provides exceeds the private sector because the military is able to take

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Sgt. Raymond Piper

Col. Joe Barthel, Winn commander addresses the press Monday.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

A 1/64 Armor tank fires the 50 caliber machine gun during Tank Table VIII Tuesday. The Rogue Gunnery Pilot Program adds new scenarios to Tank Table VIII that incorporate lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Desert Rogues begin pilot program

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Staff Writer

The battlefield is constantly changing and training has to change with it to better prepare soldiers for future battles. The possibility still remains for two countries to roll onto the battlefield and fight it out like two prizefighters, but as coalition forces learned in Operation Iraqi Freedom, unconventional warfare is a way to sidestep an army's technological advantage.

"The Army has maintained the ability to fight a conventional war, with waves of enemy troops our soldiers. We need to adapt to our training to prepare our soldiers for unconventional war, such as the situations found currently in Iraq and our experiences

during the attacks into Baghdad in early April," said Maj. Daniel Cormier, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor operations officer.

1/64's "Rogue Gunnery Pilot Program" has taken the philosophy of adaptation one step forward by launching a proposal to modify Tank Table VIII so it includes the lessons learned during OIF. Crews from 1/64 tested the modifications while at Red Cloud Alpha qualifying on Tank Table VIII this past week.

Some of the goals of the modifications are to increase free thinking and initiative of tank commanders and crews, increase the number of short range engagements with multiple targets and increase the length of time between targets to force constant scanning, according to Cormier.

"We wanted to test our proposals to modi-

fy Tank Table VIII with four to six crews to see if our ideas made sense," Cormier said.

He continued, "The emphasis on the engagement changes on integrating the loader into the crew qualification training. This allows the TC to also coordinate fire with the loader to allow the tank crew multiple options to service a robust target package in close combat conditions."

Some of the pilot engagements will have two sets of troops pop up with the intent of the loader shooting at one target and the TC shooting at another simultaneously.

"The loader has to start shooting right away. If you don't get your loader involved, you won't be able to qualify," Cormier said.

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3rd FSB awards extraordinary Soldiers for OIF

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

An award ceremony was held for 300 Soldiers from the 3rd Forward Support Battalion Oct. 16 at Club Stewart.

Soldiers received Bronze Star Medals with valor, Bronze Star Medals, Army Commendation Medals with valor, Army Commendation Medals and Army Achievement Medals. Five purple hearts were also presented to Soldiers wounded in action.

These awards were presented to recognize the great heroes of the "ready-to-roll" battalion for their efforts during Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Lt. Col. Bobby A. Towery, 3rd FSB commander.

"We also recognized family support groups and rear detachments here at Fort Stewart, for they were just as important to the war effort," Towery said.

During the war, the 3rd FSB was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team and was responsi-

ble for providing all the food, fuel, medical support and transportation to the 1st BCT.

Col. Brian R. Layer, Division Support Command commander pinned medals on soldiers during the ceremony.

One of the many heroes pinned, Maj. James D. Arnold, senior physician assistant for the Raider Combat Team, who is assigned to the 3rd FSB, was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal recipient.

"All the men and women here today performed brilliantly and fought bravely, and I was just unfortunate to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," Arnold said.

"It's important to recognize soldiers for their performances and sacrifices," Towery said. "This battalion truly personifies the warrior spirit," he added.

The 3rd FSB arrived back to Fort Stewart Aug. 7. "The best part of coming home was walking across the field with the whole Fort Stewart community there, which brought closure to the combat operation," Towery said.



Spc. Robert Adams

Col. Brian R. Layer, DISCOM commander (right), pins a purple heart and Bronze Star Medal on Maj. James D. Arnold during the 3rd FSB award ceremony.



Photos by Sgt. Raymond Piper

A 1/64 Armor tank sends a round down range. On current Tank Table VIII, the gunner fires 90 percent of the rounds during the testing. The "Rogue Gunner Pilot Program" puts more emphasis on the TC and loader firing their crew served weapons.



A 1/64 Armor tank moves into position to begin to fire on Tank Table VIII. To create the pilot program, the crews took a survey to provide the battalion with statistical data and their experiences.

ROGUES

from page 1A

This is the first test to see how the modifications will work and the battalion's plan is to come out of gunnery and to say "this is what we liked or why don't we try this instead," he explained.

"The modification process will not be accomplished in one gunnery," Cormier said. "This is a long-term program. In order to better prepare our crews for combat we must implement our Operation Iraqi Freedom lessons learned into our gunnery program."

He continued, "This will ensure that our crews are prepared for both a conventional and an asymmetrical fight in close terrain. Tank gunnery must adapt to the changing threat environment."

The data collection began long before the battalion came to the range to test its skills.

"We tried to be very methodical in our approach to changing the gunnery table. I brought in every tank crew while we were deployed and ... they filled out the survey," Cormier said. "There was statistical data we were trying capture, but we also wanted to find out the challenges they faced, and how current Tank Table VIII prepared them."

He added that they interviewed master gunners and senior leaders, and they tried to be impartial so it wasn't just guys bragging.

"We emphasized that this was to make (gunnery) better so the next guys who go down range are better trained. It's going to save lives," Cormier said.

After collecting all of the data, it was turned into a statistical model.

The battalion found that the target breakdown during OIF was 54 percent troops, 44 percent personnel carriers and trucks, and only two percent were tanks. The crew engagement data collected showed that the gunner shot roughly half the time, the TC almost 21 percent and the loader one third of the time.

"What you'll see in the current tank training is it overemphasizes the gunner. The gunner shoots all engagements in Tank Table VIII qualification with the exception of two. Within those two there is one 50 caliber and one main gun engagement," Cormier said. "When you look at the 25 targets a crew shoots at during Table VIII, the TC shoots eight percent of the time and the loader shoots zero percent of the time."

Two other areas were discovered to differ in OIF compared with the standard doctrine.

"Our armor focus has always been to bypass built up barriers. We don't do that anymore. During the two thunder runs they had to do during the war, it was tanks rolling down a road shooting at everything they saw at 300 to 500 meters," Cormier explained. "It's not the 2000-meter targets we were trying to hit before. Now it's a close fight."

Cormier said, "We believe that gunnery does a good job — we're not saying our current gunnery is broke — what we are saying is it's good training. We knew how to use our weapons but we think we can modify it and make it better."

Cormier said the biggest issue from a tank gunnery perspective is it trains crews to fire their weapon systems but is still focused on the conventional fight. What the battalion is trying to do is modify and sustain that because we might still have to fight that, but also add in things that bring the close fight into the training.

"What the close fight means for the crews is we can no longer afford for the loader and TC to not be an integral part of fighting that tank. It can no longer be mostly the gunner," Cormier added.

The surveys showed that the crews felt that gunnery does a good job of training crews on safety, weapon mastery and TC and gunner integration, and that level-one gunnery is a good foundation for crews.

Cormier said, "The bottom line is we need to develop modifications to level-one tank gunnery and our changes should sustain emphasis on safety, weapon master and TC/gunner integration while increasing loader integration and modifying the engagements and scoring to build more crew initiative into the scenarios."

He added that U.S. technological advantages will cause enemy forces to adapt their methods and doctrine. The enemy will attempt to fight the U.S. Army in close terrain and will employ unconventional tactics and techniques as the only way to negate its advantages.

Cormier said, "We believe that even in a Korea scenario if the campaign began conventionally eventually it would degrade to an unconventional fight."

"We can no longer afford to train exclusively for a conventional fight."

Cub Scouts take field trip to The Frontline, Marne TV



Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

The Bears (left) and The Tiger Cubs, (right), of the Fort Stewart Cub Scouts, Pack 566, visited The Frontline and Marne TV Wednesday on a field trip. This year marks the Cub Scouts' 50th year on Fort Stewart, according to Cubmaster Whitney Householder.

Fort Stewart makes a difference

Spc. Adam Nuelken

Staff Writer

It's that time again to set differences aside and pick up a shovel and rake to improve your neighborhood for Make A Difference Day.

The day will kick off Saturday between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. at the playgrounds as part of the largest national day of helping others.

This year, organizations on Fort Stewart will be targeting children's Fort Stewart playgrounds in an effort to clean them up and remove trash. In the past, Army Community Services has worked with Soldiers and their families to beautify different areas. "Children's areas were greatly improved, and glass was picked up, which made sure that the kids were not injured when playing in the playgrounds," said Vickie Wiginton, Installation volunteer coordinator and family readiness group manager.

Make A Difference Day takes place on the third Saturday in October every year and millions of people across the country participate. Last year Fort Stewart had about 700 volunteers help to beautify the post and clean up 73 playgrounds.

As part of Make A Difference Day, \$10,000 is given to 10 projects across the nation for the charitable works they per-



Pfc. Emily Danial

Pfc. Trina M. Bean, Pfc. Edwin Melendez and other Soldiers from Hq. Co., Hq. Cmd. rake leaves at the Bonaventure Veterans' Cemetery in Savannah Friday as part of Hunter's Make A Difference Day activities.

form on Saturday. Wiginton hopes Fort Stewart will be awarded a prize to help add more to future improvements and for a larger budget for next year's Make A Difference Day.

"If we ever win, there will be a committee set up to deter-

mine where the money should be used," she said. "I would think that it would be for volunteer initiatives and the next year of Make A Difference Day projects to help purchase supplies."

Make A Difference Day has become the largest day for volunteer work in the country within the past 14 years, and last year more than three million people helped with projects assisting some 30 million people, according to a USA Weekend press release.

People interested in volunteering can contact their units and organizations or contact ACS. ACS will provide garbage bags, disposable gloves and a limited amount of gardening tools, however individuals are requested to bring along their own gardening tools, work gloves, and also to wear comfortable clothes they aren't worried about getting dirty.

Most projects will be finished in the morning, so volunteers can be able to participate in the ACS sponsored block party at the ACS building from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There are still several playgrounds that have not been adopted, according to Winginton. To adopt a playground or offer other project ideas, call 767-5058/5059.

Post FD helps teaches Brittan students about fire prevention

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Students crawling under a blanket of smoke in school hallways, fire engines blasting water high into the air, a hook-and-ladder rescue on the roof — it's just another Fire Prevention Day at Brittin Elementary.

The day included three school assemblies where the students were instructed on methods of fire prevention and safety. The individual classes watched educational videos and were treated to visits by popular fire safety mascots. Blaze, the post fire dog, visited the youngest students, and Smokey the Bear also made an appearance.

"The main thing for people to know is how to get out of anything that's burning and dial 911," said post firefighter Don Roberson, who has been at Stewart since 1986. "We've actually had children as young as four call in fires, and it's that kind of awareness that has kept our fire loss down on this base."

After lunch, the fire alarm was pulled, signaling the students to evacuate the school. According to Brittin assistant principal Carol Lee Kipp, pine straw was lit in the hallway to

create a little bit of smoke for a more realistic effect.

A steady stream of giggling students crawled beneath the smoke as Brittin principal Noel Tillman issued instructions from a megaphone. The students then burst through the exits to assemble with their classmates on the front lawn of the school, where a post fire truck waited.

As the teachers quickly accounted for their students, Kipp appeared on the roof of the school dressed in polka dot bloomers and carrying an umbrella, and seemed to be sunbathing. As the children shouted to Kipp that the building was on fire, she ran to grab her teddy bear, Pookie, who was dressed in matching bloomers.

Kipp ran back on forth on the roof shouting "Save my baby!" as the nearby fire engine extended its ladder toward her. Before the ladder reached the roof however, the firemen let loose a spray of water from the top of the ladder onto the students below, working them into a riot of cheering.

Roberson climbed onto the roof and embraced a very relieved Kipp. The two climbed down from the truck and gave the



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Post firefighter Don Roberson answers students' questions after the fire drill.

children high-fives as they filed back into the school. Roberson was immediately swarmed by students asking questions about the truck and his gear.

"I think the biggest benefit of the Fire

Prevention Day demonstrations is that the kids now know that they will be rescued if there's a fire," Kipp said. "They will definitely remember this for the rest of their life."

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Where are all the sidewalks?

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody
Staff Writer

As the four Soldiers on post who don't have some sort of privately owned vehicle have surely noticed, Fort Stewart is an unfriendly place to be a pedestrian. Narrow streets packed with southern drivers (need I say more?), no shuttle bus, and the complete and utter lack of sidewalks makes simply getting to work, or getting to physical training in the dark, an odyssey of fear and betrayal.

And you know what? There is no reason at all to drive to PT. If you live less than a mile away, as many soldiers do, why not try walking there, in the spirit of getting a little exercise? This is a point of principle which competes with the senselessness of driving from a quiet little residential neighborhood to go to a gym and run on a treadmill, playing video fishing, or eating

mayonnaise.

No one should be badly inconvenienced on a military base by not owning a vehicle. The Army gives you what you need, right? Cars are expensive, and if you have half as many speeding tickets under your belt as I do, they're really, really expensive to insure.

People complain about the terrible traffic on post, but it's not just because the gate is under construction or even because a vengeful god hates you, it's because people don't ever carpool and there are no alternatives to passenger cars to get around on Stewart. Mechanized division indeed.

I realize arguments about principle and efficiency have very little sway when fashion is king, as it certainly is in the motorist community at Stewart. Eight hundred watts of bass emanating from the trunk of an '82 Tercel with 20" chrome rims speaks thunderous volumes

— **Commentary** —

of the para-mount importance of bling. Major cities constantly find public transportation underutilized because people love their cars. But those constant short trips will tear your ride apart like a wet napkin.

About 90 percent of the wear on a vehicle's engine occurs in the first five miles it takes to warm the oil up. So driving five miles 100 times wears out your dope smash pimp wheels a lot faster than if you drove 25 miles 20 times. This may help explain the number of auto repair shops in Hinesville.

I've been experimenting with using a bicycle to get around. My brand new \$60

bike is really good at getting me to lunch without having to sit in traffic burning petroleum as though it is something that comes cheap. It has cool shocks in the front and came with a fireapple red helmet that makes me look even more like a space traveler than I already do. On the other hand, every single day, a driver runs me off the road, yells some Cromagnon insult, or actually tosses something out the window at me. Ach! I will eventually be carrying a spear as I ride to my job at the newspaper, but the fact remains that many roads on post aren't wide enough for two cars and a bike to safely pass each other.

If there are resources to buy the post newspaper amazing gigantic bass-blasting subwoofers for our layout and design computers, we could surely have sidewalks, right? There's a cement mixer right over there with the keys in it...



We don't need no stinkin' sidewalks

Spc. Katherine Robinson
Editor

— **Commentary** —

Those of you who read the above commentary (and if you didn't you shouldn't be reading this one either), know that one of my own staff-members is complaining about the lack of sidewalks on Fort Stewart. In this commentary, I will, point by point, explain why I disagree with everything Pfc. Brody said.

First, though, I must apologize to our faithful readers, Fort Stewart residents and especially southern drivers who might be insulted by his lack of tact. Southern drivers are fine (see my 2002 commentary, entitled, "Slow down, crazy speed demon). Anyway, they're no worse than west-coast drivers. But how could a guy who grew up in rural New England know that? Give him a break, folks.

But I digress. Brody's first point is that the lack of sidewalks and shuttles make getting to work or PT in the dark dangerous. First let me point out that there are in fact, sidewalks. I've counted three of them. If you don't see them, it's probably because people park on them. Secondly, it's not usually dark when you go to work. Third, the road he walks on to get to work is a road that is regularly used for PT anyway, and dozens of people live through the nightmare of negotiating it in the wee hours of every morning. I myself have survived morning runs on that road several times, and only been clipped by car bumpers seven or eight times in my two and a half years at Fort Stewart.

Now for his claim that driving to PT is pointless ... "why not try walking



there in the spirit of getting a little exercise?" he asks. THAT'S WHAT PT IS FOR! Come on. At 6 a.m. I hate the world. If I need more exercise than PT gives me, I'll go to the

gym. In the meantime, it's getting cold and my car is heated. On the other hand, I agree with him about the mayonnaise (way to go buddy).

Next point. The fact is, with new security measures, and with the size of the post, Soldiers without cars will be inconvenienced. And yes, the Army does give you everything you need. Just look at the subwoofer on my computer. Oh and by the way, if you want to pay low insurance, maybe you should try not speeding, ever think of THAT?

As for road-fashion, I actually agree. Every time I see a neon pull up next to me, sporting a giant spoiler and blacklight seeping from the undercarriage, I go a little weak at the knees and try to flag down the driver to get his number ... wait no. I don't. (I always get those two confused.) Then again, I managed, this weekend, to make my car go from soccer momesque to redneck in one fell swoop, by taking it off-roading. Yep, that's me you've seen in the mini-SUV, splattered with mud from hood to hubcaps.

But since Brody brought up the valid point that my half-mile trip to PT and work every day could be damaging

my engine ... I guess I'll get a ride with him from now on.

Brody says his "let's ride a bike" experiment has been successful (except for the near-death experiences.) Really this proves my point. How would Fort Stewart drivers stay awake in traffic if the lack of sidewalks took away the opportunity to terrify passing cyclists?

Imagine how dangerous it would be if the thrill of running bicycles off the road was removed, and drivers were forced to pay attention to the boring job of trying to stay alive.

But, if you insist on finding alternate means of transportation, here's an idea. Buy a scooter!

Another much-read member of *The Frontline* staff, Spc. Mason T. Lowery, recently bought an electric scooter at a local pawn shop. This scooter might possibly be the greatest thing that's ever happened.

Do you think people hurl insults at Lowery as he rides by? Of course not. They either chase him down and offer him money to let them ride, or they just stare, jaws hanging, and wonder if they've ever seen anyone so dorky. Fortunately, Lowery sets off this effect by wearing dorky glasses, which you've seen if you read his commentaries.

Also, the scooter brings friends and family together at office barbecues and other events.

But I digress again. The important thing is this. The vicious rumor that *The Frontline* has gigantic, bass-blasting subwoofers on its layout and design Macintoshes is completely false. The subwoofers are actually on our PCs.



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Do you think it's important to keep post playgrounds clean, and why?

"On post it's supposed to be a better environment for kids ... it's just a matter of keeping kids safe."

Sgt. Rachel L. Weber
HSC, 603rd ASB



"For safety and health reasons - kids will put anything in their mouths."

Jennifer Jefferson
Child Development Center



"To make it safe for children. The trash is the main thing, because kids could pick up broken glass, for example, and cut their hands."

Sgt. David Joseph
603rd ASB



"Because that's where kids pick up germs and infections easily."

Maria Fe Tavares
Winn Army Community Hospital



"So kids have a clean, safe place to play."

Heather P. Iwerks
Spouse



"So kids don't get hurt because of people leaving trash around."

Capt. Edwin A. Laster
B Co., 159th Avn. Bn.



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Write a letter to the editor!

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TREATMENT

from page 1A

advantage of the facilities it has at other installations but is also able to refer patients to civilian specialists if needed.

One staff sergeant who has been here since June and requested that his name not be used, is very unhappy with the type of treatment he has received since being diagnosed.

“My problem with my medical treatment has been too many doctors and too much medication has been prescribed. I don’t take half of the medication they have given me,” he said. “I’ve seen so many different doctors on active duty that each time I see a new one I get a different diagnosis. Let me get out, and I’ll go see a civilian doctor.

“As compared to my civilian doctor most of the military doctors are a joke. They give you a pill and send you on home,” the staff sergeant added.

Barthel said the Army’s policy is that if a Soldier was hurt while on active duty, they won’t be sent home until the problem has been fixed and the Soldier rehabilitated.

If the problem is fixed, the Soldier may deploy to where his unit is at or if in a nondeployable status will remain at the mobilization station until either his one-year activation is over or his unit redeploys.

Out of the 740 Soldiers in the Medical Hold Battalion, 633 are here for a medical condition; 213 had an illness or injury identified during the deployment screening process, 405 of these Soldiers deployed and returned with an illness or injury and 15 were injured in theater.

The Department of Defense has mobilized almost 200,000 Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. Less than two percent of those Soldiers are in a medical hold status.

The other major complaints Reservists and National Guard Soldiers have vocalized is the barracks they stay in at the Georgia National Guard training site.

Kidd described the barracks the Soldiers were living in as

“Spartan” and that there are “certainly no frills but they are clean and sanitary.”

“I think the facilities are adequate, but they are not the best we would like to have. We would like to do better and we have a number of initiatives where we are trying to convert these barracks to better conditions,” he said. “We have added air conditioning to a lot of them. These barracks were not designed for climate control other than heat. We have spent a great deal of time to try and fix that.”

The facilities were designed for annual training for the National Guard. Many of the barracks are without air conditioning and some of the latrines are in separate buildings.

“The barracks we have are the best we have and we are doing the best we can with what we have. Most of the Soldiers recognize that. They would like to see improved conditions, just like we would, and we are going to do the best we can to try and provide that to Soldiers,” Kidd said.

Smith said, his barracks are well maintained and air-conditioned.

“I really have no complaint about the living conditions here, but I know on the other side of post where there are more National Guard and Reservist it is challenging. I came from that side and it was tough, but here it’s not bad.”

One of the biggest complaints in the barracks is the lack of privacy among the Soldiers, both in sleeping areas and latrines.

The staff sergeant said that to him it’s better than living in Kuwait.

“But compared to what the regular Army Soldiers live in and what we live in with medical conditions, this is terrible,” he added.

Out of the 633 Soldiers on medical hold status, a third are staying in the improved barracks that have air conditioning and internal latrines.

“We put the most difficult cases in there, especially those with ambulatory problems. Wounded Soldiers are given a little better conditions because their condition requires them,” Kidd said.

As a major mobilization station, Fort Stewart has processed more than 18,000 Reserve and National Guard Soldiers preparing for deployment.

“I feel that Soldiers always have a valid complaint and as they raise that up I will work to fix that. Now sometimes, I’m not able to fix it,” Kidd said. “The Army is trying to get us resources. We didn’t quite expect this many people, but the Army is taking steps to fix it.”

He added as you travel around different posts, he believes you would see most installations are at capacity. Because so many Reserve and National Guard Soldiers are mobilized, it’s causing a pretty heavy load for the installations on the East coast.

Kidd said, “Every installation is having some kind of issue with this.”



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Some of the showers and bathrooms at the medical hold battalion are communal and a few of the buildings located outside.

Turn in travel vouchers for maximum benefits

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

Turning in a travel voucher can easily turn into a nightmare if Soldiers don't follow the proper format.

Soldiers from the same unit, traveling on the same dates, returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and other temporary duties should fill out their travel vouchers alike to ensure they receive equal and accurate reimbursements, according to Master Sgt. Margaret Furman, 3rd Soldier Support Battalion noncommissioned officer in charge.

Additionally, as of Sept. 1, Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians who use the Defense Travel Card for TDY expenses are required to check the split disbursement box in Block 1 of the travel voucher (DD Form

1351-2), Furman said.

Accuracy –

Travelers and supervisors must ensure Soldiers who performed the exact same travel (in the same unit) to and from theater have the same itinerary with the correct dates of departure and return from and to Fort Stewart, according to Furman.

The two major problems TDY processors at 3rd SSB have discovered with Soldiers in the same unit who performed the same travel are different dates in the itinerary and location of arrival in theater.

"Dates in the itinerary are different for Soldiers who performed the same travel. Some Soldiers are indicating that it took two days to travel from Fort Stewart to Kuwait, while other itineraries for Soldiers who performed the same travel indicate they arrived the same day. Seventy-five percent of the full per

diem is paid for the first and last day of travel, while full per diem is paid for any other travel days. The more travel days one has, the more money he/she will get paid," Furman said.

"Location of arrival in theater (in the travel voucher itinerary) is not the same for Soldiers who performed the same travel. As a general rule, everyone should have departed Fort Stewart and arrived in Kuwait, and everyone should have departed Kuwait and arrived at Fort Stewart. Some Soldiers' itineraries indicate they departed Fort Stewart and arrived in Iraq. An itinerary such as this will cause a Soldier to be underpaid if he actually departed Fort Stewart and arrived in Kuwait, because the per diem rate for Kuwait and Iraq are different. Any day of travel, excluding the first and the last, is a full per diem day. Per

diem is based on your destination. The per diem for Kuwait is \$91.00 per day (at the time of this article), while the per diem for Iraq is \$22.00 per day. This error in voucher completion will cause an overpayment or an underpayment."

Split disbursement –

Mandatory split disbursement will reduce the credit card delinquency among Defense Travel Card holders. Furthermore, it represents a convenient way for cardholders to pay their TDY expenses without the hassle of writing checks and waiting on credit card statements, according to Furman.

Travelers using split disbursement will receive any travel entitlements due to them that are over and above the amounts sent by split disbursement via electronic funds transfer. Split disbursement is available to send funds directly to

the Defense Travel Card issuing company only. It is not available to send funds to other charge card companies, Furman said.

The amount annotated for split disbursement should equal the amount charged to the card. If your orders state you are a government cardholder and you do not select split disbursement, your voucher may be returned or the travel office may add your receipts and send the proceeds directly to the charge company as a split disbursement, according to Furman.

All deployed travel vouchers for OIF should be submitted to 3rd SSB, Finance Operation section, National Guard Training Center, Bldg. 9120. If any unit needs assistance with the preparation of deployed travel vouchers for OIF, contact, Furman at 767-4679 or Bldg. 9120.

Hunter Coast Guard rescues Marines after ocean crash

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Thanks to the Savannah Coast Guard Air Station at Hunter Army Airfield, disaster was averted when two Marine F/A-18 fighter jets crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Hilton Head Island the morning of Oct. 15.

The pilots, who flew out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, were conducting a routine training mission when their aircraft crashed.

They ejected safely into the water, where the Hunter Coast Guard arrived to pick them up following a call from the Beaufort air station.

"Fortunately, we train for this type of event on a regular basis, so when it happens, you and the crew know exactly what to do," said Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Brian S. Waring, co-pilot of the rescue team.

The Coast Guard got to the pilots of the single-seat jets, Marine Maj. Bret Saunders, and Marine Capt. Matthew McNerney, and conduct a successful rescue within an hour of the incident.

"It seems that all the rescue gear used by the pilots worked well, such as sea dye markers, one-man rafts, flares and obviously their ejection seats," said Aviation Maintenance

Technician 2nd Class Eric Wilder, Coast Guard flight mechanic. "This type of case is pretty rare, but something we all hope to be called on to help out when it happens."

The Coast Guard rescue crew was made up of Waring, Wilder, Lt. Cdr. Kevin Nash, aircraft commander, and Chief Petty Officer David Toppi, rescue swimmer.

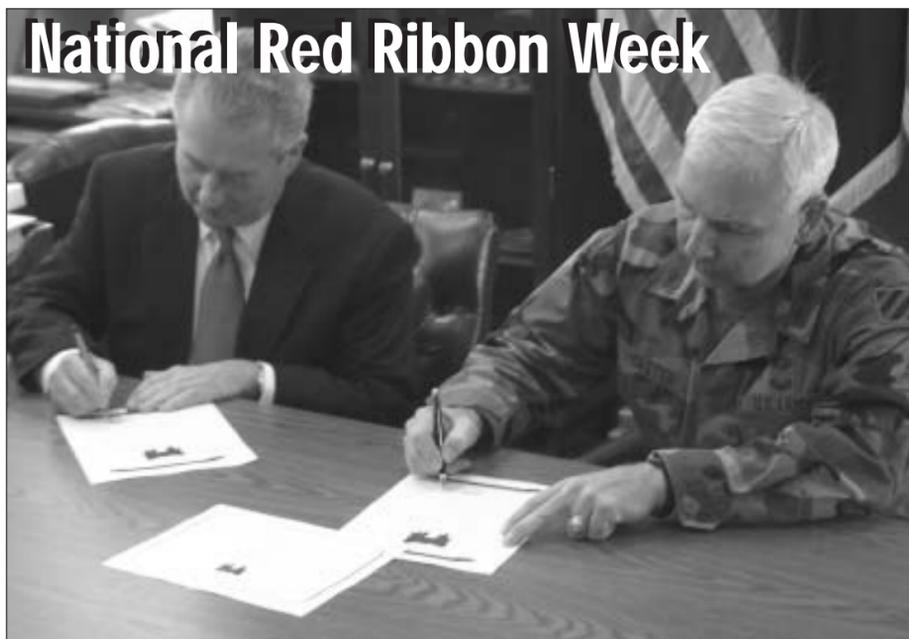
"My initial reaction was one of concern for our fellow servicemen," Waring said. "I was very proud to be a part of the crew, because it really is a team effort."

The team had no trouble carrying out their mission, and the two pilots were delivered safely and soundly to Hilton Head Airport. From there, they were taken back to the air station and then to Beaufort Naval Hospital, where they were examined and released.

Wilder said, "I was glad to be a part of this case ... our countless hours of training paid off well."

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation, according to MCAS Beaufort public affairs officer Marine Capt. Don Caetano.

"We're just thankful that the Coast Guard and local fishermen were able to assist and that the pilots could use the training they had received, so they were able to walk away from this safely," he said.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Hinesville Mayor Tom Ratcliff and Maj. Gen. William Webster, 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general, sign a proclamation in support of National Red Ribbon Week Tuesday. The week, observed each year in honor of federal agent Enrique Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers. The red ribbon is a symbol to reduce the use of illegal drugs. The Army Substance Abuse Program is observing NRRW from today until Oct. 31 to promote drug prevention awareness. Display tables pertaining to the issue will be set up at the Fort Stewart PX and library.

Diamond welcomes families home

Spc. Adam Nuelken

Staff Writer

Military Family Month kicks off in November, and with recently-deployed parents returning, Diamond Elementary School hosted a welcome home picnic Friday.

The event included songs from the elementary school's Performers, M1-A1 Abrams displays, music from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) band and a lunch for students and parents.

"Our guidance counselors put together a program where we brought all 900 students out today, and their parents have come over to have a welcome home picnic lunch on the school grounds," said Ford Stone, Diamond Elementary School Principal.

"Our over-watch unit we have here is (3rd Battalion, 69th Armor), and they brought a couple of tanks for display. We had the children doing presentations and (Lt. Col. Ernest Marcone, battalion commander) spoke," Stone said. "After lunch, the children visited the exhibits, and showed gratitude to the soldiers."

The lunch was a new concept for the school. After the Gulf War in 1991, the parents and children didn't get to experience this kind of fanfare and celebration.

"I was here during Desert Storm, and this is one of the first times we've done some-

thing like this, where we brought everybody together for a welcome-back lunch," Stone, who was still the principal at the time, added. "We're very excited about having everybody coming together."

The chance to welcome home the parents and allow them to spend some quality time with their children was especially important since most of the parents were deployed during this time and over the holiday season last year, according to Stone.

"In a time like this, when the parents are gone, or one or the other spouse is gone, it's a time of uncertainty, and it creates a lot of stress on everybody here," Stone said.

Last year, more than 90 percent of the parents were deployed, so the school focused on teaching all the children from kindergarten to second grade how to deal with the pressures of deployments and how to cope with it all, according to Natarsha Baker, guidance counselor and project leader for the welcome home picnic.

"So, when school started, the kids were calling saying 'my mom is back,' 'my dad is back,' and a couple kids brought their parents by to see me," she said.

"And I thought 'if we have all these parents coming by, we need to have something to invite them to.' And that's where the idea came from."

With all the jubilation and activities at the lunch, the children seemed to enjoy the

Abrams the most. Jamie Curry Jr. son of Staff Sgt. Jamie Curry Sr., who is an Abrams mechanic, followed the opinion of most of the participating children and said he liked the tank the most out of everything in the picnic.

Children and parents were allowed to climb on the Abrams, through it and around it to see what tanks are like.

"Today we're out here to show the kids a little bit of the inside and outside of the tanks, and just let the parents and students have fun today," said 1st Lt. Wayne Sok, platoon leader for A Co. 3/69 Ar. "I think they're pretty excited and having a good time. They're hopping in and out of the tanks with their parents."

The elementary school now looks forward to fostering its relationship even more with their over-watch unit and getting both involved in one another's activities, according to Stone.

"We've done a lot with the over-watch unit, and now that they're home, we can get them more involved. Over the years we've had soldiers in here reading with students," the principal said. "We've used them in a hundred different ways in the school, and we're going to initiate those again."

"We had to put in a lot of operations to support everybody," he said. "This school is very much involved in that, and we are welcoming everyone home."



Lt. Col. Cliff Kent

Spc. Thomas Cozzo, A Co., 3/69 Armor, shows off his tank to Diamond Elementary School students and parents Friday.

Food drive helps out families on Turkey Day

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Staff Writer

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club held a canned food drive Saturday at the commissary to provide food for 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) families who need a helping hand during the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We will take any kind of canned foods or non-perishable items that will make a family's holiday better," said 1st Sgt. Andrew Williams, president of the SAMC.

"The names of the (families) are given to us by their command," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Mays from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment.

The commissary allowed the SAMC to reserve around 10 shopping carts for two weekends. This enables the club to acquire enough canned goods to make up to 30 baskets before Thanksgiving, including turkeys donated by local organizations, said Master Sgt. Nichele N. Johnson from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Another food drive will be held Nov. 1, Mays said.

"I really think that people need to know that there are Soldiers in the division that need our help," Johnson said.

The people involved in the project also serve as

great positive role models to Soldiers who need mentoring, to show them how to use their spare time to volunteer for people in need, she added.

"We want to let people know that the (club) is trying to give something back to the community, and that we are all concerned about everyone having a good holiday," Williams said. "The bottom line is that we are taking care of Marine Soldiers and their families within this great division."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Erica and Elexia Hall place cans in the cart for the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club's food drive Saturday.

Half-track dedicated to 1st BCT

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Staff Writer

A ceremony dedicating an M3 Half-Track to 1st Brigade was held Oct. 16 in front of brigade headquarters to honor the service of the vehicle to the Army.

"The Half-Track you see before you here today symbolizes the heritage of the mighty 7th Infantry Regiment that led the way to today's Bradley equipped mechanized units," said Col. William F. Grimsley, 1st Bde. Commander.

"I know that in the Navy ships are christened with champagne, but I don't think that would be appropriate for a vehicle that spends so much time in the dirt," Grimsley said. "So we will now christen this vehicle with the preferred drink of Marne Soldiers through the years, two 20-ounce bottles of beer."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Curley L. Faulk and Grimsley then christened the vehicle by simultaneously breaking the two bottles against the front of the Half-Track.

The M3 Half-Track personnel carrier was standardized in 1940 and produced for the Army from 1941 to 1943, said 1st Lt. Paul J. Mysliwec, executive officer from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bde. The Autocar Corporation and the White Motor Company manufactured a total of 3,788 M3 armored vehicles during this period.

The Half-Track was a specially designed vehicle with a front and rear drive truck chassis. The track in the rear of the vehicle gave Army units the ability to go over rougher terrain than an armored car. Armored shutters that could be opened, closed or put into three different positions within the vehicle by the driver protected the radiator. The shutter had direct vision slots for use when it was closed. The wind-



Photo by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Ret. Command Sgt. Maj. Curley L. Faulk and Col. William F. Grimsley, HHC, 1st Bde. commander christen an M3 Half-Track at a ceremony in honor of the vehicle's service.

shield had shatterproof glass that could be removed when entering a combat zone.

The crew of the M3 consisted of a commander, driver, and co-driver and up to ten passengers. The main armament for the vehicle during World War II was the Browning M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

The armor thickness was 12 millimeters in the front hull and six mm in the sides and the rear. It had a four-speed

transmission, a 60-gallon fuel capacity and could reach a maximum speed of 45 miles per hour.

The Half-Track came from the 24th Infantry Division Museum in Fort Reilly, Kansas, Mysliwec said.

"We used this vehicle during World War II and Korea," Faulk said. "It brings back a lot of memories, some real fond, some I'd rather forget. I'm just real glad to be here and honored to be part of this ceremony."

Troops to teachers

Soldiers can quick-start teaching careers

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

There is a high need for certified teachers in Georgia, and Soldiers with bachelor's degrees have the opportunity to teach within just six months through the State of Georgia's Troops to Teachers program.

"By taking three Graduate level courses at Fort Stewart, Soldiers, family members and civilians can earn an intern-level teaching certificate, good for three years, given by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission," said Pamela H. King, Chief of Colleges and Counseling at the Army Education Center. "These three courses apply towards a Master's of Education degree at Armstrong Atlantic State University, King added.

There are benefits to Soldiers taking this program. "The TTT program gives federal assistance," King said. Soldiers can apply for stipends of up to \$5,000 to reimburse expenses directly related to the program, such as, tuition, books, fees, childcare and transportation King added. Enlisted active-duty Soldiers in the program can use up to \$4,500 a year for military tuition assistance money that pays for 100 percent of tuition costs.

The program is designed so that Soldiers can be in the classroom teaching in the fall following the spring courses. "This is the shortest and quickest route to having them in the classroom," King said.

The classes for the three courses begin in January and end in May and are given on Friday training holidays and Saturdays, so as

not to interfere with weekly work schedules. "This gives Soldiers a jump start and gets them in the classroom and on the payroll with a salary," King said.

Upon completing nine more courses during the next three years, participants will receive their master's. The courses can be taken through AASU on-post.

An open house for interested participants will be held Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Army Education Center, Bldg. 130, on post.

Presenters from AASU, Georgia's TTT program, and the Army Education Center will be at the open house and will be available for one-on-one counseling about the program.

"At this open house there is also going to be recruiters from local counties," King

said, including Chatham County which has additional stipends for those that sign with them.

To determine eligibility for the program and the stipend, interested applicants can also visit the TTT Web Site at <http://ProudToServeAgain.com> and select the link, "Click here to determine if you are eligible for Troops to Teachers." For a detailed explanation of TTT eligibility criteria, click on "Eligibility Criteria" on the main TTT page.

Minimum qualifications for the program are a more than 2.5 undergraduate grade point average, a criminal background check and the Praxis 1 basic literacy test.

For more information contact the Army Education Center at Fort Stewart at 767-8331 or Hunter at 352-6130.

EO office works to improve command climate

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

American society has moved beyond the days when people were separated by barriers like color, gender and social status. Over the years, minorities have proven they are just as capable as anyone else of any task. It is only right that people are all treated the same as well. The Division Equal Opportunity Office works to ensure that 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers are provided a positive workplace where they can best perform their assigned duties.

"The purpose of our office is to promote equal opportunity across the division and ensure all Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect," said Sgt. 1st Class Judith Forshee, division equal opportunity training advisor.

The office, along with the division's 14 equal opportunity advisors, has been holding small group discussions and surveys since the division returned from Iraq to determine the current state of the command climate, she said. The results show the climate to be fair to moderate. The last time the office attempted to gauge the command climate, in January 2003, it was moderate.

"It's currently a little less than we'd like to see," Forshee said. "We like to be on the good side of the

scale. Commanders need to work with their equal opportunity advisors to resolve some of the issues we're seeing."

Although equal opportunity advisors and representatives typically deal with major problems such as sexual harassment, race issues and gender bias, a lot of problems that came out in the small groups and surveys were of a different stripe, she said.

"Some of the issues the EOAs encountered when they talked to Soldiers were abusive leadership and language, discrimination with regard to awards received by Soldiers when they returned from the desert and rumors of another deployment in the near future," Forshee said. "All of this helps take away the Soldiers' morale."

These small focus groups are a good way for commanders to find out what is on their Soldiers' minds, Forshee said.

"When a commander wants to know how the unit is doing, the equal opportunity advisor goes ahead and holds these focus groups," she said. "But you've got to be careful and put Soldiers of like rank in groups together. If you put E-1s to E-4s in with their first sergeants and supervisors, they'll be afraid to talk for fear of reprisal. This lets them be more open."

While command climate surveys are helpful to commanders, the

equal opportunity office is concerned with how Soldiers are treated as well, Forshee said. Sexual harassment, race and gender bias are not issues to be taken lightly.

"If a Soldier has a complaint, we try to have it resolved at the lowest level, which involves the Soldier confronting the person who is harassing them face-to-face," she said. "If they are uncomfortable with that, they should try to handle it through their chain of command."

Each company has two trained equal opportunity representatives, Forshee said. If the EOR is not able to handle the situation through an informal complaint, the complaint is passed up to the brigade's equal opportunity advisor, who has two options. He can either handle it on the informal level, or have the issue resolved with an AR 15-6 investigation.

If that is the course taken, the commander must appoint an officer to do an investigation into the alleged complaint within 72 hours. The investigation's resolution should come within 14 days, but commanders can ask for a 30-day extension if more investigation is needed.

"We try our best to keep the investigations to 14 days, max," Forshee said. "But some times extenuating circumstances can make the investigation go longer."

In many cases, the offending

party is unaware their behavior was inappropriate, she said.

"In many cases, the problem is mis-education," Forshee said. "They don't realize they're harassing someone. Something as simple as a hand on a shoulder can be construed a sexual harassment. Perception is reality. If someone thinks they are being harassed, that can be enough."

If a formal investigation takes place, the offending party, if found wrong, could face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Forshee said. But in a case where the offending party is found innocent, the complainant may not be happy.

"If the investigation finds there is no issue, it can be tough to accept," she said. "Perception is reality, and if the complaining party thought something was inappropriate, it's hard to find out they were wrong."

The Equal Opportunity Office holds two training programs to help facilitate more positive workplaces at Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Benning, Forshee said.

A class for equal opportunity representatives is held eight times a year at all three posts. The two-week class teaches representatives about dignity, sexual harassment and values, behaviors and attitudes.

"After the class, the EORs say they look at things on a different level," she said. "They come out

with the information needed to see things in a different light. Ninety percent of the Soldiers in the class will tell you they see things differently when they go back to their units. Some things that were right in their face before they took the class suddenly take on a new meaning for them."

The office also holds a class for small group facilitators, Forshee said. The five-day course gives Soldiers the opportunity to train on the small-group method before they go to their units and facilitate the groups there. While these skills are not exclusive to equal opportunity efforts, they can help a unit in many ways.

"Any kind of discussion using small-group methods can get better results," she said. "It helps bring out a lot of ideas that maybe the commanders didn't have before. Speaking to 15 to 25 people is more effective than speaking to a company-sized group."

No matter how well-trained the equal opportunity advisors, representatives and small group facilitators are, the success or failure of a unit's equal opportunity efforts is up to its commander, Forshee said.

"The commander needs to work with his equal opportunity advisor to resolve the issues that come up," she said. "Ultimately, it's the commander's program. If he doesn't believe in EO, the program will not work."

Attention commanders, leaders and noncommissioned officers:



The Fort Stewart Main Post Library computers are now designated for training purposes only from 8 to 10 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Seventeen computers are available for the Defensive Driving Course, establishing Army Knowledge Online accounts and enrolling in military correspondence courses. Units that would like to use this time must submit a request through the library, provide a supervisor and provide paper for printing documents. This time is not intended for personal business. Contact Glenn Reed at 767-2181 or 767-2260 for more information.

"Army Libraries...Knowledge Leaders Linking Leaders to Knowledge"



Laurie Kemp

Staff Sgt. Valarie Camak-Isaac, noncommissioned officer in charge of infection control at Winn Army Community Hospital, demonstrates the correct way to wash hands. Using soap and warm water, she rubs her hands with light friction for 10 to 15 seconds.

Hand washing number one way to prevent illnesses

Laurie Kemp

Winn Public Affairs Officer

You know you washed your hands before you ate that sandwich for lunch, but do you know if you really got them clean?

The number one way to catch and transmit germs, which include viruses, bacteria and fungi, is through the hands. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the single most important thing a person can do to keep from getting sick is to wash their hands.

Most people know hands should be washed when visibly dirty, before and after touching food and animals – to include the household pet – after sneezing, coughing or rubbing the eyes and nose. But, it takes more than just a little soap and water to really clean your hands – it takes knowing and applying the right combination of hand hygiene techniques.

“Your hands are really your tools, they are what you use so very much of the day, so it’s very important to take care of them,” said Stephanie DeLoach, infection control officer at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Hand hygiene is really the new catch

phrase for hand washing today because it is more than just washing hands with soap and water. It is more of a preventive stance on taking care of your hands, so it (includes) hand washing, good moisturizing and making sure your nails are well maintained.”

While hand hygiene encompasses more than just hand washing, DeLoach said, the most important step is still ensuring the right techniques are applied when washing hands.

The goal is to physically remove the germs from hands. This can be done through the use of warm running water, soap, friction and length of washing time.

As germs usually congregate in warm places on the hand, it is important to pay special attention to the nail bed, between the fingers and in the areas used frequently, such as fingertips.

Healthcare providers recommend washing hands with soap in warm running water for 10 to 15 seconds, or through one rendition of ‘Row, Row, Row Your Boat.’ A comfortable level of friction should be applied throughout the washing to ensure the germs are removed.

“Most people don’t wash their hands the right way, and unfortunately,”

DeLoach said, “most people don’t wash their hands at all - period.”

The CDC estimates that one out of three people do not wash their hands after using the restroom.

However, with the advent of alcohol-based rubs, foams, gels and wipes, dirty hands are a thing of the past in most situations, from a road trip with the kids to a soldier’s training exercise.

While DeLoach feels soap and water is the universal best, she agrees that alcohol-based products can get the job done, if used correctly.

For handrubs to work effectively, friction must be applied for about 20 seconds or until hands are dry.

The best way to learn hand hygiene is through practice and through teaching children the right way to do it.

“Hand washing is universal and as an epidemiologist, I strongly encourage parents to take that first initiative with their children because there is no age too young to learn the practice of good hand washing,” she said.

So the next time you sit down to lunch, really think about where your hands have been and if you really want to eat lunch without a good hand washing first.

‘Rhythm of the Marne’ band announces fall concerts

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) “Rhythm of the Marne” Band has announced its November concert series for 2003. The concerts will feature a variety of musical atmospheres, according to band commander Chief Warrant Officer Fred Catchings.

The first program, a “Military and Spouse Appreciation Show,” is scheduled for Nov. 5 from 7 to 8 p.m. The tone of the concert will be very informal.

The show will begin with four selections by the concert band that represent the sacrifices made during Operation Iraqi Freedom, including “Each Time You Tell Their Story,” a



Spc. Robert Adams

Spc. Jennifer L. Harper concentrates on playing the clarinet during practice for the 3rd Inf. Div. Band.

moving selection by Samuel Hazo.

Switching gears, the rest of the

program will be “music young soldiers listen to” performed by the

hard-charging show band led by Sgt. 1st Class Doc Nobles, Catchings said.

“The show band is composed of Soldiers who are part of the classical concert band, but have additional skills on instruments like the synthesizer or the electric guitar,” said Band 1st Sgt. Leander Singletary. “They play a variety of top 40 music, from rhythm and blues to rock and pop.”

Singletary said the band is trying to create a similar atmosphere for the Nov. 5 concert as was seen during the Welcome Home ceremonies after Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is encouraging military families as well as single soldiers, veterans’ groups and civilians to attend the celebration.

The post Thanksgiving concert is scheduled for Nov. 25 from 4 to 5 p.m. and will be hosted by installation chaplains.

Since so many Marne Soldiers were deployed during Thanksgiving last year, the band and the post chaplain thought it appropriate to reflect on the blessings of the year through music, Catchings said.

“The tone of the Thanksgiving show will be more reflective,” Singletary said. “We want to pay a tribute to all the things we went through this past year during Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Both programs will be held in the Club Stewart Ballroom and are open and free of charge to the public.



Tax lift not enough

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — "It's a matter of priorities. Just compensation for service-disabled military retirees should be no less a priority than rebuilding Baghdad," American Legion National Commander John Brieden said Oct. 16, criticizing a congressional compromise that would lift the disability tax for some, but not all, military retirees suffering from disabilities related to their military service.

A "tax" on the retired pay of military retirees with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent to 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs would be phased out over 10 years, under a compromise announced.

Under existing law, military retirees are "taxed" a dollar of their retired pay for every dollar they receive in VA disability compensation.

Further, a special Defense Department pay created last year would be expanded to cover all military retirees (including Guard and Reserve) with Purple Heart-related, combat-related or combat training-related disabilities, instead of merely those with disability ratings of at least 60 percent. A commission comprised of congressional and administration appointees would study the entire disability - and death-compensation programs and other assistance provided to veterans and their survivors.

"I'm sure a lot of hard work went into this, and we appreciate it," Brieden

said. "But creating a two-tiered benefits system that favors one group of service-disabled military retirees over another is not the answer.

Creating a commission to study VA's disability-compensation system a system which requires medical evidence to prove a claim and is scrutinized by congressional veterans' affairs committees, an appeals process, and a federal court is not the answer he said. The answer is to repeal the tax for all service-disabled military retirees.

"Any veteran with a service-connected disability, regardless of the length of his or her military service, can retire from a federal civilian job and receive both retired pay and disability compensation without penalty," Brieden said.

Singling out any federal retirees because they retired from the U.S. armed forces is a profound betrayal of the equality these men and women sacrificed to defend. We believe in full concurrent receipt for all service-disabled military retirees.

"We know the full Senate approved a total repeal of the tax in its version of a defense-authorization bill. We know, based on the number of cosponsors, that there are enough votes in the House to fully repeal the tax. All we need is for veterans, indeed all citizens, who know in their hearts that the disability tax is wrong, to convince their members of Congress to support full concurrent receipt. The 2.8 million men and women of The American Legion will accept nothing less."

"Just compensation for service-disabled military retirees should be no less a priority than rebuilding Baghdad."

John Brieden
American Legion
national commander

Marne TV

October 2003 Schedule

5 a.m.	Army Newswatch	1:30 p.m.	Air Force News
5:30 a.m.	MARNE REPORT	4:30 p.m.	Army Newswatch
6 a.m.	Navy News	5 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
7:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch	5:30 p.m.	Navy News
8 a.m.	MARNE REPORT	6 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
8:30 a.m.	Navy News	6:30 p.m.	Army Newswatch
9 a.m.	Air Force News	7 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
11:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch	10 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
Noon	MARNE REPORT	Navy News	Navy News
12:30 p.m.	Navy News	10:30 p.m.	
12:30 p.m.	Navy News	11 p.m.	Army Newswatch

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every day of the week. Tune in to the Marne Report seven times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.



Pfc. Emily Danial

Hunter Army Airfield youth play musical chairs, one of the games featured at Hunter's annual post block party Saturday in the Army Community Service building's parking lot.

Sci-fi weapons closer than most think

Spc. Bill Putnam

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — The technology behind space ship lasers and force fields is a lot closer to reality than many think.

Although those lasers and force fields won't be fielded for a few more years, Gus Khalil, an engineer at the Army's Tank and Automotive Command in Dearborn, Mich., said the Army has identified what they want for the Army's Future Combat System the family of 16 manned, unmanned, ground and aerial vehicles the Army wants fielded by 2010.

"There's a lot more demands for the FCS vehicle than there are for the legacy force today," he said. "Anything we do today that gives the Soldiers less capability than they have is unacceptable."

That technology is being developed for the FCS.

The manned ground vehicles have to weigh less than 20 tons. They also have to be as fast, as mobile and as lethal as an M-1A2 Abrams and an M2 Bradley fighting vehicle.

Doing all that will be like making a Toyota truck as durable as an 18-wheel semi-truck, one U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center engineer quipped at a recent FCS conference in Dearborn.

But it is possible Khalil said. To demonstrate that, Khalil had a mock-up of the laser gun system at the Association of the United States Army's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., Oct. 6 through 8.

The gun program falls under the Combat Hybrid Power System. Initiated by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency six years ago and handed over to TARDEC two years ago, the program is developing the FCS' "pulsed power" weapons.

Since the system is just being developed, the weapons could be Electro-thermal Chemical guns or even a laser gun capable of firing artillery rounds or destroying tanks, he said.

The mock up showed how TARDEC wants the system to work. On one end was a pack of three lithium-ion battery modules. When it was "fired" it went through a converter that increased the charge from 100 volts to 1,000 volts.

From there it goes to the pulse-forming network, a nest of capacitors and inductors, where the now 1,000 volts will be turned into a "pulse discharge" that will last less than one-millionth of a second, he said.

From there the pulse of electricity goes through an out-put switch that will fire the pulse to its intended target, Khalil added.

The pulse was demonstrated through a bank of four strobe lights. If someone wasn't careful the lights could burn holes in their retinas, he said.

According to Khalil, tests have shown that 600-volt to 10,000-volt weapons are possible. And that's what they're forecasting to be in the FCS.

The modules' life span depend on how they're used, he continued. If they're used just for mobility they can potentially last 15 years. If they use chemical or laser guns, they won't last long.

"I don't know the exact number because we have not done that yet," Khalil said of how many times the batteries will fire the weapons.

He wants the batteries to last 50 rounds or "firings" but the modules will last only 20 rounds right now, he said.

The FCS is projected to have anywhere from 20-50 of those battery modules and since battery technology is getting smaller, that requirement will be met, Khalil said.

The pulse gun will also have the ability to fire something like today's sabot anti-tank round. But the FCS pulse weapon will give it more penetration capability than it already has, he added.

To the soldier on the battlefield, it will look similar to a sabot round — a flash of light — and the result might be the

same — a destroyed tank or armored vehicle, he said.

But Khalil's team isn't stopping there. His team is also developing electro-magnetic armor capable of stopping not only other pulsed weapons but conventional weapons.

The electro-magnetic armor will also be run from the same power source that will power the weapons system and the engine.

If the power system that powers the pulse gun that Khalil is designing fires in milli-seconds, that same source will power the electric armor in micro-seconds, he said. In other words, it's much faster and uses a lot more juice.

The biggest challenge for his team is to run the gun and armor off the same batteries that will run the engine, Khalil said.



Courtesy Photo

An engineer from the Army's Tank and Automotive Command shows off the laser weapon mock-up at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting in Washington, D.C., Oct. 6.

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3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Estate claims

Anyone with property belonging to Pfc. Charles M. Sims, 549th MP Co., should contact Capt. Mark Germano.

Additionally, anyone indebted to Sims, or to whom Sims is indebted, should also contact Germano as soon as possible at mark.germano@stewart.army.mil; or 767-2384/2385/9068.

Bi-Annual Block Party

This event is sponsored by AFAP, Fire Dept., ASAP, and DPS.

There will be food, music, entertainment, K-9 demonstrations and fun 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, at ACS Bldg. 470.

For more information, call 767-5064.

Youth Fall Festival

Enjoy a family fun day with carnival games, face painting, Bingo prize drawings, and delicious food for sale. There will be free wood projects/workshops and free How-To workshops on home repairs for adults and older teens.

There's something for everyone at Bryan Village Youth Center, Bldg. 7338, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday. For more information call 767-4491/4493.

Child and Youth Services

The Central Registration office located in Bldg. 443 has changed operational hours. The new hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday.

The office will not be closed from 1 to 2 p.m. as previously scheduled.

School absences conditional

Fort Stewart Schools (Diamond and Brittin) will support recently deployed soldiers, within reason and within available resources, when requesting a student absence.

Students will be considered excused during block leave. Parents are encouraged to coordinate with the student's teacher on missed homework and class assignments. Time away from school should be kept at a minimum.

Liberty County Schools will grant up to five days of unexcused absence during block leave for children of deployed soldiers.

Soldiers are required to provide a written request to the school principal which states the reason

for the absence and projected dates that the student will be out of school.

Students will be allowed to make up missed homework and assignments. Teachers will work with students to ensure that they do not fall behind in the classroom.

Since Liberty County schools are required to follow the No-Child-Left-Behind mandate and are graded by attendance, students will be required to be re-enrolled in school if an absence exceeds five days.

Main Gate

Two outbound lanes from Fort Stewart to downtown Hinesville are now open and Memorial Drive has been converted to two lanes one-way for inbound traffic. The left turn from Memorial inbound lanes to Bultman Ave. will be eliminated until construction of inbound lanes is completed and opened.

According to the contractor, the inbound lanes should be constructed by Nov. 30, however they may be completed earlier.

Car/Audio Competition

The first annual Car/Audio Competition will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 2, at the old PX parking lot.

Entry fee is \$20 in advance, \$25 day of event. Pre-register by Oct. 29 at the Fort Stewart Sports Office, Bldg. 57.

Classes are Best Car and Best Audio System with cash prizes being awarded. For more information call 767-0329 or see a Boss representative.

Flea Market and Yard Sale

Rain or shine and open to the public — the biggest community yard sale ever. Starting at 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nov. 1 there will be a flea market at Walker Field and yard sales all over Fort Stewart.

Vendors can pre-register at the Sports Office for a fee of \$5. For more information call 767-8326/8238.

Marne Chorus

Auditions for the newly formed Marne Chorus will be conducted 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Oct. 27 to 31 at the Marne Chapel, Bldg. 610. All Soldiers with singing talent are encouraged to audition.

For more information call CW3 Catchings at 767-2207/2694.

Hunter

Halloween 5K

There will be a 5K Run and Fun Walk Saturday. Registration and Fun Walk (in costume for children 12 and younger) is 8:30 a.m. and 5K Run will start at 9:30 a.m., with a breakfast to follow for \$3.50 a plate.

The Fun Walk is free and the 5K is \$15 per person before race day and \$18 day of race. Pre-register at B Co., 159th Avn. across from the Hunter MP Station.

Prizes and awards will be given in several different categories.

Annual Fall Festival

Hunter Officer Spouses Club is hosting an auction at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 at the Hunter Club. There will be hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and great fun. Auction proceeds benefit military welfare and scholarships.

For more information, contact the OSC Fundraising Chairman, Nicole Weaver, at 925-5593.

DCAS events

Post Youth Fall Festival will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday for youth and families. There will be games, prizes, competitions, crafts and food. Program will be held at the Youth Center, Bldg. 6052. For more information, call 352-5708.

Morning road closure

North Perimeter Road from the 117th Tactical Control Squadron to the Stephen Douglas Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6 to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday to support unit physical fitness programs.

Ask your unit first sergeant or contact the Hunter Safety Office for Hunter's physical training policies, by calling 352-5814.

American Red Cross

The Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross has FREE toiletry items, such as soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for soldiers and family members.

For more information, call 651-5300.

Skeet range

The skeet range is open from 4 to 9 p.m., Thursdays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Hunting and Fishing Permits and Georgia State Hunting and Fishing licenses are sold in Bldg. 8250.

An education course is required

for an on-post hunting permit.

For more information, call 352-5916.

Youth Services

School Age Services is open 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. during school. There are before and after school programs for 1st through 5th graders. Enjoy fun and leisure activities, educational, tutoring, computer lab, sports, fitness and more.

Join the 4-H community club, photography and technology groups. Check with your school for transportation. For more information, call 352-5708 or 352-6705.

Keystone Club

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. This club offers Character Counts activities as well as other activities that meet the physical, emotional and social needs and interests of girls and boys through diversified program activities in six areas:

- Personal and Educational Development
- Cultural Enrichment
- Social Recreation
- Citizenship and Leadership Development
- Outdoor and Environmental Education.

Salsa lessons

Hunter Club is under renovation, however activities are still on-going.

There will be free Salsa lessons 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information call 353-7923.

Golf Course

Coming soon is a totally new driving/practice facility. The driving facility will have an 11,000 square-foot putting green, enlarged teeing area, short game practice green (with bunker) and an improved drainage system.

Daylight Savings Time ends Oct. 26. Hours of operation will change.

Call 352-5622 for more information.

Auto Craft

Cars and some light trucks can get an oil change for \$19. Buy tires and get them mounted and balanced free. Buy a set of four and get them mounted, balanced and the front end aligned free.

For hours of operation and information about other services offered call 352-6244.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Hospital main entrance

Access to the main entrance of the hospital will be limited due to construction Oct. 13 through the first week of November. Patient parking will not be affected, however, refill pharmacy parking will not be available. Patients will need to follow the designated sidewalk to enter the hospital.

Additional Parking

An additional parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex, is open for patient parking.

Expectant Siblings Class

The next Expectant Siblings class will be 5 p.m. Oct. 29. This class helps prepare children ages 4 to 12 for the arrival of a new brother or sister. To register, call 370-6017/6670.

Exceptional Family Member

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m. today at Winn. Meet other families and learn about other community support services. For more information, call 370-6505.

Winn Seeks Volunteers

Winn is looking for adult volunteers to help out in a wide range of areas from administrative specialists to chaperones to certified or licensed nurses. The next mandatory orientation will be held 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Nov. 7. For more information, call 370-6903.

Pharmacy hours of operation

The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday. Hours on training holidays are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The refill pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Tuttle

The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday. The pharmacy is closed weekends, federal holidays and training holidays.

Intervention services

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

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

Family Reunion Support

Family reunion support is available for families having difficulty adjusting after a deployment. Support is available by appointment or on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 370-6100 or 370-6111.

Tuttle TRICARE enrollment

TRICARE enrollment briefings for Tuttle are held by appointment from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday. To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Physician Assistants needed

The Army is looking for qualified Soldiers to attend the interservice Physician Assistant Program at the AMEDD Center School in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

This is an intensive two-year course of study. Graduates receive a commission as 2nd Lieutenant and a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska.

Applicants must be enlisted Soldiers, commissioned or warrant officers with a minimum of three years time in service. Other eligibility criteria include, but are not limited to; a GT score of 110 or greater, 60 semester hours of post secondary school education of which 30 hours must include six hours of English, six hours of humanities, six hours of chemistry, six hours of anatomy and physiology, three hours of algebra, and three hours of psychology.

Applications for this program are accepted until April 30 of each year and are reviewed by a board in July of each year. Complete application procedures are found in AR 601-20, The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program, and in the yearly message update to the regulation found on the website.

Briefings will be held Wednesday at the Patriot Auditorium, Winn Army Community Hospital at the following times:

- *1st brief 8 - 9:30 a.m.
- *2nd brief 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- *3rd brief 1 - 2:30 p.m.
- *4th brief 3 - 4:30 p.m.



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.



Driving under the influence (DUI)

Maj. Jennifer Howe

Fort Stewart Provost Marshal Office

Over the years, the Army has suffered many tragedies due to the intemperate use of alcohol. In fiscal year 2003, more than 247 soldiers were apprehended for driving under the influence on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield and off-post. The following information is provided to help explain the criminal elements of DUI and the ramifications for DUI under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Georgia Code, so that all Soldiers and civilians can make an informed and conscious decision about drinking and driving. Remember, impaired driving is no accident; it is a violent crime that kills, and every 33 minutes someone dies because of a drunk driver and every two minutes someone is injured.

Under UCMJ, Article 111 – Drunken or reckless operation of vehicle – the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration level is .10. However, the BAC limit is subject to state code, so a Soldier driving on-post with a BAC 1.0 is still in violation of DUI law, since the Georgia state law only allows a .08 BAC level. Punishment for violation of Article 111 could result in a bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for six months, and loss of post driving privileges.

Under Georgia Code Section 40-6-391, Driving under the influence;

•If a person's blood or breath alco-

hol concentration (BAC) is .05 or less, it shall be presumed that the person was not under the influence of alcohol.

•If a person's BAC is in excess of .05 but less than .08, this fact may be considered by the prosecution as evidence in determining if the person's driving ability was impaired due to being under the influence of alcohol.

•If a person's BAC is .08 or more, the person is presumed to be under the influence of alcohol.

•A person under 21 years of age and their BAC is .02 or above found driving or in actual control of a motor vehicle will lose his driving license.

Under Georgia Code 40-5-55 (Implied Consent), any person who operates a motor vehicle upon the highways or elsewhere throughout the State of Georgia is deemed to have given consent to a chemical test of the person's blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance, for the purpose of determining the alcohol or drug content of the person's blood, if arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse to submit to a state administered chemical test, your Georgia driver's license or privilege to drive on the state highways will be suspended for a minimum of one year.

First conviction of DUI is a misdemeanor, which could result in the below punishments:

•A fine of \$300 to \$1,000.
•Imprisonment not less than 10 days nor more than 12 months.

•Community Service not less than 40 hours.

•Completion of a DUI Alcohol and Drug Use Risk Reduction Program.

•Probation.

•Loss of Post driving privileges.

Note: Soldiers who are convicted of a DUI off-post could receive civil punishment as well as administrative action from their chain of command.

In order to forego the unpleasantness of being apprehended/arrested, facing court dates, fines, imprisonment, and probation, not to mention having to live with yourself if you killed or injured someone, the Military Police recommend that Soldiers and civilians implement individual DUI prevention measures:

•Appoint a designated driver.

•If you don't have a designated driver, call a friend, your chain of command, a cab, ask for a ride, stay sober, or get sober before you leave.

Commanders may choose to implement other DUI prevention methods to reinforce the Soldiers' individual prevention measures:

•Ensure Commander and Senior noncommissioned officer involvement.

•Alcohol and Drug Awareness (Unit and Directorate of Public Safety sponsored training).

•Unit safety briefs/holiday safety checks.

•DUI free streamers.

Further questions may be directed to the Fort Stewart MPs at 767-4895 or the Hunter MPs at 352-6133.

POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old female
• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 70/55
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
• **Charges:** Expired tags, driving while license suspended
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 93/55, driving without license on person
• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 41-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
• **Charges:** Simple assault
• **Location:** Allenhurst

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
• **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of an open container
• **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
• **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane, drunken driving, failure to wear seatbelt

• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old female, Aviation Brigade

• **Charges:** Simple battery

• **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Civilian, 19-year-old male
• **Charges:** Defective brake light, driving while license suspended

• **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Family member, 21-year-old female
• **Charges:** Improper passing
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, Division Artillery
• **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, Division Artillery
• **Charges:** Failure to exercise due care
• **Location:** Fort Stewart

ASK THE JUDGE

AR 608-99 Family Support Requirements

Q: I have been notified that my spouse is leaving me and is going to live with the spouse's parents back home. My squad leader stated that I will have to provide my spouse with financial support even if the spouse is the one who moved out. Is this true?

A: AR 608-99, Family Support, Paternity, and Custody, states that you have an obligation to support your spouse as soon as you are geographically separated. That means that as soon as you stop living with your spouse, you must provide him/her with financial support. If you and your spouse have a written agreement indicating how much support she is to receive, or there is a court order for support, you must pay your spouse that amount each month. If you cannot agree on the amount, this regulation states that you must pay your spouse the amount equal to BAQ-WITH for a soldier of your rank. As of Jan. 1, 1998, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH-II) replaced Basic Allowance for Quarters. The standard for support after Jan. 1, 1998 is BAH-II for your rank. The rates for 2003 can be found at <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/2003bah2.html>.

Q: This seems unfair to me because I have two children from a previous relationship I am currently supporting. Do the same rules apply?

A: You are still obligated to support your wife, but the amount changes if you have other family members to support. You have to provide each family member with a share of the BAH-II for your rank. For example, if you have two other children for whom you are paying child support, you have a total of three supported family members: a wife and two children. Therefore if you are separated from your wife, you would divide the BAH-II amount into three shares and give one to your wife.

Q: But I am living on post and I do not receive BAH, how can I divide something I do not receive?

A: The regulation does not state that you have to receive BAH for you to provide financial support to your family. The Army merely uses the amount of BAH for your rank as a guideline. You are still required to pay this amount for support whether you receive BAH or not.

Q: Can I pay my wife's credit card bills and car payment instead of giving her the money to comply with the regulation?

A: No. Paragraph 2-7 of the regulation states that you must pay the financial support by cash, check, money order or allotment. An exception to this rule exists if you are going to pay for the non-government housing costs, like rent or mortgage payment, of the residence where your family members are residing. If your financial support obligation is larger than the housing costs, you must pay the difference by cash, check, or money order. If you pay this by cash, you should always get a receipt.

Q: I am only an E-4, and my wife is making more than me. Do I still have to pay her support?

A: Your battalion commander is the first person in your chain of command who can relieve you of your responsibility under this regulation. Paragraph 2-11 lays out the six specific situations where a battalion commander may release you from your obligation to pay this support to your spouse. One of these situations is where the spouse makes more than the soldier. If this is the case, you should use your chain of command to discuss your specific situation.

CENTCOM News

Three 101st Soldiers killed, 7 wounded in attack

KARBALA, Iraq — Three 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Military Police Soldiers were killed and seven wounded in an attack near Imam Abbas Mosque in Karbala at approximately 11:30 p.m. Oct. 16.

Also, two Iraqi security forces personnel were killed and five wounded in the attack.

The engagement involved an exchange of small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades as Iraqi authorities and Coalition military police were investigating reports of armed men congregating on a road near the mosque after curfew.

The casualties were evacuated to a camp in the vicinity of Karbala for initial medical treatment.

Some of the casualties were then evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital for more intensive treatment.

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

The incident is under investigation.

One 220th MP Bde. Soldier killed, two wounded by IED

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One 220th Military Police Brigade soldier was killed and two were wounded in an improvised explosive device attack in the Baghdad area.

The attack took place at approximately 7:50 a.m. Oct. 17.

The wounded Soldiers were taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

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

The incident is under investigation.

Two TF Ironhorse Soldiers killed, one wounded in ambush

KIRKUK, Iraq — Two Task Force Ironhorse Soldiers were killed and one wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire ambush west of Kirkuk.

The attack took place at approximately 10:45 p.m. Oct. 18.

The wounded Soldier was evacuated to a nearby medical facility for

treatment.

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

The incident is under investigation.

One 82nd Airborne Soldier killed, six wounded in ambush

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One 82nd Airborne Division Soldier was killed and six were wounded when their patrol was ambushed with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

The attack took place at approximately 12:30 p.m. Oct. 20 near Al Fallujah.

The Soldiers were evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

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

The incident is under investigation.

3rd ACR Soldier found dead in Euphrates River

HADITHAH, Iraq — A 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldier was found dead in the Euphrates River near the Mudaysis Dam in Hadithah at approximately 9 p.m. Oct. 13.

The Soldier was found approximately 20 minutes after being reported missing.

Medical personnel attempted to revive the Soldier at the scene.

The Soldier was reported dead at 9:45 p.m.

The Soldier's name is being withheld pending next-of-kin notification.

The incident is under investigation.

Two 1st AD Soldiers killed, one injured in vehicle accident

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two 1st Armored Division soldiers were killed and one was injured in a military vehicle accident with a civilian vehicle.

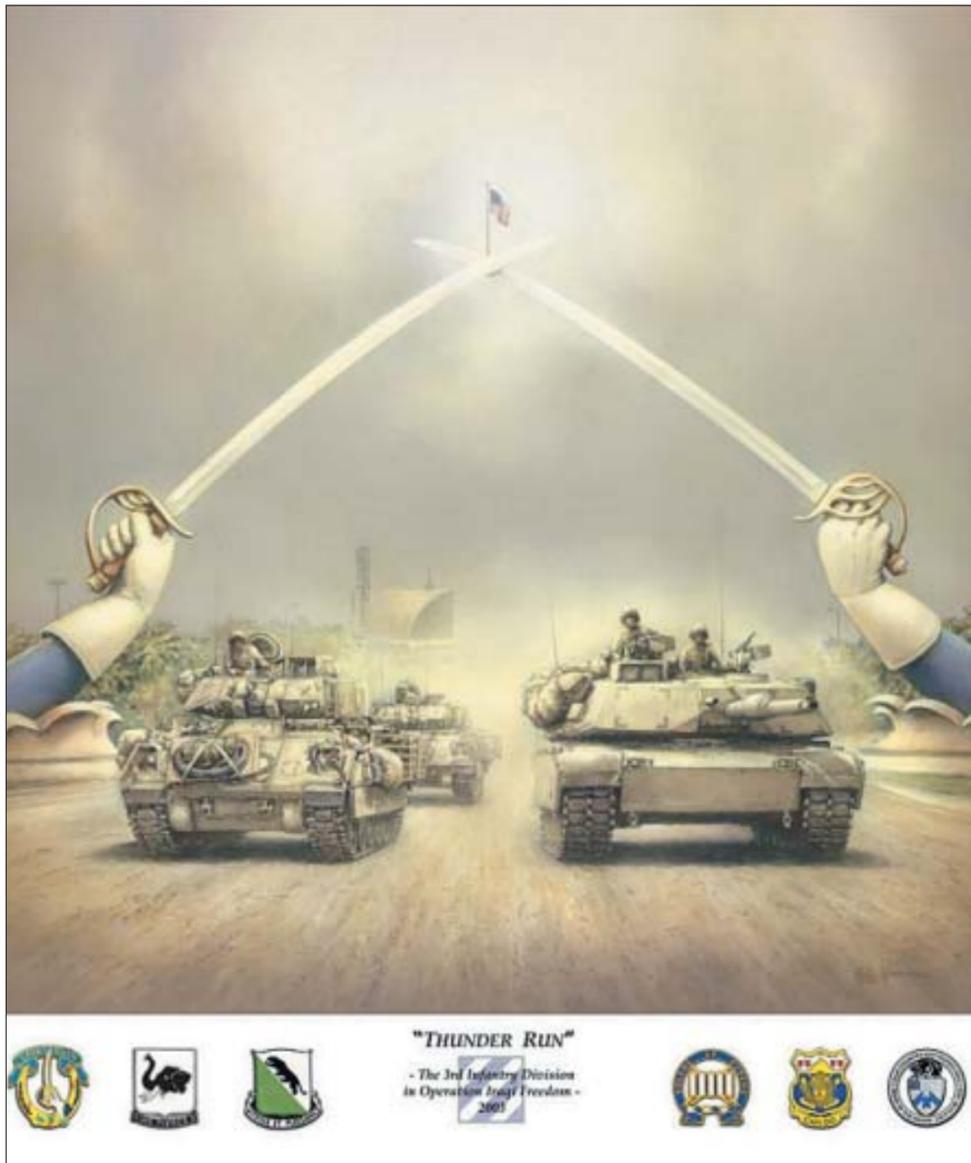
The accident occurred in the Kadhimyah District of Baghdad at approximately 2:30 p.m. Oct. 13.

The injured Soldier was evacuated to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending next-of-kin notification. The incident is under investigation.

A tribute to 3ID ...

Renowned military artist to sign Thunder Run prints



Renowned military artist Jody Harmon will host a print signing in the Marne Room at Club Stewart Nov. 3 and 4. His print, "Thunder Run" was commissioned for 3rd Infantry Division (mechanized) units that deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam's "arms of victory" monument in Baghdad has been transformed on canvas, into a bold vision that honors the U.S. Army's 3rd Inf. Div. mounted warriors and their tremendous contribution to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Each print comprises the unit crests of the 3rd Inf. Div., the 64th Armored Regiment, the 69th Armored Regiment, the 7th Cavalry Regiment, the 7th Infantry Regiment, the 15th Infantry Regiment, and the 30th Infantry Regiment.