

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

Posts work for improved living

Stewart, Hunter to become DoD certified Keep America Beautiful affiliate

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will become the first Department of Defense facilities to be a certified member of Keep America Beautiful in 2004.

By becoming a consolidated affiliate, Stewart and Hunter will have national credibility, public and private partnerships, and many networking opportunities, said Anna Chafin, Public Relations Specialist, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

"Once certified, Fort Stewart will be able to network with over 500 KAB national and

international affiliates, gaining ideas for educational programs surrounding litter, waste, water conservation and beautification," she said.

"The installation hopes that the affiliation with KAB will help in meeting the DoD mandated 40 percent reduction in waste by 2005," Chafin said.

Currently, Stewart/HAAF is in the pre-certification process, having submitted the official KAB application and accompanying endorsement letter signed by the Col. John Kidd, Garrison Commander.

At this point, an Installation certification team is being organized, comprised of community leaders and representatives. Once

the group is formed, a certified KAB trainer will travel to Stewart to educate the team, according to the press release. A litter index and solid waste survey will then be conducted with the guidance from the trainer. This survey examines present ordinances, enforcement, technology and educational awareness programs on the installation. After the survey is complete, the installation will submit an official certification report.

Given Stewart and Hunter's proactive stance on recycling, certification is expected.

KAB is a national nonprofit public education organization dedicated since 1953 to engaging individuals to take great responsi-

bility for improving their community environments. Specifically, Keep Georgia Beautiful, one of KAB's 22 state programs, is a volunteer grassroots organization that encourages the government, businesses, and citizens of the community to change habits and attitudes surrounding litter, waste, water conservation and beautification, Chapin said.

Fort Stewart and Hunter have long prided themselves on being protectors of the environment. By seeking KAB certification, they are taking one more step in the right direction toward safeguarding the installations' sustainability for years to come for Soldiers and their families.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Spc. Joshua Burr, a light wheel vehicle mechanic with 1/3 Avn. Bn., tightens a radiator hose clamp on one of the battalion's humvees Monday.

1/3 Vipers strike at Stewart

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Hunter Army Airfield's 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment "Vipers" went to the Fort Stewart Multi-Purpose Range Complex Monday to conduct its annual gunnery and give its Soldiers their first opportunity to work together in a field environment since returning from Iraq.

The training's focus, according to Lt. Col. Dan Williams, battalion commander, is to prepare the Soldiers for National Training Center rotations coming up in the next few months and to put the battalion's new aircraft through their paces.

When 1/3 received its 18 brand new Block II, Lot 7 AH-64D Apache Longbows in November, Williams said the unit was anxious to test the aircraft's enhanced features, such as the moving map displays and improved communications and navigational systems.

"During this exercise, we're basically looking for validation that these new aircraft are what they're supposed to be," Williams said. "Like any new software, occasionally we run into a glitch, but we've been able to overcome those fairly quickly."

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Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Spc. John Dresel, 3/7 Inf., talks to **Harvey Heath**, Army retired, about his experiences in the military.

New, old Soldiers share experiences during Dublin visit

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

Soldiers of 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the 3rd Inf. Div. Band traveled to the Carl Vincent Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Ga. Tuesday.

The Soldiers handed out food baskets to war veterans and had a chance to talk to them and learn about their experiences. Afterwards, the Soldier escorted the veterans to the auditorium to listen the band play Christmas carols, including classics such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman."

"This is the first time in two years the Fort Stewart band has been here," said Dana Doles, public affairs officer of the medical center. "They are excellent and we always enjoy their concerts."

"What is important about visiting the Carl Vincent Veteran's Hospital is that what Soldiers see before them are veterans and Soldiers, men and women who have gone before them who have set the standard and sacrificed as an example to them," said Col. Robert L. Caslen Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. assistant division commander (Maneuver.) "It really bonds

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Courtesy photo

Robert Browner, 10th Eng. Bn., sizes up his opponent before unleashing a punch at a boxing match held when 2nd Brigade was deployed to Kuwait in 2002.

Boxing makes a comeback at Stewart

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

Two of the division's units are going to see if boxing, a sport that once enjoyed great popularity at Fort Stewart has any life left here in the next week.

Boxing has a long history in the Army and once enjoyed a large following at Stewart. Soldiers would gather in the post's gyms to see their fellows square off against boxers from other units. People would come from all around for the boxing smokers that were held every weekend. The post had its own team. But after years of popularity, the sport ground to a quick halt in the early 90s.

"The boxing program was discontinued about 15 years ago," said Perry Yawn, sports director. "There has only been one smoker here in the time since then."

2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment will hold a six-fight card Friday at 2 p.m. at Sports USA and 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment will hold a ten-fight card Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Caro Gym.

Yawn, who has been at Stewart for 26 years, said he remembers boxing being a big deal when he first came here.

"A long time ago, they'd march all the troops into Corkan Gym and the brigades would put their fighters up

against each other," he said. "It was really an esprit de corps-type thing we've gotten away from."

Jake Battle, division fitness coordinator, helped revitalize the boxing program here in the late 80s for about three years. He said the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)'s brigades would hold quarterly Friday Night Fights among themselves. Battle, who had been V Corps' boxing commissioner and the chief of delegation for United States Army Europe's international team, made sure Stewart's program fell in line with the requirements of the United States

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Weather Forecast

FRI	High 62°	Low 43°
SAT	High 63°	Low 56°
SUN	High 70°	Low 39°

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Shoot to kill

Photos by Pfc. Emily J. Danial

A 1/3 Avn. Bn. pilot lands one of the unit's 18 new Block II, Lot 7 AH-64D Apache Longbows during gunnery Monday at the MPRC at Fort Stewart.



Chief Warrant Officer Glen Woodard, 1/3 Avn. master gunner, monitors pilots and crews during missile engagement testing Monday.

VIPERS

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Capt. Joe Amman, B Co. commander and Apache pilot, said the new Longbows' moving maps are "excellent for situational awareness."

"The best part is that there's no wear and tear on them. You have all new pieces, all new parts," he said.

Throughout the training, pilots and crews tested the Apaches' weapon systems and their own skills in missile engagement exercises.

"Our goal is to set up a series of shots that will be like what pilots will encounter in the real world," said Chief Warrant Officer Glen Woodard, battalion master gunner. "We've done our best to capitalize on the resources we have ... a lot of crews are getting a lot of practice on a lot of good stuff."

In addition to testing pilots' and crews' abilities, the exercise let other 1/3 Soldiers hone their job skills.

"We could have just flown (the Longbows) out of Hunter to the range, shot, and flown back, but we wanted to give the entire battalion a chance to get their field training in as well," said Maj. David Rude, battalion executive officer.

"This is the first opportunity for the unit to get together post-OIF," said Capt. Catherine K. Proietta, S-3 battle captain and training officer. "It's a good opportunity for Soldiers to become familiar with their individual tasks."

She said the frequently changing weather patterns the battalion experienced over the first week of the exercise have played a great role in the training.

"It's been cold, wet, dry, warm ... it's good for them to be able to figure out how to deal with all kinds of conditions," Proietta said.

Even though she didn't deploy with 1/3 and has been with the unit for less than a year, Proietta has already made a few observations about her Soldiers.

"This is definitely an outstanding unit," she said. "It's apparent that they did a lot of bonding in OIF."

The battalion returned from its deploy-

ment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at the end of the summer, and a few short months later it has already had a one-third turnover, according to Williams.

"The Soldiers who did deploy have a level of maturity that the ones who didn't deploy don't have," he said. "It's really mentorship."

Spc. Michener Besebes, an Apache crew chief, said even though he wasn't with 1/3 Avn. during OIF, he has felt no lack of camaraderie with his fellow Soldiers.

"They treat me like I've been with them the whole time," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Campbell, platoon sergeant of the Forward Area Refueling Point's 3-5 platoon (named for class three, fuel, and class five, ammunition), said his more experienced Soldiers have been "latching on" to those who are newer and less experienced.

"I think this exercise is very beneficial because the new Soldiers I have are our future leaders, and this gives them the opportunity to learn from the Soldiers who have been with us awhile," Campbell said.

"Everyone's working together," said Spc. Patrick L. James, an aviation operations specialist. "We have great mentors and great leaders."

In addition to 1/3 Soldiers, the Air Force and Marine Corps contributed manpower to the battalion's training exercise.

"Without the Air Force to monitor weather for us, it would have made it much more difficult to determine when we could fly," Rude said.

The Marines, he said, came down to Fort Stewart from South Carolina to work with 1/3's FARP.

"We're trying to use this joint training to maximize our relationship with the Marines," Rude said.

Overall, the consensus among the 1/3 Soldiers and officers was that the training was everything it was meant to be.

"I love the Vipers," Williams said. "I want to make sure they're as trained as they can be for the next time they're in harm's way, whether I'm with them or not."



One of 1/3 Avn. Bn.'s new Longbows fires missiles at targets during the battalion's gunnery exercise Monday at Fort Stewart.

Pearl Harbor remembered at Hinesville VFW

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

The Hinesville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6602 hosted a Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony Dec. 6, in recognition of the attack on the U.S. naval base that claimed the lives of nearly 2,500 American military personnel, and to honor those who defended the base.

The ceremony was arranged by Disabled American Veterans Chapter 46, and featured 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr. as guest speaker.

At about 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941, a huge contingent of Japanese fighter planes and bombers launched a surprise attack on the Hawaiian Naval base in an attempt to cripple the U.S. Navy and assert their dominance in the Pacific. Of the 26 ships that were damaged or sunk in the attack, all but three were rebuilt and sailed again.

"People are already forgetting September 11, so imagine how many people have forgotten about Pearl Harbor," said DAV's Luis Carreras. "It's so important to remember — that was a day that changed our nation and changed the whole world."

Volunteers from Vietnam Veterans

Chapter 789 posted the colors, and the crowd recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the voices of veterans young and old filling the air. Members of Bradwell Institute's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps stood at attention and saluted as the colors passed.

Members of the DAV Auxiliary placed a red wreath by the colors in honor of those who died at Pearl Harbor. The ladies' auxiliary, which regularly volunteers in local community functions, catered the event.

"We wouldn't have any of the freedoms we have if it weren't for our veterans," said Bea Hill, DAV Auxiliary's Senior Vice Commander. "While they were away at war, it was like we were serving back home."

Two World War II veterans who were at Pearl Harbor the morning it was attacked attended, and recounted their tales from the tragic day. Bill LaRoche was a Soldier stationed at Pearl Harbor with the 27th Infantry Regiment Wolfhounds, 25th Infantry Division when the bombs began to fall.

"I was leaving the mess hall when I started hearing bombs and machine guns, then I saw 75 to 100 planes coming in waves," LaRoche said. "I was a sergeant then, and I was trying to get the word out to the men the best I could. It was a vicious attack."

Webster told the gathered crowd part of LaRoche's story, as teary-eyed veterans huddled in their coats on the chilly morning.

"Bill told me he ran immediately to the supply room to get weapons and ammunition because he knew he had to fight back," Webster said. "He was threatened with court-martial for taking the guns, but told the armorer, 'I don't give a doggone, I'm going to kill every one of them.'"

Jack White was a Navy radio operator aboard the USS Cunningham the morning of Dec. 7.

"The first we heard of the attack was a "fire and rescue" order, but we saw the Japanese planes overhead and the emergency order came for us to man our battle stations," White said. "I was on the .50 caliber machine gun firing at the planes."

White emotionally described the night following the attack, when his crew opened fire on patrolling U.S. aircraft. "It was a terrible day," White said.

During his speech, Webster praised the veterans for their service and their bravery, and made comparisons between the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

"Both attacks took place in the early morning, the death toll was strikingly similar and afterward everyone knew that the nation would be in for a long war," said Webster, who was inside the Pentagon when it was struck by a hijacked jetliner. "A notable difference was the public awareness of the two events. The images of Sept. 11 were forever etched into the American consciousness that morning, but Pearl Harbor was shrouded in silence and secrecy. One year later the Navy released a statement on the attack, and footage of the attack was finally made public in early 1943."

The 3rd Inf. Div. "Rhythm of the Marne" Band played taps in memory of those who served at Pearl Harbor and did not return.

"It's a tremendous honor and privilege to meet these men who served in World War II," Webster said. "It's striking to hear the similarities in their experiences at Pearl Harbor, and our experiences at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon."



Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

World War II Navy veteran Jack White shakes hands with 3rd Inf. Div. commander Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr. during a remembrance ceremony for the attack on Pearl Harbor. White was a radio operator aboard the USS Cunningham, which was in port at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked.



Hinesville Mayor Tom Ratcliffe and Webster speak with William Laroche, a World War II Army veteran who was at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

Holiday safety message

FORSCOM tells troops, leaders to stay alert, take care

Gen. Larry R. Ellis

Special to The Frontline

The winter holidays traditionally provide our Soldiers with a respite from busy schedules and an opportunity to reunite with family and friends. Our continuing support of the war against terrorism will require many units across the command to remain engaged as we mount the force for coming deployments. However, to the maximum extent possible, commanders should manage missions such that our Soldiers optimize down time to enjoy the holidays and to be with loved ones.

Our goal is an accident free holiday observance and the safe return of all Soldiers. We will require the support of Forces Command commanders and



Gen. Larry R. Ellis, FORSCOM commander

supervisors at every level to achieve this.

Commanders and supervisors must take into account the safety issues associated with the holidays and prepare accordingly. They must emphasize privately-owned-vehicle safety, the prudent and responsible use of alcohol, and the possibility of injury due to winter weather. They should also be mindful of the rise in domestic violence and the increased propensity of Soldiers towards depression and despair that often recur each year at this time. To ensure a comprehensive approach to holiday safety, I encourage the use of the U.S. Army Safety Center website at <http://safety.army.mil/>.

I charge everyone to take the steps necessary to eliminate accidents and to have a safe and happy holiday period.

Marne Six Sends

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.

3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Holiday Safety.

The holiday season is traditionally a time of joy and happiness that Americans celebrate by worshipping in their beliefs, exchanging gifts, socializing, decorating and traveling. Unfortunately this same joyful season is often marred by tragic accidents that needlessly injure and claim the lives of our loved ones and unit team mates. Historically, traffic accidents have been the primary cause of injuries and fatalities. The death rate average for motor vehicle accidents is about 15 percent higher during holiday periods.

Marne Soldiers are the heart and soul of our division. Many of you will be traveling long distances to be with family and friends. Driving and travel in general can be tiring, even on short trips. Drive smart by planning ahead and allow adequate time to reach your destination. If you feel fatigued, take a break; stop if necessary. You are all valuable to your family and the Marne Team!

If you are giving a holiday party for your team, be a friend first — then a host. Create a climate that discourages overindulgence, have something to eat and offer non-alco-

holic drink alternatives. Never let anyone drive away from your party under the influence. Take care of each other at a party as you have in combat — you may be saving each others lives.

Children need special protection from holiday hazards. Watch for toys with sharp edges, pins, wires or parts that easily come off that could be swallowed. Take time and read the instructions before using electrical toys or equipment.

It is my hope that you and your unit team members will close ranks and ensure each other will have a safe and joyful holiday. There is nothing new or shocking about what I have said, but I hope your awareness for each other's safety during this period has been sharpened. Next week we will have a day devoted to safety. Each unit will conduct training on numerous topics.

Let's dedicate ourselves to working hard to avoid the tragedies of holiday's past. We have a great team that has proven, we can watch out for each other.

Now is the time to do so again!

Next Week..... Holiday Blues.....Beat them!

MissionSoldiers.....Teamwork

MARNE SIX OUT

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What would be your holiday wish for Soldiers deployed this season?

"That they'll come back home to be with their families and loved ones."

**Sgt. 1st Class Bridget Sealy
HHC, 24th CSG**



"Bring them home to spend time with their families for Christmas. That's what everybody wants."

**1st Lt. Rocky Torres
HHD, 87th CSB**



"To come home safe and be with their families."

**Keith Hayes
AAFES vendor**



"Peace on Earth and goodwill for all the peoples of the Earth. And a speedy return to their families."

**Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers
A Co., HQ Cmd.**



"That they are happy and healthy and the knowledge that their family is okay and what they're doing is worthwhile."

**Alison Escobar
Spouse**



"I really want them to come back home."

**Spc. Alvin Concepcion
MEDDAC**

BUSTER'S BATTERY



Correction

In a page 1 story in the Dec. 4 issue of The Frontline, it was stated that Gate 6 (Wilson Ave. to 144 and 119) would be closed for outbound traffic during construction at Gate 5 (Gulick Ave. 144 and 119). Gate 6 is open for inbound and outbound traffic, according to the Provost Marshal Office.

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Write a letter to the editor!

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Division CPX gives Soldiers hands-on training

Spc. Robert Adams and Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff writers

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) went to the field from Dec. 1 through 4 to conduct a division-wide Command Post Exercise at Fort Stewart's Evans Army Airfield, Wright Army Airfield and Taylor's Creek.

Soldiers set up tactical operations centers, tents, communications equipment and concertina wire to create a tactical environment in which they would live, train, eat and sleep.

Elements of the division used the time to train Soldiers, hone equipment utilization skills, build teamwork within units and take better stock of their strengths and weaknesses.

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Engineer Brigade used the time to practice the exten-

sion and reduction of the size of their tactical operations center.

"We are here to set up a TOC operation to support mobilized and counter mobilized units and to advise the commanding general on engineer specifics," said Sgt. Maj. Lowell Thomas, operational brigade sergeant major.

The TOC has to be mobile and be ready to move out in less than an hour, and extension vehicles are used for longer stays depending on the mission, he said.

"The TOC tracks the battle even as it moves and informs the commanding general of ongoing events," Thomas added. "It keeps in constant communication with the division and manages and advises engineer battalions on mission operations."

"This is the first time for this crew to work together in an exercise, so this is great training for them," he added.

For some units who had just returned from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the four days they spent in the field were more of a review period and a chance to assimilate newer members of the battalion with those who have been around awhile.

"If I could sum the exercise up in one phrase, I'd call it our 'Post-Iraqi Freedom shakedown,'" said Lt. Col. Robert Bannon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment commander. "It was a good opportunity to unload our equipment and account for all of it."

Spc. Joseph Yarbrough, signal systems support specialist with 2/3 Avn., said, "It was refreshing to get back out in the rough, even though this isn't really 'rough,' per se, after being cooped up for the past 90 days."

Bannon also said that since about 30 percent of the Soldiers currently in his unit did not deploy

with 2/3 Avn. during OIF, the exercise was also a good way to help them get more integrated into the unit.

"Since we're only out here for a short time, we intentionally set up very basic objectives, and a major objective was teamwork," he said.

Bannon said some of the other points emphasized in the unit's training schedule were training the staff and Soldiers in setting up a TOC and validating the unit's communications systems.

"We're in the initial phase of training a new team," he said. "This is the first step of that phase."

Sgt. Patrick Plyter, a Bradley section leader in the Assault Command Post, said the CPX was "good training for new Soldiers," as he wove razor-sharp strands of concertina wire around the division main headquarters.

Plyter added, "Now they can get a taste of what really goes on."



Spc. Jonathon Stack

Pvt. 2 Jordan Williams and Pfc. Kristopher Jones, 103rd MI Bn. put a post into the ground to wrap concertina wire around.



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Lt. Col. David Funk, 3/7 Inf. commander, and Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (Support), unveil the Phoenix Award at the 3/7 Inf. motor pool Friday.

Phoenix Award arrives at 3-7

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

The most prestigious maintenance award in the Department of Defense arrived at its new home in a ceremony at the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment motor pool Friday.

The Phoenix Award, which is given to the best maintenance unit in the armed forces, was awarded to the battalion when they traveled to King of Prussia, Pa., Oct. 25 for the 2003 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards.

"This award is a tribute to the hard-working, dedicated heroes and supervisors who go out to work and make it happen every day," Lt. Col. David Funk, battalion commander told his assembled battalion. "You men and your leaders earned this

trophy, and I'll be proud to display this trophy at our headquarters for the next year."

The award, which features a bronze phoenix perched atop a large wooden pyramid, honors the unit's performance during fiscal year 2002, when the Cottonbalers' motor pool boasted a 97 percent readiness rate for their Bradley fighting vehicles, humvees, heavy trucks and other vehicles.

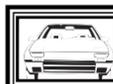
The unit demonstrated continuous preparedness operating in forward bases, checkpoints, base camps, and in the midst of ongoing operations. During one deployment, the unit performed more than 100 vehicle recoveries, many in known minefields.

The Phoenix Award is an annual award that was started in 1985. Only three other Army units have

won the award, and it has been 12 years since one has done so, said Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (Support), who helped Funk unveil the trophy. 3/7 Inf. is also the first Forces Command unit to receive the award in 15 years.

"Operation Iraqi Freedom was just one more chapter in the proud history of this unit," Riojas said. "You are known as warfighters, but you also get maintenance as part of the package deal when you come down here to the Cottonbalers. (This award) is a phenomenal accomplishment. Your dedication, proficiency and commitment to doing well as warriors brought you that trophy."

The trophy is a rotating award and will remain at the Cottonbalers headquarters until it is awarded to a new unit in 2004.



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Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Sgt. Alberto Martinez, a communications specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, is sworn in by Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (Support) during his reenlistment ceremony Friday at the battalion motor pool. Martinez said he wants to stay at Stewart.



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

An audience of veterans and 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) soldiers watch the division band play a variety of Christmas carols.

DUBLIN

from page 1A

the past with the present.”

“A lot of the veterans here grew up in this area and some served at Fort Stewart. We have veterans from World War II all the way through the Persian Gulf,” Doles said. “It means a lot if a Soldier comes and visits them because they are appreciated for what they did.”

“Some of the veterans don’t have any family left and don’t receive many visitors,” said Pvt. 2 Patrick Spalding, A Company, 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry. “These men fought for us and it is our responsibility to come and make sure they are appreciated for what they did.”

Spalding talked to some of the veterans and learned about where they were from and about their experiences in the service.

“Today is a passing of the torch from the past to the present. These Soldiers that are here today fully realize that they have the torch and it’s their responsibility to stand in the gap and they are honored and willing to do that,” Caslen added. “There is no greater service than service to country.”

BOXING

from page 1A

sanctioning body.

“There was always a big spectator interest in amateur boxing,” he said. “We had three good years in the early 90s, but then it died quickly.”

Battle said the demands of training made it difficult for Soldiers to prepare for boxing.

“It just started losing support,” he said. “Soldiers need time to prepare for something like that because of the conditioning that’s involved.”

Yawn and Battle said the funding for a post boxing program ended when posts were no longer allowed to maintain teams.

“It was put out by (the Department of the Army) that we weren’t sup-

posed to have teams any more, so that was dropped as well,” Battle said.

The lack of funding also led to a diminished intramural boxing program, Yawn said.

“Our requirements say we don’t have to have boxing,” he said. “We just don’t have the funds to do it any more.”

The Army has a long tradition of boxing, said Battle, who was first introduced to the sport while he was a Soldier. Several Olympic boxers and coaches have come from the ranks.

“The thing about boxing and the Army is, Soldiers are warriors,” he

said. “When I was in Europe, a general told me the Soldiers were warriors and they wanted to fight. And they do fight. There’s no greater expression of that then when two combatants are in the ring going at each other for at least three minutes. And as far as esprit de corps in a unit, there’s just nothing greater than that.”

Yawn said the smokers of old were events the Soldiers looked forward to.

“They used to really enjoy it,” he said. “The brigades marched everybody in. Your duty station was Corkan Gym. Everybody was there.”

Soldiers in 2nd Brigade got a taste of boxing last year when they were

deployed to Kuwait for Operation Desert Spring. Three different smokers were held at Camp New York between October and January, with Soldiers fighting others in their weight classes.

Boxing will get started again Friday afternoon. 1st Lt. Michael Gruber, a platoon leader in B Co., 2/7 Inf., said Lt. Col. Todd Wood, 2/7’s battalion commander, asked him to see if it was possible to put a smoker together.

“With all the talk about warrior ethos, nothing brings out good fighting skills like a good fight,” Gruber said.

Gruber said that just as when box-

ing was big here, it is about more than boxing.

“This event isn’t just about the fight, its about holding an event to bring the Soldiers together,” he said. “It should be a really big morale booster.”

For Battle, there is nothing that can compare to boxing.

“A lot of people don’t understand that it takes a lot of courage to get into that ring and just get pummeled,” he said. “When you’ve shown the kind of courage it takes to do that, it’s a good feeling. It’s one thing to think you’re tough and another thing to show it. That’s what boxing does.”

Hunter residents speak out in meeting

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Hunter Army Airfield quarterly community meeting was held Tuesday evening at the Army Community Service building at 7 p.m.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble, Hunter garrison commander, chaired the meeting, which consisted of a panel of community service providers, unit representatives, housing area mayors, and members of the community.

Its purpose was to provide a public forum wherein the garrison staff provided information to the military community and attendees who, in turn, voiced their problems and concerns.

"Things have not slowed down any," Goble said as he opened the meeting, referring to the current tempo of operations on post.

He went on to address the main issue brought up at the last community meeting, that of motorists speeding through housing areas.

"We have done everything possible at the garrison level to quell the speeding problem," he said. "We have put in speed humps, placed more (military police) patrol cars in the neighborhoods ... now we are asking the communities to get together and talk to each other about what you can do to help with this problem."

Goble also brought up unique holiday safety concerns, such as fire safety due to candles and lights used as decorations, and the need to exercise caution while putting up exterior lights.

He then introduced the panel members, who shared current news about their individual sections.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Foxworth, Hunter Installation Chaplain, said Toys for Tots collections would be distributed Monday, and the Hunter Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony would take place Friday at 4:45 p.m.

Maj. Louis J. Poore, Hunter provost marshal, addressed the topic of on-post speeders, reaffirming that new speed humps were being put into housing areas in addition to those currently existing, adding that in the near future, those caught speeding would be issued harsher tickets that would require offenders to pay fines in addition to notifying unit command groups.

Poore said the post "Click It or Ticket" policy has now been put into effect, and drivers would be held accountable for any and all passengers not wearing seatbelts, including children under age six who are not in car



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Kimberly Anderson and Kelley Issa, mayor and vice mayor of Wilson Gate community, ask a question of the panel at the Hunter ACS meeting Tuesday.

seats.

Lastly, he said Hunter MPs would soon be replaced by a Department of Defense police force consisting of about 70 individuals.

Susan Osterlund, representing the Department of Public Works, said Hunter's Wilson Gate would "hopefully" be completed by the end of the month and the post chapel's renovation should be complete by the end of this week.

Lt. Col. Ken Heller, representing the post Residential Communities Initiative, said in order to progress on housing construction, some residents of Gannam Heights will have to be moved into alternative residences while new housing units are being constructed.

Millard Jones, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, encouraged community members to come to the Hunter Golf Club, luring them with the offer of free golf balls.

Jones announced that youth basketball and cheerleading sign-ups were now open at the Youth Center. He said the Child and Youth Services center would be hosting a "Family Feast" on Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

He also said Hunter Club was now reopened after its remodeling and is serving lunch daily.

"They did a nice job, and I think you will all appreciate it," Jones said.

Lt. Col. Glen Tomkins, director of Tuttle Army Health Clinic, informed attendees that Tuttle now has acquired child psychiatrists, and is in the process of taking on at least one more doctor in order to accommodate more patients.

Tomkins urged community members to take advantage of his open door policy whenever they had any complaints about Tuttle services, and said he has set aside weekday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. till the end of the day strictly for that purpose.

"Please do not leave my clinic angry with anyone but me," he said. "Give me a chance to try to do something about the problem."

Michael Pulley, commissary director, announced holiday store hours and informed the group that National Guard and Reserve Soldiers now have full-time shopping privileges.

Jeff Owes, Post Exchange director, said the PX is now having Christmas sales, and anyone who wants to take advantage of the sales should "get there quick."

Maj. Jim Gibson, officer in charge of the Hunter legal section, announced the imminent opening of the post tax center.

"There is no reason any Soldier should have to go pay for tax preparation when they can come to us and get those services for

free," he said.

Gibson also said employment counseling is available through the legal center for anyone who needs that service.

Steve Hart, Hunter public affairs officer, announced the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band's annual holiday concert that took place Wednesday at the Westin in Savannah.

After panel members had concluded their presentations, the meeting was opened for discussion and questions from community members.

Most questions centered around confusion about the responsibilities of Government Military Housing personnel within the housing areas and issues with the Tuttle appointment system.

Goble informed residents of post housing that any problem in and around their homes would now be completely taken care of by GMH.

Giving an example, he said, "If your house doesn't smell right, call GMH and tell them. They will figure out why it smells and they will fix it."

One resident praised this system, saying, "I called (GMH) to phone in a work order and in the time it took me to hang up the phone and walk into another room, the truck was pulling into my driveway."

Any person who lives in Hunter housing who is experiencing trouble of any kind with his house, housing arrangements or anything else within his housing area can call 459-2147 to place a work order with GMH, or visit the organization's website at www.southernlivingchoice.com.

Meeting attendees who had complaints about the Tuttle phone system were asked to be patient with the system, as it "goes down briefly periodically," Tomkins said. "If you get 'bumped' in call order or if you get disconnected, make sure you take down what time that occurred, and when you do get through be sure to let the clerks know what happened so they can record it (so the appropriate corrective action could be taken)."

These and other individual concerns were addressed and discussed in as thorough a manner as possible, and in most instances, issues were resolved or promised to be further examined.

Goble closed the meeting at about 8:45 p.m., saying, "This is the best community meeting I've had thus far."

The next community meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the ACS ballroom.

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Latest 'Stop Loss' keeps Soldiers in place

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — Soldiers assigned to units that have been selected to participate in the second rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the fifth rotation of Operation Enduring Freedom will not be allowed to voluntarily leave the Army or change duty stations under the most recent approved "Stop Loss and Stop Movement" program.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee approved the implementation of the Active Army Unit Stop Loss/Stop Movement Program Nov. 13. Soldiers in affected units will be subject to Stop Loss/Stop Movement 90 days before their deployment until 90 days after they're redeployed, according to officials from the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

Soldiers not affected by this Stop Loss/Stop Movement program implementation include National Guardsmen and Reservists. Those Soldiers are already subject to a Reserve Component Unit Stop Loss program.

The RC Unit Stop Loss policy was approved in November

2002, by Reginald J. Brown, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs). Stop Loss begins for RC Soldiers when the unit is first alerted and will last 90 days after demobilization.

There will be other categories of Soldiers that will not be affected by this Stop Loss/Stop Movement program, such as, Soldiers on terminal leave or those being involuntarily separated from the Army, ODCS, G1 officials said.

Headquarters, Department of the Army also implemented a Stop Movement, feature to the Stop Loss program, which suspends permanent change of station moves for Soldiers assigned to units that will fall under the Active Army Unit Stop Loss Program, according to ODCS, G1 officials.

Instituting the Active Army Unit Stop Loss, Stop Movement and retaining the RC Unit Stop Loss is to provide equity for all components and ensure unit stability from alert, through redeployment and demobilization, officials said.

The Army Human Resources Command remains the Stop Loss/Stop Movement exception to policy authority.

This decision, by Brownlee, also lifted the last two specialties affected by the All Component, 12-month Skill-Based Stop Loss program. The lift is for officers in the Information Systems Management Field, 53 and Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists, 55D. This effectively discontinues the All Component, 12-month Skill-Based Stop Loss program for both the active and Reserve components.

Personnel whose military occupational specialty was lifted from the All Component, 12-month Skill-Based program will have the opportunity to continue serving, if in good standing, or they may separate from the Army when they have fulfilled their yearlong commitment under Stop Loss.

By way of background, there have been five increments of Stop Loss in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, dating back to November 2001. Operation Noble Eagle involves Reserve component Soldiers who were mobilized to support homeland security.

However, the Army continually reviews all job specialties and units to make sure that readiness will not be adversely impacted, G1 officials said.

Gaining confidence



Courtesy Photo

Cpl. Kory Moyer, B company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, competes in a confidence course Dec. 4. The Armament Section took first place.

School transitioning

Helping military families navigate grading system

CFSC Public Affairs

Special to The Frontline

Transitioning from installation to installation can not only be very stressful for military families, but it also can be very challenging for families that have high school children.

A child growing up in a military family will probably attend 6 to 9 schools in many different states (including Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas) before high school graduation. This usually includes attending at least two high schools, and frequently more. Because a student can make multiple school transitions (not including the common changes of schools from elementary to middle and middle to high school) it is essential for parents to have a 6-year plan and be their child's number one advocate and very best guidance counselor. That means a strong understanding of not only what grades a child has earned, but also what the grade reports really say.

Dr. Mary Keller, executive director for the Military Child Education Coalition says taking an intensive, rigorous high school course of study is without question the best predictor of future success and actual earning power after high school. MCEC has developed a handy little pocket planner that helps parents chart their children's academic growth from middle school to high school and beyond.

Since grading systems vary from state to state or in some cases, school district to school district, Keller recommends that parents, who have high school students, maintain records of all high school transcripts. Most colleges will consider more than one high school transcript, especially when there is a difference in grading

between two or more school districts. Due to the fact that military students frequently change schools, uniformity in grading systems would help all mobile students. Where there is a common understanding of what grades mean — for example, are grades expressed in numbers or letters — it helps improve transition. Parents and students must be especially attentive to assuring that they understand precisely what the grading systems means in terms of grading scales, grade point weights/quality points for Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment high school/college courses or International Baccalaureate courses and the conversion implications.

One way to plan in advance is to meet with the school counselor and go over the student's transcript at the end of each school year or semester if a move is anticipated. Knowing the grading systems of the sending school and gathering documentation will assist the receiving school in working with the family.

When preparing for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests or Scholastic Aptitude Tests, the following are good sources for support and guidance:

- The computer lab at the Fort Stewart Youth Center. The Youth Center, located in Bryan Village has a computer instructor and reference CD's to assist help high school students.
- Or go online to www.satrocks.com where test guides are available.

For more information on school transitioning or to receive a copy of the MCEC "Chart your child's success through middle school, high school and beyond" contact the School Liaison office, located at Child & Youth Services Central Registration in Bldg 443 or call 767-6533.

How to avoid long lines at pharmacy

Laurie Kemp

Winn Public Affairs Officer

If you have better things to do than wait in line for a prescription at the hospital, then check out Winn Army Community Hospital's refill or satellite pharmacies.

According to Lt. Col. Thomas Babb, chief of the Pharmacy at Winn Army Community Hospital, the refill and satellite pharmacies not only help decrease the congestion in the main pharmacy and parking lot, but offer patients more convenient options.

For more information, call 370-6040.

Refill Pharmacy

The refill pharmacy, located in the hospital, is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Fridays

and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Prescription refills can be ordered online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil or by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221. Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready for pick-up the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Reserved 10-minute refill pharmacy parking is available in the parking lot in front of the main entrance.

Effective Jan. 1, refill prescriptions will no longer be filled at the main pharmacy. Patients must either use Web refill, call-in or the drop-off process.

Satellite Pharmacy

A new three-window satellite pharmacy is now open for business at the Post Exchange.

The pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Friday. It is closed weekends, holidays and training holidays. New prescriptions can be dropped off and picked up the next day. Refill prescriptions can be ordered by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or on the Web site. Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready the next working day after 9 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Main Pharmacy

The main pharmacy, located in the hospital, is open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on training holidays. The pharmacy is closed weekends and holidays.

Effective Jan. 1, prescription refills will no longer be filled in the main pharmacy. Patients must either use Web refill, call-in or the drop-off process.

Health Promotion initiative to help Army civilians stay fit

Special to the Frontline

While civilians employed by the Army have always been encouraged to stay healthy and fit through a regular program of exercise and good nutrition, the Department of the Army has recently taken steps to ensure that everyone has time for fitness.

While Marine Soldiers are required to conduct physical training five days a week, Department of Defense civilians do not have time automatically set aside for fitness.

Commanders may approve up to three hours excused absence per week for on-post fitness training, according to a recent DA memo.

An initial medical screening is required for participants, which includes a blood glucose and cholesterol test, a body composition measurement, a cardiorespiratory screening and various tests of flexibility, endurance and strength.

Participants will evaluate the program's effectiveness before starting and after terminating the program, which is authorized to

last six months.

In addition to receiving health and nutritional education, participants' progress will be monitored with the same tests as those given at the initial screening.

The program is expected to boost morale and reduce absence due to illness, according to the Army fitness Web site for the program, www.hooah4health.com/toolbox/targeting-fitness.

The time grant for the six-month program of independent training is intended to be given one time only. Work schedules should be adjusted to permit exercise time wherever possible, with consideration to the workload and mission.

According to a 1995 report by the Center for Disease Control and the American College of Sports Medicine, every U.S. adult should accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on most, if not all days of the week.

The only prerequisite for DoD civilians to participate in the program is supervisor approval, so all interested parties should start with their chain of command.



Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

You are invited to the first ever BOSS party.



WHEN: Dec. 18

WHERE: Sports USA

TIME: 7 p.m.

DRESS: Semi-formal

COST: Free

Food will be provided. Alcoholic beverages are on you.

Compete for the Mr. and Miss Winter title.

Call 767-0329 for more information

Vale Chapel is building community, fellowship and faith at it's ...

Neighborhood Holiday Fest

The event will take place at Vale Chapel in Bryan Village

Saturday from

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for a free lunch in honor of our neighbors. The event will include games and fun for the entire neighborhood. Point of Contact Chaplain (Maj.) Calvin Dixon, 767-3077.



Finances top priority for Army Family Action Plan

Victoria Palmer
Deputy PAO, CFSC

ALEXANDRIA, Va., — Personal financial concerns are this year's top priority for Soldiers and their families, according to the votes of 103 delegates to the 2003 Army Family Action Plan Conference. All the top five new AFAP issues directly relate to pay benefits and personal expenses.

Survivor Benefit Plan offset headed the list of new issues — ahead of mortgage relief for mobilized reserve-component servicemembers and death benefits for stillborn infants (tied for second), lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized servicemembers and weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

During the 20th annual Department of the Army AFAP conference Nov. 17 to 21 in Alexandria, Va., delegates representing every demographic segment of the Army worked in eight groups addressing 24 issues in areas such as family support, force support, logistical support, employment, entitlements and medical/dental.

"The changes that will come about if these issues are adopted will influence Soldiers at Fort Stewart a great deal, especially a lot of the Reservists and National Guardsmen that we have here," said Vickie Wiginton, installation volunteer coordinator for the Directorate of Community Activities and Services.

Each work group elected a spokesperson to brief out its top three issues at week's end to an audience of senior Army leaders that included Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila; Reginald J. Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, director of the Army Staff, and his wife Gail; Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard; Brig. Gen. James Snyder (who represented Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve) and Mrs. Helmly; and the conference host, Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, U.S. Army Community and

Family Support Center commander.

After all the issues were briefed, delegates voted for the top five from the conference, the six most critical active AFAP issues and the most valuable community services.

Help for surviving spouses of retirees was the focus of the # 1 issue: Survivor Benefit Plan offset. Spokesperson Tracey Dougherty, Fort Polk, La., explained that SBP, a voluntary, annuity-type plan paid monthly by military retirees, provides 55 percent of the service-member's retirement pay to the surviving spouse when Social Security is not yet payable and a 35 percent benefit when it is (at age 62). The age of receipt for maximum Social Security benefits has increased but the SBP offset remains at age 62. The Entitlements I work group recommended delay of the start of the second-tier level of SBP benefits from age 62 to 72 and increasing the level of benefits from 35 to 40 percent.

Entitlements II spokesperson Capt. Chris Moore, Fort Jackson, S.C. made impassioned pleas for his work group's issues through compelling storytelling, of which two resulted in a tie for the #2 new issue: mortgage relief for mobilized reservists and death benefits for stillborn infants.

Moore explained that approximately one third of mobilized reserve-component servicemembers suffer a significant decrease in pay, which impacts their ability to meet mortgage obligations. The work group made the recommendation that the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act be amended to allow Soldiers to defer the difference between the existing mortgage obligation on the family's primary residence and the Basic Allowance for Housing for the duration of mobilization.

"I know of a captain (at Fort Stewart) who lost a great deal of income from his practice while he was here and while deployed," Wiginton said. "If this problem is reworked, it will keep that kind of thing from happening again."

In briefing death benefits for stillborn infants, Moore illustrated the issue with an

emotional comparison of two families experiencing the joy of pregnancy and birth but which then undergo the heartbreaking loss of a child. But while a child who dies even shortly after birth is covered under Family Supplemental Group Life Insurance, a stillborn child is not, compounding the Soldier's and family's emotional trauma with financial hardship. The work group recommended that this could be addressed by changing the FSGLI to include a death benefit for stillborn infants.

Dougherty also briefed the #4 issue: lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized servicemembers. Current policy authorizes transportation costs for two family members when a Soldier is hospitalized. Dougherty explained that Congress has authorized per diem for families of Soldiers injured in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, but when a Soldier is seriously ill or injured in circumstances other than war, family members must incur the costs of lodging and food expenses. The work group recommended that travel and per diem be provided to families of all Soldiers hospitalized with serious illness or injury.

Facilities and Relocation spokesperson Maj. Nora Marcos, whose husband is an Army lieutenant colonel, briefed the #5 issue: weight allowance for Permanent Change of Station moves. Marcos explained that failure to review and adjust weight allowances has resulted in the application of out-of-date weight tables that have not increased since the 1980s, resulting in Soldiers having to dispose of personal items or paying out of pocket to cover moving expenses. The work group recommended weight allowances periodically be reviewed and adjusted based on modern-day households.

Affordable continuing education for family members continues to remain a hot issue, as delegates voted for the top six critical active issues introduced into the AFAP process in preceding conferences.

Allowing all Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to distribute their Montgomery GI

Bill benefits to their dependents was voted the top active issue, followed by in-state college tuition status for military family members, which was the number one 2002 AFAP conference new issue. This would allow for military family members residing in a state on military orders for the last and current duty assignment to be eligible for in-state tuition and to retain in-state tuition status once established.

In-state tuition status tied with pay table reform for second in the top six critical active issues, followed by modification of the Permanent Change of Station weight allowance table, retirement Dislocation Allowances and shipment of household goods.

This year's delegates identified the most valuable services as medical/dental, the Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service and the commissary.

The Army Family Action Plan grassroots process has identified issues affecting Soldiers' and families' lives to the Army senior leadership level since 1983. Over the past 20 years, AFAP has raised more than 542 issues resulting in 82 changes to legislation, 130 revised policies and 140 improved programs or services. AFAP successes include the Military Thrift Savings Plan that allows military members to participate in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan; TRICARE for Life, which extends TRICARE eligibility to military Medicare-eligibles; tour stabilization for Soldiers with high school seniors; and uniform Department of Defense reserve-component family member identification cards.

"We find ourselves in the AFAP 20th year, supporting an Army at war," Casey said. "At no time in my recent memory has a program like AFAP been more important to the overall success of our Army."

AFAP is a family support program of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va., and is one of more than 50 programs CFSC provides for Soldiers and families worldwide. Further information is available at the Army MWR Web site at www.armymwr.com.

Marne TV

December 2003 Schedule

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

5 a.m.
5:30 a.m.
6 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
Noon
12:30 p.m.

Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
Air Force News
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Navy News

1:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
5 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
6 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7 p.m.
10 p.m.
10:30 p.m.
11 p.m.

Air Force News
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
MARNE REPORT
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
Army Newswatch

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Christmas tree-lighting

A Christmas tree-lighting ceremony will take place tonight in front of Trent Field at 5p.m.

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Apr.

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The location is Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area.

For more information call the tax center at 767-4148/3909.

Deer hunt

There will be a managed deer hunt at Stewart, Dec. 23 sponsored by the MWR's Outdoor Recreation Department. Thirty hunters will be selected in a lottery to participate.

This event is open only to active duty Soldiers, National Guardsmen and Reservists. Hunters must provide their own legal weapons and ammunition for big game on Fort Stewart. Lunch will be provided.

For information call 767-8609/5032.

Phatt Katz

Barbara Carlyle and special guests are appearing at Club Stewart Sunday, 10 p.m. Doors open at 9 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$10, or \$15 at the door. Get tickets in Savannah at Boys II Men, Lester's Flowers, or Xcape B&B Salon.

Also, enjoy urban and old school R&B music with DJs, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., Saturdays. Cover charge is \$5 for ages 21 and older. No baseball caps or white tee shirts.

For information call 369-2122 or 980-9065.

Claims Division

The Claims Division business hours will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Dec. 22 through Jan. 02. The office will be closed Dec. 25 to 26, and Jan 1 to 2. The normal duty hours will resume Jan. 6.

Hunter

Christmas tree lighting

There will be a Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 4:45 p.m., Friday at Garrison headquarters.

Traffic Delays Wednesday

A division holiday run will be held Wednesday, 6 to 8 a.m. Roads affected are Wilson Blvd., N. Lightning Rd., Duncan Dr. and Leonard-Neal St. Community is invited to stand roadside and support participating Soldiers.

Basketball and cheerleading

Sign up for Youth Basketball and Cheerleading, ages 7 to 18. Sports fee is \$20 for first child, \$18 for each additional child. For more information call 352-5851.

Hunter Golf Club

The driving range is now open and new hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Buckets of 60 balls are \$4 and 30 balls are \$2.

For more information call 352-5622.

Commissary privileges

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

Hunter Club

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

Thrift Shop

The Hunter Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments accepted from

military identification card holders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It has a great assortment of bargains from baby clothes to furniture. All proceeds are returned to the Hunter Community in scholarships, grants to units, and through other military organizations. Donations are accepted and volunteers are always welcome. For more information contact the Hunter Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

America's Truck Display

This display will visit Hunter on Dec. 16. At scheduled stops, **Active Duty Personnel** only will be able to view the truck and receive patriotic momentos, candy, CDs, etc. to show thanks and support for their efforts. For more information visit <https://intranet1.stewart.army.mil/DCAS/Marketing/americas-truck.pdf>

Child Development Center

The following are several events planned for our families in Jan. Please join us for:

After School Movie Day
Jan. 2, 3 to 5 p.m.

African American Art Exhibit
Jan. 9, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Walk-A-Thon

Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Milk and Cookies Social
Jan. 30, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Toys for Tots

The drive has already begun and boxes were placed in the community this weekend. A box for people to donate new toys will be at the PX, the Commissary, ACS Bldg., Stewart and Hunter Credit Union and at the Hunter Chapel.

These boxes are in place now until Sunday.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Pharmacy Change

Effective Jan. 1, refill prescriptions must be ordered and picked-up at the refill pharmacy, located in the hospital, or the satellite pharmacy, located at the Post Exchange. Refill prescriptions will not be filled at the main pharmacy. For more information, call 370-6040.

Refill Pharmacy

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. Refills can be ordered by calling 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready for pick-up the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Satellite Pharmacy

The pharmacy is open 9 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. New prescriptions can be dropped off and picked up the next day. Refill prescriptions can be ordered by calling 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

New OB-GYN Hours

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will have new walk-in hours effective Jan. 1. The new walk-in hours are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Tuttle Information Desk

Tuttle Army Health Clinic's new information desk phone is 352-6500.

Flu Shots

Flu shots are available for all ages at Winn's immunization clinic 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 370-6878.

Additional Parking

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

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 orientation will be held 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 9. For more information, call 370-6903.

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.

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.

Look Before You Leap...

Observe swimming safety, year-round!



POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Family member, 19-year-old male
- **Charges:** Distribution of marijuana, conspiracy, conspiracy to commit other crimes against property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 25-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Simple battery, cruelty to a child
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Failure to obey lawful order
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 26-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Excessive speeding 65/40
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Speeding, driving with a suspended license
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Civilian, 33-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 69/55, driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 102/70, driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Richmond Hill

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Assault consummated by battery, simple battery
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of cocaine, wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Battery
- **Location:** Garden City



- **Subject:** Specialist, 35-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended license, passing in a no passing zone
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 2, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Aggravated assault
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Defective equipment (brakes), failure to wear seatbelt
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, loud music
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 49-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, no seatbelt
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Driving too fast for conditions, failure to notify after hitting object, improper lane usage, driving under the influence
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 38-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Speeding, driving under the influence
- **Location:** Savannah

Tax statements available on myPay

Special to The Frontline

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently released the schedule of dates when U.S. military servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

MyPay provides an easy, secure method for managing pay account information for America's military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilians. Available around the clock, customers can conveniently make changes online, avoiding the hassles of an office visit.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay on the Web site. For assistance, myPay users can call customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services business line. "Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.

The DFAS is projecting the tax statements will be available on myPay during the following periods:

Military Annuitants
Dec. 13 to Dec. 18

DoD civilians
Dec. 24 to Dec. 29

**Army, Air Force,
Navy Reserve and National Guard**
Dec. 26 to Jan. 1

Military Retirees
Jan. 1 to Jan. 5

**Marine Corps
Active and Reserve**
Jan. 13 to Jan. 21

**Army, Air Force,
Navy Active**
Jan. 16 to Jan. 26

ASK THE JUDGE

Tax Scams Continue All Year Long

The Internal Revenue Service has warned that taxpayers should be weary of scams, even after the tax-filing season. One of these scams is specifically aimed at military families.

Beware of telephone callers posing as IRS employees who promise a big refund because of your military affiliation. In exchange for this refund, the caller may ask for a credit car number to cover a postage fee. No actual IRS employee will ever ask for credit card numbers or request fees for refund payments. The callers have gone so far as to provide actual IRS numbers as a contact number to appear more legitimate.

Another scam is via the internet, where taxpayers receive emails that claim to be from the IRS. The emails contain a link to a non-IRS Web site which asks for personal information that can be used to steal the victim's identity. Armed with this personal information, the thieves can access and

modify financial accounts, make charges on the victim's credit lines, apply for credit in the victim's name and file fraudulent tax returns. Again, the IRS does not request sensitive information via email.

When dealing with anyone claiming to be from the IRS, keep in mind that actual employees will carry picture identification. Also, IRS forms only ask for sensitive personal and financial data in very rare circumstances.

If you are a victim of a tax scam, you should contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 336-4484, faxing a complaint to (202) 927-7018 or writing the TIGTA Hotline, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington D.C., 20044-0589. It may be accessed on the Web at www.ustreas.gov/tigta. More information on this subject can also be found under "Scams/Consumer Alerts" at www.irs.gov.

PMO, D.A.R.E., help keep kids drug-free

Provost Marshal's Office

Special to The Frontline

What is D.A.R.E.? DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The program originated in Los Angeles in 1983 by six L.A. Police Department officers.

The program was designed to provide children with the knowledge and skills they need to live a drug and violence free life. D.A.R.E. also establishes relationships between law enforcement officers, teachers, parents, students, and the community they live in. The Fort Stewart Military Police Investigations Section is the element responsible for the program on post.

The program is a ten-week period of lessons for the elementary and middle school curriculum. Each student learns about the health risks of drug use, how to make responsible decisions, and how to avoid alcohol, tobacco, and other dangerous drugs. Although the program is instructed to grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, the only grades taught at Fort Stewart are the fifth and sixth grade.

The kindergarten curriculum is the initial seed to the pro-

gram, which includes basic introduction to safety and drug resistance. Students who enter the program are challenged on all levels and receive a certificate upon completion of the entire course.

The D.A.R.E. program is considered an elective for completion of every grade. More than 36 million youth in more than 300,000 classrooms across the United States are learning the D.A.R.E. curriculum.

The instructor course for D.A.R.E. was given at Fort Stewart last month. The course was a two-week challenge for one instructor from the 3rd Military Police Battalion and one from the Directorate of Public Safety.

Every student who attends the instructor course has to learn the entire curriculum for Kindergarten through 12th grade. The course details training in classroom management, child development, teaching techniques, communication skills, drug health risks, public speaking, and school violence prevention. Also, students are required to teach five lessons, ranging from ten to forty-five minutes in length. The preparation for the lessons taught is added to the long hours of homework and studying done by each student.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation selects and screens each candidate to be qualified as an instructor. Only one out of twenty five candidates are chosen to attend the training. After graduating, the D.A.R.E. officer is required to teach one ten-week lesson yearly to keep his/her certification.

Military police are usually subject to the reactive approach to crime, but D.A.R.E. is a proactive approach. This means that most children see law enforcement officers when they respond to calls in their neighborhood and it usually is on a negative level. D.A.R.E. introduces the Police Officer as a mentor or educator who cares about the safety and life of each child. In fact, D.A.R.E. is so important to the citizens of the United States that the President of the United States declared a National D.A.R.E. day in 1988. Each state celebrates the day once a year, as designated by their perspective state legislature. Georgia celebrates D.A.R.E. Day April 11 every year. The Fort Stewart D.A.R.E. officers look forward to working with your youth.

The next D.A.R.E. session will start Feb. 2 at Diamond Elementary for Grades 5 and 6.

For more information call Russell Wilson, Fort Stewart Provost Marshal Office juvenile team coordinator at 767-8957.

New updates for CLEP examinations

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The College Level Examination Program that has become a popular route for servicemembers seeking degrees will introduce 14 new paper tests in April.

These will replace some tests that will no longer be available in paper form, beginning early 2004, said Len Lipp, Exam Programs Manager for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

"These are aged exams," Lipp said, referring to the CLEP tests now used by DANTEs. "The current paper-based exams, after their withdrawal date, will no longer be considered valid examinations and will have to be pulled. This is not uncommon in the testing world."

According to the DANTEs Web site, subjects such as social science, history, sociology, psychology, humanities, college algebra and mathematics will be reintroduced in the paper form. The test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being

administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses.

Since July of 2001, more than 1,300 campus test centers have offered electronic computer-based CLEP tests. Lipp said the reintroduced paper-based exams are considered "high volume" exams. "They are the most popular, they have the best success rate and they meet a majority of educational requirements of most degree programs that people use CLEP for," he said.

Lipp said the hard-copy exams will still be available because of the "recognized need for paper-based testing in the military."

He pointed to locations and environments in DoD where paper-based education is a

good alternative — "where it would be very difficult

to deliver computer-based testing — for example, ships at sea, and ... numerous remote locations, particularly in the Middle East and other areas."

CLEP tests offer servicemembers a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours' credit toward a bachelor's degree. The exams, widely accepted by colleges and universities, cover material taught in most college freshman and sophomore courses.

Lipp said that of the three credit-by-exams programs recognized by colleges, CLEP by far is the most popular among the military. He said the pro-

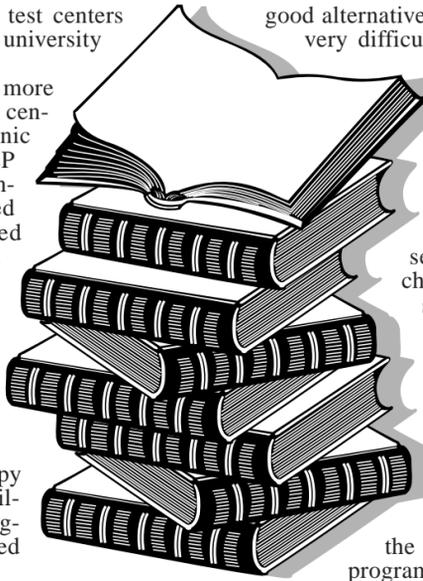
gram has been used extensively, particularly in the Air Force, which he said constitutes nearly 55 percent of the military testing volume.

"Up until just recently we were averaging in the neighborhood of about 70,000 to 75,000 exams a year," he explained. He said that number "far exceeded" the DSST testing program which is the second largest with a volume that is around 55,000.

According to Lipp, in the near future CLEP tests might soon become even more popular and convenient for servicemembers.

He said DANTEs and the College Board, the well-known organization that provides college information, testing and financial-aid sources, are working to introduce a new Web-based CLEP program, hopefully by fiscal 2006. That program will allow servicemembers to take CLEP tests online at military education centers.

For more information about CLEP tests and the nearest national test center, visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/clep/> or http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/CLEP.htm.



Rumsfeld wraps up overseas trip with visit to Baghdad

John D. Banusiewicz

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON, — A first-hand look at Iraqi Civil Defense Corps training and a series of meetings with military, coalition and Iraqi officials made for a busy afternoon Dec. 6 for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The Iraqi capital was the last stop of an overseas trip for the secretary, who left Washington Nov. 30 and participated in the Dec. 1 and 2 NATO defense ministers conference in Brussels, Belgium. Over the next four days, Rumsfeld traveled to Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Georgia and Iraq. A planned stop in Uzbekistan Dec. 5 was cancelled when heavy fog prevented his plane from landing.

Rumsfeld arrived at about 11 a.m. following a morning visit to Kirkuk, and traveled by helicopter to a forward operating base of the 82nd Airborne Division. At various sites on the compound, he watched U.S. Soldiers training ICDC recruits. One group — the newest — was working on drill and marching skills, and the precision of their steps and maneuvers belied the fact they're in only their third day of the two-week program.

A second group was learning about proper care and cleaning of firearms, while a third was practicing techniques for entering a room where hostile elements might be present. Iraqi translators repeated the U.S. Soldiers' English instructions for the recruits.

"I think what I've seen first-hand is the fact that the approach we've taken attempting to develop Iraqi security forces has been the right approach," Rumsfeld said. "The training is good, he added, and the security work the graduates do is being accomplished 'well and professionally.'"

The secretary noted the rapid progress of training Iraqis and putting them to work, noting that on June 1, the number of trained security forces was zero, and that only six months later, more than 140,000 Iraqis are working in the ICDC, the border patrol, the Iraqi police and the new Iraqi army.

"Now they represent the largest single security force in the country," Rumsfeld said. "They are larger than the U.S. forces, and, I believe at this stage, almost larger than all the Coalition



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld shakes hands with soldiers after having breakfast at Kirkuk Air Base, Kirkuk, Iraq, on Dec. 6. Rumsfeld is in Iraq to meet with members of the Coalition Provisional Authority, senior military leaders and the troops deployed there.

forces combined." And with more Iraqis handling security, the coalition is getting better intelligence, he added.

"(They) know the neighborhood. They know the language. They can tell things that are unusual ... and are coming forward with information that is improving the Coalition forces' ability to aggressively weed out the remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime," he said.

After having lunch with Soldiers in the compound, Rumsfeld traveled to the headquarters of the Coalition Provisional Authority, where he met with Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez and other leaders of Combined Joint Task Force 7 and with L. Paul Bremer III, CPA administrator. He also found time to tape a broadcast address to the Iraqi people.

In the message, the secretary provided an update on the

growing participation of the Iraqi people in their own security and on the progress coalition forces are making in defeating the enemies of a stable and free Iraq.

"The battle in Iraq is not a fight between Iraqis and foreign forces," he said. "It is a battle between free Iraqis and the last remnants of a defeated regime, who still do not realize that their cause is lost."

He said when the history of the liberation is written, Iraqi children "will read about the heroism of so many brave Iraqis who struggled and sacrificed, and gave their lives, for their country's freedom."

Later, the secretary visited the staff and patients at the 28th Combat Support Hospital, and credited the staff with saving more than 1,000 lives to date. Afterward, Rumsfeld met with Abdel Aziz Hakim, president of the Iraqi governing council.

A senior U.S. official who was present in the meeting said that while the tone was "warm and cordial" it included frank discussions about the need for the council to quicken its pace in taking the necessary steps needed for Iraqi self-government between now and June, when sovereignty in Iraq is scheduled to transfer to the Iraqi people from the CPA.

The official said Rumsfeld and Hakim agreed that much needs to be done in a short time. Hakim told the secretary the council is unanimous in its support for the principles of a Nov. 15 agreement on the way ahead in the political process. The principles include a bill of rights, a transitional national assembly and establishment of a provisional government. Hakim added, however, that details need to be worked out that would help to win over a large segment of the population.

The official said Rumsfeld recalled his Dec 5 visit to Georgia, and pointed out that the three interim leaders of that country in the wake of the president's resignation last month all come from different parties, but have put their personal political agendas aside to do what's best for Georgia. Hakim, he said, took the point.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, met with the secretary at Baghdad International Airport before Rumsfeld boarded his jet for the first leg of his trip home. The secretary arrived back in Washington Dec. 7.

CENTCOM NEWS

Soldier killed in IED attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A 22nd Signal Brigade Soldier was killed Friday in Eastern Baghdad at approximately 9:20 a.m. The Soldier was traveling in a three-vehicle convoy when an improvised explosive device detonated between the first and second vehicles.

The name of the Soldier has been withheld pending next-of-kin notification.

101st conducts raids, rounds up suspects, weapons caches

MOSUL, IRAQ — The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in conjunction with

Iraqi Police Forces detained six individuals suspected of involvement in attacks on Coalition Forces during raids Sunday in northern Iraq.

The division's 1st Brigade Combat Team detained one person wanted for attacks on Coalition Forces during a "cordon-and-knock" South of Mosul.

Later in the day, 1st BCT captured one person, four AK-47 assault rifle magazines, binoculars and communication headsets when a joint patrol with local police determined the house, in the town of Hammam Al Alil, was in the launch site of an rocket propelled grenade

attack that occurred the previous night.

The 2nd BCT in Mosul apprehended a man wanted for being a Fedayeen Cell leader. He is being questioned extensively.

Three more individuals were captured in Sinjar by 3rd BCT later that night. They were sought in connection with three explosions near a U.S. camp the previous night.

Caches found or turned over by cooperative civilians included two RPG launchers, 10 RPG rounds, one 60 mm mortar tube, and one pair of night vision goggles.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continues to work with Iraqi security person-

nel and the local community to remove threats to Coalition Forces and new Iraqi government agencies.

101st Airborne Division Soldier killed

MOSUL, Iraq — A 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldier was killed in Mosul at approximately 7:30 a.m. Monday when his unit came under fire by four individuals in two vehicles. The Soldier was medically evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital where the Soldier died of his wounds.

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



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