

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

416th comes home from Iraq

Pfc. Emily J. Danial
Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Excited shrieks echoed off the high ceilings of the Hunter Army Airfield Gym when approximately 100 Soldiers from Hunter's 416th Transportation Company returned to a crowd of very vocal family, friends and loved ones, early Friday morning.

An additional 54 Soldiers from 143rd Transportation Command, an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Orlando, Fla., returned on the same aircraft from a deployment to Iraq.

The 416th Trans. Co., a subordinate of Hunter's 260th Quartermaster Battalion, had been deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 24.

"I didn't believe it when I heard he was coming home," said Amanda Woodard of her husband, Pfc. Lonnie Woodard. "I still won't believe it until I see him."

She saw him at about 2 a.m. and rushed to greet him as soon as the Soldiers were released from their unit formation, along with

the rest of the throng that had gathered to welcome home their husbands, wives, children, parents, friends and relatives.

The unit's mission while in Iraq, as it is at home, was to provide bulk petroleum transportation to V Corps, the Air Force, and coalition forces during major conflict and sustainment operations.

"They were an outstanding unit," said Col. Roberta A. Woods, commander of the 24th Corps Support Group, which oversees the company. "416th was the unit their higher headquarters called on for every tough mission and every mission that had to be executed immediately."

While in the Middle East, 416th transported more than 8 million gallons of JP-8 fuel to its customers, using equipment that included M915A2 tractors and M1062 7,500-gallon tankers.

"I'm extremely proud of them, and glad they're coming home," Woods said. "I was over there with them, so I know what they were going through."

The company began its deployment at

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and remained there until May 6, then moved to Garma, Iraq, where it stayed from May 8 to June 1. The 416th spent the remainder of its time in Talil, Iraq, before returning to the United States.

When the word came that 416th's plane had landed at Hunter, the shouts of the crowd filled the room.

For Idell Gray, wife of Sgt. Chris Gray, her husband's return was cause for celebration for more than one reason.

"A couple of minutes ago it was my 24th birthday," she said as she waited for the bus bearing her husband to arrive. "He's my birthday present."

Almost buried in the balloons she carried, Gray added, "When I see him, I'm going to hug him like you hug someone you haven't seen in years."

Ronesha Edwards, 10, daughter of Spc. Rodney Edwards, carried a "Welcome Home" banner almost as large as she was and had a similar plan for the first time she laid



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Sgt. Brett Calloway, 416th Trans. Co., embraces his son Jeremiah, 3, at his company's Welcome Home ceremony Friday morning at Hunter Gym.

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Spc. Robert Adams

Sgt. Matthew Ervin, B Co., 11th Eng. Bn., probes for mines during Expert Sapper Badge testing at training area A-18.

Sappers test for Expert Badge

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Soldiers of 11th Engineer Battalion tested their combat engineer skills Dec. 11 to earn the Expert Sapper Badge at training area A-18 at Fort Stewart.

Soldiers who successfully completed seven skill stations, fired expert at the M16 rifle range, passed a written exam, completed a 12-mile ruck march in under three hours, attained a score of 270 points in the

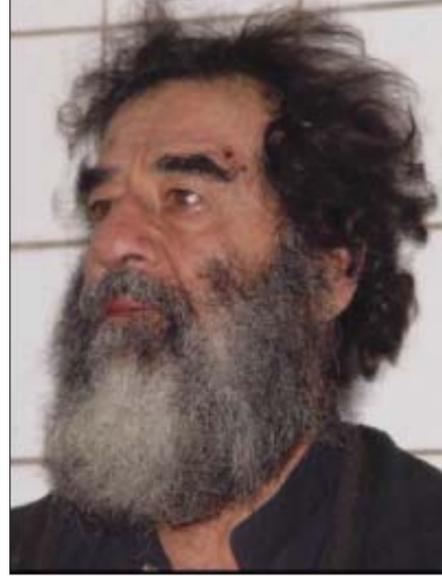
Army Physical Fitness Test with 90 and above in each event and completed a land navigation course successfully would be awarded the Expert Sapper Badge, said Command Sergeant Major Barry Hamilton, battalion command sergeant major.

Soldiers that achieved these tasks will be honored in front of the battalion with their families and have their names placed on a plaque in the battalion's history room, said Cpt. David J. Stalker, 11th Eng. Bn. assistant operations officer.

The 11th Eng. Bn. is the first battalion in the brigade to execute this training, Stalker said.

"The brigade provided us with guidance, and the battalion invented the program using the Expert Infantry Badge as a shell," he explained. The program was designed by the senior noncommissioned officers who ran the seven skill stations and was reviewed in depth by Hamilton, he added.

See SAPPER, Page 11A



Saddam Hussein

Saddam Hussein captured

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — It was the height of irony. Soldiers from the Army's 4th Infantry Division were huddled around television screens in Saddam Hussein's opulent palace in Tikrit, Iraq, watching the Dec. 14 announcement that a task force from their division had pulled the former dictator from a hole in the ground beneath a hovel just nine miles away.

As the news broke, cheers and applause thundered through the marble corridors of the palace, now headquarters for the Fort Hood, Texas-based division.

"It was an unbelievable feeling," said Sgt. Billy Atkinson from the 124th Signal Battalion. "I couldn't believe it until I actually saw it on the news."

Most of the troops watching coalition and military leaders describe Saddam's capture had little or no advance warning of the news. But many said they knew that something was in the air — something so major that it warranted a communications blackout at the headquarters preceding the announcement:

See SADDAM, Page 11A

3 Stewart Soldiers killed in S.C. traffic accident

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Three Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery Regiment were killed in a traffic accident on I-95 near Walterboro, S.C., Friday.

Dead are: Spc. Javoris Moore, 21, Pfc. Taurus Stultz, 20 and Pvt. 2 Shaun Kandel, 19.

The incident is still under investigation by South Carolina local authorities.

A memorial service was held for the Soldiers Tuesday at Victory Chapel.

"To reduce the tragedy of this accident I believe we must focus on comforting the families and on preventing this type of behavior in other Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Craig A. Finley, 1/39 FA battalion commander.

"In my view the only good that can come out of this terrible tragedy is the potential for others to learn from it and prevent a recurrence."

Moore, a food service specialist, joined the Army in June 2000 and arrived at Fort Stewart in January 2003. He also served in

Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Stultz, a power generator mechanic, joined the Army in May 2002 and was assigned to Stewart in November 2002. He was also an OIF veteran.

Kandel, a food service specialist, joined the military in August 2002, and arrived at Stewart March 2003.

Finley said, "May each of us not only appreciate the gift of a fragile life but try to walk a little straighter and soldier a little better so that we can honor their memory."

Weather Forecast

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

News



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FIRST RESPONDERS



Photos by Sgt. R. James Piper

(Above) Sgt. Byron Williard, a health care specialist and team leader with 1/120 Inf., and Spc. Robert Slue, a health care specialist from 1/113 Inf., evaluate a casualty during the second scenario of a mass casualty exercise Saturday. The second scenario involved a bomb going off in a building, which the medics had to clear as they evaluated the different casualties and moved them to a triage site. (Right) Spc. David Guions, 196th Cav., places a neck brace on a casualty during the first scenario of the exercise. In the first scenario, the medics came upon a convoy that ran over a land mine and was caught in an ambush.



Exercise tests medics' skills

Sgt. R. James Piper

Staff Writer

Tough, realistic training is key to the success of any field exercise, and health care specialists from the North Carolina National Guard experienced it during a mass casualty exercise Saturday.

"The training today was about as real life as you can get," said Sgt. Byron Williard, a health care specialist and team leader with 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, Wilmington, N.C. "I think it gives us a good taste of what we might see when we deploy."

The medics are scheduled to deploy to replace medics in Iraq. Each squad went through a different scenario as the other two squads observed.

"The training puts all of their skills together in real-world scenarios, forcing them to use medic skills and basic Soldier skills," said Sgt. 1st Class Homer J. Gilbert, health care specialist transition instructor.

The first squad came upon a simulated convoy that hit a land mine and was ambushed. The four vehicles each held wounded Soldiers who needed care and mannequins simulating Soldiers who were killed by the blast and attack.

In the second scenario, the medics went into a building where a bomb had exploded injuring and killing Soldiers. They had to clear the building as they began to check out wounded Soldiers' conditions.

The third group was on a patrol and came upon a group of Soldiers who were wounded in an ambush. As they began to treat Soldiers, three of the medics were wounded at the same time.

"We intentionally picked the squad leader and triage (non-commissioned officer in charge) to be wounded in the scenario because the squad knew who would be in charge," Gilbert said. "Sometimes your weaker Soldiers will hang back. Since the people in charge were wounded, everyone had to step up."

In each of the scenarios, the medics had to initially evaluate the wounded and dead Soldiers, provide immediate care to stabilize them and then move them to a triage site to provide further med-

ical care and request a medical evacuation.

As the squad was moving and treating Soldiers, the evaluators used an air horn to signal enemy fire and the medics had to seek cover with their patients.

At the triage site the medics worked to provide trauma care ranging from bandaging wounds and splinting fractures to clearing airways and administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. The triage NCOIC would request the MEDEVAC after the wounded Soldiers were initially evaluated.

"With everything going on in the world today, everything we did here may be something we will do over there," said Spc. Timothy Massey, a health care specialist with 1/120th Inf.

The training was the final portion of a 34-day condensed course to certify the Soldiers for the health care specialist military occupation specialty and for Soldiers who were already certified to qualify on the Semi-Annual Combat Medical Skills Validation Test.

The courses that were covered during the training were the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course, Prehospital Trauma Life Support course and the Trauma assessment Airway IVs Medications Shock management course.

"I came here very inexperienced ... but I have gained the confidence and knowledge to do whatever I need to treat Soldiers in combat," said Sgt. Curtis Benton, B Troop, 196th Cavalry Regiment, Elizabethtown, N.C.

"We first had to bring the Soldiers up to speed and then validate them," Gilbert said.

The health care specialist MOS combines the 91B medical specialist and 91C practical enlisted nurse MOSs into one specialty.

In a combat environment, the health care specialist provides emergency medical treatment. In a hospital environment, they work in troop medical clinics and hospitals.

"It's great because we are part of both worlds," Williard said. "We're involved in caring for Soldiers on the battlefield and their families at home."



Spc. Michael Pardee, 1/120 Inf., evaluates a casualty after he was wounded and treated during the third scenario of the exercise. The instructors wounded the triage NCOIC and the team leader in addition to Pardee to force all of the squad members to step up.



Medics evaluate and treat casualties during the second scenario of the exercise after moving them outside of the building.



(Above) Slue, Sgt. Eric Hartsock, 1/120th Inf., and Williard move a casualty to the helicopter to be medically evacuated from the triage site. (Left) A medic uses a field dressing to bandage a wounded Soldier's leg before setting the fracture.

New CSM takes over Stewart, Hunter

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

Command Sgt. Maj. Lou Garcia assumed the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield command sergeant major position from Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith in a change of responsibility ceremony Wednesday at Marne Garden.

Smith is retiring after 28 years of service. Garcia comes to the assignment after serving as the command sergeant major of the 24th Corps Support Group, which deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The main challenge (of this assignment) is to find the best way to assist Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to better accommodate and service our Soldiers and families," Garcia said. "The big question is, 'How can I improve on the infrastructure of these two installations?'"

Smith said Stewart and the Army underwent many major changes during his three years as the post's command sergeant major. "We went from a deploying and training Army to a go to war Army," he said.

One of the major changes that occurred during Smith's time was the garrison staff being moved out from under the division to the new Installation Management Agency, he said. The other major change was the

addition of the mobilization mission to the garrison.

"Fort Stewart is a mobilization center now," he said. "We mobilized 20,000 National Guard Soldiers and the division to the war."

The work did not end once the division was mobilized, Smith said. There were still incoming Soldiers who needed to be forwarded to the war effort and families and rear detachments to be taken care of.

"The last year and a half have been very busy," he said. "We've had numerous tours. I've had to sit in for two division command sergeants major when they've deployed to Bosnia and Iraq."

Smith said the most trying time of his term came during OIF when he had to read the names of fallen Marne Soldiers at memorial ceremonies held in their honor.

"As I get older, I'm getting more sentimental," he said. "When the National Anthem plays, I get a lump in my throat. Of the 44 (3rd Inf. Div.) Soldiers who died over there, I've read 38 names. That was pretty tough. Everything else we handle just takes time."

The best part of the job was trying to help people make things work, Smith said.

"Helping out with housing for younger Soldiers and their families is good work," he said. "We also do a lot of public service in

downtown Hinesville and the other communities."

Both Smith and Garcia agree that working as the garrison command sergeant major is different than working in what Smith called the "regular Army."

"Leading thousands of Soldiers is easy," Smith said. "But in garrison, you have those Soldiers, about 3,000 civilians and the security concerns of the post. You can try to predict what's going to happen and come up with a good plan, but this job is all about problem solving every day."

"In a maneuver unit, you have control because the Soldiers are under your command," Garcia said. "The garrison side is more business-oriented. I am the garrison command sergeant major, but I don't have control of what's going on. In garrison, I work for everyone from the privates to the general as well as the DoD civilians. That's who I have to please and take care of."

Smith said he is not retiring so much as moving on to his second career.

"You never really retire," he said. "I'd love to stay 30 years, but to be marketable, I can't be too old and broke. Hopefully, I've done my job. I trust our leadership in the Army. Some of these young Soldiers can step up to the plate. They're combat tested. They're confident. There are tons of them out there who will do a super job."



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Command Sgt. Maj. Lou Garcia addresses the crowd after assuming the garrison command sergeant major position at Marne Garden Wednesday.



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div. act out "I am the Sergeant" at the Sergeant Audie Murphy Induction Ceremony Wednesday.

NCOs inducted into Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Chapter held a ceremony Wednesday to induct 10 noncommissioned officers into the organization.

"It means a lot to me to be put in the same category of Soldier as Sgt. Audie Murphy," said Staff Sgt. Demetrius S. Johnson, one of the new inductees.

In order to be inducted into the chapter a Soldier has to be in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, he said. Once in the club a Soldier must request a membership into the chapter.

"I've wanted to be in the club ever since I was a private watching NCOs around me get ready for the board," he added.

"The purpose of the club is to recognize outstanding NCOs who have demonstrated and exemplified leadership excellence and standards," said 1st Sgt. Andrew Williams, the chapter president. "The purpose of the chapter is to allow an organization of great noncommissioned officers to give back to the community through fundraisers and volunteer services."

The chapter recently handed out food baskets for Thanksgiving for families in need, Johnson said. For Christmas

the chapter has collected toys to donate to Soldiers' families that need them.

"I have learned since I have been involved with the club and chapter that you have to have a passion to take care of Soldiers," Johnson said. "I encourage all inductees to get involved in a local chapter and get back to what a Sgt. Audie Murphy Chapter is all about."

He added, "If you recall how to genuinely take care of Soldiers the board shouldn't be hard."

The club was started in 1986 at Fort Hood, Texas, according to the organization's Web site, [www.mdw.army.mil/SAMC/Sergeant Audie Murphy Club](http://www.mdw.army.mil/SAMC/Sergeant_Audie_Murphy_Club). Leading the effort was Lt. Gen. Crosbie Saint, then the III Corps commander; his Command Sgt. Maj. George L. Horvath; III Corps Awards Clerk Jean Crisp and Don Moore, an artist who assisted with designing the logo and club awards.

Also according to the Web site, in 1994, at a Sergeant Major of the Army conference, the club spread Army-wide to all commands with installations retaining the selection process for their own NCOs.

In 1998, it was estimated that the club membership was over 3,000 Soldiers and was steadily increasing.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Marne Six Sends

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Beat the Holiday Blues ... Safely!
As the holidays draw closer the sentiments of love, sharing and goodness are brought forth, but we can also experience the holiday blues. Together we can beat the holiday blues. We have to take care of each other. Communication begins with the Soldier buddy team ... taking care of each other and enjoying the holiday together safely.

The chain of command within each team takes care of Soldiers, but also must take care of each other. Every individual has the responsibility to act with self dis-

cipline both during and after normal duty hours. Discipline and pride are displayed daily in the Marne Team, but it doesn't end when we walk away from our vehicles or lock up the orderly room door. Friends and teammates help one another with problems and encourage them to seek help ... it is expected in our TEAM!

There are many agencies, resources and activities that we can employ in the fight on the holiday blues; use them all and win. Our Chaplains, Inspector General and Winn Army Community Hospital provide a range of services. The local communities have services to reach out to for help. There is always a solution to your problems. There are always alter-

natives within our team!

Soldiers can also reach out to help others in the community. I encourage Soldiers to participate in activities like Toys for Tots, visiting the veterans hospitals, fundraisers, donating blood and volunteering in your spare time.

Marne volunteers help support our team in a variety of activities like Army Community Services and our many family readiness groups.

This is a time to relax and enjoy the season. We have so much for which to be thankful.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!
MissionSoldiers.....Teamwork
MARNE SIX OUT

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What are your reactions to the capture of Saddam Hussein?

"Since he gave up without a fight, I'm hoping he will cease to inspire the rebels."

Chief Warrant Officer Tony Walker
HHC, 2/7 Inf.



"It's good we caught him. Hopefully it keeps us from going back."

Spc. Marvin Bell
HSC, 603rd ASB



"I feel good for those guys over there who got him."

Chief Warrant Officer Mike Yeager
HHC, DISCOM



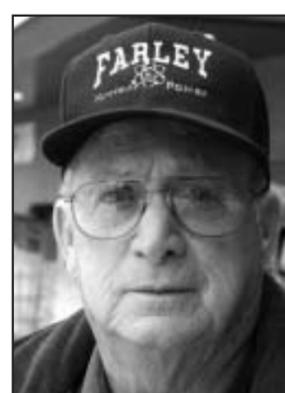
"I think it's great. I hope his capture will make everyone safer."

Sandra Shattuck
Spouse of Ret. Army



"I feel kind of neutral. It might not change anything."

Sgt. Mitchell Treadway
105th Eng., N.C. NG



"I'm glad he's caught. I hope this will end the uprising there."

Ernest Walton
Retired Navy

'Time' could be costing Soldiers' lives

Michelle McMurray-Fernandez

Special to The Frontline

I do not usually write letters to the editor of a newspaper but there is a situation I have become aware of that I feel every American has the right to know about. Up until today I have been a regular subscriber to Time Magazine.

In the latest issue (Dec. 15) of this publication, which I now consider to be nothing more than a rag, their cover story is about Iraqi resistance fighters who are targeting American military targets and our American Soldiers. The cover is titled "Exclusive: The Hidden Enemy — Behind the lines with the insurgents sowing terror in Iraq". This is, without a doubt, the most irresponsibly outrageous thing I have ever had the misfortune to see in print.

The reporters who wrote this article, who Time magazine has informed me are currently still on assignment in Iraq, talk about meetings with the head of one of these terrorist groups in Baghdad. They also talk about attending a meeting between this group's leaders and the leaders of seven other groups from areas in Iraq where the assaults on

Letter to the editor

our troops have been the most violent.

They write about actually being present while this group carries out a bombing attack (using air to air rockets modified to launch from the ground) from less than two miles away on the military base in Baghdad. They hide the identities of these terrorists by using false names in the article and taking pictures of them with their faces covered.

These reporters have taken these people who are intentionally killing our troops and tried to turn them into some sort of heroes, making it a point to tell how they are just fighting for their homeland.

The contents of this article upset me so much that I actually called Time Magazine. I spoke to the assistant to the chief editor. When I asked why, if the information in this article is true, was the military not informed of this information so that the attack this reporter spoke of, as well as many others, could have been stopped I was informed that Time Magazine and its reporters were not obligated to inform the military of anything. That their sources were

confidential and they had no intention of turning over their information to the military.

This is the most outrageous thing I have ever heard. The last time I checked they were still an American publication and, as such, should be concerned with whether or not our Soldiers come home safely. Not only are they not concerned with our Soldiers' safety, they have intentionally put them in harm's way by withholding information from our military that could have saved American lives. Who the hell do these people think they are that they can arbitrarily put our Soldiers at risk all for the sake of headlines?

What kind of publication would worry more about headlines and issue sales than whether or not all of our Soldiers came home safely? To take these people who go out of their way to harm our troops and put them on the front cover of their magazine and tell the American people that they are right to do what they do is vicious and spiteful. They spit on the memory of every Soldier who has ever died for their country and what they believe.

The staff at Time Magazine

should be ashamed of themselves. The constitution our Soldiers are dying over there to defend gives Time Magazine and its staff the freedom to report on what they choose to and the freedom to speak as they will ... but they should remember, it is the very Soldiers whose lives they have risked or cost that gave them that freedom. And with that freedom comes responsibility. A responsibility to the American people, American Soldiers and to the world in general not to condone terrorism.

Their actions in this are not simply irresponsible ... they are traitorous! They have betrayed their country and everything that our Soldiers have fought and died to defend. The very freedoms that have so vilely been mistreated by Time Magazine and these reporters are the same freedoms our Soldiers are fighting and dying to defend.

Every American in this country should be outraged by such contemptible actions. Not since September 11 has our country been so maliciously attacked or so terribly betrayed ... the difference between now and then ... is this time the betrayers call themselves American.

Thank You

I am a New York National Guardsman and attending a course on post. My unit participated in the emergency operations after Sept. 11, ground zero.

I cannot speak for my organization or for all New Yorkers, but for many we say "Thank you" to the great troops of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), job well done and God Bless.

Sincerely,

Staff Sgt. Terry M. Staub, 42nd
Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Treadwell, N.Y.



BUSTER'S BATTERY



Correction

In a Page 1 story in the Dec. 11 issue of The Frontline, the Carl Vinson Veteran's Affairs Medical Center was incorrectly identified as the Carl Vincent Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.

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Write a letter to the editor!

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Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941

THE FRONTLINE

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
Volume 19, Number 50
Publisher
3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Commander —
Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
Consolidated Public Affairs Office
Director — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly using offset printing by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

Deputy Director — Richard Olson
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31314-5000. Phone number: 912-767-3440 or 767-8072
Printed circulation up to 22,000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc. a private firm

Staff Writer — Spc. Robert Adams
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Advertising Staff
Advertising Manager — Maryann Wilson
Frontline Production Manager — Juanita Vandenbosch

in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$9 for three months, \$16 for six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are for third class mail, inside the continental U.S.

'Click It or Ticket' to enforce seatbelt use

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield military police, in conjunction with local law enforcement authorities, are participating in the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign during the holiday season.

The program targets drivers and passengers who are not wearing their seatbelts with aggressive enforcement of existing regulations. Drivers will be held responsible for ensuring that their child passengers are properly restrained.

"The program has always been very effective in lowering the number of injuries from traffic accidents," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cinton, traffic noncommissioned officer in charge at Stewart. "Enforcement gets people to buckle up — seat belt use in states that conduct high-visibility enforcement is 10 to 15 percent higher than in states that only conduct public education. If every state conducted high-visibility enforcement, we would save 5,000 lives a year."

According to Cinton, the safety program will be implemented on two fronts at Stewart.

"We will try to make people more aware of the dangers of driving unbuckled by passing out literature and statistics at the gates starting next week," Cinton said. "Secondly, we are going to set up checkpoints around post at various times and ticket anyone not wearing a seatbelt."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 4,530 teens aged 16 to 19 died and hundreds of thousands more were injured in traffic crashes in 2002. Fatality rates for teens are twice that of older drivers and the risk of crashes for teens is four times that of older drivers. Two out of every five deaths among teens are the result of a traffic crash. In fiscal year 2002, the estimated economic impact of police-reported crashes involving drivers between 15 and 20 years of age was \$40.8 billion.

During the past three years, 318 Soldiers have been killed in privately owned vehicles, many of whom were not wearing their seatbelts. Many Soldiers by virtue of age and gender fall into the least-frequent seatbelt users' category: males aged 18 to 34.

"The Army can and must take positive action to save the lives of our Soldiers and civilian employees," stated a recent

Army memorandum by Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, director of the Army staff. "We must increase seatbelt use on and off the installation."

"The only proven way to get significant increases in belt use among young people and ultimately save lives is through high-visibility enforcement," said Lt. Col. John Huey, Stewart Provost Marshal. "Failure to wear a seatbelt is against the law in this state. We enforce this law because it's the best-proven way to save lives. If you won't buckle up to save your life or your children's lives, then buckle up to save yourself a ticket."

High-visibility enforcement programs such as this rely on periods of intense enforcement coupled with media outreach to let people know about the enforcement. For many non-seat belt users, especially young people, the threat of a ticket has proven to be a greater inducement to buckle up than the threat of injury or death.

The campaign will run from Sunday to Jan. 3 and during all national holiday weekends in 2004.

Editors note: Material from a press release by the Fort Stewart Provost Marshal's Office was used in this report.

Savannah community helps deployed Soldiers in need

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Hunter Public Affairs Office

Chief Warrant Officer Lance Modrell, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot for E Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, had just completed a six-hour mission over Baghdad Nov. 19 when he laid down for some sleep.

"Fire! Fire! Fire!"

Modrell, in his PT uniform, jumped to his feet. He put on his running shoes, grabbed his weapon and Identification card, and fled the hangar at Baghdad International Airport, uncertain if it was a drill or the real thing.

After evacuating the hangar, Modrell and the other 150 soldiers of E Troop, 1/1 Cav., out of Budinggen, Germany, knew it wasn't a drill. They stood and watched as the hangar, their home since April, containing all of their personal belongings and military equipment, burned.

According to Tracie Modrell, Lance's wife of 16 years, almost all of their flight gear, flight records, computers, uniforms, and other various personal effects were damaged or destroyed.

"One wife I spoke with said that her husband has carried her high school graduation picture in his wallet since she gave it to him almost 25 years ago," Tracie said. "She can have a copy made, but it will never be that 'special one'."

When Tracie received word of the blaze, she phoned her mother, Jean Aleshire, who lives on Wilmington Island, just east of Savannah.

"A few days later, I began asking around and posting flyers looking for people to donate the basic toiletries, clothing, recreation items and snack foods," Aleshire, who also sent out two boxes two days after receiving the news, said. "The response was almost instant."

An hour after posting a flyer outside her office, a non-local business owner approached her with a \$100 donation.

"(The business owner) said he didn't have the time to purchase items, but wanted to do whatever he could for the troops," she said.

Boxes and donations from six different states have been sent to the Soldiers. Additionally, the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, loaded boxes collected by Aleshire on a C-130 aircraft at Travis Airfield to be delivered directly to the soldiers at BIAP.

"My husband received the boxes from (Aleshire) a week after she sent them," Tracie said. "The other soldiers in (1/1 Cav.) definitely know the boxes are coming.



Special to The Frontline

Mangled debris from a fire that destroyed a Baghdad International Airport hangar Nov. 19 is cleared away.

"(The boxes) are coming in and getting distributed right away."

Aleshire isn't the only family member of a 1/1 Cav. Soldier who has made an effort to help out the troops that need it, according to Tracie.

"It shows (the troops) that America is behind them and they have nothing to worry about."

As far as her husband's reaction to all the support, Lance, a Ranger who was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield with 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, earlier in his career, said it's "Overwhelming."

The people of Savannah and the Low Country have come

together for the Soldiers — people they've never met.

"Mom did this for the same reason that so many other Savannahians did it — she wanted to do something to help," Tracie said. "She's a very generous person. Lance and I are grateful for everything she's done."

The 1/1 Cav. remains at BIAP, conducting their daily missions as if nothing was ever lost in a fire. They are no longer living in a two-person-per-room hangar, but six-person tents, and continue to borrow each other's equipment. But thanks to the efforts of Jean Aleshire and others like her, the Soldiers' remaining time in Iraq will be spent in greater comfort than what could've been.

*Keep truckin'***Patriotic couple shows support of military****Sgt. R. James Piper**

Staff Writer

After the Sept. 11 attacks, Ed and Tonie Negrin wanted to do more to show their support for the nation and the military.

To do this, they took the advertising off of the trucks they used in their courier business and created America's trucks, a small fleet of vehicles portraying images of the country's leaders, symbols of the United States and the men and women who defend the nation.

"The inspiration to create these trucks was kindled by the memory of the many brave Americans who have been willing to die for freedom and country; people

who found the concept of liberty bigger and greater than themselves," according to a letter written by the Negrins on their web site www.americatruck.net.

In their first trip, they visited 38 states in 39 days in two patriotic trucks; one painted like an American flag, the other featuring images to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

This year, the Negrins added two sport utility vehicles with images supporting America's efforts in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"We do this to show our appreciation of the military. It's a little thing we do compared to what the folks in the military do," Ed said.

The newest SUV, dubbed "Defend America," visited Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Monday and Tuesday so the Negrins could thank 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort

Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers for their service.

The post was the last stop of a three-week tour that took the Negrins to different military bases on the East Coast.

The vehicle is covered in images of all of the services during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"The Department of Defense and Central Command were kind enough to forward us photos that we could use," Ed said.

One of the photos displayed on the vehicle surprised Spc. Rosville Cook from C Company, 123rd Signal Battalion, who saw his own face staring back at him from the side of the truck.

Cook said he was shocked because he didn't think he would ever be associated with something major, but he added that he was extremely proud.

"This is something that I'll be able to show my kids someday," Cook said.

The couple takes 20 percent of their gross income from what they make at their Arizona-based courier company and put it into a savings account, according to Ed.

"Once we feel we have enough, we buy what we need and go visit servicemembers. The Department of Defense is very open in letting us onto the different posts," he added.

At each stop, they handed out shirts, books, compact discs of patriotic songs and other small gifts to show their continued support of American troops.

"It's refreshing to have civilians appreciate what we do," said Pfc. Matthew Anderson, B Company, 3rd Forward Support Battalion.

"We do this to show our appreciation of the military. It's a little thing we do compared to what the folks in the military do."

Ed Negrin

Owner of America's Truck



Photos by Sgt. R. James Piper

Ed and Tonie Negrin and their newest truck, dubbed "Defend America," toured military installations on the East Coast, including Stewart and Hunter Monday and Tuesday.



Soldiers browse a variety of items, from T-Shirts to Bibles that the Negrin's give away to show their appreciation.



Spc. Rosville Cook, C Co., 123rd Sig. Bn., poses next to his photo (fender) on the Negrin's newest truck.

Tips to keep holidays merry, safe

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Associate Editor

The holiday season is a time for travel and spending time with family and friends, but it is also a time to think of safety.

"Safety should be a year-round concern for all Soldiers and civilians on this installation," said Jeffrey H. Willis, installation safety specialist. "Our goal should be to have everyone come back to work after the holidays. Anytime we lose an individual the whole unit suffers."

Snow adds to the holiday atmosphere but can be a danger if the proper precautions are not taken.

"If Soldiers are heading north then they should plan ahead and take some food, water and blankets in the car with them," Willis said. "Be aware that the temperature is now getting low enough to have ice form on the roads in the early morning. Be careful on the bridges as they tend to freeze long before the roadways."

He added, "Make sure that you inspect your vehicle prior to leaving on any trip. Are your tires properly inflated? Is your antifreeze rated for colder climates? Do your headlights and turn signals work?"

Soldiers should check their local and national weather forecasts and listen to local and national radio for travel infor-

mation, he said.

In bad weather, let someone know your route and intended arrival time, so you can be searched for if you don't turn up after a reasonable delay, according to a winter safety briefing.

Soldiers should adjust their speed to the current conditions. When driving in challenging conditions, slow down, according to the briefing. Decreasing speed will allow more time to respond when a difficult situation arises. Factors such as the type of vehicle, the quality of snow tires the car is equipped with and the driver's abilities as a driver should all be considered in the speed adjustment.

If traveling to a cold or snowy region, it is important to dress for the occasion.

It is also important to wear several layers of thick, loose-fitting clothing, according to the briefing. Soldiers should wear a hat, scarf and turtleneck sweater because the head and neck lose heat faster than any other part of the body.

"Especially important around this time of year is (being careful about) the consumption of alcohol at parties," Willis said. "(Party) hosts need to have a variety of non-alcoholic beverages that they can serve. They need to be conscious of the intoxication level as their guests leave for home or elsewhere."

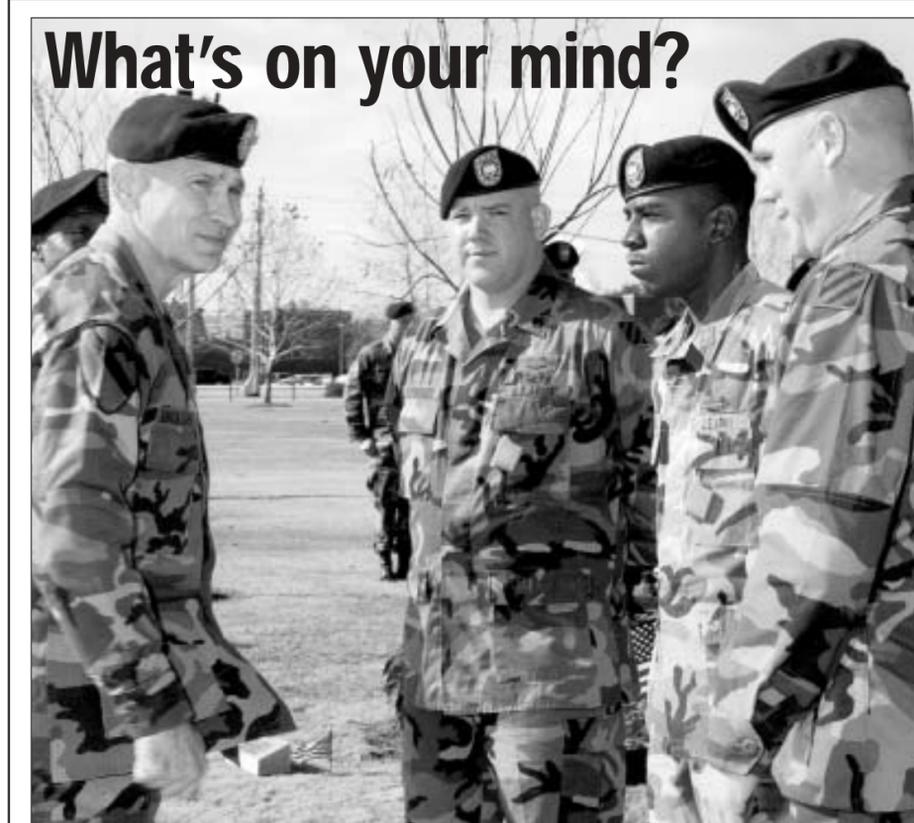
Fire safety is another important issue to be aware of during the holidays.

A Soldier should select a safe location for the Christmas tree, away from drapes and curtains and from drying and heating sources such as registers, radiators and television sets, Willis said. Do not block doors or windows, which might be used to escape in an emergency and never put a tree near a fireplace.

People need to check their Christmas lights for defects and spread them out on a non-flammable surface before installing them, he added. Make sure there are no broken bulbs, all-electrical cords are free of cuts or frays and the plugs are in good condition.

Willis also added people should never leave the Christmas tree lights on if there is no one in the room.

Practicing safety and sensibility can prevent a fun holiday sea-



Courtesy photo
Lt. Gen. Paul Mikolashek, Inspector General of the Army, talks with Staff Sgt. George Stephenson, Spc. Ronnie Davis and Staff Sgt. Thomas Slago, from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment Dec. 11 at the Warrior's Walk memorial. Mikolashek toured Fort Stewart during his visit and spoke with Soldiers and leaders of various units concerning issues important to the chief of staff of the Army.

		Holiday Worship schedule			
Date	Time	Service	Chapel		
Dec. 24	5 and 10 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Victory		
Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Candle Light	Marne		
Dec. 23	5 p.m.	Candle Light	Hunter		
Dec. 25	11 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Hunter/Victory		
Dec. 25	9 a.m.	Protestant	Marne		
Dec. 31	10 p.m.	Watch Night Service	Victory		
Jan. 1	11 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Victory		
Jan. 1	11 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Hunter		

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.



Chaplains offer blessing with food vouchers

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Staff Writer

Christmas is a time for families to be together. Presents waiting under the tree, children tearing open gifts as parents look upon them with smiles on their faces and warmth in their hearts. The feeling has actually been given a name — the Christmas spirit.

Unfortunately the holidays are also a time of stress for many families. Not all parents can meet their children's needs. This is why the Army chaplains began a program on Fort Stewart to aid families in need during the holidays.

"For Soldiers and their families who are in need we have a program called holiday vouchers that can help," said Chaplain (Maj.) John M. Foxworth, installation chaplain at Hunter Army Airfield.

"This program has been going as long as there have been chaplains in the Army," said Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy E. Sowers, the Fort Stewart family and life chaplain. "We have produced 480 vouchers for Soldiers and their families for the Thanksgiving and



Christmas holidays."

"The program starts at unit-level," Foxworth explained. "Chaplains contact first sergeants to find out if they have Soldiers who are in need of assistance, and a list of names is given to us."

The vouchers are redeemable for up to \$30.00 worth of food at the commissary, Foxworth said.

Money for the vouchers comes directly from tithes and

offerings collected from services at the post chapels, according to Sowers.

"We have had Soldiers call us and say that they did not know how they would have made it through the holidays without the assistance of these vouchers," Foxworth said. "They said the gift was a true blessing that they did not expect in their time of need."

"From my perspective, the incredible sacrifices that Soldiers and their families make to complete the unit's mission are such a tremendous blessing for everybody," Sowers said. "I am always glad to help out those who are in need during the holiday season."

No war trophies allowed from Iraq, Afghanistan

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Do not even think about bringing back to the United States war trophies from your service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With about 140,000 American servicemembers due to rotate out of Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command officials are very clear that servicemembers may not bring home weapons, ammunition and other prohibited items.

A few Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) understand how serious the command is. Some Soldiers tried to smuggle weapons back from Baghdad, and they have gone through courts martial. Others received Article 15 administrative punishments.

"There is a whole spectrum of punishments, depending on the severity of the offense," said Maj. Robert Resnick, an Army lawyer at Fort Stewart.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central

Command, has put out the policy. Basically, under no circumstances can individuals take as a souvenir an object that was formerly in the possession of the enemy. The taking of war trophies goes against the Coalition mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

"We didn't go into Iraq or Afghanistan to conquer them, but to liberate them," said Marine Capt. Bruce Frame, a Central Command spokesman. "Taking articles from those countries sends the wrong message."

Servicemembers with questions should work through the chain of command, CENTCOM officials said, adding that servicemembers will be given ample briefings on what is allowed and what is not. In the case of Iraq, unit commanders will brief servicemembers on the policy before leaving for Kuwait.

In Kuwait, military police will explain the policy and will permit an amnesty period before searching gear and vehicles. In the United States, U.S. Customs Service officials will examine individual gear.

In Afghanistan, unit commanders will explain the policy, and MPs there also will explain it and offer an amnesty period before the servicemembers board the planes. Again, Customs will examine gear and baggage upon return to the United States.

The same prohibitions pertain to American civilians serving in the CENTCOM area of operations.

Other federal laws pertain to other items. For example, servicemembers may not bring back plants, animals or other organic materials. Some Marines returning from Afghanistan in April 2002, for example, tried to bring back the skulls of sheep attached to their guidons. The Customs agents met the Marines as they landed on the beach at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and confiscated the items.

No one can bring back antiquities into the United States, and of course, no one can bring drugs or drug paraphernalia into the United States.

The overall prohibition does not pertain to souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States, officials said.

Army, Winn offer something new for expecting mothers

Laurie Kemp

Winn Public Affairs Office

Something is new in the Army's approach to better serve expecting mothers, and the changes can be seen right here at Winn Army Community Hospital.

The new Department of Defense-wide family-centered care initiative offers expectant mothers and their families standardized services that start with the first obstetric visit, through birth, and follow-on pediatric care.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and the

director of the Tricare Management Activity said, "By creating the family-centered care initiative, the military services combined their considerable expertise to offer patients a world-class standardized OB benefit. This standardized benefit ensures that we provide superior care as a part of the military system's ability to assist family members whose sponsors are deployed." The healthcare providers in the military health system are honored to play a key role in this service to those family members who remain on the home front and to those deployed," he added.

Family, friends and social support networks are vital to good health. Often during

this special time of pregnancy and childbirth, military members and military families are far from home and these natural support systems. Through family-centered care, military hospitals offer an extended family, knowledgeable about the separation aspects of military life.

Hospital and clinic staff members will concentrate their attention on providing patient-centered care through improved continuity of providers and personalized pain management during and after delivery. Providers received additional training to be more receptive to patients' questions, to help develop individualized birth

plans and to ensure patients receive coordinated care throughout their OB experience. In addition, family-centered care welcomes fathers, significant others and children to participate in prenatal visits and at the birth of the child.

"The enhanced OB services are founded in the core concept of patient-centered health care. We offer enhanced services because our medical decisions are primarily driven by the health needs of our patients and their families," Winkenwerder said.

For more information, call the Beneficiary Service Center (Tricare), located at the hospital, at 368-368-3048 or 370-6015.

Know your rights as a military voter

Lt. Col. Duane Clayton
Fort Stewart Inspector General

The coming election year promises to be another exciting Presidential Election year — we want to make sure that units and Soldiers understand our obligations as U.S. citizens as well as the requirements, responsibilities and rights concerning Voting and the use of the Federal Post Card Absentee Ballot.

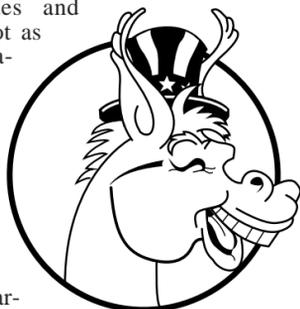
Did you know:

- Department of Defense military members, civilian employees and family members represent over 2.7 million eligible voters — that's slightly larger than the entire state of Kansas.
 - That in the 2000 election, the U.S. Army's Voting Participation percentage was 65 percent — second lowest among the Services (United States Air Force was the highest with 76 percent).
 - In the 2000 General Election, absentee ballots were instrumental in deciding local, state and national races.
 - In order to make your vote count by absentee ballot, your request for the ballot must be received by the local election official at least 30 days prior to the general election.
- Army Regulation 600-20, Chapter 5-3, "Political Activities," covers this area. "Partisan" means activity supporting or relating to candidates representing, or issues specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations. "Non-partisan" means activity supporting or relating to candidates not representing, or issues not specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations. Issues

relating to constitutional amendments, referendums, approval of municipal ordinances, and others of similar character and are not considered under this regulation as specifically being identified with national or State political parties. For example, being a campaign manager for a presidential candidate of a particular political party would be considered "partisan activity."

The "Can" List:

- Register to vote, and express your personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Army.
 - Make monetary contributions to a political organization.
 - Attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.
- The "Can't" List:**
- Soldiers on active duty (to include full time National Guard Soldiers) will not use their official authority or influence for interfering with an election; affecting the course or outcome of an election; soliciting votes for a particular candidate or issue; or requiring or soliciting political contributions from others.
 - Soldiers on active duty will not be a candidate for, or hold, civil office except under the conditions set forth in AR 600-20.



- Soldiers on active duty will not participate in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions.
- Soldiers taking part in a local non-partisan activity will not wear a uniform or use any government property or facilities while participating or allow such participation to interfere with, or prejudice, the performance of the Soldier's military duties or engage in conduct that in any way may imply that the Army has taken an official position on, or is otherwise involved in, the local political campaign or issue.

According to AR 600-20, voting by Personnel of the Armed Forces, commanders at company level and above will appoint an officer, who is already trained or

- will be trained, as voting officer or counselor. The officer should be:
- Expected to remain assigned through the election year and a voting officer or counselor who is scheduled for reassignment will be replaced before leaving.
 - Readily available and equipped to give personal aid to voters for federal, state, and local elections.
 - Noncommissioned Officers or civilians may be appointed as voting counselors below battalion level. However, state laws regard-

ing who is authorized to administer oaths must be observed (this could be a problem if a voting officer must administer an oath verifying a Soldier's voting status and the state where the Soldier votes requires a commissioned officer to perform the oath).

At Fort Stewart, the installation voting assistance officer is Capt. Wil Neubauer at the Division G-1. He will contact battalion unit voting assistance officers in the near future to set up a voting assistance officer training session to provide guidelines and details of the voting process.

The best place for the voting assistance officers or an individual who wants to get more information is the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.

The regulation also requires that commanders have a voting action plan that addresses how and when the command will provide information to Soldiers, as well as describes procedures for obtaining and processing a Federal Absentee Ballot. Unit voting assistance officers can find some great "Best Practices" by going to www.fvap.gov/vao/usarmybp.rtf. There, you'll find practices used at various Army installations worldwide. Remember that unit voting assistance officers only have to worry about their unit, not the installation. The installation voting assistance officer will handle the publicity for the installation.

Your rights as a U.S. citizen are so important that we are willing to risk our lives for their defense. Let's make sure that by exercising our right to vote, we come full circle on our willingness to fight for the right! Get out the vote!

Take a look at THE FRONTLINE classifieds for good deals To place and add, call (912)876-0156.

"The only Marine base Sam had seen was made of plastic."

All Sam wanted to do was visit Parris Island, the South Carolina Marine base where his dad was once a drill instructor. But after touring the barracks and eating in the chow hall, Sam became the 15th Honorary U.S. Marine — thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Help turn more dreams into reality for children with life-threatening illnesses. Contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation today.

1-800-722-WISH
www.wish.org

Make-A-Wish Foundation of America

Creating a Clean and Healthy Environment
How to make your own Drain Cleaner

Pour one cup each of baking soda, salt and white vinegar down the drain. Wait 15 minutes and then flush with boiling water.

Special Forces seeking new members

Special to the Frontline

The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Airborne) will be at Fort Stewart, Jan. 12 through 15 to conduct briefings at Club Stewart at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Soldiers interested in planning and conducting a broad range of special operations are invited to attend.

1st SFOD-D is the U.S. Army's special operations unit organized for missions requiring a rapid response with surgical application of a wide variety of unique special operations skills.

Because of these requirements, the unit's Soldiers are carefully selected and specially trained.

The unit affords officers and noncommissioned officers unique opportunities and professional development. Both undergo the same assessment, selection and training

and, after training, are assigned to operational positions within the unit. Training and experience gained while in 1st SFOD-D are much in demand, and Soldiers will enjoy expanded assignment opportunities.

Soldiers interested in joining the 1st SFOD-D must meet the following requirements:

- Must be male and at least 22 years of age.
- Must pass a background security investigation (minimum of Interim Secret to attend Selection Course).
- Must pass the Army Physical Fitness Test with 75 points in each event in the 22-26 age group, wearing unit PT uniform.
- Must not have a limiting physical profile.
- Must pass a modified Class II Flight medical examination.
- Must be airborne qualified or volunteer

for airborne duty.

- Must not have a history of recurring disciplinary action.

- Must have a minimum two-year commitment upon selection.

- Must be Army Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard.

- Must be a United States Citizen.

NCOs also have to meet these additional requirements:

- Must have attained the rank of Sergeant, Staff Sergeant or Sergeant 1st Class with a minimum of four years time in service.

- Must have a general technical score of 110 or higher (retesting allowed).

Officers have to meet these additional requirements:

- Must have attained the rank of Captain or Major.

- Must be an Advanced Course graduate.
- Must have completed 12 months suc-

cessful Company, Battery, Troop, SF Detachment or Aviation Platoon Command time.

- Must be a college graduate (Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science).

The Assessment and Selection Course is conducted twice a year, with the fall course beginning the third week in September and the spring course beginning the third week in March.

Call 1st SFOD-D at DSN 236-0649, (910) 396-0649, or toll free 1-800-606-1370 with any questions that the local point of contact can not answer.

1st SFOD-D is also interested in a wide variety of combat support and service support personnel to serve in support roles.

For more information on prerequisites and assignment opportunities, call the 1st SFOD-D Support Recruiter at DSN 236-0986 or (910) 396-0986.

'Little pink cards' go away ...

Guard and Reserve get full time commissary benefits

Bonnie Powell

Special to The Frontline

FORT LEE, Va. — All over America, Guard and Reserve personnel are burning their "little pink cards."

The signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act signaled unlimited shopping privilege for Reserve component members and their families. It also signaled the end of issuing, tracking, and checking off those little pink Commissary Privilege Cards. Previously, Reserve component personnel and their families were allowed 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year; and they had to have their privilege cards initialed at the commissary each day they shopped.

"Thanks to Congress and the Department of Defense for bringing full-time commissary shopping to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. Nixon said special thanks should go to those in DoD whose quick actions gave Guard and Reserve members unlimited commissary shopping in time to enjoy holiday savings.

"It's a long overdue and significant benefit enhancement for Guard and Reserve personnel and their families as well as 'gray area' retirees," said Joe Barnes, national executive secretary for the Fleet Reserve Association. Barnes is also a member of the Defense Commissary Agency Patron Council.

"We think it's a great deal," said Col. James Scott, director of individual and family support policy for the Reserve component, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. "It also

relieves the personnel center staffs and unit commands from a very expensive administrative burden in controlling and issuing the Commissary Privilege Card." Approximately 1.2 million Guard and Reserve personnel and their authorized family members can now save an average of 32 percent or more over commercial grocery prices — every day if they wish. A family of four can save more than \$2,700 per year with regular commissary shopping.

Members of the Retired Reserve are also included in the extended benefit, adding about another 200,000 happy shoppers. These "gray area retirees" were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached age 60.

"Although we've recently seen many Guard and Reserve members with unlimited privileges due to activation," said DeCA Consumer Advocate Bonita Moffett, "the extra traffic does not really impact the ability of commissaries to handle increased customer shopping. The average customer generally only shops twice a month, and since they are spread out all over the country the impact is very low at any one commissary." DeCA operates 275 commissaries worldwide.

"The major benefit for Guard and Reserve members now is the convenience of being able to make a quick stop at the commissary to buy a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, or diapers and baby food, without worrying about running out of shopping trips for the year," Moffett added.

"This is certainly welcome news for Marine Reserves," said Sgt. Maj. Robin Dixon, senior enlisted advisor

of Marines Forces Reserve, and also a DeCA Patron Council member. "It's been a major concern of ours. We think our Reserve Marines should be able to use the commissary whenever they want!" They finally got their wish.

The extended benefit may not apply worldwide. While Reserve and Guard personnel not on active duty can enjoy unlimited shopping in the United States, Guam or Puerto Rico, many overseas installations are impacted by host nation agreements that limit on-base shopping by non-active-duty personnel. When visiting or living outside the United States or its territories, Guard and Reserve personnel should always check with appropriate installation authorities about local commissary shopping privileges.

DeCA operates a worldwide chain of nearly 280 commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of 32 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices — savings worth more than \$2,700 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

Red Cross, community give troops overseas happy holidays

Staff Report

The American Red Cross is offering a new program for Soldiers deployed overseas.

Treasures for Troops is a program that allows people to donate \$20 to the local American Red Cross station to send Soldiers in Iraq a bag with playing cards, a hacky sack, tissues, gum and an electronic game.

"The Red Cross hopes that this program will demonstrate the support of the public to our servicemembers deployed overseas and provide some comfort and touches

of home to those who are deployed," said Carrie Mead, station manager. "This program is not just limited for the holiday season it is ongoing."

"Individuals who donate \$20 for a kit will receive a letter that acknowledges their donation to the Treasures for Troops program," she said. "Their donation is restricted to the support of this specific program."

"The kit they purchase will be sent directly to American Red Cross personnel on the ground with the troops, who will distribute them to servicemembers in the deployed locations," Mead said.

Diamond forms Parent Math Team

The Diamond Elementary School Leadership Team is organizing a Parent Math Team to assist in the assessment of Constructed Response problems.

The Parent Math Team is being organized to evaluate and record responses generated by the students to Constructed Response problems.

Dr. Fordyce Stone, principal of Diamond Elementary School, encourages all parents to participate.

Team members are needed at all grade levels and training is provided.

The team will meet once a week during school hours.

Free childcare is available to eligible parents. Training will be held Jan. 16.

Point of contact is Liz Pipkin 876-6094.



SAPPER

from page 1A

"This program gives our young Sappers the opportunity to excel and be recognized for their hard efforts in training," Hamilton said.

"It also gives our noncommissioned officers of the battalion the opportunity to be trained on how to plan, prepare, conduct and evaluate their training," Hamilton added.

Over the past couple of months in preparation for this event, the Soldiers studied manuals and rehearsed their knowledge of engineer skills, he said.

"Just being here today is a great accomplishment," said Sgt. Matthew Ervin, B Co. 11th Eng. Bn., one of 125 Sappers participating in the Expert Badge Training. "This training takes a lot of practice and isn't used everyday, so it can be difficult," Ervin added.

The stations included individual skills, weapons, countermine operations, demolitions, modernized demolition initiation/bangalores, mine warfare, and medical evacuation operations.

The individual skill station tested Soldiers on their ability to tie knots and lashings, load single-channel ground-air radio sys-

tems, and make barbed wire ties.

The weapons station tested them on assembling, disassembling, and performing a function check on the M249 squad automatic weapon, M16A2 and M16A4 rifles, M4 carbine and M240B machine gun.

Other stations required Soldiers to locate mines using minelabs and handheld standoff mine detection systems; successfully identify eight of 12 enemy mines, and place steel cutting charges and calculate timber cutting charges at the demolition station.

Soldiers also had to install dual firing systems using conventional MDI, tie demolition knots, prime explosives and bangalores and identify MDI components.

The mine warfare station involved the installation and removal of several types of mines.

Last the Soldiers had to prepare a nine-line Medical Evacuation request from an emergency situation.

Hamilton added, "When given the opportunity our Soldiers excel."



Spc. Robert Adams

Pfc. Gary Evans, B Co. 11th Eng. Bn., places a M18A1 AT mine in the ground during Expert Sapper Badge training.

SADDAM

from page 1A

no telephone access, no TV, no e-mail.

"Nobody knew for sure what was up, but we knew it was big," said Sgt. William Doyle from the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based at Staten Island, N.Y. "We figured that we'd either gotten him (Saddam Hussein) or (Izzat Ibrahim) al-Duri (vice chairman of Saddam's Revolutionary Command Council)."

"We had no official word," agreed Sgt. 1st Class Marshall Meyer from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery. "But we had an inkling that something very big was going on."

Capt. Duane Patin from the 2nd Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade, which is attached to the 4th Inf. Div., learned of Saddam's capture shortly after it occurred. "It was simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time," he said.

But keeping the news a secret until Saddam's identity was confirmed and the announcement made "was really tough," Patin said. "It took about 18 hours until the official announcement

came out."

In the division's intelligence office, 1st Lt. Natasha Howard, too, learned of the capture before the press conference. "At first I didn't believe it," she said. "The first thing that went through my mind was, 'Is this a double, or is it really him?'"

When Howard's office got confirmation that the former dictator had, in fact, been taken into custody, Howard said she and her coworkers resisted the almost irresistible urge to celebrate — or even talk about it among themselves. "But it was a really happy atmosphere," she said. "People had smiles on their faces and were even whistling."

Perhaps the greatest feeling, she said, was learning that when Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III announced in his press conference, "We got him," the "we" he referred to was her own division.

"Everyone was happy that it was us — the 4th ID — that actually captured him," she said. "That made everyone feel really great."

Howard said most 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers haven't yet descended from exuberance over the capture,

and the role their fellow Soldiers played in it. "People are still excited," she said. "The initial excitement hasn't dropped yet."

When Howard spoke to her 8-year-old son the day of the announcement, he told her that he had good news and bad news. "The bad news is that you're not home yet," he said from his grandmother's home in New York. "But the good news is that you guys caught Saddam," he said, asking, "Did you know that?"

Howard said her son then went on to verbalize the same thought that many 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers admitted went through their own minds when they learned of Saddam's capture. "So that means that now you can come home," he said.

But like many of her fellow Soldiers, Howard acknowledged that Saddam's capture doesn't necessarily mean that their mission will get any easier or that they will get to return home any sooner.

"There's still a lot of work to do here," she said. "But in the meantime, this news is a great Christmas present for all of us."

HOME

from page 1A

eyes on her father, but expressed her emotion in a slightly different way.

"I'm going to wave my sign and scream!" she exclaimed.

Ronesha was true to her word, and as 416th's formation marched into the gym, she, with her family and the rest of the crowd, nearly drowned out the melodic strains of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) Band on the far side of the room.

Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (support), welcomed the Soldiers home and briefly commended them on their work in support of OIF before releasing them to their loved ones.

Although the majority of the 416th arrived safely and soundly to rush into their loved ones' arms, the unit did lose two Soldiers in support of OIF, Sgt. Nathaniel Hart and Spc. Ryan Carlock, who were killed in action July 28 and Sept. 9, respectively.

Families and friends did not neglect these two Soldiers in the homecoming celebration preparations — a net full of red, white and blue balloons hung from the ceil-

ing of the gym, and as a way of honoring the memory of those who were not returning, two yellow balloons were placed in the net, standing out among the rest.

A banner bearing Hart's and Carlock's names that read, "You will not be forgotten," adorned with a huge yellow ribbon, was also placed prominently on the wall.

"I'm elated to see the company coming home, but I'm sad about those who were lost," said Spc. Jason Hill, a 416th truck driver who had deployed with the unit, but returned Oct. 30 to do his out-processing paperwork. "My prayers go out to their families."

Hart and Carlock gave the ultimate gift for their fellow Soldiers, and despite the early hour of 416th's return, the mob that greeted them didn't seem sleepy at all.

Spc. Edwards' father, John Edwards, put the tone of the room into words.

"I'm exuberated, thankful, ecstatic, relieved, like a great burden has been lifted," he said. "I thank God he's made it back to Hunter."

AAFES Holiday Schedule

Fort Stewart

Main Store
 Dec. 24 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Main Shoppette
 Dec. 24 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 26 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Dec. 31 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed
 Jan. 2 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Hospital PX
 Dec. 24 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Dec. 25, 26 Closed
 Dec. 31 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Jan. 1, 2 Closed

Bryan Village Shoppette
 Dec. 24 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Dec. 25 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Dec. 31 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Jan. 1 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Car Care Center, Building 430
 Dec. 24, 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Victory Shoppette
 Dec. 24 Close At 10 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Re-open at Noon

Military Clothing Sales Store
 Dec. 24 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Concessions

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

National Guard Shoppette

Dec. 24-28 Closed
 Dec. 31-Jan. 4 Closed

Shopping Center Food Court

Dec. 24 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Jan. 1 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Brigade Troop Store

Dec. 24 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Burger King

Dec. 24 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 26 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 31 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Blimpies

Dec. 24 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Popeyes/Anthony's Pizza

Dec. 24 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Woodruff Theater

Dec. 25 Closed

Food Court/Anthony's Pizza

Dec. 24-28 Closed
 Dec. 31-Jan. 4 Closed

MCC Phone Center

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Hunter Army Airfield

Hunter Main Store

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hunter MCSS

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hunter Corner Express

Dec. 24 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 25 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Dec. 31 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Jan. 1 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hunter Burger King

Dec. 24 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hunter Concessions

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 31 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed

Commissary Holiday Schedule

Dec. 24 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Dec. 25 Closed
 Dec. 26 Closed
 Dec. 27 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Dec. 28 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 29 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Dec. 30 7 to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Dec. 31 7 to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Closed
 Jan. 2 7 to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

SJA Offices' Holiday Closure

All SJA Offices will be closed Dec. 19 for the annual JAG holiday party.

All SJA Offices will be closed on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The SJA staff wish you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season.

Meet Santa

Santa will be passing out goodies at the PX, 2 to 2:45 p.m. Friday. Look for him on the fire engine greeting visitors. He is very busy, so be on time!

Chanuka

The Jewish festival of lights, starts at sunset Friday and ends at sundown Dec. 27. Jewish personnel may obtain Chanukah menorahs, candles and dreidels at Marne Chapel. For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Art Zeidman at 767-1128.

MWR - Stewart Lanes

Single Soldiers can bowl free noon to 4 p.m. Christmas day at Stewart Lanes — a free gift from MWR. Call 767-1128 for more information.

MWR Holiday Schedule

The MWR Administration will be closed on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The MWR staff wish you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season.

Fort Stewart Museum

The Fort Stewart Museum will be closed during business hours for renovations from now to March 2. Regular office hours will be maintained, and other museum services will be available.

Marne Tax Center

The Marne Tax Center will be

open from Jan. 21 to April 15. The hours of operation will be as follows:

Jan.
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Feb. and March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April
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 Guard and Reservists. Hunters must provide their own legal weapons and ammunition for big game on Fort Stewart. Lunch will be provided.

For more information call 767-8609/5032.

Claims Division

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

Commissary privileges

Commissary and PX privileges are now granted to all National Guard and Reservists. For hours of operation and more information, call 767-1392 for commissary and 876-2850 for PX.

Hunter

Gate Closure

Wilson Gate will be closed all day Saturday for construction.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Free holiday T-shirts will be given to those giving a pint of blood at the ACS ballroom, Dec. 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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 Guard 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 an event, 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 scholar-

ships, 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.

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.

School Liaison Officer

Soldiers and their families who need school-related help with transferring schools, PCS or ETS can contact Barbara L. Jenkin, Hunter school liaison officer by phone at 352-6586 or by e-mail at barbara.jenkin@stewart.army.mil.

Become an FCC provider

For information about becoming an FCC provider, contact Joyce Cassino at 352-6064 or email at joyce.cassino@stewart.army.mil.

Keystone Club Meeting

A Keystone Club Meeting is scheduled today at 6 p.m. at the Youth Services Center. The club offers activities that meet physical, emotional and social needs and interests of girls and boys through activities in areas such as personal and educational development, health and physical education, *Character Counts* activities and more.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Pharmacy Closures

The main pharmacy and satellite pharmacy, located at the PX, will be closed 2 to 3 p.m. Friday.

Holiday Hours

All services will be open as regularly scheduled during the holiday season. Services will be limited Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 as training holidays. In case of emergency, please go to the emergency room.

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 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 hours are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through 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.

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.





Be an Angel

Go to your local veterinary clinic and adopt a cat or dog today!

Safety tips for holidays

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

The holiday season is a great time to celebrate, but not to forget about safety.

Only a few days ago, Fort Stewart lost three Soldiers in an automobile accident and another Soldier was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident prior to that.

Vehicle safety is extremely important this time of year, as people travel near and far in order to visit family and friends.

Make sure your car is prepared and inspected before you leave. Don't forget to take into consideration the weather at your destination and increase your vehicle following distance in snow, rain and ice — you never know what kind of shape the driver in front of you may be.

Keeping appropriate distances from the guy in front of you and driving at reasonable speeds will give you much more reaction time in the event something goes wrong. Check your tires, oil, coolant, wipers and battery to avoid

mechanical problems over the holidays. Get plenty of rest and always use seat belts and child restraints. Never drink and drive, it could cost your own or someone else's life.

Lights come in all shapes and sizes during the holidays, but there are certain lights that everybody wants to avoid: the flashing blue lights in your rear view mirror.

Starting Dec. 21 through Jan. 3 the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield military police will be out in force looking for people who aren't wearing their seatbelts and those who choose to drink and drive. In addition, local law enforcement will be conducting similar campaigns, "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" and "Click it or Ticket."

Dangers on the road aren't the only thing that we need to be aware of — dangers in the home are also present. Christmas trees can become a fire hazard without the right treatment.

You can make your tree more fire-resistant by keeping it fresh as long as possible.

Try adding two aspirin to water every three days, or dis-

solving sugar in one gallon of water.

Lights that are left on all night or are plugged into overloaded outlets also create fire hazards on dry trees.

While shopping, off and on post, lock your vehicle and close all windows. Don't leave packages or valuables on the seat of your vehicle. This creates a temptation for thieves.

If you must leave something in your vehicle, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight. Be aware of your surroundings, locate your keys prior to going to your vehicle, and keep a secure hold of your purse and package. Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

The winter holidays traditionally provide an opportunity to reunite and celebrate with family and friends. Enjoy your holidays to the fullest by keeping safe.

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

The Frontline wishes you a safe and happy holiday season



ASK THE JUDGE

Obtaining driver's license, renewing plates

Q: I need to renew my car license plate. What do I need to get this done?

A: What you need depends on who you are. No matter who you are, if you want to avoid paying Ad Valorem Tax, you will need to get a Form 941 from Legal Assistance prior to visiting the Tax Commissioner's Office in the county where you reside. Legal Assistance needs a copy of your most recent, end-of-month Leave and Earning Statement to issue that form. You will also need proof of insurance and a valid driver's license.

If you are the spouse of a service-member, you will need some additional documents in order to renew: You should have a Power of Attorney from your spouse, which authorizes this transaction on his or her behalf. You should also have a certified copy of your military spouse's driver's license, or the actual license itself.

It is especially important to remember this step if a deployment is coming up and your license plate is set to expire soon.

Q: I just moved here, and I need to know how to get Georgia license plates. What do I need to do?

A: In this case, you will not need to get a copy of the Form 941 discussed above. You will however, need proof of insurance that reflects a Georgia insurance policy. You will also need to have information regarding the lien holder or the actual vehicle title, if you own the vehicle outright. You will also need a valid driver's license.

If you are not the only person listed on the title, you must either bring the other person with you to the Tax Commissioner's Office or obtain a Power of Attorney to complete the transaction. You should also contact the local office to determine which method of payment is accepted.

Some offices do not accept credit/debit cards and require that your check be issued through a local bank.

Q: I would like to obtain a Georgia driver's license. How should I do that?

A: Assuming you already hold a valid driver's license from another state, you may receive a Georgia license by surrendering your old license, passing an eye exam and paying a fee. If you have an expired out of state license, you must also pass a written test and a driving test.

Before you will be issued a license, you must show proof you reside in this state. Beginning this year, you must also furnish your correct social security number before a card will be issued — though it is not necessary to bring your SSN card with you.

For those in the country legally, but without a SSN, you need to obtain a Form SSAL676 from a local Social Security Administration office before visiting a DMVS customer service center.

Once you have that form, you must also bring a valid passport or valid I-94 permit, proof of Georgia residency and you must surrender a foreign driver's license (if applicable).

Q: I've got a Georgia driver's license, Georgia license plates and I own a home in Ludowici. I still want to be a resident of Florida, so I do not have to pay income tax. Am I still okay?

A: You are walking a fine line. To be a resident of a given state, you must have some ties to that state. Residency determinations are based on a number of factors, the strongest of which is the intent to return to that state after you finish your military career.

However, other relevant factors include your state driver's license, your license plates, where you pay taxes, where you own a home, and where you vote.

The old saying goes: if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. The same is true with your residency.

If you look and act like a Georgia resident based on the factors listed above, but you still claim to be a Florida resident, do not be surprised when the Georgia tax collector comes knocking.

CENTCOM NEWS

Soldier dies from non-hostile gunshot wound

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Coalition Joint Task Force (CJTF-7) Soldier died Monday at approximately 7:30 a.m. local time from a non-hostile gunshot wound.

The Soldier was transported to the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

The Soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The incident is under investigation.

Task Force "All American" Soldier dies from IED blast Sunday

AL HASWAH, Iraq — A Soldier was wounded and subsequently died while attempting to disarm an improvised explosive device Sunday morning. The device, discovered by a patrol unit, was hung on a telephone pole near the road. The Soldier, a trained explosive ordnance disposal specialist, approached the IED to disarm it when the device exploded.

Soldier dies in IED attack near Ar Ramadi

AR RAMADI, Iraq — A Task Force "All American" convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive device near Ar Ramadi at 6:30 a.m. Dec. 12. The explosion wounded three Soldiers. One of the Soldiers was evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital and later died of wounds received. The name of the Soldier is being withheld until next of kin has been notified.

U.S., Iraqi Leaders gather for TELECOM Summit

MOSUL, IRAQ — Leaders throughout northern Iraq assembled in Mosul Saturday morning to discuss the progress in telecommunication made between the joint efforts of Coalition Forces and Iraqi citizens, and to develop a regional strategy for the next phase of communications.

"I think you all know that telecommunication in northern Iraq has really led the way for the rest of Iraq," said Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st commander. "The accomplishments here really have been extraordinary." Communications ranks second on Petraeus' project funding list, having spent nearly four million dollars on such acts as restoring phone lines, donating computers and telephones, and purchasing new equipment from the United States. Only reconstruction efforts to schools have taken more Coalition capital than communications advancements in northern Iraq, said Lt. Col. Welton Chase, Jr., 101st signal officer and commander of the 501st Signal Battalion.

The 101st Airborne Division has already completed 31 major communications pro-

jects in northern Iraq, including its donation of 212 computers to the Mosul University, an act which cost \$99,790. The division is also responsible for 11 new internet cafes for the use of Iraqi citizens and the complete reconstruction of several post offices in the Nineveh Province.

Thirty-two long-term communications projects are still in effect for the 101st, as well as 21 short-term projects, Chase said.

"We've had a lot of projects completed already, and we've done so through relatively little investment," Petraeus said, noting that many U.S. businesses, such as ATT and Bell South, have helped Coalition Forces by donating optic fiber to repair telephone lines, therefore helping to maintain a reasonable budget throughout reconstruction efforts. "What has made all of our success here isn't just the dollars — it's not the even the donations — it's really the initiative that [Coalition Forces and Iraqi citizens] together have demonstrated."

Petraeus led the meeting by explaining the progress and the hindrances that have faced his Soldiers throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, then exchanged his ideas for the future of communication in Iraq with the handful of Iraqi telecommunication directors representing various cities in Nineveh Province. "Our vision for Northern Iraq is a very modern region in which people from many different ethnicities, tribes and religions work together, do business with each other, and they are all supported and enabled by a first-rate telecommunication system," Petraeus said.

"Signalers" of the 101st are presently involved in dozens of missions across northern Iraq, including acquiring a modern cable splicing machine from the United States, a purchase of approximately \$42,000, said Maj. Jim Enicks, division communications officer. Currently, many Iraqis mend frayed telephone cables by hand.

Coalition Forces have also been active in getting Iraqi children on-line, working with computers, a goal which would improve both education and communications in Iraq.

After opening the Scientific Club, a computer and Internet lab for children in primary and secondary school, to significant success, the 101st now plans to provide 17 new computers.

At the conference, Chase stressed to the Iraqis on-hand that when much of the 101st redeploys in February back to the U.S., the ensuing team of Coalition Forces in the area would help add to the success already made. "All of you know that the Coalition Forces here are transitioning," Chase said, "but we have great Soldiers coming, and they will not leave our support. They will continue the process we've started toward a better Iraq."



Spc. Walter Smith, with the 382nd MP Det., 18th MP Bde., observes and coaches an Iraqi policeman during weapons training at a firing range in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 24. The brigade supports TF-1AD.

MPs train Iraqi police at weapons range

Cpl. Todd Pruden

Special to The Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi Police Service officers had the chance to hone their skills on a live-fire weapons range for the first time with the help of Soldiers of the 382nd Military Police Detachment.

The Army Reserve unit from San Diego is assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade, part of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

The weapons training is part of a three-week course called the Iraqi Police Integration Program. The program is intended to teach the existing Iraqi police basic weapons fundamentals and tactics and for the Iraqi police to brush up on their police skills.

"They are going to be more effective police officers," said Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, a military policeman with the 382nd and the weapons range noncommissioned officer in charge. "Many of them have never fired a weapon."

Johnson said the weapons portion of the training consists of two days in the classroom to learn how to use the weapons and safety measures for their use and four days on the actual weapons range. The last day on the range is weapons qualification day.

"Nobody taught them the basics of shooting a firearm," Johnson said. "They were taught to put rounds downrange and pray it hit the target."

According to one police officer, the Iraqi police rarely practiced with a weapon at all.

"There was no shooting and there were no good pistols before," said police Capt. Sammad Al Hayani.

The fundamentals that are taught to the Iraqi police include the basics of marksmanship such as breath control, the proper way to

squeeze the trigger and sight alignment. Basic muzzle awareness is also taught.

The firing range consists of paper targets containing human silhouettes and is at the rear of the police academy in Baghdad. The Iraqi police practice their target shooting from three distances, with the longest distance being 15 meters using Glock 19 Series pistols.

"They had no idea of the capabilities of the weapons," Johnson said. "I have to believe that under the old regime they were given no self confidence. It is good now to see them confident in their own abilities. They are going to be a more valuable asset when they learn to use their weapons."

"I think it is very good to help protect ourselves and our citizens," Hayani said. "We will now be able to do that."



Smith assists an Iraqi policeman with clearing his weapon at a firing range in Baghdad, Iraq.