

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

Hunter discusses state of garrison

Mobility, reorganization key issues

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

The Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander spoke to about 100 Department of the Army civilians during the Hunter State of the Garrison meeting at the Hunter Club Jan. 21.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble briefed the group on Hunter's organization, construction projects, mobilization and the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) reorganization.

He stressed the latter two topics, telling those assembled, "If you're not doing something about reorganization and mobilization — please think about what you're doing."

Fort Stewart and Hunter are the East Coast's major power projection platform. Forty thousand Soldiers processed through

Hunter and Stewart for Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Goble. More than 5,000 reserve Soldiers are currently processing through. He estimates that 24,000 will redeploy from now through the summer.

Reorganization is the primary focus of the 3rd Inf. Div. from now until 2005, Goble said. The Marne Division was chosen to be the "Tip of the Spear" once again, but this time, instead of leading the liberation of Iraq, the tip will thrust into Army-wide reorganization to better prepare for war.

"We've got a lot of work to do between now and 2005," Goble said. Two new avia-

tion battalions will arrive at Hunter by 2005 to make training and deploying more efficient.

Another big Hunter project is the G-8 Summit in June at the Savannah Convention Center. International heads of state will fly into Hunter for it, and will begin visiting Hunter next month to do site surveys. The Georgia National Guard will activate 3,000 Soldiers and Hunter will allocate an as-yet-undetermined number.

Another change at Hunter will be the hiring next month of 65 civil service police officers. They will take over all law enforcement functions on post, according to Goble.

Short and long-term construction projects will improve quality of life on Hunter for

years to come. The Residential community initiative is underway — GMH is maintaining housing and beginning new construction on old housing. Goble said RCI is "The best thing the Army has done in 20 years to take care of Soldiers and their families."

The number of family housing units on post will go from 480 to 690 by 2005 in the hopes of getting senior noncommissioned officers and junior officers living back on base.

Other construction projects include new Ranger barracks, a post Gymnasium, a shoppette, a Marine Corps Reserve Center, a Special Operations Forces battalion operations complex, vehicle maintenance hangar, a National Guard support hangar, and a National Guard readiness center.

The "vintage" 1950s hangars housing Hunters state-of-the-art aircraft will be replaced over the next 10 to 20 years. Goble said, "We will completely revamp the master plan for the flight line."

"(RCI is) the best thing the Army has done in 20 years to take care of Soldiers."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble
Hunter garrison commander

Can Do Infantrymen train for NTC

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Bradley crews from 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment sent streams of hot lead downrange at Red Cloud Golf Jan. 23 as part of the qualifications they must complete before shipping to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

A Bradley piloted by Pfc. Brian Wright with Cpl. Bucky Hartman as gunner and C Company executive officer 1st Lt. Matt Dawson as commander roared down the dusty range and unleashed a torrent of fire upon moving targets before dropping behind cover to prepare for another charge.

"Most of the guys out here today didn't get a chance to qualify on the Bradley at the last gunnery in the fall for whatever reason, school or leave," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Szafranski of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3/15. "There are 18 crews ready to cut up some targets today, if we can get them all in."

The exercise is known as Table 8, which is a culmination of all of the crew's training, according to Szafranski. His responsibilities as the battalion's master gunner include the development of gunnery strategies like those practiced at Table 8.

"The crews are using all of the Bradley's functions today," Szafranski said. "We built this scenario based on the current threat matrix, which puts the Bradleys in both offensive and defensive positions applying different techniques to accomplish the mission."



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

See CAN DO, Page 12A A 3/15 Inf. Bradley fires downrange during the battalion's qualification training at Red Cloud Golf range Jan. 23.

Hunter-based National Guard unit mobilizes

Sgt. Jeff Lowry

124th MPAD

Georgia Army National Guard unit F Company, 131st Aviation Regiment, departed Hunter Army Airfield for Fort Benning Jan. 21, in preparation for their deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ninety-five members of the Guard aviation unit will join with more than 120 unit members of its sister unit,

Headquarters, F Co., 131st Avn. Regt., Alabama Army National Guard out of Birmingham, Ala., in deploying to their mobilization station at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The unit's mission is to fly the CH-47 Chinook helicopter in a variety of combat air support and airlift missions.

A ceremony was held at the Departure and Arrival Control Group building prior

See MOBILIZATION, Page 12A



Sgt. Jeff Lowry

Ga. Guard Soldier Pfc. Matthew Reed, an avionics mechanic with F Co., 131st Avn., hugs his wife, Chelsea, prior to departing for Fort Benning Jan. 21.

Soldier killed in accident

Staff Report

A 21-year-old Soldier was killed Jan. 22 when the vehicle he was driving crossed the centerline and entered the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer in Hinesville.

Dead is Pvt. Donald T. Stillion, assigned to A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment.

Stillion served as a cannon crewmember in the unit.

Stillion was a native of New Concord, Ohio. He entered the military Aug. 3, 2003 and was assigned to Fort Stewart Jan. 9, 2004.

Investigation continues by local and military authorities.

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 63°	Low 36°
SAT	High 61°	Low 38°
SUN	High 68°	Low 43°

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3rd BCT Soldiers hone skills at the ...

National Training Center



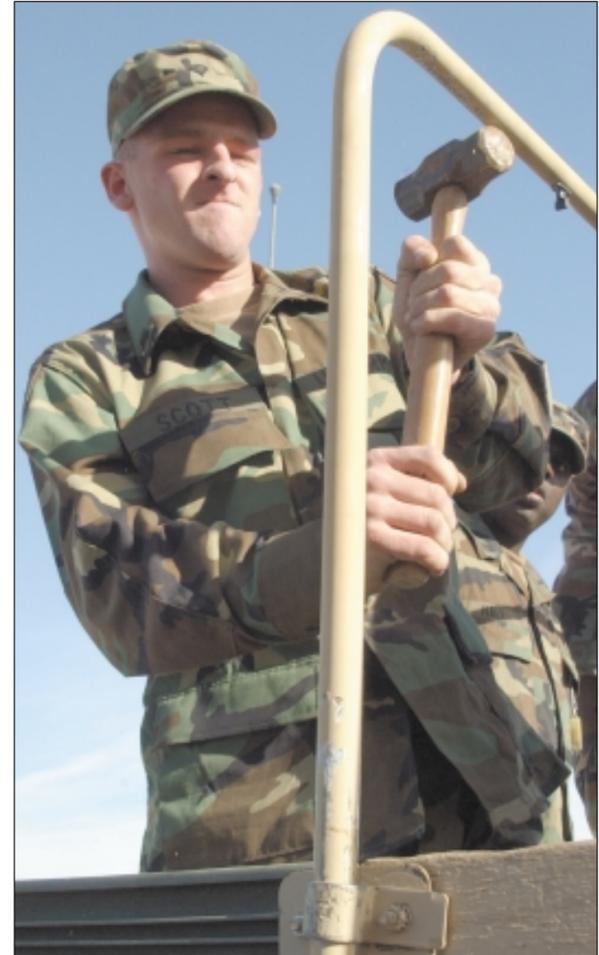
Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Bradleys set up a perimeter in defense of the 2/69 Armor, 3rd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. tactical operations center in the early hours of Jan. 20 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where 3rd BCT Soldiers are in the middle of a training rotation. The rotation is the first for the 3rd Inf. Div.'s BCTs since its return from Iraq.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Pfc. Jeremy K. Posey, B Co., 1/15 Inf., looks through the scope of his squad automatic weapon after setting up the weapon's multiple integrated laser engagement system.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Spc. Ryan Scott, HHC, 2/69 Armor, works on one of his unit's humvees in the Dust Bowl Jan. 13.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Soldiers of 317th Engineer Battalion relax between their shelter halves in the Dust Bowl Monday during a break from training at NTC.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

B Co., 1/30 Inf. Soldiers pull security on the simulated town of Langford Wells, shortly after a firefight that wiped out three-quarters of its residents, Jan. 21.

Scouts call in fire during Spartan FCX

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

Spartan scouts and radar operators honed their ability to call indirect fire on enemy positions Jan. 21 as part of 2nd Brigade's fire control exercise at Observation Point 2 at Fort Stewart.

Scouts from E Troop, 9th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and PPC-5 radar operators from B Company, 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion set up an observation post, where they received coordinates to call in fire on from the observer-controllers who were critiquing the brigade's ability to call in indirect fire.

"They're identifying targets and sending reports up to the battalion and brigade," said Sgt. 1st Class John Woodson, the scout platoon sergeant from 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment who was acting as an observer-controller. "They're giving the battalions the information they need to maneuver the main force to engage and destroy the targets."

The exercise was part of the Spartan Brigade's train-up for their upcoming rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., which will take place in March, he said.

"We're trying to identify the brigade's strengths and weaknesses before the rotation," Woodson said. "This



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Artillery fire impacts on a target called in by 2nd Bde. scouts Jan. 21 at Stewart.

training will provide unit commanders with the tools necessary for improvement."

The focus of the training was on the key leaders for each section, he said.

"There really aren't a lot of Soldiers out here today," Woodson said. "It's mostly platoon leaders, commanders and noncommissioned officers. The units will do more training on an individual level later."

After receiving the coordinates from an observer-controller, The Soldiers would send reports through the proper channels to have indirect fire brought in on the target. Each link in the communications chain was checked thoroughly by observer-controllers at each location to ensure the process went smoothly.

Because of the attention to detail, indirect fires that would take place within minutes on the battlefield took a bit longer, said Sgt. Kelton Harrison, a PPC-5 radar operator with B Co., 103rd MI.

"(In a real world situation), we would use the radar to pick up targets — wheeled vehicles, track vehicles and dismounted personnel — and send up the direction and distance to them," he said.

Harrison's radar will be more effective in the Mojave Desert, because it operates on line of sight, he said. For the exercise, it was set up, but the coordinates were brought to him by the observer-controllers.

"(Operating the radar) was a lot easier during the war," he said. "There weren't as many trees in the way. Out in the desert, the wide-open space allows us to better detect targets."

Man jumps into Hunter the hard way

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

A man was arrested minutes after jumping the fence surrounding Hunter Army Airfield Tuesday morning by Savannah Police officers with assistance from Hunter Military Police Soldiers.

The man got into a minor car accident, assaulted two police officers, took off on a lengthy car chase — which ended when he hit a tree, continued on foot, and jumped the fence before being apprehended on Hunter.

According to Chatham County Deputy Sheriff Todd Desautels, the three vehicles involved in the car accident were not damaged — it was a minor fender bender. When he and another offi-

cer arrived at the scene in a parking lot near the intersection of White Bluff and DeRenne Roads, the man said his license was suspended and took off, but not before assaulting Desautels and another officer with his car.

He hit one officer, backed up into Desautels' vehicle, then drove forward and hit the other officer again, Desautels said. Desautels then pursued the man in his cruiser. The chase was intense, going through parking lots, and down side streets, before it ended in the Oglethorpe Mall parking lot when the man hit a tree.

The perpetrator then took off on foot, and Desautels followed. He eventually decided to jump the fence and take his

chances on Hunter. The fence is eight feet tall with three strands of barbed wire on top, but he made it over. Desautels said the man made it over more easily than he did because his Kevlar got caught in it, which gave the man time to hide.

Hunter MPs received a call from the Savannah Police Department dispatch that someone had jumped the fence and was in the wood line. They went to the scene and walked the fence line while the Savannah Police Department K-9 units worked in the woods, according to Pfc. Allan Kerner, 179th Military Police Detachment. Soldiers with the 3rd Military Police Company checked passing vehicles on Perimeter Road

to make sure the man hadn't been picked up or forced someone to hide him in a vehicle.

The man hid in the woods across the road from the airfield. The woods were thick with underbrush, and he buried himself under pine straw, making it difficult to find him, according to Savannah K-9 Unit Police Officer Sgt. Greg Ernst.

Police found him quickly and arrested him. Ernst said they wouldn't have found the suspect without his dog Bruno. "We would have walked right past him." He was so well hidden that a Chatham County Sheriff's Officer standing right next to him across the fence didn't see him, Ernst said.

The incident is still under investigation.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

An apprehended civilian is taken into custody by Savannah Police Officer Cpl. Paul Swain and Sgt. Ellis Puryear, 3rd MP Co., after he jumped the fence next to White Bluff Road onto Hunter to elude Chatham County Police officers who were chasing him. The man had a traffic accident and then hit a police car before fleeing the scene at about 9 a.m. Tuesday.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

I love the wildlife

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

I recently found myself in what I thought was the lucky position of being able to move out of the barracks and get a place of my own in Hinesville.

I thought things were great. I got a house with some friends and settled in for the semi-independent lifestyle living off-post affords a Soldier. But as time passed, a deep malaise set in.

Sure, I don't have to periodically wake up at the crack of dawn because somebody set off the fire alarm. I've got a room to myself with a door that I can shut. And don't get me started on the benefits of having a foosball table in your quarters. You'd think I'm crazy to complain.

But ever since I left the barracks, I've been feeling kind of lonely. Before, I had one human roommate and several, well, lets just call them less-than-human roommates. Lots of guys move out of the barracks and say they miss the wild life. I moved out of the barracks, and for some reason, I miss the wildlife.

Having a good conversation with

my roommates is great, but I grew fond of sharing my Cocoa Puffs with Archie the Roach. Now I open them every morning after PT and find they're undisturbed.

Who can forget the ants crawling in the garbage I forgot to take out as I headed off for work each day? Those little guys made sure nothing went to waste. Now when I leave my garbage to build up until the bag is full (by full, I mean I've pushed the trash down in the can until the laws of physics prevent the density of said trash from increasing any further), it just sits there. So many coffee grounds go to waste since I moved out of the barracks.

Ah, the wildlife. As sure as a young private will usually run for a box of grid squares, they were there for me every step of the way. When I left for Kuwait, they made sure every last drop of my last beverage was put to use. When I returned from Iraq, they were there to chide me about hanging out with Sunni flies.

Ever since I got to the new house, it's like the wildlife there doesn't trust me. They're still hiding. It's not like the place is any paragon of cleanliness. Mind you, I don't live in

Commentary



squalor. But let's just say I don't keep things quite as polished without my first sergeant there to make sure it stays that way. You'd figure I'd see more of

them here, but they haven't reared their heads yet. Does this mean I have to give up my Cocoa Puffs? Maybe the roaches here are used to some other sugary concoction in the morning.

Well, as Archie once told me, some times you have to move on. Of course, he was talking about when the bug guy came in to spray or when the first sergeant came in for a health and welfare inspection. They always seemed to disappear when I actually cleaned my barracks room. What was that all about anyway?

Anyway, here's to Archie and all my other former friends in the barracks. I'll miss you guys more than I'll miss the fire alarm, which, when I come to think about it, isn't that much after all.

Why should I buy a used couch?

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

Like my good buddy and colleague above me on this page has already done, I am about to move out of the barracks.

Why is an E-5 still living in the barracks, you may be asking yourself? There are many reasons.

One is the free rent. Yes, yes, I know the Army will pay me to live off post—but the guy above me on this page and his roommates have been waiting for more than three months for the Army to cut them their first Basic Allowance for Housing checks. So they've literally spent thousands of their own dollars on rent after being forced out of the barracks because the barracks were too crowded after the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers returned from Iraq. This takes the "cot" part out of that "three hots and a cot" saying we have in the Army. Now that I think about it, I haven't received my "three hots" since I returned either. I get separate rations. Actually, I do get them every month, but they are literally taken away in the same month on a different line in the Leave and Earnings Statement. This reminds

me of another — **Commentary** —

saying we have in the Army — "They give you a hundred dollars, but take back 99 ..." But I digress — the rent is nice in the barracks.

Another reason is ease. It's really easy to make it to work on time in the morning when I live only a half mile away. I've never sat in those mile-long lines in front of the gates. And I'm not saying we should have an open base — those gate guards are helping keep us safe. I'm just saying, if you live on the inside, life is easy.

Another reason is safety. We may have a theft problem on this base, I don't know, I didn't ask anybody, but I haven't seen any evidence of one. I've had my electric scooter with the flames painted on the side parked behind Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 3rd Inf. Div. for months and nobody has stolen it. (I better move it now, lest any pranksters read this and decide to be funny. Did I mention it goes 12 miles per hour? Yeah, I'm moving it.)

Another reason is the joy of being institutionalized. The joy of being institution-

alized? Yes, the joy of being institutionalized. When you spend as much time on base as I do, on the rare occasions that you dare to venture forth into the real world, it seems a very special and almost magical place. I often find myself gasping to myself, "Wow, continuous sidewalks! You mean to tell me that thing goes down the whole block?!" Radical! I can just walk down it without being run over? You're serious? I'm going to try that." I remember that children's book — "Where the sidewalk ends." (It's Fort Stewart. The sidewalk ends on Fort Stewart.)

But I'm still digressing; it will be nice to live off base. I don't know what Spc. Boyer is talking about, I've never seen bugs in my room. Ha ha ha ha ha!

But really, my grandparents called me and asked me what I've been up to. I told them, "Absolutely nothing, as always. Oh wait, I got an apartment." My grandmother replied, "Well Mason, you should start looking at yard sales for a nice used couch." I replied incredulously, "A used

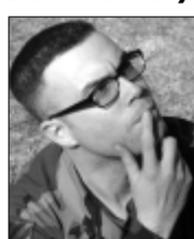
couch?! I'm a hero Grandma! I'm not sitting on a used couch. What are you saying — I'm not worth a new couch?" To which she replied, "Well Mason, your grandfather and I just gave a very nice couch away to Goodwill." "WHAT?!" I cried, "What are you doing giving couches to Goodwill? You could have given it to me."

Then I discussed the couch situation with my esteemed colleagues at The Frontline. They all found my grandmother's advice to be sound.

So why does everyone think I deserve a used couch? Is it because I'm only an E-5? So at what rank does a Soldier deserve a new couch — O-6? Or do only rich people deserve new couches? Are the rest of us (let's stick together) destined to a life of saggy cushions and springs poking us in the behind?

Or is it because I'm single? Well, if I never get a new couch, how am I supposed to attract a wife? So all us single people have to sit around in squalor? That's discrimination somehow.

(I'm just kidding, I really need a couch. Does anyone have one I could have? Seriously, I'm sleeping on a cot.)



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Who are you going to spend your tax return money on?

"Save it and put it toward college — I'm getting ready to get out."

Pvt. Denarius McCoy
C Co., 26th FSB



"I'm saving mine for block leave — I need to buy a plane ticket."

Spc. Phylcia Harris
C Co., 26th FSB



"I plan to pay off Christmas bills and invest if any money remains."

Chief Warrant Officer Sandra Pack
HHC, DISCOM



"I'm going to buy something for my mom."

Sgt. Locksley Pennyfeather
HHC, 123rd Sig.



"It's probably going to go into paying taxes on the house."

Senior Airman Tammy Schultz
165th MXS



"Save a little money for a vacation — it's all about the family, whatever they want to do."

Sgt. Fernando Gonzalez
HHC, 3rd Inf. Div.



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Cadets get hands on...



Dina McKain

Spc. David Connely, 603rd ASB, shows a Brunswick High School Navy JROTC cadet around a Humvee during the group's visit to Hunter Jan 21.



Spc. Christopher Hensel, A Co., 2/3 Avn., Blackhawk crew chief, briefs Brunswick H.S. NJROTC cadets Jan. 21 during their visit to Hunter.

Understanding IMA

The new operative for installation improvement

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC Hunter Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) who served in Iraq returned home to see both Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield undergoing major changes and renovations.

What they also saw was an unfamiliar shoulder sleeve insignia on some Soldiers who supported installation activities during the division's deployment.

This new unit patch is one facet of a three-year transition of installations Army wide.

Army installations, once under control of the major commands, now fall under the Installation Management Agency. This allows the MACOMS, divisions and smaller units to execute their tactical missions while the IMA handles installation operations.

The purpose for this change, according to Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, is to "support mission readiness, and transform and standardize the way the Army runs installations."

"In the past, the budget was distributed to the three MACOMS then on to divisions," he said. "From there, divisions would have to allocate their funds to training the force and improving the installation." Goble pointed out that, in the past, training has traditionally taken fiscal priority over installation improvement.

Additionally, with three MACOMS came three different sets of standards and, once those trickled down to divisions and installations, many varying policies, procedures and practices were in place, according to Goble.

"One standard — that's what it's all about," he said.

Under the new organization, funds will be distributed separately to the MACOMS for training and the IMA for installations, allowing each installation to receive the funds necessary to operate, and maintain and/or improve its condition. What's more, divisions will still have the necessary funding to focus on the mission without the worry of managing the installations.

The IMA, headquartered in

Washington, is broken down into seven regions throughout the world. Each region manages the installations within it, but funds for installations are distributed directly from IMA headquarters to the installations.

"It's a much more efficient process," Goble said. "The money goes from congress to Army to installation, allowing (Soldiers) to gain effectiveness in quality of life."

Quality of life and the well being of Soldiers, civilians and family members is a focal point of the IMA's mission.

"When all is said and done, agencies and directorates, even street signs and welcome signs, on all Army installations will be uniform, enabling Soldiers and families to experience a smoother transition during a (permanent change of station) move," Goble said.

Another focal point in the IMA's mission is environmental preservation. The IMA and installation garrisons will be tasked with the continued implementation of the environmental programs managed on installations ranging from endangered species to storm water to hazardous waste, according to the IMA Web site.

Apart from aesthetic improvements on the installations, there will be a steady increase in the number of civilians seen working on them.

"(Civilianizing) is part of the overall Army transformation," said Ed Foerstel, Hunter, deputy garrison commander. "It will enable the Army to move Soldiers from garrison jobs into combat and combat support jobs — more war fighters."

Ultimately, looking toward the future is what the IMA is doing.

"We cannot afford to not have a vision of where our installations will be in five, 10, or 20 years," said Maj. Gen. Anders B. Aadland, IMA commander, in an Army News Service story on Oct. 21, 2003. "Some installations are close (to where they need to be); some are leagues away ... it will take some time."

Goble agreed.

"This isn't happening overnight; it's happening everyday," he said. "And it won't be without some growing pains."

"When all is said and done, the Army and its installations will be better off."

Chaplains learn to help couples communicate

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart chaplains and their assistants gathered at Club Stewart Jan. 22 and Friday to learn methods to help couples communicate with each other.

They were there for a workshop called Couple Communication, which broke down the different parts of talking and listening, the two key components of conversation, said Dr. Sherod Miller, the workshop's leader and the co-developer of the methods. He taught the class with his wife, Dr. Phyllis Miller.

"The purpose of this course is to equip couples with the skills to help them maintain and grow their relationship," he said. "It doesn't presume there is trouble (in the marriage). It's more a way to keep things good. It's like a (Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services) for marriage."

The chaplains and their assistants were taking the course, which was co-sponsored by the Stewart Installation Chaplain's Office and Army Community Service, so they could use it to teach couples at Stewart the same skills they learned, said the Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers, Fort Stewart family life chaplain.

"This sets us up for success," he said. "It trains all our chaplains in this method. Every month, we'll conduct this training for couples at Fort Stewart for up to 10 couples."

The Millers' method focuses on teaching couples what all the components of conversations are so they recognize what each of them are doing during conversations and arguments, Sherod said. According to them, there are six parts to talking and five parts to listening.

The six components of talking make up the awareness wheel, he said. At its center is the issue being discussed. Surrounding it are sensory data, thoughts, feelings,



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Pfc. Deborah Henderson, A Co., HQ Cmd., pulls Assistant Division Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Whitlock's finger as part of an exercise while Staff Sgt. Rhonda Robison, HHC, 24th CSG, Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick Ratigan, 2nd Brigade and Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Hommel, 3/15 Infantry, look on during the Couple Communication training Friday.

actions, and desires, both for the individual communicating and the one being communicated to. The listening cycle consists of attending to the speaker, acknowledging what he says, inviting him to say more, summarizing what the listener has been told and asking questions about things the listener does not understand.

"The class was really valuable insight into the structure of a conversation," said Spc. Gary Harvey, chaplain's assistant, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. "The map they gave us that shows how the 11 parts of a conversation

will be really helpful. It's a lot easier for me to go downtown if I'm familiar with the route, but without a map, I can have a difficult time. The map can help me get better at it and take somebody else with me."

The awareness wheel and the listening cycle have been developed and refined over 35 years by the Millers and fellow researchers, Sherod said. At the time, marriage counseling was available for couples in crisis, but there was nothing to help them build their marriages.

"I was doing a lot of marriage counseling at the time," he said. "But the couples

would depend on me. We weren't teaching them to be their own best problem solvers. What we have developed since then is 'heathy marriage education.' We're trying to equip couples with the skills to help them maintain and grow their relationships."

The Millers taught the class using a variety of methods. They presented material, shared personal experiences from their marriage, and conducted group activities throughout the two-day program.

The training was valuable to those who attended, said Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Hommel, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment.

"You could tell a lot of thought went into (the course)," he said. "The presenters seemed very genuine and concerned about helping us help families communicate consistently and effectively. They helped us learn how to fight fair, focusing on the issue rather than emotions."

Johnny Cusimano, Family Advocacy Program director with Army Community Service, said the program teaches people a set of skills, and it should not be confused with therapy.

"This is applicable to all marriages, from those a few months along to those many years old," he said. "These are skills I will use in my own marriage. It helps people stay in touch with what they love about each other and continue to build on that."

Sherod said those who attended the class were "way above average" when it came to understanding what they were learning.

"The chaplains caught on really quick," he said. "You have good teachers here who understand what we're trying to do."

The first Couple Communication workshop at Stewart will be held Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Club Stewart. Up to 10 couples will be allowed to attend. Subsequent workshops will be held March 12 and April 30. Couples who are interested in attending can contact Sowers at 767-8549.



!SOLDIERS!



Please use the Marne Tax Center to file and prepare your taxes. The Marne Tax Center is staffed with Internal Revenue Service-trained and certified tax preparers, who will fill out and submit your tax paperwork for **FREE**. By using this service you are assured quality tax preparation, which you can trust. The Tax Center is located in Building 9611 on the corner of 12th Street and Worcester Street. For directions and information, call 767-3909.



Looking for a really Good Deal? Shop

THE FRONTLINE Classifieds



New PT routes aim for Soldier safety

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody
Staff Writer

Starting today, physical training at Fort Stewart will be confined to three areas in an effort to keep Soldiers and traffic safely separated. Each unit, with the exception of garrison, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, will be required to post road guards at designated traffic control points every morning.

"We're an infantry unit and we like to run, but we've had some problems with moving vehicles interfering with Soldiers running during PT. Every once in a while someone gets bumped," said 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) G3 Sgt. Maj. Calvin Smithers. "The new plan is to keep vehicles out of the run routes altogether in order to keep our Soldiers safe."

Smithers consulted with representatives of every conceivable group that will be affected by the changes, including civilians, motor pool contractors, the Directorate of Public Works, the post Fire Department and Military Police, in order to minimize disruption of traffic and

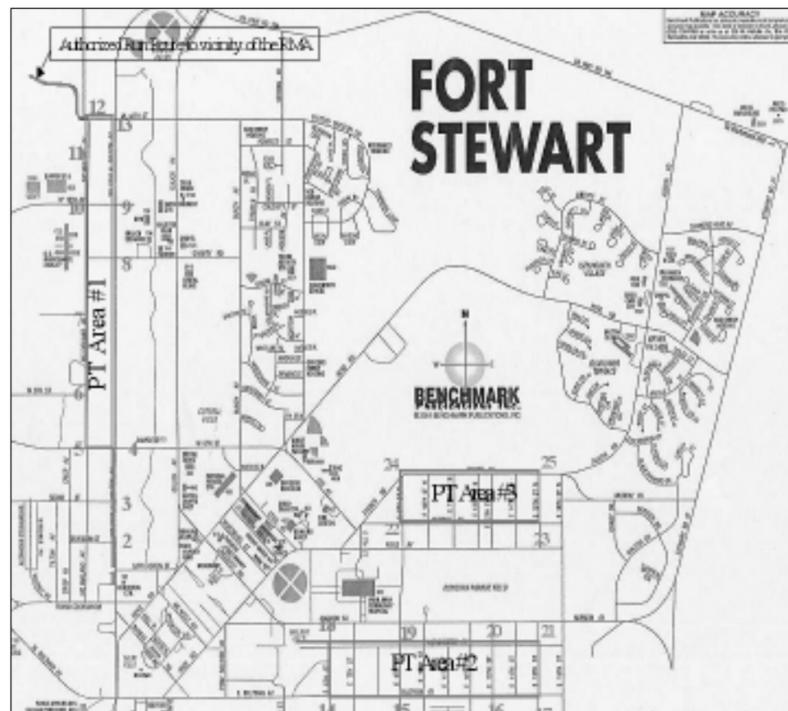
emergency services. MPs will supplement the road guards at key TCPs.

"Commuters should be able to figure out how to get where they need to go in the morning," Smithers said. "There will be some complaining, I'm sure, but this is the best plan out of the 10 or so we considered. We'll refine it as need be in the coming months."

"Every unit will be responsible for manning one of the 25 TCPs every morning with a road guard, who should carry a flashlight and wear a reflective vest," Smithers said. "The road guards will watch areas that are blocked with traffic cones as well."

The three PT areas shown on the map allow most units to continue using the same streets for running.

PT Area # 1 is a north-south loop running up William H. Wilson and McFarland avenues up to the tank trail road march area, Area #2 is an east-west loop down Bultman and Worchester avenues from 6th street to 15th street and Area # 3 is an east-west loop running down Murray and Ricker avenues from 9th street to 15th street.



Photos by Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Hunter Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Miffie A. Smith; Tax Center NCOIC Sgt. John Sosebee; and Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble cut the ribbon at the Hunter Tax Center Grand Opening Friday. The Center is located on Neal Boulevard. It is open during regular duty hours and Saturday. The Soldiers working at the Hunter Tax Center are volunteers from Hunter units, trained as Volunteers In Tax Assistance by the Internal Revenue Service.



Hunter Tax Center opens



The Hunter Army Airfield Tax Team, from left to right: Tax Center NCOIC Sgt. John Sosebee; Tax Center OIC Capt. Anthony Foley; Spc. Chrisnette Ford, 207th Quartermaster Detachment; Spc. Ryan Stillson, K Co., 159th Maintenance; Pfc. Jonathan Mitchel, HHC, 1/3 Aviation; and Dorothy Andrews, tax assistant.

Proper Soldier counseling will prevent headaches

Inspector General Office

Special to The Frontline

One of the things we hear about at the Inspector General Office are problems that result from Leaders not properly counseling Soldiers. This article will emphasize counseling and provides both Leaders and Soldiers valuable information on when and how Soldiers should be counseled.

Q: I'm not sure I understand how the developmental counseling system aligns with the current Army policy on when and what type of counseling I should do?

A: The Army's counseling system is designed to cover all types of counseling. All counseling sessions can now be grouped under two categories, event-oriented and performance/professional growth-oriented. Event-oriented counseling involves a specific situation and/or event. It may precede events, such as going to a promotion board or attending a school; or it may follow events, such as a noteworthy duty perfor-

mance, a problem with performance or mission accomplishment, or a personal problem. Performance counseling involves conducting a review of a subordinate's duty performance during a certain period - this counseling is usually tied to the officer evaluation report or Noncommissioned officer evaluation report counseling requirements. Professional growth counseling includes planning for the accomplishment of individual and professional goals. This future-oriented counseling establishes short- and long-term goals and objectives. This counseling might look beyond the subordinate's current job and focus more towards future assignments, special programs and reenlistment options.

Q: What are the most common mandatory counselings that I'm supposed to conduct with my Soldiers?

A: The Army's counseling system easily facilitates the mandated counseling requirements found in some Army regulations. For example:

Overweight: The plan of action format is a perfect outline for this type of counseling situation. Referring the Soldier to agencies like the hospital dietician (which is a requirement) and using Appendix C of Army Regulation 600-9, Nutrition Guide to Weight Control Program, are sources that can help you and the subordinate put together a plan of action for the Soldier to follow.

Army Physical Fitness Test Failure: This counseling is structured much like the overweight program, except as a leader you may have even more control over the situation and the outcome of the situation. In order to formulate the plan of action for this type of counseling, the leader may want to request the assistance of a master fitness trainer.

Soldiers eligible for promotion, without waiver, but not recommended: This type of counseling is probably one of the most overlooked counseling sessions in the Army. The regulation is very clear on who, when and why this counseling is required. Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions

and Reductions, states "Appropriate commander or his designee (such as the first senior NCO in the chain of command) will counsel soldiers who are eligible for promotion to Pvt. 2 through Staff Sgt. without a waiver (fully qualified) but not recommended in writing." Counseling will take place initially when the Soldier attains eligibility; be conducted at least every three months; and include information as to why the Soldier was not recommended and what can be done to correct deficiencies or qualities which lack promotion potential.

You can find out a lot more about counseling on the IG Resources Library at <https://intranet1/stewart.army.mil/ig>. Click on the IG Resources Library, then click on "G1/S1 - Personnel," then click on "Inspector General Counseling Guide September 2003." This document will provide you with a wealth of information about counseling, and also provides a matrix that talks about minimum counseling requirements.

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

2/69 Armor Soldiers train to win**Spc. Robert Adams**

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — The 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, rolled out of the dust bowl Jan. 16 and entered the vast desert terrain of the National Training Center with "speed and power" to face the opposing force.

"The overall mission is to defend and we have the arsenal to get the job done," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jessie L. Andrews, 2/69 Armor command sergeant major.

"Our defense includes M1 Abrams tanks, Humvees, along with the addition of infantry fighting vehicles," Andrews said. "Because we are task force organized, we gave up a tank company to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and in return we got a company equipped with Bradley fighting vehicles."

To track battles, 2/69 Armor uses a sophisticated tactical operations center.

"The TOC is equipped with the technology to know exactly where all of our elements are at any given time, and through intelligence sources, we are able to keep

track of where the enemy is at as well," Andrews said.

With the help and expertise of Observer Controllers, who conduct after action reviews after each battle, 2/69 Armor can determine what happened during the fight, why it happened, and how they can improve or sustain next time.

"The OCs are here to make sure we follow military doctrine in the correct way and inform us of what works well and what doesn't according to information that leaders have compiled over the years of training and war," Andrews said. "This feedback will better prepare us for future operations,"

"The goal is to get better every day and much better by the end of the rotation," said Sgt. Maj. Gregory A. Proft, senior non-commissioned officer trainer at NTC.

"What you do here in this training arena is what you will do in a real-world mission," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey R. Sanderson, 2/69 Armor battalion commander.

"To prepare for the rotation we had our companies go out and perform jousting techniques," Andrews said. "This involved tank platoons advancing toward each



Spc. Robert Adams

Platoons with 2/69 Armor are positioned on a map of NTC in preparation for a battle against opposing forces during a briefing held in the tactical operation center.

other until positive identification was made, and the quickest and most accurate element won."

He added, "Due to the fact our Soldiers did just come back from combat opera-

tions, they still have a keen sense of situational awareness."

Sanderson said, "The way the United States Army wins wars is through the combination of maneuvering and fire power."

317th Eng. UMCP keeps it rolling**Pfc. Emily J. Danial**

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif., — On any desert road at the National Training Center, and there are quite a few, wheeled vehicles of all shapes, sizes and capabilities are a common sight, especially during 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized)'s two-week stretch in what's popularly referred to as the Box.

Of course, those vehicles don't take care of themselves — that's what the 317th Engineer Battalion's maintenance section is for.

"We provide technical assistance to the battalion by locating hard-to-find vehicle parts, preparing reports and managing scheduled and unscheduled maintenance," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Bryant, the battalion's maintenance technician at the Unit Maintenance Control Point.

T-D7G bulldozers, M113 armored personnel carriers, M-9 armored combat earthmovers and armored vehicle launch bridges are among the maintenance teams primary concerns, and its tasks are not always easy, according to Bryant.

"Since the dozers, ACEs and AVLBs are specifically engineers' vehicles, it can be difficult to replace parts when they break," he said. "Here, they have a turn-in point for the depot yard, and we've been able to go and get serviceable parts from unserviceable vehicles after they're turned in."

Bryant and the rest of the maintenance section have been kept on their toes since they arrived, according to Capt. Richard

E. Bratton, battalion maintenance officer.

"It's been really busy," he said. "We brought all our engineer equipment out from Fort Benning (Ga.)."

Bratton said other than a period of five to seven days near the end of 2003, this is the first time all of the unit's equipment has been in use since they returned from Iraq in the summer of 2003, and before that it spent a year just "sitting" while the battalion was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Maintenance is hard to stay on top of when the vehicles haven't been used in awhile, because you don't get to find bugs until you get out and exercise them," Bratton said.

Time and distance are also a challenge, he said, because of the fact that 317th's equipment is spread out all over the entire brigade.

Still, Bratton said the challenge is being met.

"We're fully equipped to handle any mission we get handed," he said.

Bryant said the maintenance shop's goal is to be at least 90 percent readiness.

"We haven't met that goal yet, but I expect we will by the end of the exercise," he said.

Bratton said the key to a well-run maintenance team was "having good team chiefs who know how to utilize their mechanics."

He added, "Hopefully we can take lessons we've learned here and in Iraq to refine our field maintenance operations and have more combat power."



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Capt. Richard E. Bratton III updates maintenance charts at 317th Eng. Bn.'s Unit Maintenance Control Point January 18.

Practice Safe Biking...

Always Wear a Helmet!



NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Infantry Soldiers learn the hard way

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — On their fifth day of training in the barren desert wasteland known as the National Training Center's "Box," 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers in Fort Benning's B Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment were given a mission.

Despite all their best efforts, its outcome prompted some of those Soldiers to agree that it's a good thing this was just training.

"Our mission was to go into (the simulated town of) Langford Wells, find a certain individual who was on the most-wanted list and capture him," said Cpl. James Crocker, part of the second wave of infantrymen who arrived to assist their comrades. "Unfortunately, when the (role-playing) townspeople started firing at us that kind of went downhill."

After the Soldiers were attacked, the return fire that ensued destroyed the majority of the town.

"A lot of people are still in the mindset that we're in Iraq, and that might have made us a little over-aggressive," said Pfc. Joseph Kinsley, another B Co. Soldier.

Crocker added, "In Iraq, the innocent civilians were quicker to surrender, to come out with their hands up if they weren't a threat to us. In Langford Wells, everyone just stayed in the houses, which is usually a sign that they're hiding weapons or something."

The week of force-on-force battle maneuver training Soldiers received while in the Box was set in terrain foreign to them.

They fought against an army played by

Fort Irwin Soldiers trained and familiar with the desert's many hills, valleys, twists and turns.

All involved — including vehicles and the Soldiers acting as townspeople — were outfitted with laser transmitters for their weapons and laser-activated gear for their bodies which was set off when they were hit by enemy fire throughout the staged war.

"Towns" were scattered throughout the region and filled with "residents" either hostile or friendly to U.S. forces, who were instructed to offer them help when it was requested and respond accordingly when treated with violence.

According to 1/30 Soldiers, the "citizens" of Langford Wells made a fatal error when they took the first shot at their would-be allies, an error that ultimately cost them close to three-quarters of their numbers, including the town "mayor."

"It was an exercise in tactics in an urban environment," Crocker said. "We had to determine which civilians were enemies and which were innocent."

He continued, "It went all right, but it's hard to restrain yourself when your adrenaline's pumping. Usually the civilians aren't as hostile."

Kinsley said he thought that overall, the scenario was "pretty realistic," emphasizing again that if the residents of Langford Wells had helped them distinguish friend from foe, the body count may not have been so high.

"In Iraq, people who were innocent would come out waving white flags," he said.

"I think they're given those at birth over



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

B Co., 1/30 Inf. Soldiers detain Langford Wells civilians who survived the total annihilation of the simulated town Jan. 21 at NTC.

there," Crocker added.

Still, Kinsley said when he was being shot at, his first order of business was to return fire.

Those residents of the town who were not "killed" were detained, and, although their community had just been all but extinguished, most of those few remained compliant and cooperative with Soldiers who arrived to carry them off to temporary captivity.

Kinsley said he would normally expect a much different reaction from people in

their position.

"We just destroyed their home," he said. "If this were real, the detainees would probably be angry and throwing stuff at us. These guys just sit there and let us lead them away."

Before leaving the now-obliterated Langford Wells, once a poor yet gentrified settlement and now a virtual pile of rubble, Crocker and Kinsley said they and their fellow 1/30 Soldiers would chalk this experience up as a lesson learned — another educational day at NTC.

Meeting helps supplies flow smoothly

Sgt. R. James Piper

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif., — Food, fuel and repair parts are just some of the many items a unit needs to remain mission capable at the National Training Center.

The daily Logistic Resupply Point meeting that the leaders and logisticians of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment hold helps keep supplies flowing smoothly to the units.

"It's better to meet face-to-face to determine what the unit's need rather than trying to discuss it over the radio," said Capt. Curtis Burns, 1/30 Inf. battalion logis-

"Meeting with the unit first sergeants helps to provide a sense of urgency. I can look at the first sergeant and ask, 'what do you need to be successful?'"

Capt. Curtis Burns
1/30 Inf. logistics officer

tics officer.

The meeting helps the units to determine what sup-

plies they need, ranging from food and fuel to barrier material and repair parts.

"Meeting with the unit first sergeants helps to provide of urgency," Burns said. "I can look at the first sergeant and ask 'What do you need to be successful,' and he can tell me right then."

Burns said he needs to know what the units have so it's easier for him to get them the supplies they need.

Another benefit to the meeting is that it gives leaders and logisticians a chance to pass out information.

"The meeting gives focus and makes it easier to distribute information," Burns said. "This way information has to be put out once."

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Dust Bowl diversions keep Soldiers busy

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Although 3rd Brigade Soldiers have moved into the “box,” while living in the National Training Center’s Dust Bowl they didn’t have the option of going to the Post Exchange and other facilities around Fort Irwin so those facilities have come to them.

Soldiers sleeping in shelter halves by night had the opportunity by day to grab an espresso at the Mojave Mocha coffee shop, pick up a magazine at the Troop Store, surf the net at the Phone Center or watch a football game at the recreation center, all without leaving the comfort of the Dust Bowl.

“They give us really good service at the PX,” said Spc. Everton Joseph, a combat engineer with C Co., 317th Engineer Battalion. “I’ve enjoyed the phone center; it’s much better than Iraq; we had to stand in long lines there.”

In addition to the Troop Store, which contains the same products, albeit on a smaller scale, as any PX or Shoppette, Soldiers were presented with several other alternatives for their food and beverage needs.

Each unit set up its own small dining facility, and Soldiers could purchase a barbecue plate, if they choose to, at a stand set up expressly for them.

A large number of the Soldiers in the Dust Bowl have previously been on longer deployments, and the fact that they have such services as it currently offers really doesn’t matter to them one way or the other.

According to Staff Sgt. Robert Woody,



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Spc. Joel Maldonado, 1-10 FA, reaches to put his unit's guidon on top of a field artillery ammunition support vehicle in the Dust Bowl while his fellow Soldiers rush to help.

2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, “It’s only 30 days. We’ve been deployed for up to 17, 18 months before; 30 days is nothing.”

Other Soldiers, like Spc. Alonzo Hall, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2/69 Armor, said although they like being in the field, they have benefited from having such

conveniences as the Troop Store at their disposal.

“It’s just like our PX,” Hall said. “I can get anything.”

He said he didn’t often get his food from anywhere but the dining facility, though.

“There’s nothing like field chow!” he said. “This is my last field problem, and I’m enjoying the heck out of it.”

Sgt. Leon Brown, B Company, 203rd Corps Support Battalion, concurred with Hall on the appeal of the store.

“This is really convenient,” Brown said. “It’s a lot bigger now than it was the last time I was here. It’s less congested.”

In order to ensure that the store stays uncongested, a Soldier is posted at the entrance to hand out numbers to each customer who walks in. Once the numbers have been dispersed, customers are asked to wait until somebody leaves before they enter.

Even Soldiers say they appreciate having activities like the rec center and phone center available to them, some say they’ve been spending their time in the maneuver preparation area doing just that.

“I try to keep home life at home,” said Spc. Timothy Clark, a B Co., 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment fire direction specialist, about why he hasn’t taken advantage of the phone center. “That way, I don’t spend as much time thinking about wanting to be there.”

Clark said he does appreciate the fact that the diversions are there, though.

“They keep us doing something constructive,” he said.

2/69 NCO calls fifth NTC rotation his favorite

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — On July 27, 1997 a 19-year-old left his home in Columbus, Ga. for Fort McClellan, Ala., to find a new one in the Army and become a Soldier.

“I wasn’t ready for college,” said Staff Sgt. Kedrick R. Burns, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment battalion nuclear biological chemical noncommissioned officer. “I joined the Army to receive the discipline I needed to succeed in college.”

He said his time in the Army has been challenging but it has prepared him to meet his goals. Without the Army he would probably have failed out of college and be out on the streets.

Burns began his military service as an NBC specialist at Fort Hood, Texas where he served in the 68th Chemical Company, 1st Cavalry Division. He spent three years at Hood

and then moved to the 201st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division in Vilseck, Germany.

“I was in Iraq from March to July with 201st FSB,” Burns said. “I was the NCO in charge and officer in charge of the Kirkut Wash rack.”

After returning to Germany, Burns was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., to be a part of the unit that spearheaded the war into Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2/69 Armor.

“2/69 is a different kind of unit than I am use to,” Burns said. “This unit is very up-tempo and fast moving. It was hard to adjust at first because I’m use to units moving at a slower pace.”

“Staff Sgt. Burns is the best NCO we have,” said Private 1st Class William J. Mikels, 2/69 Armor S-3 driver. “He can relate to the things junior enlisted Soldiers go through. He treats his Soldiers like equals until we mess up.”

This is Burns’ fifth rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin. His first four rotations took place when he was stationed at Hood.

“This is my favorite rotation because this is my last time at NTC,” Burns said. “And I’ve always wanted to be in a unit with tanks.”

“The prior four rotations were with a chemical company so we weren’t able to see any battles. We only dealt with decontaminating areas. With 2/69 I am actually more in the battle.”

Burns is married to the former Continnia Eaton and has an 11-year old boy, Calvin, and a 9-year-old girl, Gabrielle.

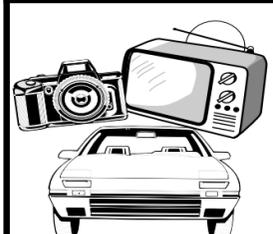
Burns will be getting out of the Army in November to go to college at Columbus Technical College to earn a bachelor’s degree in Automotive Mechanics. He then wants to open up a customizing shop and call it “20s and up.”

Burns added, “I love to fix cars up and customize them.”



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Capt. Steve Hartman, acting company commander, kisses his daughter Amber, one of his 13-month-old triplets.



Tiffany Hursey, left, consoles Elizabeth Allen as their husbands, Soldiers in 1st Def., F Co., 131st Avn. stand in formation Jan. 21. The unit mobilized to Fort Benning and is scheduled to deploy to the Middle East.

Photos by Sgt. Jeff Lowry

MOBILIZATION

from page 1A

to their departure. Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson participated.

The 131st has deployed domestically on several occasions over the past five years to assist with flooding resulting from hurricanes and for wildfires along the Georgia/Florida border.

In 1997, the unit deployed to Honduras for Operation New Horizons supporting humanitarian operations.

The unit is expected to train at Fort Benning for approximately one month prior to deploying.

With the deployment of the 131st Aviation Regiment, all Army aviation assets of the Georgia Army National Guard have been deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

CAN DO

from page 1A

Szafranski emphasized the need for the Bradley crews to work together as much as possible. "Not only do the crews have to fight the enemy, they have to fight each other because often times they're not used to working together."

The battalion is preparing for the division reorganization, which will affect upcoming training at NTC.

"NTC is going to be a learning experience, because we're going there as a unit of action, rather than as a task force. It basically means we'll be working with Soldiers from all different units, so we're sharpening up here today," Szafranski said. "We've got some FISTers from (1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment's fire support team) doing good work with us today too."

As Dawson's Bradley rolled back toward the control tower after a successful qualification run, Szafranski expressed confidence that reorganization will make his unit stronger.

"The reorganization will take some getting used to at first, but it's going to pay off when the division goes back to Iraq," Szafranski said.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Bradley crews from 3/15 Inf. wait for their turn to qualify on Table 8 Jan. 23 at Red Cloud Golf range.

How can you help protect the desert and the dolphin?

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

One environment. One simple way to care for it.

AAFES receives special award

CFSC Public Affairs

Special to The Frontline

NEW YORK — At the National Retail Federation Annual Convention, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service was awarded the American Spirit Award.

Past recipients of the prestigious award, which is designed to recognize exceptional achievement and is presented only when circumstances dictate, include former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George Herbert Walker Bush and Senator Bob Dole.

During the awards luncheon, the NRF Chairman of the Board declared that Dallas-based AAFES was selected for the 2004 honor because of its support of U.S. service men and women fighting abroad against terrorism.

When she accepted the award, AAFES' Commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost took the time to specifically thank Chief Operating Officer Marilyn Iverson and Senior Vice President Europe Karen Stack. Frost praised Iverson and Stack for their leadership in focusing AAFES on the importance of the mission to support deployed troops.

Frost also relayed how the benefit AAFES is providing deployed troops had a profound effect on her during a trip to Kuwait at the peak of the troop build up before the invasion of Iraq.

"That's when I realized that in locations like this, Soldiers and Airmen don't always visit a (post exchange) because they need to 'buy' something," she said. "They often come to the PX because they are surrounded by things that are familiar: U.S. products, well-known labels, popular brands and AAFES employees. In remote and hostile regions, sometimes a visit to a PX is simply a connection to home."

Frost said that witnessing this firsthand compelled her. "That's when I knew AAFES would do whatever was necessary to bring a little bit of home to Soldiers and Airmen fighting for us."

Frost accepted the American Spirit Award on behalf of the AAFES workforce that is committed to serving Soldiers and Airmen wherever they go.

"They put their lives on hold ... leave family, comfort and safety behind, expose themselves to danger ... all to take care of American troops," she said. "They really deserve this award."

Today, AAFES continues to bring that bit of home to troops with nine stores in Kuwait and 30 in Iraq, with about 450 associates deployed at any given time.

Those associates live and work right alongside the deployed troops.

In addition, AAFES supports 88 unit run Imprest Funds that serve forward operating bases where it is too remote or dangerous to set up a store.

Additionally, AAFES runs 37 call centers throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom where deployed troops can go to make a call home to their loved ones.

AAFES is a joint command of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and is directed by a Board of Directors which is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through their Chiefs of Staff. AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and of generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases please visit the Web site at www.aafes.com/pa/default.

Retiree Appreciation Day

The Fort Stewart Retirement Services Office, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Stewart will host the 2004 Florida Retiree Appreciation Day Feb. 28. The event will be held in Ocala, Fla. at the Steinbrenner's Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 3810 NW Bonnie Heath Blvd.

Military retirees and family members of all services are invited to attend.

The program begins at 9:15 a.m. with speakers who include Retired Lt. Gen. John A. Dubia, co-chairman chief of staff of the Army Retiree Council; John C. Benedict, Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland; and Mitch Collier, State Veteran's Program coordinator.

Information will be provided on legislative issues affecting military retiree benefits and many other issues.

A "County Fair" event will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Representatives will be available from the Fort Stewart Retirement Services and Casualty offices, Social Security, Veterans Services, TRICARE, The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Delta Dental, Mobil Unit Disabled American Veterans State Headquarters, and others to provide information, individual counseling and personal assistance.

Identification cards will be issued during the county fair. Retirees and family members will need to bring supporting documentation with them.

For more information contact the Fort Stewart Retirement Services Office at 767-3326 or 767-5013 or Email: lyndia.smith@stewart.army.mil.

Road closures

Ga. 119 North will be closed from cantonment (Gate 6) to installation boundary, Ga. 144 East will be closed from installation boundary on Richmond Hill side near I-95 to 144 West at the intersection of Fort Stewart 1/Country Road 63 and Ga. 47/Sunbury Rd., will be closed from installation boundary prior to the Wright Army Airfield turn off, with a detour at Ga. 47/Sunbury and Joseph Martin Dr. on the following dates:

Feb. 23 to 27

Division Command Post Exercise

March 8 to 12

3/7 Cavalry Gunnery

March 22 to 31

4/64 Armor and 1/3 ADA Gunnery

Only 2 Days Left

The United Way of Liberty County and the Manna House will be collecting blankets until Saturday for the winter season. You can drop off unused or good condition blankets at the Heritage Bank (main office), Coastal Communications (Patriot's Trail branch), Liberty Regional Medical Center, Blockbuster Video, and Georgia Power. Customer One Dry Cleaners has generously donated its laundry services for this cause. The Manna House will distribute the blankets. For further information or to request a blanket, please call 368-4282

Road closures support training

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

Georgia 119 and 144 on Fort Stewart will be closed on the following days (vehicles with valid Department Of Defense decals will be allowed access per paragraph below at select times of the day):

Feb. 23 to 27

Division Command Post Exercise

March 8 to 12

3/7 Cav. Gunnery

March 22 to 31

4/64 Armor and 1/3 ADA Gunnery

Valid DOD Decals (blue, red, green, or black) will be allowed access through post boundaries from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the morning and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the evening. Vehicles with faded or expired Decals will have their Decal removed and be redirected to Gate 1 and Vehicle Registration-VRO (Building 295) for a replacement.

During the remaining hours of the day Ga Highways 119, 144 and 147 will be closed to all traffic with the exception of emergency vehicles.

Passes will not be issued at the road closure points under any circumstances.

All non-decal vehicles will be directed to Gate 1 for vehicle registration. The Stewart Provost Marshal Office highly encourages all Soldiers and DoD civilians that have not registered their vehicle to do so prior to the

road closures. This will make our job and your travel much easier.

Ga. 119 North will be closed from cantonment (Gate 6) to Installation boundary. During these days, individuals traveling from the Pembroke area to Stewart or from Stewart to Pembroke area may use either U.S. 280, I-95, U.S. 17, Ga. 196 and U.S. 84, or via Glennville using U.S. 280, U.S. 25, and Ga. 196.

Ga. 144 East will be closed from installation boundary on the Richmond Hill side near I-95 to 144 West at the intersection of Fort Stewart 1/County Road 63. During these days individuals traveling from the Richmond Hill area to or from Fort Stewart may use U.S. 17, Ga. 196 and U.S. 84. Individuals traveling from Glennville area to or from Stewart may use U.S. 25, and Ga. 196.

Ga. 47/Sunbury Road will be closed from installation boundary prior to the Wright Army Airfield turn off, with a Detour at Ga. 47/Sunbury and Joseph Martin Dr leading vehicles back to U.S. 84 in Hinesville. During the closure times, individuals living between the Detour and Stewart boundary will be allowed access to their homes. Individuals requiring access from U.S. 84 may use either General Screven Avenue to Gate 1 or Olmstead Drive to Gate 2.

Military Police will be stationed at all road blocks and detours to direct traffic. Patrol vehicles will be moni-

toring the highways to ensure that only authorized vehicles are traveling on them.

Trucks hauling ammunition with the proper paper work will be allowed to use the highways and will not have to come through cantonment.

Any person requiring access out of Gate 6 or Gate 3 to reach their work destinations, will be required to have their agency head come to the MP Station at building #280 to obtain the appropriate number of permits needed for their agency. The agency head must bring in a signed memorandum with the number of passes requested to be kept on file at the PMO. A permanent permit will be issued to replace the temporary paper passes that have been used for the two previous road closures. This permit will be shown to the Military Police at Gate 6 or Gate 3 and the vehicle will be allowed to exit and enter the cantonment. Agencies affected include (but are not limited too) Wright Army Airfield, Evans Army Airfield, Range Control, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Holbrook Pond, and Amunition Supply Point.

Tactical vehicles will not need a pass, however all government and privately owned vehicles must have one.

Direct further questions to the Fort Stewart PMO operations office during the duty day at 767-1721, or the MP Desk 24 hours a day at 767-4895.

ASK THE JUDGE

Documents needed for tax filing

Now that the Marne Tax Center is officially open, take advantage of our free tax preparing and filing services!

If you want your refund to be directly deposited into your bank account, make sure you know your bank account information and routing number.

If you filed a form 1040EZ last year, bring:

- Last year's federal income tax return;
- Proof of your social security number;
- Your W-2 (wage and earnings statement); and
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks).

If you filed a form 1040A last year, bring:

- Last year's federal income tax return;
- Your W-2 (wage and earnings statement);
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks);
- Social security numbers for all dependents you are claiming on this year's tax return;
- Information on child care expenses you paid last year; and

• Information on Individual Retirement Arrangements if you did, or plan to contribute.

If you filed a form 1040 last year, bring:

- Last year's federal income tax return;
- Your W-2 (wage and earning statement);
- Form 1099 (interest statements from banks);
- Social security numbers for all dependents you are claiming on this year's tax return;
- Information on child care expenses you paid last year;
- Information on IRAs, if you did, or plan to contribute.
- Mortgage interest statement (if any);
- Alimony information (copy of divorce or separation agreement); and
- Any other financial information from the tax year (e.g. investment statements, rental reports, medical expense, charitable contribution records).

Questions? Stop by the Marne Tax Center, in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Area or call 767-3909/3761.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old female, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Reckless endangerment of a child, removing/affixing license plate with intent to conceal or misrepresent, no drivers license on person
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 32-year-old male, Aviation Brigade

- **Charges:** Simple assault, disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Drunken driving (underage), obstruction - resisting arrest, drunk and disorderly
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Obstruction by resisting
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Public indecency
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, reckless driving, fleeing/eluding, speeding
- **Location:** Hinesville

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Marne Tax Center
The Marne Tax Center opened Wednesday and will be open until April 15. The hours of operation are:

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 (ending March 13)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The center is located in Building 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. For more information call the tax center at 767-3909.

Red Cross Instruction
The American Red Cross is asking for your assistance in the handling of emergency messages for Soldiers during National Training Center rotations. All emergency Red Cross messages will be handled by the Fort Irwin Emergency Operations Center which is currently operating with minimal staff.

In order to facilitate the passing of emergency communications to your Soldiers in a timely manner, please consider the following recommendations:

- Brigades may consider pro-

viding Soldier(s) to supplement the EOC staff during their rotation.

- All units should ensure their current Alpha Roster indicates which Soldiers are at NTC and which Soldiers are part of their rear detachment.

For additional information, please contact Carrie Mead, Fort Stewart station manager, or Heather Conkle, command relations team leader, at 767-2197.

DUI-free unit awards

The Army Substance Abuse Program is now accepting nominations for the April 2004 DUI-Free Awards Program.

Request all units eligible to self nominate for their DUI-Free Award by close of business Monday.

ASAP will not be able to accept any nominations after COB Monday (no exceptions). Any nominations received after Monday will be awarded next quarter in July.

To nominate your unit, ASAP will need the name of the unit being nominated, the last accountable date a DUI was given to your unit, which award it will be, and the Point of contact and telephone number for the unit.

Please submit all nominations no later than Monday to ASAP, ATTN: Barry L. Graham, via email to GrahamBL@stewart.army.mil

Hunter

Hunter Golf Club
Hunter Golf club will host a Payday Activity Golf Scramble Friday at 12 p.m.

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.

Community meeting

Hunter will hold a community (town hall) meeting Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the ACS ballroom. The meeting, open to all members of the Hunter Army Airfield community, will address the concerns and questions of residents.

Active parenting

Army Community Service is conducting each Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., until Feb. 18, a session for parents of children ages 5 to 12. In these sessions parents learn styles of parenting, winning cooperation, responsibility and effective discipline techniques, communication skills and building courage, character and self-esteem in their children. Child care may be provided but participants must sign-up in advance. For more information contact Regina Mims at 352-6816.

Pot of Gold

There will be a Pot of Gold Awards Ceremony Feb. 10, 1 p.m., in the ACS ballroom. The ceremony will recognize family

members for their outstanding volunteer service to the Hunter community.

Hunter Tax Center

The Tax Center, located in Building 1279 on Neal Blvd. (behind the Ranger PT field), is now open.

Hours of operation are:

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 (ending March 13)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 352-5278.

Thrift Shop

The Hunter Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments accepted from military identification card holders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It has a great assortment of bargains from baby clothes to furniture.

All proceeds are returned to the Hunter Community in scholarships, grants to units, and through other military organizations. Donations are accepted and volunteers are always welcome.

For more information contact the Hunter Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Flu Shots

Flu shots will be available for all beneficiaries in the immunization clinic. The clinic is open 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information regarding the shots, call 370-6878.

New OB-GYN Walk-in Hours

The new walk-in hours for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Pharmacy Change

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 370-6575 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 a.m. 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 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready the next working day after 9 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays from Feb. 19 to March 11 or 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 17 to March 9. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays from Feb. 4 to 25. To register for Winn's classes, call 370-5071.

To register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tuttle Information Desk

Tuttle Army Health Clinic's new Information Desk phone number is 352-6500.

Additional Parking

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

Marne TV

January 2004 Schedule

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

1:30 p.m. Air Force News
 4:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
5 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
 5:30 p.m. Navy News
6 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
 6:30 p.m. Army Newswatch
7 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
10 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
 10:30 p.m. Navy News
 11 p.m. Army Newswatch

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

DRINKING



& DRIVING



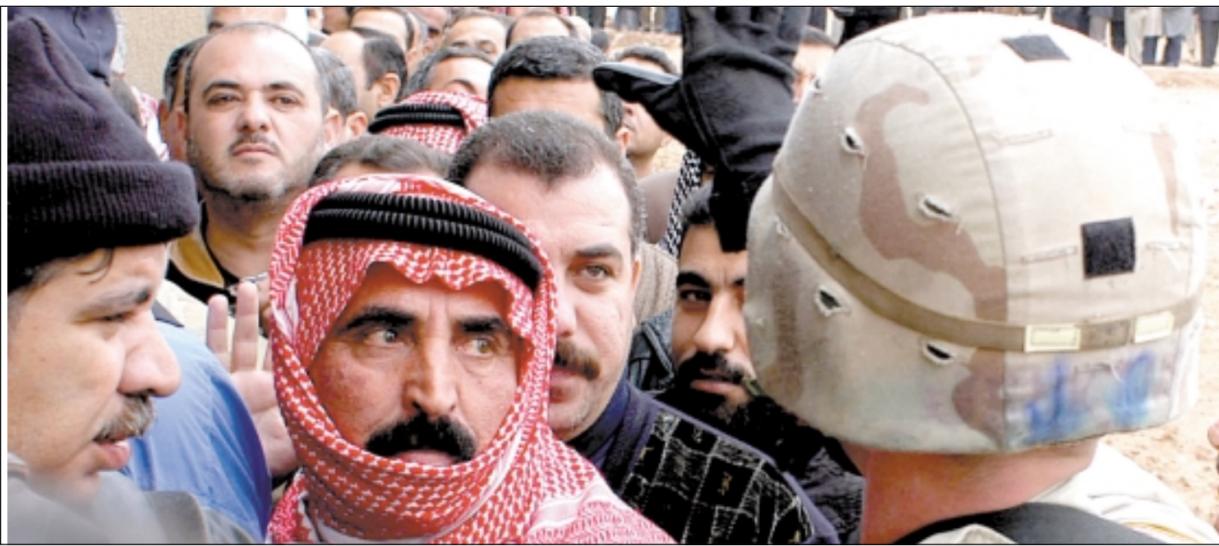
DON'T MIX



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.





SpC. Robert Woodward

Ba'athists were brought into the Mosul Public Safety Academy in large groups and filed into an auditorium where they signed the denunciation and took an oath.

Former Iraqi officers denounce Ba'ath party

Sgt. Jeremy Heckler

Special to The Frontline

MOSUL, Iraq — Thousands of former Iraqi army officers gathered Monday to denounce violence and their former allegiance to the Ba'ath Party of Saddam Hussein.

The ceremony was the largest held in Ninevah Province as more than 2,000 former Ba'ath Party members came to sign a small paper and give their pledge to foster a free, safe and democratic environment in Iraq.

The event is the first of two involving former Ba'ath Party and Iraqi army members. A ceremony for former noncommissioned officers was held Tuesday. The events help form a new, integrated society with advantages for more Iraqis, according to Lt. Col. Fred Humphrey, commander, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

"This is a step forward for the Iraqis and gives the former Ba'athists the ability to integrate into society," Humphrey said.

Members of the Ba'ath Party after the war couldn't hold a civil service job of any kind or collect a pension for their service to Iraq, Humphrey said. While signing the agreement doesn't guarantee the opportunity to

regain those rights, he said it is a step in the right direction in a public forum.

"With the Ba'ath disavowment, many may in the future have an opportunity for jobs with the government or with public office," said 1st Lt. Strauss Scantlin, 431st Civil Affairs. "It is no guarantee, but it can open doors."

"We want to cooperate and help our people," said retired Brig. Gen. Safawi Mumtaz, formerly of the Iraqi army, and one of the event's organizers. He said the biggest difficulty he faced in organizing the event was finding a building big enough to house it.

"We began work with Iraqis through the anti-corruption task force," Scantlin said.

Scantlin said the event was organized solely by Iraqis, but the civil affairs battalion provided support to help them make it possible. Soldiers from the battalion manned desks and logged the names of each former party member who came forward and signed the oath. The paperwork will be forwarded to leaders in Baghdad.

What began with a few leaders grew to great masses of people leading away from the assembly hall out-

side the academy and onto the road. Groups of 200 Iraqis went into the hall and signed the agreement to disavow party affiliation and agree to cooperate fully with the Coalition Provisional Authority to build a new Iraqi government.

"The people came here to denounce violence and work for the reconstruction of a new Iraq," Mumtaz said. "All of them are committed to rejecting violence and terrorism."

After the room filled, the doors were closed and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general, 101st Abn. Div. spoke to those gathered and congratulated them on their decision.

"The statements you make here are of substantial importance," Petraeus said. "You become part of the solution instead of part of the problem."

Petraeus said there is no limit to what Iraqis and Americans can achieve when they work together.

"The goal is to achieve unity in an Iraq that provides prosperity for all," he said.

Mumtaz said he hoped the event would set a new path for Iraq.

"I am very happy to be here to throw out the bad history and start a new history for Iraq," he said.

CENTCOM News

Two dead in helicopter crash

MOSUL, Iraq — Two pilots died when their OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed northwest of the city of Qayyarah in northern Iraq Friday.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., the helicopter went down due to causes unknown.

An initial report from the accompanying second helicopter did not make mention of hostile activity. An investigation into the incident is underway.

The names of the pilots are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

4th ID Soldier Killed

TIKRIT, IRAQ — One 4th Infantry Division Soldier was mortally wounded when attackers fired a rocket propelled grenade at the Bradley fighting vehicle he was in, at approximately 10 p.m., Saturday in Bayji.

The wounded Soldier was evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital and immediately went into surgery.

However, the Soldier died from his wounds a short time later.

The Soldier was part of a combat patrol at the time of the incident.

Soldiers in another Bradley returned fire and suppressed further attacks. The patrol captured six individuals who were in the vicinity of the attackers' position. The captured individuals are being held for questioning.

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

The incident is under investigation.

Iraqi improvements continue with help from TF "All American"

RAMADI, Iraq — The 82nd Airborne Division and its subordinate units continued missions Sunday to bring peace and prosperity to the residents of the Al Anbar province.

Civil affairs personnel from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team dispensed \$18,700 in Commander's Emergency Relief funding for renovations on three primary schools and a highway clean-up program in Nassir Wa Al Salaam. These efforts will impact more than 600 Iraqi students and employ more than 250 Iraqis. These initiatives provide Iraqis employment, safe highways and schools conducive to learning for the 150,000 Iraqi students in the Al Anbar province.

Civil affairs personnel with 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, dispensed \$27,500 in funding for renovations of four health clinics in Ar Ramadi. The renovations will improve the ability of 13 health care providers who serve more than 60,000 patients in the area.

Task Force "All American" is supporting these initiatives by continuing to fund civil projects and providing the needed equipment and training for the Iraqi security forces, which will lead to the ultimate goal of a safe and stable Iraq.