

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

549th returns from Iraq

Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

Soldiers with the 549th Military Police Company were reunited with friends and family after a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Newman Physical Fitness Center March 11.

The first person Spc. Shaun Lewis met after getting off the bus was Xavier Lewis, his 6-month-old son. It was the first time they'd seen each other in person.

Family members brought signs, flowers and balloons and in some cases, such as Lewis's, brand new family members.

"I am not going to cry. We are not the crying kind," said Jenny

"This is amazing. I've never felt anything like this before."

Spc. Shaun Lewis
549th MP Co.

Poole, wife of Capt. William Poole, 549th commander.

After arriving at Newman, the Soldiers marched in, while the 3rd Inf. Div. Band played. Once they were in formation, 2nd Lt. Lauren Rowe, 1st platoon leader, 549th, reported to Maj. Gen. William Webster, 3rd Inf. Div.

commander.

Webster thanked the Soldiers for their service and ordered Rowe to dismiss the unit.

Once the Soldiers were released, the gym was bedlam with the joy of friends and family reunited after a year of service in Baghdad.

As Jenny Poole and her two children, Seth and Hallie, hugged Capt. Poole, they all had tears in their eyes.

The unit was stationed in Sadr City, a densely populated neighborhood in east Baghdad, notorious for its poverty, according to Rowe.

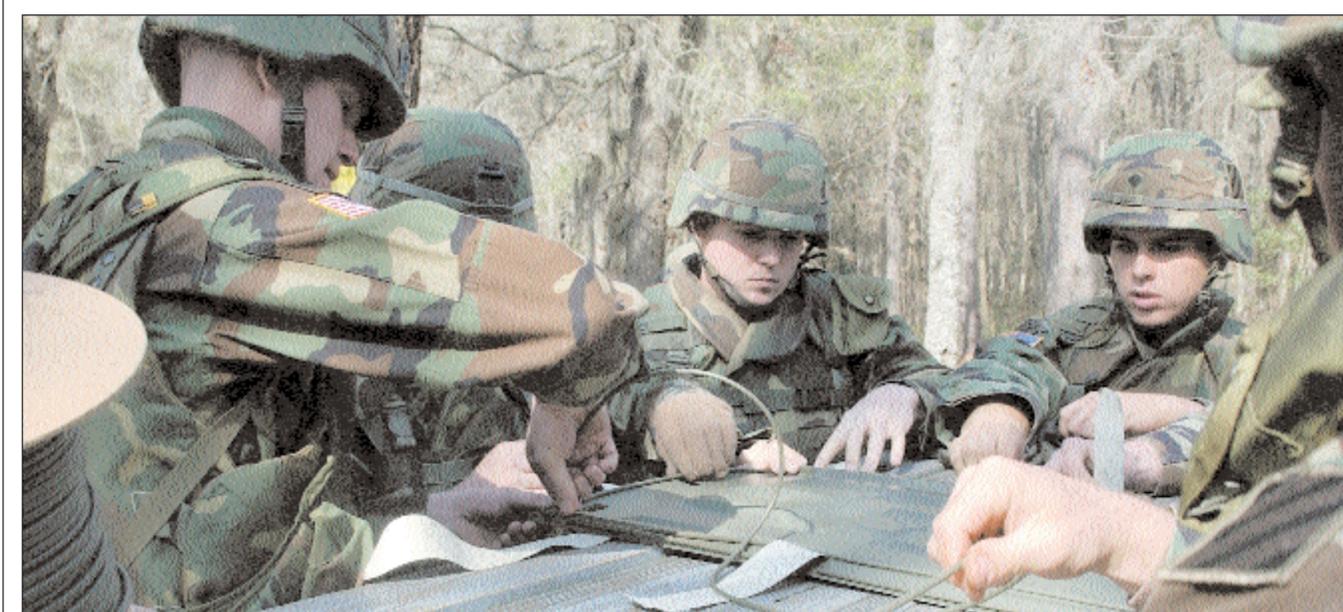
The MPs worked closely with Fort Polk's 2nd Armored Cavalry

See RETURN, Page 7A



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Capt. William Poole, commander, 549th MP Co., prepares to go home with his wife Jenny, his son Seth and daughter Hallie during a welcome home ceremony Friday for the company, which had been in Iraq for more than a year.



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Soldiers from 2/7 Inf. create silhouettes to blow up during demolition training March 10 at the Fort Stewart demo range.

2/7 Inf. gets explosive training

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Staff Writer

Soldiers from C Company, 2 Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, conducted training on the demolition range March 10.

"Using primarily C4, the Soldiers are being taught the basic principles in safety and breaching procedures on the battlefield," said Sgt. Steven Holloway, Sapper team leader.

In the tactical battlefield, there are many things Soldiers need to do to complete the mission risk free, Holloway said.

"We are just making sure that people know all the risks so they don't get hurt," he added.

In any training there are lots of hardships Soldiers have to put up with, but the most prevalent one concerning demolition training is waiting.

"When something doesn't explode right away you have to give it 5 minutes for that extra charge to go if the first doesn't go off," said Pfc. Marc Telusma of C Company.

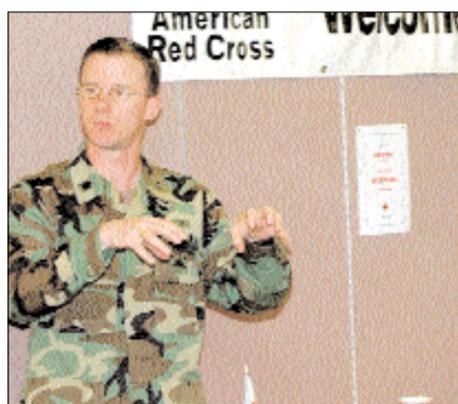
"The things we are being taught will help us in many places we get deployed.

Last year in Iraq, we had to breach concertina wire, which we are doing today so today's training is very important."

"With mines, only one problem that can give you a big headache is trying to remember all of the knots," said Pvt. Corben J. Graham.

"You do learn the knots but only one day prior to the actual hands on training on the range," Graham said.

According to Holloway, the purpose of the training was make Soldiers more well rounded in the necessary skills to be successful at their job.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble addresses the crowd at the grand opening of the Red Cross Cafe March 11 in the Hunter ACS building.

Red Cross Cafe opens at Hunter

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery
Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Family members now have a place to get together on base every Thursday and talk about issues that affect them, their Soldiers and their families.

The Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross held the grand opening of the Red Cross Café March 11 in the Army Community Services building at Hunter Army Airfield.

The purpose of the Red Cross Café is to serve the families of servicemembers. On Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, family members can meet at the cafe and learn about the services available to them from the Red Cross and Army Community Service,

See CAFE, Page 7A



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Eraka Jones, Red Cross collection technician, prepares Spc. Robert Stalcup, HQ Co., HQ CMD, for a blood donation Friday during a blood drive in the Hunter ACS building.

Hunter helps pump up local blood supply

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery
Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers and civilians gave blood Friday during a Red Cross blood drive at the Army Community Service building.

Both local blood suppliers — the Savannah Community Blood Bank, and the local Red Cross, have low levels of blood in reserve, according to representatives from both agencies.

"The blood supply is always short (in this area)," said Ruby Riley, blood drive team supervisor, and urged

people to donate.

She said giving blood is good for the volunteers as well as those whose lives it saves. "It makes a lot of people feel better — you get rid of some of your old red blood cells, and you get a mini physical. (Red Cross volunteers) check your blood pressure and iron count.

"It just makes you feel good, you never know when one of your family members or you might need blood, and you'll be glad it's there," she said.

A lot of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers can't donate

blood because they deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, but those who hadn't deployed said they got a real sense of satisfaction from donating.

Spc. Robert Stalcup, a parachute rigger with Headquarters Company, Headquarters Command, said he heard about the blood drive during a company safety brief that Morning.

He said he had the opportunity to help, so decided to do it.

See BLOOD DRIVE, Page 7A

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 78°	Low 46°
SAT	High 72°	Low 46°
SUN	High 77°	Low 48°

News



Liberty students train at Winn 3A

Sports



Bulldawgs score post title 1B

Life & Times



AER campaign 2004 kicks off 1C

Guide

- Voices and Viewpoints 4A
- Ask the Judge 8A
- 3ID In Brief. 10A
- Marne TV Schedule 10A
- Marne Scoreboard 3B
- Worship schedule 4C
- Chaplain's Corner 4C
- Volunteer Spotlight 5C
- Movie listing 5C
- Birth announcements 5C



Stevenson holds two Mole salamanders, a species found on Stewart. They live underground for 11 months of the year, and emerge in the winter to breed in ephemeral ponds.

Amphibians make Stewart their home

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart is home to over 40 species of amphibians, including 19 kinds of salamanders, and while they are in decline in many parts of the country, some rare species are thriving here.

The post Directorate of Public Works is working to conserve habitat for the threatened Flatwoods salamander as well as other species, and the result is a healthy longleaf pine ecosystem that supports both the local wildlife and military training, according to DPW herpetologist Dirk Stevenson.

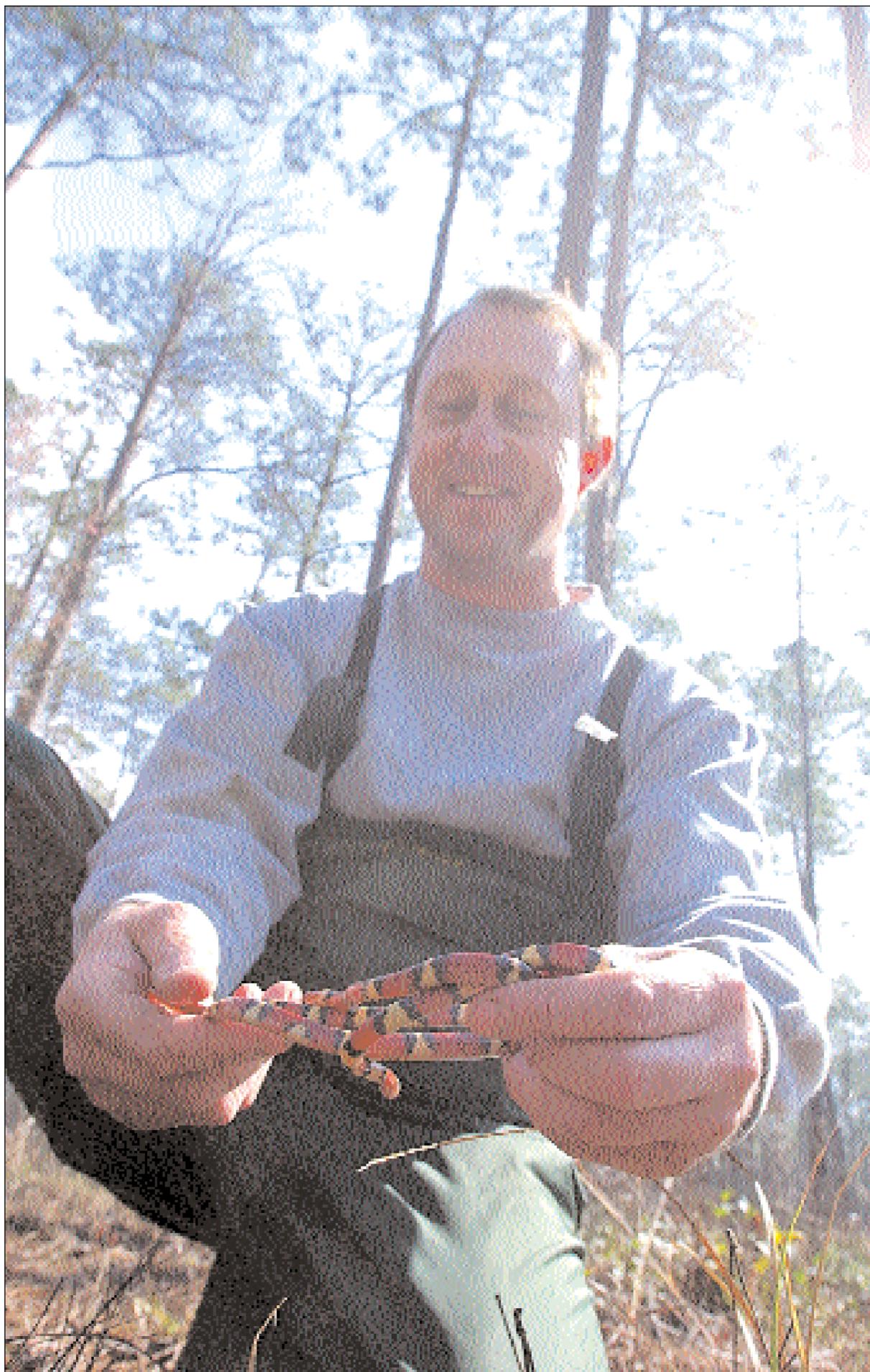
Stevenson visited several ephemeral ponds on Stewart March 10 to check salamander traps he set earlier to study the creature's habits. Ephemeral ponds only contain water for a few months each year, making them unlivable for predators like fish while keeping them safe for salamanders to breed and grow. During the winter and early spring, the small ponds are shallow, marshy areas in the pine forests and often have cedar or yew trees growing in them.

"A large percentage of amphibians breed only in these ephemeral ponds," Stevenson said. "Sometimes you'll see 5,000 salamanders breeding there, and when they exit en masse it's an amazing sight. All kinds of animals eat the salamanders — they're a crucial foundation piece of the food chain in the longleaf ecosystem, and that's where the importance of conserving these ponds lies."

Stevenson checked about 30 commercial and homemade minnow traps, looking for salamander larva at one of the ponds. The larvae resemble tadpoles, but they are meat eaters and have bushy external gills. Since the breeding season is about over, Stevenson said he was not surprised he didn't find any larva in the traps.

"Most of the larva have grown up and taken to land by now," he said. "They only breed in the winter, when the ponds are full, then they crawl into the woods and spend most of their time underground, often in old crayfish burrows. People wonder how crayfish and salamanders can live in a dry pine forest, but at Stewart, the water table is only a foot or two below the soil."

See SALAMANDER, Page 7A



Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Dirk Stevenson, DPW herpetologist, examines a Scarlet kingsnake near an ephemeral pond at Stewart. Although kingsnakes resemble the deadly Coral snake, their bite does not contain venom.



A Corn snake slithers through the sand near a Stewart ephemeral pond, looking for salamanders.



Two adult Tiger salamanders crawl in the muck on Stewart. They are a common species here and can live for up to 15 years.



Stevenson sets up a drift fence to catch salamanders on their way to Stewart's ponds. He checks the traps for Flatwoods salamander, which he records and releases.



Stevenson inspects a trap an alligator may have crushed. Small alligators are common in ephemeral ponds.

Students get medical training at Winn

Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch

Staff writer

Through hands-on training, students from the Bradwell Institute and Liberty County High School are learning the medical field in the Nursing Assistant Program offered at Winn Army Community Hospital.

"We send students through all parts of the hospital so they can become exposed to all the different departments inside and introduce them to all of the jobs they could do in the medicine field," said Col. Angelia E. Durrance, deputy commander of Nursing at Winn.

"We get here early in the morning and meet the staff that we will be shadowing for the day," said Garrett Anderson a senior at Bradwell.

"The staff member then shows us around the department explaining what goes on while showing you the type of duties you can do there."

"The stuff we are learning is good because everyone of us

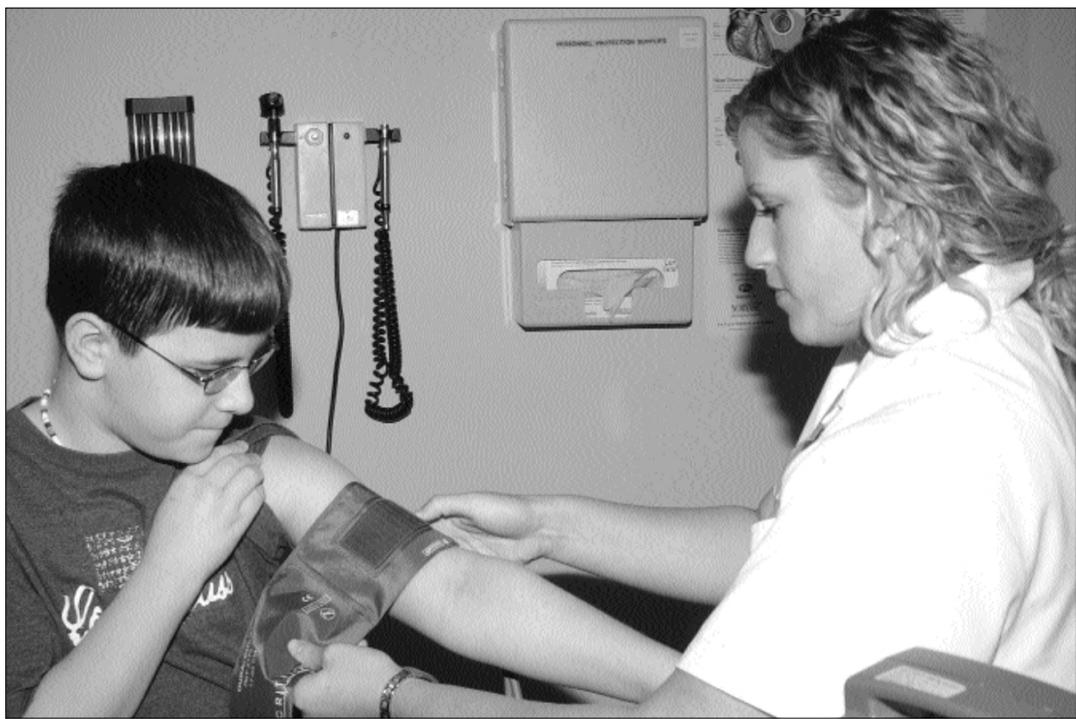
here is interested in something in the medical field and this hands on training is teaching us from interaction with patients to working with the equipment to checking the vital signs," said Nikolle Watts a senior at Bradwell.

The hands-on training received at the hospital is 16 days over the course of eight weeks. Students who successfully pass the academic class and do the hospital training can move on to take the Georgia Certification Exam and become a certified nursing assistant after high school.

"Currently there are 13 students in this cycle but 20 students can enter the course," Durrance said.

"I am liking (the program) because I'm interested in medicine and want to be a doctor so this course is what I need," Anderson said.

"Any student wanting a good way to be introduced to medicine should take this course because it's tailored for them," Durrance said.



Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch

Jessica Sittle, a senior at Bradwell Institute, screens her patient Keagan Adams Ortiz Wednesday at Winn Army Community Hospital during her hands-on training.

Donating blood could save someone's life

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Thirty minutes and a pint: you could save somebody's life.

Members of the 117th Air Control Squadron have been consistently donating blood to the local community for 20 years, but the importance of giving blood hit home three years ago.

Air Force National Guard Master Sgt. George Wall's son was in a near-fatal accident in February 2001. He suffered a torn aorta and required 35 to 40 pints of blood. Blood donations saved his life, according to Wall.

"That's why I'm a big advocate

of giving blood. You never know when somebody's going to need it," he explained.

Wall, 117th ACS unit training manager, received an award from the Savannah Community Blood Bank Feb. 25 for being the Military Blood Drive Coordinator of the year. The 117th ACS collectively won an award for giving the highest number of donations from a National Guard component. They donated 55 pints of blood last year, according to Ann Huszty, Savannah Community Blood Bank donor resource consultant.

Other elements of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized)

have been giving blood too — The Georgia Army National Guard Training Center, Winn Army Community Hospital, and Hunter Army Airfield received awards for being the highest, second highest and third highest military blood donors, respectively.

The 117th ACS has been donating blood to The Red Cross since 1984, but switched to the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance and the Savannah Community Blood Bank in 2001 and named that year's blood drive after Wall's son.

"Master Sgt. Wall is fabulous. He's seen the need for blood first hand. You never know when

someone's going to need blood. Besides being regular donors, the 117th (Airmen) are instrumental in helping us educate the people of Savannah on the importance of donating blood," Huszty explained.

"There's no substitute for human blood. We are the sole blood supplier to Memorial Health, so the blood we collect helps local patients," she added.

The 117th ACS is a small unit, but they make up for their lack of numbers with a high percentage of participation. According to Master Sgt. Daniel Peigh, 60 percent of its members donated blood last year.

"My wife's a nurse practitioner, so I understand the medical aspects — how important giving blood is. It seems like there's always a shortage around here," Peigh explained.

"There are people who need blood every day. If you can give just one pint, you can save a life."

Wall agreed, "Anytime you can donate 30 minutes of your time and one unit of blood to save someone's life, it ought to make you feel proud."

The 117th ACS's next blood drive is April 9. Wall said he and his colleagues welcome anyone interested in donating. For more information, call 963-6111.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Admiral thanks Marne Soldiers

Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani
Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation

Thanks for hosting my recent visit to Fort Stewart. It was my privilege to meet the great men and women of the 3rd Infantry Division

(Mechanized). I was extremely impressed with the division's many accomplishments. My visit was uplifting and informative, providing me a greater appreciation for the division's contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the trans-

formation of our Armed Forces and the security of our nation.

All "Rock of the Marne" troopers have much to be proud of. You have a great team of professionals. Again, thanks. I look forward to seeing you again.

Weight loss is as easy as you make it

Laurie Kemp
Winn Army Community Hospital

If ever there was a time to guilt-trip yourself into looking at your eating habits and weight, this is it because March is National Nutrition Month.

And in today's society where nearly 64 percent of adults are overweight or obese, odds are good you need to take stock of your current situation.

Sixty-four percent is a shocking statistic, but more shocking is knowing the majority of us aren't doing anything about it.

I'm not standing on high ground passing judgment, because I too was inching closer to becoming one of the 64 percent.

Truth be told, I sat around for almost a year with the conviction to complain about my weight, but not to do anything about it.

I would just pretend I didn't eat that daily snickers bar and oatmeal cr me pie. And when another woman with a better body walked by, I muttered "witch" and sneered as I imagined my fat being transferred to her body.

Not the healthiest approach by any means, I admit. But what else could I do? After all, it wasn't my fault I was getting fat.

My job doesn't have flexible hours, my husband kept me from going to the gym, I had to pick up fast food for dinner because cooking takes too long. Name the excuse, I used it. I placed blame wherever I could, on other people, my job, hormones, etc. I refused to take responsibility for my choices.

No one single event made

— Commentary —

me change my attitude. It was a combination of events over a week. I woke up one morning and couldn't get into my pants, I bought a scale which indicated I had put on a little more than 15 pounds and my husband told me if I was that unhappy with my weight, to stop whining and do something about it.

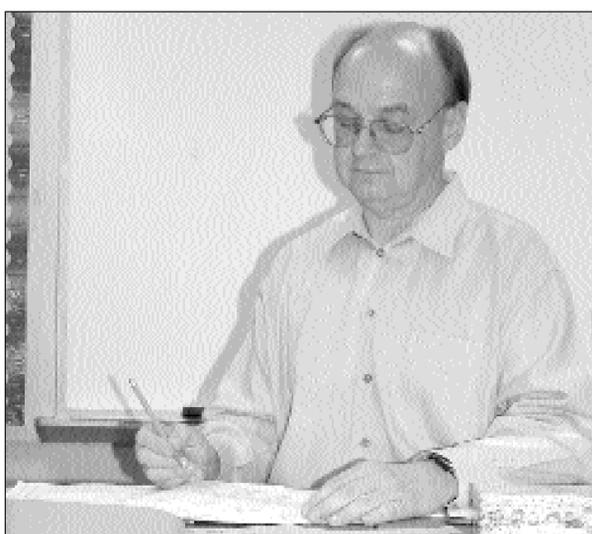
I had finally seen the light. But even then, it took me another two weeks to get it together and formulate a plan of action. I kept thinking if I just waited a little while longer, the fat would magically go away and I would wake up one morning looking like a Victoria's Secret model.

Needless to say, Victoria's Secret never called. I knew I was on my own and I knew what needed to be done, but I still didn't want to do it.

Desperate and still hopeful there was some easy weight loss 'trick,' I toyed with the idea of trying a fad diet or some stupendous miracle weight loss pill. But common sense eventually took over and I scolded myself for knowing that nothing worthwhile in life is that easy.

No, I had to implement the nutrition guidelines I learned in the third grade — exercise and healthy eating.

I started to research serving sizes and how many calories and fat grams a woman my age needed per day. I was flabbergasted when I read I had been consuming about double what my body needed. Gee, no wonder I had packed on a 'few' pounds.



Laurie Kemp

Keith R. DeMartini, a 5th grade school teacher at Walker Middle School in Ludiwici, grades papers. This retired sergeant first class lost more than 40 pounds with the help of Capt. Kimberly Brenda, chief dietitian at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Next, I looked into an exercise routine I could afford and commit to. This was not an easy task for me — I have the attention span, motivation and willpower of a fruit fly some days. But in the end, I found a routine that fits my life.

But I think the most important aspect for me was having the support of my husband. When the fruit fly mentality started to kick-in, he put me back on the right track. And in the end, my initiative gave him the motivation he was seeking to lose some weight himself.

Was my quest easy? I won't lie, no it wasn't. It took conscious effort every step of the way to make this change. But on the same note, it wasn't a sacrifice. Do I eat a snickers bar and oatmeal cr me pie

every day? No. Do I feel the need to eat those items every day? No.

Has my commitment paid off? Absolutely. I lost all the weight I had put on plus a few extra pounds.

Can I offer any advice? Yep. Don't even bother trying to lose weight if you haven't reached the point in your life when this is what you really want to do.

My last piece of advice is to remind you that as a military beneficiary, you have access to a dietitian for free at Winn Army Community Hospital. You have no excuse for being part of the 64 percent. And if you are, it is more than likely your fault.

Editor's Note: See page 6A for more information about making an appointment to see a dietitian at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Is it important to donate to Army Emergency Relief and why?

"Yes, definitely, because during a family emergency they can provide assistance."

Spc. Tonisha Woodsell
26th FSB



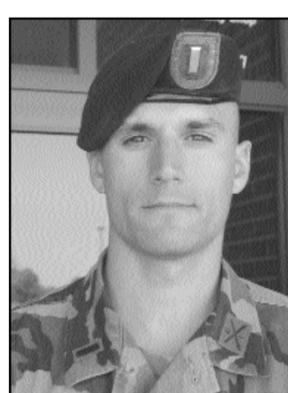
"Yes you should donate because you never know when an emergency can happen and AER can help with financial costs."

Staff Sgt. Inez Holmes
148th Support Bn.



"Yes, because it helps our Soldiers out when they are in financial trouble."

2nd Lt. Robert Miske
HHC, 1/41 FA



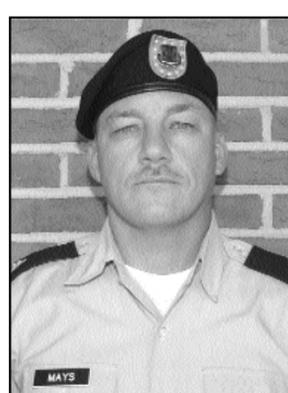
"Yes, because it is a system that helps Soldiers out and that's great."

Capt. Erika Brooks
123rd Sig. Bn.



"Yes, it can help your family when you are mobilized."

Sgt. Charles Mays
878th Eng. Bn.



"Yes, it's important because if a Soldier needs money in an emergency, AER can help."

Pvt. Maria Lewis
92nd Chem. Co.



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Joint and Expeditionary focus:

Army gets there fast, but not alone

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — The Army's chief and acting secretary were asked by a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee if seamen and airmen were being requested to perform Army duties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm not aware of any such request. But we're looking for capabilities across the force to relieve the Army," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker while testifying on Capitol Hill last month. "We fight jointly — it makes perfect sense for the other services to give the Army a reprieve."

Schoomaker spent only a couple of minutes trying to explain to members of Congress that the Army is part of a joint force, but he has given Training and Doctrine Command a long-term directive to architect a campaign that will get Soldiers to embody a joint and expeditionary mindset.

The Army has included joint training in its school for senior officers for a few years now, but the service will soon start teaching joint tactics earlier in the careers of both commissioned and noncommissioned officers, Simpson said.

Blue Force Tracking, a command and control system, is an example of how junior military persons are talking to each other, officials said. From company to theater level commanders, Blue Force Tracking is being used to provide situational awareness and digital command and control for the Army, Marine Corps and Coalition forces, said Michael Lebrun from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, & Technology).

"The core of the program is its software," Lebrun said. "Inside of the platform is a digital map that gives you your location. It can also tell you where any other Blue Force Tracking equipped platform is in the area of operations."

It's the first part of reducing the risk of fratricide, Lebrun said. It provides better information on where friendly forces are, and it allows forces to plan better, react better and do a lot of things to mitigate the risk of fratricide, he concluded.

In the near future, hand-held versions of Blue Force Tracking will be fielded in Iraq, Lebrun said.

"A Joint and Expeditionary Army with a Campaign Quality" is one of the Army's focus areas. "Basically we want to maximize each services' capabilities and prepare leaders and Soldiers to fight in uncertain and ambiguous environments. The Joint and Expeditionary Task Force is the lens through which we filter many of our transformation efforts," said Bob Simpson, deputy of the Joint and Expeditionary task force.



Soldiers from 1st ACR, 1st AD, detain two Iraqi suspects during search operations in Baghdad. The suspect were thought to be scouts for a possible terrorist attack.

Spc. Chad Wilkerson

Joint Forces Command in concert with the services is refining Joint National Training Capability, which will integrate joint training similar to the way the Army has integrated combined arms training at its combat training centers for some years, Simpson said. And TRADOC is very much involved in the effort, he added.

JNTC was first conceived in 2002, but is now taking a more robust approach to train joint forces, according to the U.S. Forces Joint Command Web site. Included in the training will be real people in real locations using real equipment and real people in simulators and simulated entities in a simulated environment, according to the Web site.

Department of Defense is not constructing another training center, but is combining live, virtual and constructive training to create a joint training capability that will eventually include capabilities resident at the installation level, Simpson said. However, right now the focus is starting the capability at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the other services' western ranges he said.

Officers and NCOs can also expect to see joint education initiated earlier in their professional development schools, Simpson said. Leaders have to see them-

selves as members of a joint profession, he said. The specifics are being decided in a consensus environment with the other services.

"One of the things about each of the services is that they have unique cultures, and one thing that defines a culture is language," Simpson said. "So part of this process will be to define a common joint language. An important part of the process is integrating service and joint doctrine."

The second piece of the focus area is expeditionary, and Simpson said Soldiers must realize that the Army's normal state is to be at war.

"We first started trying to change the mindset of the Soldier to a joint and expeditionary one by introducing them to the Warrior Ethos and the Soldiers Creed," Simpson said. "The creeds reinforce that they are part of a great Army team."

"I am a Warrior and a member of a team — I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America," states the Soldiers Creed. These words will unconsciously remind Soldiers and leaders that they have to be comfortable with uncertainty,

Simpson said.

"Soldiers can't expect to go into a theater where there is an iron mountain of logistics and every pre-condition has been set," Simpson said. "We don't have a front or a rear, all of our Soldiers deploying into any theater from now on will be in harm's way regardless of where they are on the battlefield."

TRADOC has the lead and is working to change the Army's doctrine, organization, training and leader development. However, Simpson said, every commander has the responsibility to start training all Soldiers to be riflemen first.

Editor's note: The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus include: The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Modularity; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics.

Making wise choices: Dietitians can help with weight loss

Laurie Kemp

Winn Public Affairs Officer

Keith R. DeMartini is the kind of guy who once believed "if it was there to be eaten, and it wasn't going to kill me, I'd eat it."

But that mentality toward food got him into trouble and it took effort for him to get back on the right track. The 50-ish school teacher, a retired sergeant first class, once weighed 224 pounds where today, he weighs about 180 and is continuing to shed the weight.

Today, DeMartini is a success story, but it took him about two years to follow his own advice — "If you want to achieve anything, you have to be dedicated and willing to make a sacrifice."

"I'd gotten up to around 224 pounds and I was getting uncomfortable with the

weight," DeMartini said. "(I wanted to do something) but being a school teacher didn't leave me with much flexibility during the daytime" to seek professional help.

Determined, DeMartini set out and accomplished his mission to talk to a dietitian at Winn Army Community Hospital.

"I was just expecting her to give me some information so I could do it (lose weight) on my own," he said. But that wasn't how chief dietitian Capt. Kimberly Brenda saw the opportunity that afternoon.

For Brenda, this meeting was a great opportunity — for both of them.

"Individuals don't usually readily seek out dietitians," Brenda said. "They think we're the food police and that we're going to make them eat everything raw and take away all of the fun foods."

But she explained that just isn't the case

and there is more to successful weight loss than just food choices.

According to Brenda, people must have personal motivation and the right attitude.

"I find my biggest challenge is trying to find the key to motivate individuals," she said, "especially those who don't personally see the need to come but were referred." However, with DeMartini, it was his choice to seek help and he walked in the door with the right attitude and willingness to learn what needed to be done.

"She ... explained what had to be done and she was willing to open her schedule up to work around mine," he said. "I jumped right at it. It was the best of both worlds for me — to get professional advice and come after school."

Brenda and DeMartini talked about his goals and what needed to happen from

there to make them a reality.

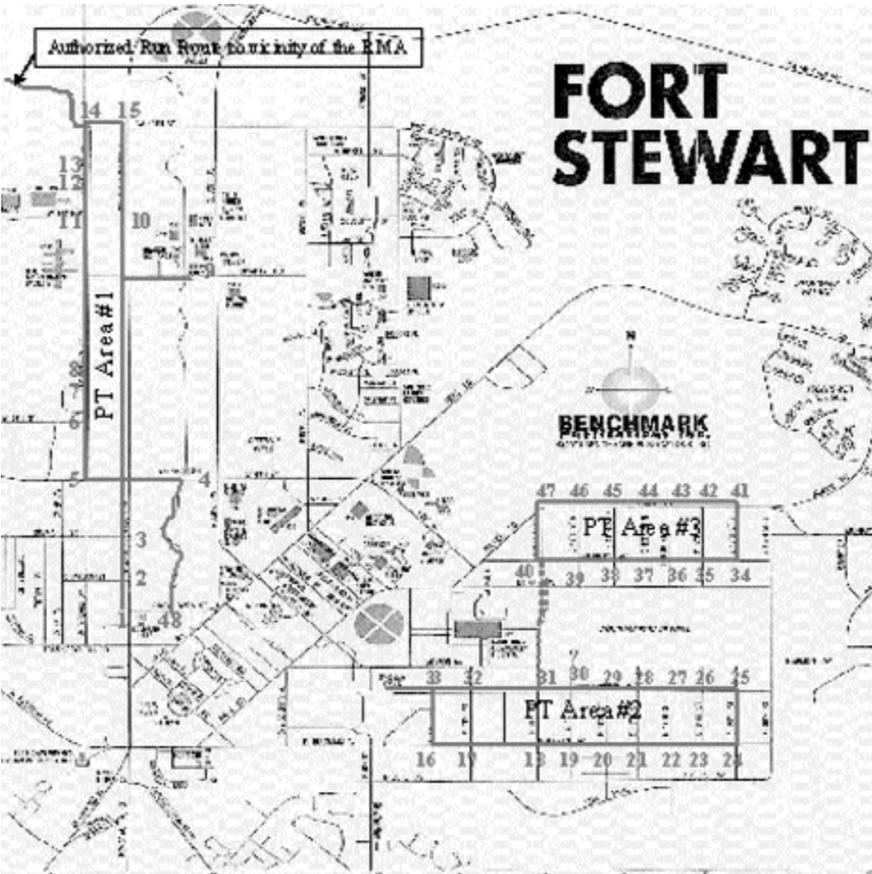
Part of his plan called for learning about how much a serving size is and keeping a food journal. With the food journal, he was able to keep track of what he ate, what time he ate it and how many calories and fat grams the meal consisted of.

"This has been an eye-opening experience," he said. "I was kind of leary at first — (thinking) '4 oz. of this, half a cup of that — now come on, how is that going to fill me,' it looked so small!" he said.

"Now, I realize what a real portion is, what I should be eating and that it's not a sacrifice. I've (continued to) eat everything I like and I'm seeing the benefits for eating it in the right proportion."

For more information about how to attend a nutrition class, please call the Nutrition Care Division at 370-6707.

New PT routes on Stewart



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) Unit of Action 4 (UA-4) CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF REORGANIZATION

The Department of the Army hereby gives notice of availability of an EA for UA-4: the construction of facilities as a result of reorganization. The EA addresses the clearcutting, construction and use of new facilities required for reorganization. The proposed action is necessary to accommodate additional troops and equipment. The EA addresses the potential impacts to the human environment to include wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and the surrounding environment. The EA, resulting in a FONSI, indicates that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed action.

A copy of the EA and FONSI is available for public review from April 1 to April 15 at the following public libraries. All public review comments must be received no later than April 15.

Stewart Main Post Library, Building 411, 316 Lindquist Rd., Fort Stewart

Mon. — Thurs. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fri. Closed

Sat. — Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Liberty County Public Library, 236 Memorial Drive, Hinesville

Mon. — Thurs. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fri. — Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mall Branch Library, 7 Mall Annex, Savannah

Mon. — Thurs. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fri. — Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Request all comments be mailed to the following address:

CHIEF, ENRD (Mr. Thomas C. Fry)
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
HQS, 3D IN DIV (MECH) AND FORT STEWART
1550 FRANK COCHRAN DRIVE
FORT STEWART, GA 31314-4928

RETURN

from page 1A

Regiment, operating checkpoints, going on patrols and raids, training Iraqi police, and working as convoy security, she said.

"These Soldiers did an awesome job," Rowe said.

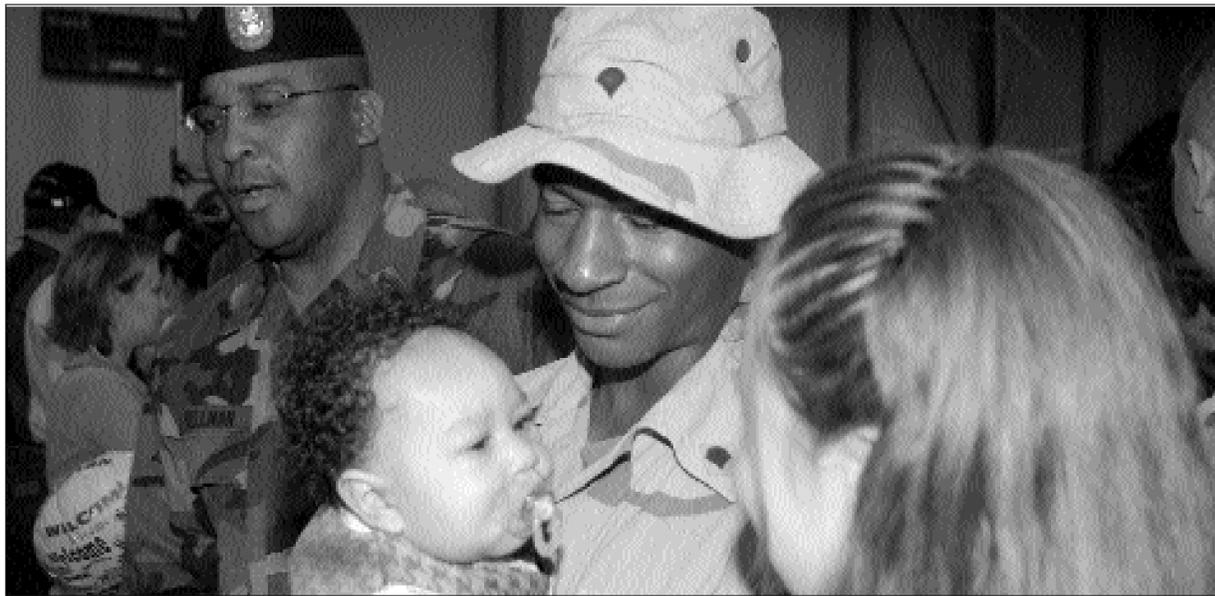
"The city has improved leaps and bounds from when we first got there."

"We had a couple of close calls. One time we were ambushed, but we pulled through," Poole said.

"He said he wasn't scared," Poole's wife added. "He was very confident in the abilities of his Soldiers."

For Lewis, the mission in Iraq seems like a distant

memory. After being reunited with his wife, Stephanie, and their son, he could do little more than smile and say, "This is amazing. I've never felt anything like this before."



Spc. Ryan Smith

Spc. Shaun Lewis, 549th MP Co., holds his 6-month-old son, Xavier, for the first time at the unit's welcome-home ceremony at Newman Thursday. The 549th returned from more than a year in Iraq.

CAFE

from page 1A

according to Christine Dudley, Red Cross volunteer.

"We will provide service to the families with the idea that this will become a meeting place for them to communicate in preparation for the 3rd Infantry Division deployment. It's for spouses — if a Soldier wants to come, he should bring his family to introduce to others," she said.

The café's hours correspond with ACS's Play Day, so parents can have coffee and talk while their children play.

"I think it's an awesome idea, and it's very good for the spouses," said Kimberly Anderson, family member. "You get to meet other spouses.

You can get information on what's going on on post from the other spouses and the ACS and Red Cross volunteers."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble, Hunter Army Airfield commander, spoke to the assembled crowd. He challenged them to tell their neighbors about the café. "We want to have more customers than customer service," he said, noting more volunteers than customers in attendance.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John M. Foxworth, Hunter installation chaplain said, "The key issue is it gives (families) an opportunity to gather and share issues and results, and talk about what was good. A lot

of the time, you get more help from your neighbor than a professional.

"It's a grand step in community building. (The café) gives us a place — Hunter folks are scattered because we are in Savannah and there are so many places to do things. This gives us a focal point. During the next deployment, this gives spouses a place to have adult companionship."

Cmdr. Peter Troedsson, United States Coast Guard Air Station Savannah commander, said he was impressed with the volunteerism of ACS and the Red Cross volunteers. "They're always trying to make the Soldiers and their families' lives better."

BLOOD DRIVE

from page 1A

He was in and out of the ACS building in less than an hour. He left a pint of blood poorer, but "It feels good to help someone out," he explained.

The next blood drives will be:

March 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Fort Stewart Youth Challenge Academy
April 6, 2 to 7 p.m., April 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Highway 84 Kroger parking lot

Guidelines for Donating

- A donor must be at least 17 years old, 110 pounds, and in good physical condition.
- Barriers to giving include:
 - Mad Cow Risk: you can never donate blood if you've spent a total of more than three months in Europe since 1980
 - Tattoos: It must be at least one year since tattoo was received until you can donate
 - Body Piercings: reviewed on a case-by-case basis
 - Deployments: depend on where you went — an Iraq deployment typically bars you from donating for one year after you redeployed
 - Illegal Drug Risk: you can never donate blood, if you've done illegal drugs by needle
 - Diseases: reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

SALAMANDER

from page 2A

Salamanders return to the same pools to breed every winter for their entire lives, Stevenson said. Large salamanders like the Tiger salamander, common on Stewart, can live for up to 15 years and are thought to navigate to the pools by the smells of the forest and by the Earth's magnetic field.

Stevenson uses salamanders' predictable behavior to monitor their numbers while they flock to the ponds. He sets up a drift fence between the salamanders' burrows and the pools, which lead them into minnow traps set along the wall. He said he checks the traps constantly for the Flatwoods salamander, which he weighs, records and releases on the other side of the drift fence.

"They are really structured about coming to the same pool every year," Stevenson said. "If there's a construction pit or a road where the pool used to be, it can quickly wipe out a whole community of salamanders. Stewart's undeveloped wilderness has really made it a pretty significant place in the country for amphibian diversity."

AAFES receives special award at NRF Convention

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

Special to The Frontline

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

Past recipients of the award, which is designed to recognize exceptional achievement and is presented only when circumstances dictate, include former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Herbert Walker Bush as well as 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. servicemembers fighting against terrorism all over the world.

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 benefits AAFES is providing to deployed troops had a profound effect on her during a trip to Kuwait at the peak of the troop buildup before the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"That's when I realized that in locations like this, Soldiers and Airmen don't

always visit a PX 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," she said.

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.

About 450 associates are 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 Soldiers and Airmen can go to make a call home to their loved ones.

ASK THE JUDGE

"Time of War" Offenses

Q: A Soldier in my unit recently deserted. When he is caught and tried, will he be subject to the death penalty?

A: Maybe. Desertion (Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 85) is an offense that can be punished by the death penalty only in time of war. The existence of a time of war is relevant to several offenses under the UCMJ. For example, certain offenses can occur only in time of war, while other offenses, such as desertion, are punishable by death only in time of war.

Q: What exactly does "time of war" mean?

A: The Manual for Courts-Martial defines time of war as "a period of war declared by Congress or the factual determination by the President that the existence of hostilities warrants a finding that time of war exists."

Q: What offenses can occur only in time of war?

A: Three offenses can occur only in time of war. They are: (1) improper use of a countersign (UCMJ, Article 101), disclosing a parole or countersign to someone not entitled to receive it, or giving the wrong parole or countersign; (2) misconduct as a prisoner (UCMJ, Article 105), unauthorized conduct for the purpose of securing favorable treatment, to the detriment of fellow prisoners of war or maltreatment of fellow prisoners while in a position of authority; and (3) spying (UCMJ, article 106), lurking or acting under false pretenses to collect information for transfer to the enemy.

Q: What about offenses like misbehavior before the enemy (UCMJ, Article 99), subordinate compelling surrender (UCMJ, Article 100), and aiding the enemy (UCMJ, Article 104). Aren't those also offenses that can occur only in time of war?

A: No. Although each of those offenses may have elements that occur only in a combat situation, they need not occur in time of war to constitute offenses under the UCMJ. Remember the definition of "time of war."

Q: What offenses can be punished by death only in time of war?

A: The death penalty can be imposed only in time of war for three offenses. They are: (1) desertion (the last execution for desertion occurred during World War II); (2) assaulting or willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer (UCMJ, Article 90); and (3) misbehavior of sentinel or lookout (UCMJ, Article 113), such as being found drunk or asleep at your post or leaving it before being properly relieved.

Q: Does "time of war" affect any other offenses, and if so, how?

A: Yes. Time of war can be a factor in a number of other offenses. For example, the maximum punishment that can be imposed by a court-martial is increased in time of war for drug offenses (UCMJ, Article 112a) and malingering (UCMJ, Article 115). Also, the UCMJ extends the statute of limitations for certain offenses committed in time of war.

Practicing bicycle safety can prevent many injuries

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

Each year, more than 500,000 people in the United States are treated in emergency rooms, and more than 700 people die as a result of bicycle-related injuries. Children are at particularly high risk for these injuries. In 2003, children 15 years and younger accounted for 59 percent of all bicycle-related injuries seen in emergency rooms. In order to prevent these injuries at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, all personnel, including family mem-

bers, who ride bicycles on post will wear bicycle helmets meeting the standards of the American National Standards Institute or the Snell Memorial Foundation. Statistics show that safety helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent. And, since most deaths related to bicycle falls and collisions involve head injuries, wearing a helmet can help save a life. All bicycles must be equipped with a functioning headlight and a rear light reflector visible from a distance of 300 feet when operated between dusk and dawn.



Traffic laws and regulations apply to people riding bicycles. Bicycle riders are granted all the rights and are subject to all the duties of motorized vehicle opera-

tors, except those that logically do not apply. Ride with the flow of traffic, obey all signs and traffic control devices, and use hand signals. If a bicycle or pedestrian path or sidewalk is present, bicyclists will use the path or sidewalk instead of the roadway. All personnel riding bicycles will wear high visibility garments (bright color for daytime and retro-reflective during hours of darkness or reduced visibility).

Stewart and Georgia laws prohibit a child between the ages of one and four riding as a passenger on a bicycle unless the child is

securely seated in a child passenger seat, bicycle trailer or infant sling and wearing a helmet. A child under the age of one must be in an infant sling or bike trailer and wearing a helmet. All child passenger seats, bicycle trailers and infant slings must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The regulations cited in this article were taken from the Stewart supplement to Army Regulation 190-5, section D-7. Further questions may be directed to Stewart PMO at 767-4895 or Hunter at 352-6133.

POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Command Sergeant Major, 47-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine.
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 • **Charge:** Criminal trespassing
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Sergeant Major, 48-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charge:** Improper backing
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charge:** Deposit account fraud
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, Headquarters Command
 • **Charge:** Driving under the influence
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male,

separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Speeding 120/60, careless or reckless driving, no proof of insurance, wrong class of license
 • **Location:** Chatham County

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charge:** Theft by shoplifting
 • **Location:** Pooler

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charge:** Driving under the influence, speeding, driving without license on person
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 2, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Larceny of government weapons, false official statement
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 26-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old female,

separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old female, 24th Corps Support Group

• **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 75/55
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 2, 25-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charge:** Driving under the influence, improper

lane change
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charge:** Damage to government property, disrespect toward a noncommissioned officer, failure to obey order or regulation.
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charge:** Damage to government property
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunkenness, failure to obey lawful order
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Obstruction of justice
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 • **Charges:** Drunken driving, driving

under the influence (underage), reckless driving, excessive speed 90/55
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charge:** DUI, speeding
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Captain, 26-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charge:** Failure to yield while turning left
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Rape of a child by force
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charge:** Violation of probation
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Creating a noise disturbance, no proof of insurance, driving with suspended or revoked license
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 31-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charge:** Wrongful use of a controlled substance
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charge:** Assault consummate by battery
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old female, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of methamphetamines
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 27-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana,

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3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

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

March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

The center is located in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. Currently, there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refund in less than seven business days. For more information call the tax center at 767-3909.

Red Cross Instruction
The Directorate of Human

Resources Army College Education System will host the 27th Annual College Graduation May 20 at 7 p.m. at Club Stewart. If you are a 2003 or 2004 college graduate, please call the Education Center to participate at 767-8331.

Libby Auto
Learn to check tire pressure, rotate your tires, inspect belts, hoses, breaks and more. Must have at least 3 participants to have a class. Teens are welcome. Libby Auto saves you money and offers affordable, reliable service for cars, trucks and SUVs. When you buy four tires — mounting and balancing is free and alignments are half price. Oil changes are \$19. For more information on classes and operating hours call 767-3527.

Hunter

Hunter Tax Center
The Tax Center, located in Bldg. 1279 on Neal Blvd. (behind the Ranger PT field), is open and currently there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refunds in less than seven days.
Hours of operation are:

March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information, call 352-5278.

Protestant Woman of Chapel
There will be a prayer

breakfast Friday, 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Hunter Club. Dee Marvin with Savannah's Intercessory Prayer Group will be the guest speaker with a dance performance by a Savannah Arts Academy group, Praise & Worship.
Suggested donation is \$2 with limited seats available. For more information call Rochell Crockett at 756-3821 or LaMuir Baze at 961-0895.

3ID Purple Heart recipients
The Richmond Hill Chapter of the American Legion have \$5,000 yet to be claimed in their purple heart fund for Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) wounded in combat.
For more information contact John Ellis at 695-0735.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Book Appointments Online
Schedule Wellness appointments online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil. Wellness appointments are routine visits to clinics such as family practice and pediatrics. First-time users must complete the online registration before scheduling appointments.

"Take Care of Yourself"
The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 11 a.m. to noon March 24. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. March 24. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications. To regis-

ter for Winn's March 24 class, call 368-3048 and to register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Dedicated Beneficiary Parking
Effective today, dedicated patient-only parking will be available at the main entrance of the hospital, on Harmon Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Beneficiaries parking in No Parking Areas, as indicated by a yellow curb, will be ticketed or towed by the Military Police.

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

Marne TV

March 2004 Schedule

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

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

Earth Mama to visit Coastal Georgia to celebrate Earth Day

Special to The Frontline

FORT STEWART, Ga. — One of America's most beloved environmental entertainers, Earth Mama, will bring her toe-tapping mix of songs and good humor to Coastal Georgia from March 23 to 27.

Earth Mama is Joyce Johnson Royce, singer, songwriter, and environmental activist. For 10 years, she has performed nationally, using her expertise in Earth Literacy to promote sustainable living. Her show is a highly interactive performance that appeals to all ages. Earth Mama's motto is "Helping Heal The Planet One Song At A Time."

Earth Mama has produced and marketed several successful CDs. Her songs have also been recorded by Maureen McGovern, Marie Osmond, Jana Stanfield, and others. Earth Mama's music has been

broadcast worldwide. Her song "Standing On The Shoulders" premiered at the 75th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in 1995 in Washington, D.C. Earth Mama's songs are used by some United Nations programs and Earth Charter educators.

During her coastal Georgia tour, Earth Mama will make stops at Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and several additional local area elementary schools. She will cap off her tour with a special family concert at the Shuman Recreation Center in Hinesville on Saturday, March 27 at 2 p.m. The concert is open to the public and is free.

Thanks to Fort Stewart's Environmental & Natural Resources Division, Earth Mama will entertain and educate thousands about the importance of being good stewards of the environment.

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Soldiers get incentive pay for extending in Korea

Special to The Frontline

SEOUL, Korea — The Army has a new incentive program to encourage Soldiers to extend their tours of duty in Korea for an additional year.

The program, titled the Assignment Incentive Pay, or AIP program, adds an additional \$300 per month to paychecks if Soldiers in or enroute to Korea sign up for an additional 12-month tour there.

The AIP is a one-year program that is being offered to all Soldiers — officer, warrant officer, and enlisted — to promote stability, predictability and improved readiness in Korea while reducing personnel turbulence Armywide, officials said.

“This is an outstanding, unprecedented opportunity for

our Soldiers to extend their tours in this great country so they may continue to strengthen the warfighting abilities of their units, and to further experience the cultural opportunities available to them that they might otherwise miss on a shorter, 12-month tour,” said Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, commander, 8th U.S. Army. “You only have to look at the benefits of this program to see how every Soldier and every unit can benefit.”

“We want to keep more of our extremely well-trained Soldiers on the peninsula,” Campbell said. “Our Soldiers and leaders are the cornerstone of our high readiness posture, and retaining more of that talent in theater for a longer period of time enhances our ability to deter aggression and support peace

and stability on the peninsula.”

With limited exceptions, all Soldiers, regardless of rank, currently stationed in Korea or on assignment instructions to Korea, can apply for the program. Soldiers currently serving in Korea have the opportunity to apply for the program for a 60-day period. All other Soldiers serving outside of Korea will have the opportunity to volunteer for this program.

“I strongly encourage all Soldiers on the peninsula to take a hard look at this program before the opportunity is lost. As leaders, we know with certainty that this program is a benefit to the forces on this peninsula, but only our Soldiers can decide whether this is right for them individually and for their families,” Campbell said.

“Eligibility for this program is

a sweeping change to the benefits for extension currently available for Korea,” said Col. Rick Mustion, commander, 8th Personnel Command in Korea. “Under the existing programs, the chief beneficiary has historically been enlisted Soldiers. With the AIP, warrant and commissioned officers can also take full advantage of the program with the same extension benefits as our enlisted Soldiers.”

Under the current program, Soldiers who elect to receive a monetary bonus may receive a lump sum or a monthly entitlement during their extension period. Under AIP, Soldiers will receive an extra \$300 in special pay each month, and this pay will continue until the end of their assignment in Korea.

“Soldiers should keep in mind that this incentive pay, like other

extension incentives, is taxable income,” Mustion said.

Soldiers can apply for AIP on the 8th Personnel Command Web site at <http://www-8perscom.korea.army.mil>. Click on the “AIP” link, enter the Army Knowledge Online user ID and password.

After login is complete, view the pre-populated DA Form 4187, and accept or decline the terms and agreements by clicking on either the “Accept” or “Decline” buttons. Soldiers can obtain a copy of the documents by clicking on the “Print” button.

Soldiers should contact their unit personnel officers for additional assistance or contact Theater Army Replacement Operations at DSN 724-3150 or via e-mail at Aip@usfk.korea.army.mil for assistance.

CENTCOM News

TF Olympia Iraqi police detain three, collect weapons

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) and local Iraqi police detained personnel suspected of anticoalition activities and conducted ongoing weapons-collection operations in northern Iraq.

Iraqi police in Tall Afar detained two people who were transporting 27 rockets, 300 7.62 mm rounds and 160 pistol rounds. The individuals were taken to the Tall Afar jail for questioning.

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment detained one person in Sinjar for suspected anticoalition activities. Members of the Coalition for Iraqi Unity, a concerned group of citizens in northwestern Iraq, approached 1/4 Cav. near Sinjar and turned in 31 rocket-propelled-grenade rounds, 52 hand grenades, two RPG launchers, 133 14.5 mm rounds, 16 115 mm rounds, 250 .30 caliber rounds and 10 100 mm rounds.

Several concerned Iraqi citizens came to 1/4 Cav. headquarters and turned in 130 hand grenade fuses, 65 60 mm mortar rounds and 16 120 mm mortar rounds.

TF Ironhorse Soldier killed, two wounded in IED attack

TIKRIT, Iraq — One Task Force Ironhorse Soldier was killed and two were wounded March 10 around noon when their convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive device near Ba'qubah.

Two of the Soldiers were evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Balad for treatment; however, one Soldier later died from wounds sustained in the attack. The second Soldier is in stable condition and will be further evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The third Soldier was treated for minor wounds and returned to duty.

The name of the deceased Soldier is being withheld pending notification of

next of kin.

The incident is under investigation.

Mosul Police thank coalition forces for assistance

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi policemen from the Mosul area met with Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 503rd Military Police Battalion March 10 to thank them for their assistance in providing security and stability in northern Iraq over the past year.

“We walked hand in hand for one year to rebuild police stations in Mosul,” said Mohammed Barhowie, who is the police chief in Mosul. He explained that they were very proud of the coalition forces that helped renovate several police stations and enabled the police officers to protect their fellow citizens.

“We want to increase the number of policemen and work hard in perfecting our police stations,” Barhowie said. Coalition forces started a police-training program that includes a three-week

course for current police officers and an eight-week course for new recruits.

In the past year, 4,570 police, corrections specialists and firefighters from the Ninevah Province have completed the training.

Barhowie said the police are better prepared to maintain security for the people of Iraq because of the training the coalition forces provided.

Two TF All American Soldiers killed by IED

Two Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team of Task Force All American were killed and another Soldier was injured when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device March 11.

They were providing a convoy escort northeast of Habbiniyah.

The wounded Soldier was medically evacuated to 31st Combat Support Hospital and is in stable condition.

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