

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

Army names Stewart Community of Excellence

Patrick Donahue
Special to The Frontline

Fort Stewart officials got the word March 25 the post has been named the Army's Community of Excellence for 2004. Janet Blanks, chief of plans, integration and analysis, and deputy garrison commander Paul Andershak, said the award carries with it a \$1 million prize to be used by the installation.

Fort Stewart officials had to submit documents detailing services and facilities and the process also includes Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria. The Baldrige Award, named for the late secretary of commerce under President

Reagan, is given to businesses and organizations that show leadership and innovation in improving the way they do things. "The criteria changes every year," Blanks said. "Every year, we work toward getting more effective and more efficient." Five finalists were chosen for a personal inspection and an Army Community of Excellence team visited Stewart in December to see for themselves. Any skepticism they had about Stewart's submission was laid to rest quickly. "They don't always believe us," Andershak said. "Everything we wrote in that document was true and accurate," Blanks said. "We made believers out of them."

The judges looked at the installation's leadership, human resources, financial process, how the post works to do things better and how it works with the civilian communities. "We have always scored real high in (the civilian community) category," Blanks said, "because of the support we get from surrounding communities. Every time I ask for a meeting with community leaders, it's amazing how many come out." In their submission to the ACOE program, post officials detailed the organization of the base, its mission and its size. They also mentioned the joint land use study and the working agreements on the education center and Wright Army Airfield.

"All those are important," Andershak said. The process also takes the community, the command and the families to buy into the process, Andershak said. Andershak said the money will be used in a way that will benefit the majority of people on Stewart. When Stewart was a finalist the first time, the money it received went to buy and install the electronic readerboards along some of the main roads. The post was a runner up in 1997 and 2000. "I am pleased the Department of Defense has chosen to recognize the

See EXCELLENCE, Page 7A



Spc. Ryan Smith

Sgt. Jesse Milton, A Co., 122nd Combat Eng. Bn., attached to USAG Holding Battalion, puts clothes away in his new barracks room March 25.

Medical hold Soldiers move into barracks

Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

Soldiers attached to the U.S. Army Garrison Mobilization Holding Battalion here moved into newly built barracks on post March 25. The unit is made up of activated Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who were injured here or overseas, or were deemed non-deployable because of medical or legal issues. Because there was not enough space here for the large number of Soldiers on medical hold, the battalion moved many of the Soldiers to hotels in Hinesville and Richmond Hill last October, according to Master Sgt. Lorenza M. Kates, noncommissioned officer in charge of transportation and housing, USAG Holding Bn. The Soldiers had previously been staying in barracks in the National Guard Training Center. However, those facilities feature open bays with latrines in separate buildings, designed for healthy Soldiers to use during their summer training here. Some Soldiers had injuries that prevented them from walking long distances or using conventional showers, such as those in the NGTC barracks. The new barracks, located across from Winn Army

See BARRACKS, Page 7A



Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

A 1/41 FA Paladin rolls in to occupy a position in preparation to fire on the enemy March 24.



Spc. Terry Nolan, C Co., 1/41 FA, sets up a paladin for degraded operations.

1/41 sections compete for top gun at artillery FTX

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery sections competed in the top gun competition and practiced firing operations during the battalion field training exercise March 24. During this training, 18 Paladins and six fire direction centers are being graded and the best of each is awarded top gun of the battalion. "The top gun competition is the certification for each howitzer section," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph James, 1/41 FA master gunner. Each section goes through various events and are graded on how they con-

duct each task, and the best overall score is the battalion's top gun, James said. They have to take a section written test, perform preventive maintenance checks and services, perform individual Soldier tasks and then perform five firing missions, James said. "Every section plans and trains for this event and it is a matter of prestige to be the battalion's top gun," said Master Sgt. Calvin Ellis, 1/41 FA fire direction control noncommissioned officer. "The battalion top gun will receive a muzzle cover, impact awards from the

See ARTILLERY, Page 7A

Aviation transformation plan unveils life without Comanche

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — The Army's aviation fleet is undergoing a total overhaul, and the main priority is increasing survivability to protect the aircraft and the Soldiers it carries. In the near future, helicopters in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait will be equipped with Ballistic Protection Blankets, Missile Approach Detectors, Countermeasure Sets and Radar and Laser Detecting Sets, a Pentagon official

said. "We're going to ask the industry what weapon systems our potential adversaries may have, and we're going to be very innovative in how we deal with those threats," said a senior official from the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, G3, during the Army Aviation Association of America Annual Convention. Aviators, crewmen, commanders and the technology community gathered to unfold the Army's aviation transformation plan in Nashville, Tenn., March 24 through

27. By 2011, the Army will purchase 796 new aircraft, upgrade the current fleet to be more survivable, lethal and agile and work with the Marines to develop the Joint Multi-Role Helicopter. During a four-and-a-half month study, members on the Army Aviation Task Force made more than 120 recommendations on how to turn the aviation brigades joint and expeditionary forces that are modular units of action. The total bill comes out to \$12.8 billion, the Pentagon official said.

Out of the recommendations came the idea to develop three new aircraft — a light utility helicopter, armored reconnaissance helicopter and a cargo aircraft. "It would be premature to talk about what the helicopters are going to look like. Right now we're in the capabilities phase," the G3 official said. In a concerted effort, Fort Rucker, Ala., Training and Doctrine Command and the Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff will decide on the capabilities they

want, and then let industry meet the niche, said the G3 official. A more immediate addition to the aviation ranks will be unmanned aerial vehicles. The Army was given three I-GNAT UAVs as a congressional plus up and right now two are deployed to Iraq. It's not just about I-GNAT, UAVs in general are a great contribution to the warfighter, a Pentagon official said. They perform reconnaissance and

See AVIATION, Page 10A

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 70°	Low 43°
SAT	High 69°	Low 45°
SUN	High 76°	Low 47°

News

DIVARTY gets new top NCO 3A

Sports

Special Olympics gets students involved 1B

Life & Times

Darien celebrates 35th Blessing of the Fleet 1C

Guide

- Voices and Viewpoints 4A
- 3ID In Brief. 8A
- Marne TV Schedule. 8A
- Police Reports. 8A
- Ask the Judge 9A
- Worship schedule 4C
- Chaplain's Corner 4C
- Volunteer Spotlight 5C
- Movie listing 5C
- Birth announcements 5C

11th Engineers get back to basics

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff writer

Support Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 11th Engineer Battalion conducted squad-level lane training and combative skills March 25 and Friday at training area E 19.

Soldiers changed leadership roles and strategically and tactically worked together to complete each of four mounted and dismounted lanes and one night lane while being attacked by opposing forces.

"The purpose for the training was for Soldiers to perform battle-focused training at the individual and squad level," said Capt. Jeff Thomas, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. company commander.

Every squad conducted four two-hour day missions and one night mission. During these missions, they were subject to nuclear biological and chemical attacks and direct and indirect fire provided by opposing forces.

"We are providing small unit ambushes and hit and run attacks to harass each squad," said opposing forces leader Sgt. 1st Class Brian Raines, 11th Eng. Bn. operations noncommissioned officer in charge. "It helps Soldiers build a sense of accomplishment and confidence as they move in and make contact with the enemy."

At each lane, there is an observer controller to evaluate each squad and a lane walker to mentor them.

"My job is to look at the evaluation outlines and see how the Soldiers react to the four scenarios," said 1st Lt. Ramon Brigantti, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. executive officer. What we are trying to accomplish is to give each squad a chance to react to different forms of contact and learn basic skills they are expected to perform at the National Training Center and on deployments, he added.

"As a lane walker, I name and give direction to the squad leader and make sure the Soldiers understand what is being taught," Staff Sgt. David Tarbox, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. assistant brigade engineer NCOIC. I choose a squad leader for each mission based on how Soldiers are developing in the squad during each mission.

Every Soldier got the chance to lead during the training exercise.

"We switched up leadership roles for maturity," Thomas said. "There is no greater training than learning from your peers."

By changing leadership roles, it forces Soldiers to understand and use skills that will help them grow in their Army career, said Spc. Adam Kuykendall, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. intelligence clerk.

"At each station these Soldiers encounter, they get better at operation procedures, rehearsing, timelines, executions," said 1st Sgt. William Lee, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. first sergeant. Everything is going like I thought it would; Soldiers started out slow, and finished strong.

"These are the Soldiers of the future, so we want to give each Soldier the chance to learn and be in a leadership position, Lee said. "Each Soldier needs to be prepared to pick up the fight and complete the mission if the leader goes down."

On Friday morning these Soldiers practiced combative training against each other in case close hand-to-hand combat is needed to take down the enemy. Lee and Raines provided the instruction and each pair of Soldiers received tips on improving each move.

The training has been helpful, said Pfc. Josh Beckvar HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. support platoon driver. "We need to do it, so we are all on the same page in preparation for National Training Center and Iraq."

"It is very important because field exercises and NTC are training, but in war it is life or death, he added."

"The whole field exercise ran by itself," Thomas said. Every Soldier should have sticks training a couple times a year and to have fun doing it.

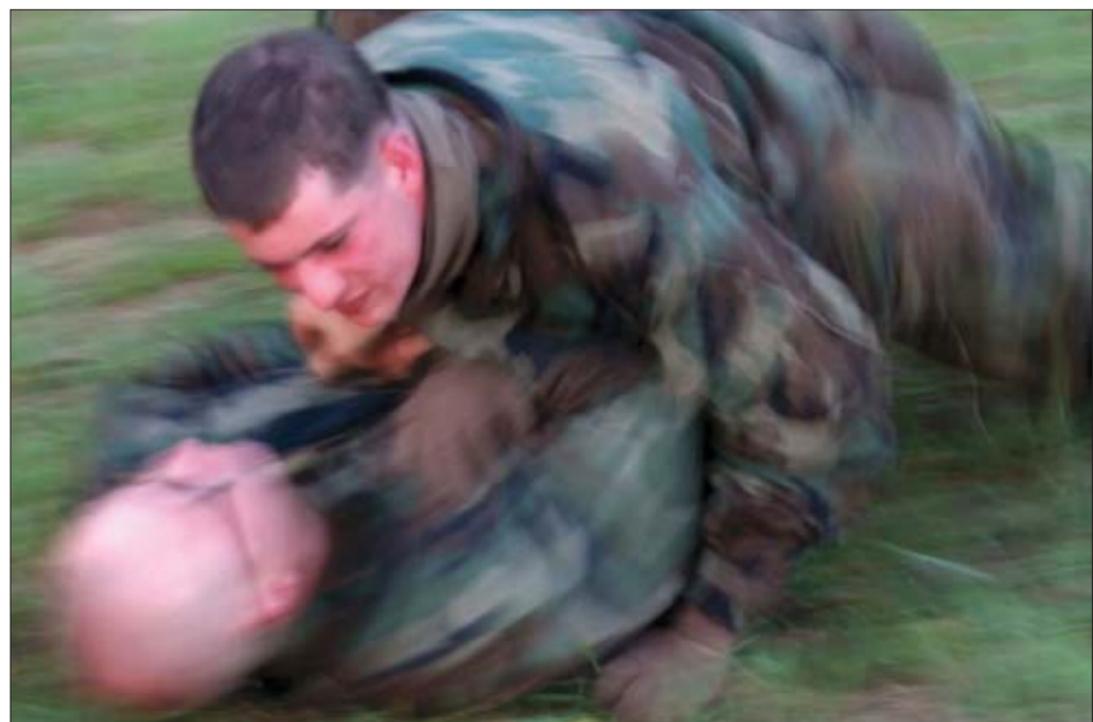


Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

Spc. Will Bumpers, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. welder, runs to a rally point after artillery fire hit his squad. The company trained Soldiers at the squad level on dismounted and mounted lanes March 25 and Friday.



Spc. Roy Childress, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. cook, sprints with a squad automatic weapon during a movement across a field.



Spc. Adam Kuykendall, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. intelligence clerk and Spc. Matthew Clifford, HHC 11th Eng. Bn. combat engineer, practice combative training Friday morning.



(Left to right) Spc. Adam Kuykendall, Spc. Matthew Clifford and Staff Sgt. Robert Heard make a plan to remove an obstacle while taking enemy fire.



Spc. Joseph Adelekun, HHC, 11th Eng. Bn. M-1 mechanic, positions himself in the perimeter so a member of his squad can conduct unmasking procedures.

DIVARTY gets new top NCO

Sgt. R. James Piper

Staff Writer

Division Artillery welcomed a new command sergeant major Friday as they said goodbye to the outgoing top non-commissioned officer with a change of responsibility and retirement retreat ceremony at Marne Garden.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lucius G. Gosha Jr. took responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. James S. McLaurin.

McLaurin retired after 26 years of service and will go to Kuwait to train Soldiers going to Iraq.

"I know you will be a terrific mentor for Soldiers about to go into harms way," said Col. Thomas Torrance, DIVARTY commander.

Gosha is coming to Fort Stewart from Fort Sill, Okla., where he was the command sergeant major of 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery. During his time with 2/4 FA, he served a combat tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I spent several years as a battalion sergeant major, and I think it has prepared me to step up to a larger role as the

DIVARTY command sergeant major," Gosha said.

He added that he understood networking and the system of DIVARTY because he worked with the 3rd Infantry Division DIVARTY during OIF.

Gosha is coming to DIVARTY as the division reorganizes.

"DIVARTY's role during the reorganization is to ensure the training that the artillerymen complete will be enhanced and will stay at a higher rate and focus," Gosha said.

He said he is excited to step into this role and be part of the reorganization and DIVARTY. "This is a unique opportunity for me, that I feel well-suited for because I understand not only the DIVARTY aspect but the maneuver aspect as well. Most of my assignments have been with armor and infantry," Gosha explained. "I feel my experience will really benefit me because I feel I understand what the higher headquarters is trying to accomplish."

This is not the first time Gosha has been at Fort Stewart.

"I was stationed at Fort Stewart for

seven years so it is like coming home again," Gosha said.

Some of his other assignments include senior fire support operations sergeant major for the 3rd Inf. Div.; first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery; first sergeant, HHB 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Inf. Div., Camp Hovey, South Korea; and fire support sergeant and first sergeant, HHB and B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 41st Field Artillery with duty at 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and 3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division.

Gosha entered the Army June 1982 and attended basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Sill. His military education includes sergeants major course, first sergeants course, initial fire support automation system course, light tactical fire course, military operations on urbanized terrain course, advanced noncommissioned officer course, nuclear, biological and chemical course, basic noncommissioned officer course, primary leadership development course and basic fire support course.

He has an Associates of Science degree

in administrative management from Vincennes University.



Sgt. R. James Piper

Incoming DIVARTY Command Sgt. Maj. Lucius G. Gosha Jr. (left) and predecessor Command Sgt. Maj. James S. McLaurin salute as Retreat is played Friday during the DIVARTY change of responsibility and retirement retreat ceremony.

Suspicious package slows traffic, raises safety awareness

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police responded to reports of suspicious packages arriving at two Savannah synagogues Monday at about 2 p.m.

Both packages turned out to be harmless, but, "It's better to be safe than sorry," according to Maj. Louis J. Poore, Hunter Army Airfield deputy provost marshal.

"It's the same thing as a snake — if you don't know whether it's a rattlesnake or not, don't touch it. It's not a big deal for us to check it out," he added.

The packages were wrapped identically and came from the same sender, so the SCMP Bomb Disposal Unit and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation coordinated the threat level from both sites.

Hunter Army Airfield's Military Police closed roads next to the Gannam Heights neighborhood because it is located next to one of the synagogues, the Congregation Agudath Achim, and the package posed a potential threat to residents, according to Staff Sgt. Timothy Brown, a 179th MP Detachment Soldier who was on the scene.

If the Bomb Disposal Unit had to fire a disruption shot into the package to detonate it, the shot would have been headed in the direction of a residence, according to Lt. James Pierce, BDU commander. A disruption shot is a rifle round shot into the box. There is a sound barrier next to the homes, but it ends and a chain link fence takes its place in the direction the shot would have gone. Pierce said he would have moved trucks in to block the shot



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department Corporal Scott A. McCormick and Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff, Congregation Agudath Achim, go over the report of one of the two suspicious packages at two Savannah synagogues Monday.

had it been necessary, but the synagogue took the shot instead. GBI officers at the other The threat level dropped sig-

nificantly after the shot, and the packages were opened by hand, Pierce said. They contained small prayer cases called Mezuzahs.

The synagogues had ordered the Mezuzahs, but nobody recognized the return address on the packages, so they didn't know what they contained. Certain things made the packages suspicious, according to the Congregation Agudath Achim Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff. The first problem was the box was heavily taped and re-used — it just didn't look right. The return address was ambiguous — the rabbi searched, but couldn't come up with a company that matched the return address. The packages were also addressed ambiguously — they were addressed to "the

See PACKAGE, Page 7A

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Self-control can preserve innocence

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
Staff Writer

As a parent, I am often at the end of my rope with my daughter. I have to leave the room and let her mother deal with her to avoid a Homer Simpson choking Bart Simpson scenario.

Fortunately I was blessed with a child who has a tender heart and a kind demeanor.

Unfortunately she was also cursed with selective hearing. I also believe she can travel faster than the speed of sound, because most of the time she is one step ahead of the sound of my voice.

I have to admit I become angry to the point of losing my composure, and sometimes it takes nothing more than walking into the kitchen to find every box of cereal in the cabinet has been emptied in the middle of the floor and all the prizes have been removed. There is my little angel, mouth

encrusted with Cocoa Puffs, smiling at me through brown teeth and a handful of Made in China toys.

My wife caught my daughter doing something the other day, and asked why she did it. My daughter replied, "It was going to be an accident." My wife and I laughed so hard we couldn't punish her. Some people see no humor in such things and reach for the rod.

Children are a source of great happiness and great sorrow to parents throughout their lives. As innocents they are inclined to make you smile at times and at other times grind your teeth down to nubs. Anyone who has children knows where I am coming from. The stress of being a member of the Armed Services and raising children can overwhelm peo-



ple at times. Children are inclined to mischief, but not deserving of abusive punishment. There are many ways of punishing children. Some people enjoy punishing, while others do not relish the grim task. I have found that it is better to punish my children after I have calmed down. Other people use the anger to fuel the severity of the punishment.

I don't care what anyone says, a child's overall greatest joy comes from being good and making their parents proud. No child wants to be bad. Abusing a child can be verbal or physical. I personally would rather heal from a smack to my derriere than try to recover from feeling like I am a bad person.

My daughter, like me, spends many moons in the corner or doing mine and

my father's favorite punishment, working and cleaning. I did so much unnecessary yard work growing up I had my own landscaping company by the age of nine.

Up to a certain age parents learn everything they know from their parents. I understand that many parents were abusive, but I personally take my parents' shortcomings and try to use their mistakes to become a better parent. I don't always feel sweet and kind, and I have caught myself more than a few times and passed on the problem to my better half.

Self control and some free time away from the situation can improve the quality of everyone's life in the family unit. Scars from abusive parents are never quick to heal, and the person the child trusts the most is also the child's worst enemy. Take time to help prevent child abuse, not only this month but at all times. You can start in your own home.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What's the best April Fool's joke you've played or had played on you?

"My team leader called me and said we'd be getting deployed, so I got my bags and showed up to the company at 3 a.m. by myself."

Spc. Matthew Shultz
HHD, Eng. Bde.



"One time a buddy took my car and I had to call the MPs because I thought it was stolen. The MP showed up and my buddy drove by, so me and the MP jumped in his squad car and chased him down."

Spc. Raul Carbajal
A Co., 4/64 Armor

"One time I called my girlfriend and told her that her best friend was in jail. So she went out and got the money (for bail) and then on the way to the police I told her it was a joke."

Spc. Carlos Capera
743rd Maint. Co.



"A girlfriend called me at work screaming and crying ... I stopped what I was doing and told my boss I had to leave. When I showed up at her house ... it was an April Fool's surprise party."

Joana Dart
Dependant

"I got some smashed Jolly Ranchers and put them in my buddy's shower head and when he turned on the water (they) got him all sticky. He didn't notice until he walked out of the house."

Spc. Mike Montano
743rd Maint. Co.



"I called my mother up and asked her if her refrigerator was running."

Janice Day
Health Clinic #1

Proud to be the mother of a 3ID Soldier

We led the charge that cool March Day,
Miles of vehicles warned not to stray.

Headed for Baghdad, each mission a successful one,
The 3rd ID got the job done.

My hand on my rifle and my good luck charm,
My buddy by my side kept me from harm.

With the support of my country that means so much to me,
We gave it our all and made the Iraqi people free.

Saddam and his sons, so vicious and cruel,
Our Army put an end to their rule.

God bless our brothers who died for this cause,
Remember these heroes as you quietly pause.

I hated the noise, I hated the pain,
But it was my job, there was so much to gain.

We won the war, we need the trust,
As we continue to fight, success is a must.

As the children wave, smiles on their faces and hope in their eyes,
This generation will be free, thanks to American GIs.

Patrolling the streets of Baghdad at a grueling pace,
Oh God how I longed for my Fort Stewart base.

Never again will I complain of the Georgia heat,
That mess hall food, what a treat!

My barracks with a real bed,
A soft, clean pillow to rest my head.

Give me the beautiful Georgia beaches, so sandy and so bright,
Unlike the sandstorms of Iraq, that turned day into night.

A hug from my family or my wife a long kiss,
How many weeks I prayed for a moment like this.

A welcome home party and a cold beer,
A toast from my friends, and that deafening welcome home cheer.

Our officers stood by us through the stress and the strain,
They laughed and cried with us through the success and the pain.

That sergeant of mine is one of the best,
He said we could do it, this was our test.

A well trained Soldier, he's done this before,
He's proven he's an Army man to the core.

He said we were in this together, we'd never have to go it alone,
He kept his promise to bring us safely home.

Thank you God for protecting me,
I'm proud to be part of the 3rd ID!

Dedicated to the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) for a job well done. Special thanks to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, and to my son, Spc. Ryan M. Feller.

Susan Feller



Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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Dedication honors civilian news veteran

By Jamie L. Carson
Fort Lee Public Affairs Office

FORT LEE, Va. — From the comfort of their homes, millions of Americans watched the war in Iraq through the eyes of David Bloom, veteran NBC news correspondent. Traveling on top of his creation, the "Bloom Mobile," with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) across the Iraqi desert toward Baghdad, the former White House Correspondent was exactly where he wanted to be, at the tip of the spear.

But the 39-year-old husband and father of three daughters never made it to Baghdad. Bloom died from a pulmonary embolism April 6, 2003.

"David risked his life to be with Soldiers, and he died among Soldiers, while telling the Soldier's story," said Maj. Gen. Terry E. Juskowiak, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee commanding general.

It was for those reasons the new Fort Lee Public Affairs Office building was dedicated as the "Bloom Building" during a ceremony Friday.

"To recognize David Bloom with the naming of our Fort Lee Public Affairs building is perfectly fitting also because of the bonds forged with the Soldiers of the 54th Mortuary Affairs Company, 49th Quartermaster Group stationed here at Fort Lee, regrettable, however, by David's death," Juskowiak said.

"David had a choice; he could have covered the war from many different places," said Craig White, Bloom's cameraman. "But for David there was only one real choice — the battlefield."

"We wanted the world to see the

war through the eyes of the Soldiers fighting it," White said. "It was just a matter of finding a way."

Bloom discovered a way, and helped design a satellite-linked camera that was hooked up to a "slightly" modified M88 Tank Recovery Vehicle dubbed the "Bloom Mobile."

He brought journalism to a new level, said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

The command sergeant major praised Bloom, saying, "David never once questioned me about why or where we were going or what we were doing. He just smiled and grinned."

"On the western side of the Euphrates, we were with my Alpha Company, as a supporting effort during a combat engagement, when a tank slid into a canal, the road collapsing under the 70 tons of weight," Gallagher said. Bloom and White along with the 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers were under direct fire and close, but ineffective, mortar fire. Instead of seeking safety and shelter the news correspondent and his battle buddy cameraman decided to interview the brigade commander.

"Day turned to night ... It was a long night, punctuated by mortar fire," Gallagher said. When Gallagher asked Bloom if he wanted to be taken to a safer location, Bloom responded, "No Bob, I feel safer here with you."

He was always right there, in the thick of it, with the Soldiers, Gallagher said.

As they continued to push their way north, word came that a 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier's wife had just given birth to a boy back home in Georgia, Gallagher said. "Damned

if David didn't think of a way for this Soldier to talk with his wife. As the combat power moved north, we had this Soldier move to our M88, got him on top, while David called the Soldier's wife in the recovery room in a hospital equipped with a TV, and Craig beamed out images of this Soldier."

The wife was able to talk on the phone while seeing her husband who was a world away on TV.

"I don't believe that anyone saw the tears in this Soldier's eyes when he thanked David," Gallagher said.

White said he'll never forget the last day his battle buddy was alive. Bloom was energized; they had just received word they were going to Baghdad. White said he was on the phone when out of the corner of his eye, he saw that someone was down. "It was David, and Staff Sgt. (Joe G.) Todd was holding him. There was nothing we could do. It was meant to be."

Everyone was saddened and in shock, but the mission had to continue, Gallagher said.

When the time came to mourn Bloom, he was honored in a traditional military ceremony with two other 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers who died in support of their nation, Sgt. 1st Class John Marshall and Staff Sgt. Robert Stever; both died April 8, 2003.

"We were in the middle of the desert, and somehow the Soldiers managed to find flowers, and kept them alive in empty ammo boxes until the ceremony," Gallagher said.

"He turned out to be my friend," Gallagher said. "And I miss him."

The PAO building is a "tribute for what David has forged, how fitting it is," White said. "A place where the media can meet the



Courtesy photo

David Bloom's family members unveil a bronze plaque during the Public Affairs Office building dedication. Bloom's wife, Melanie, brother, John, and father, Harold, attended the ceremony and reception Friday.

Army and find common ground. A place that will have David's stamp on it for all of eternity."

"Our family will forever remember the impact these Soldiers had on David's life," said David's brother, John Bloom. "I remember talking with my brother while he was in Iraq. He would tell me not to worry because he was surrounded by his other 'brothers' — the Soldiers."

"I have been able to spend some time with the 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers. They have told me stories of my brother's actions during the war," John said. "Those stories

provide tremendous comfort to me, and someday I will share those stories with David's daughters."

"David will forever be remembered as a journalist who rewrote how wars are covered," John said.

At the end of the dedication ceremony Friday, Juskowiak accompanied John, Harold (John and David's father), and Bloom's wife, Melanie, as they unveiled the bronze dedication plaque. The plaque is now located on the outside of the Public Affairs Office Building, near the entrance for everyone to see.

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.

DENTAC prepares Soldiers for mobilization

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

Dental assistants at Dental Clinic #4 were recognized for their hard work over the past year during Dental Week, March 14 through 21.

Due to the number of deployments and redeployments over the past year, the U.S. Army Dental Activity office has had to work overtime to make sure Soldiers were dentally ready for a mission.

"Once a year, we have a week to honor dental assistants and thank them for what they do because we could not do our job without them," said Col. Thomas G. Horning, Dental Activity commander.

"Dental week recognizes what dental assistants do in the whole scheme of things in running a dental facility," Horning said.

Dental assistants are the first faces Soldiers see when they enter the clinic.

"They are the people who get the area ready to work on an individual, they are the people who help the dentists get through the procedure, and they are the people who clean up afterwards," Horning said.

Dental assistants have had to work in two shifts over the past year to handle the extra load of deploying National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers.

"We have been swamped with Soldiers over the past year," said Debra Rutkowski, Dental Clinic #4 dental assistant. "Many people have had to work overtime to provide care to Soldiers."

There are only 16 military dentists and nine contract dentists at the clinic to treat everybody, Horning said, and over the past year they have handled an overload of Soldiers.

Back when the division deployed from January to March of last year, we had 25,000 visits and performed more than 70,000 procedures, Horning said. From October to December when the division redeployed, we had 23,000



Fort Stewart and Hunter dental assistants were recognized for their hard work during Dental Week.

patient visits and did 66,000 procedures, and from January to March 2004, there were 20,000 visits and 60,000 procedures.

"Dental assistants have taken the beating, with civilian assistants working the day shift and military assistants working the night," Horning said.

"At midnight the waiting room would still be packed," Rutkowski said.

The clinic is only supplied to handle 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers, so DENTAC has had to stretch resources to provide care to the units that mobilize through Fort Stewart.

To deploy, a Soldier has to be physically ready and dentally ready, Horning said.

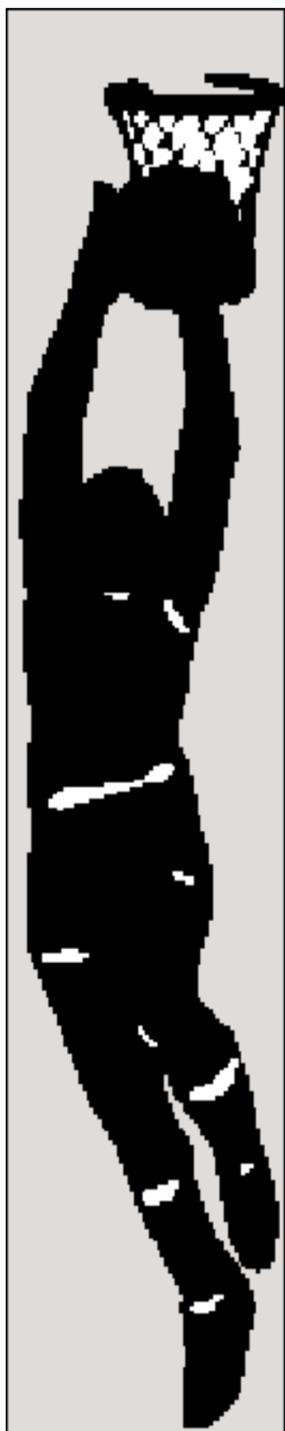
The dental resources that you have out in the field are

austere in combat environments and are used for emergency reasons only so Soldiers need to be prepared so they won't have any problems for at least a year, Horning said.

"What we look for when we deploy Soldiers is if they are going to have dental conditions that might give them problems within six months," he said.

But since we don't have the visibility on the National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers that we have with active duty Soldiers, many of them come to us with a lot of problems that we have to fix so we can deploy them, Horning said.

"We have had to be really creative on what we do to complete the entire mission," Horning said. "Without dental assistants we can't do what we do; they are indispensable."



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EXCELLENCE

from page 1A

Defense has chosen to recognize the exceptional environment provided at Fort Stewart," said U.S. Senator Zell Miller (D-Ga.) "Fort Stewart provides its courageous men and women the support and conditions necessary to succeed on the battlefield, and their outstanding performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom is evidence of that. They played a key role in helping to deliver a people from an oppressive dictator and destroy a tyrant's brutal regime," he added.

Fort Stewart will receive its award during a ceremony May 6 and 7 at the Pentagon and is in line to receive the commander-in-chief's award for excellence. Torii Station, Okinawa, was the 2003 winner.

Editor's Note: Information for this story was compiled from Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Army Communities of Excellence Program and a press release from the office of Sen. Zell Miller.

ARTILLERY

from page 1A

battalion commander, a four-day pass and a battalion coin," James said.

The best FDC will receive a generator cover and the Soldiers names placed on the battalion's wall, Ellis said.

"Our crew performed outstanding during the competition," Ellis said. "We have a good crew and got solid missions from battalion."

This training is used as a tool for the battalion commander to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each howitzer section, and to know where to focus training in the future, James explained.

Observant Controllers make sure every Soldier is safe and evaluate each section during the exercise.

"As an OC, I'm verifying the crew drill and making sure the data going to the guns is safe," said Sgt. 1st Class John Childers, 1/41 FA senior OC.

We do safety tests to make sure that everyone knows the safety of the weapons and the computer data, and that Soldiers have everything they need for a mission, Childers added.

There are many elements that work together to make sure the round being fired is safe and accurate.

It all starts with Combat Observation Lasing Team platoons and Bradley Fighting Vehicles up front that find target locations, give target descriptions and figure what to fire at the target.

"Our overall mission is to integrate cannon, rocket, mortar and artillery fire into the overall scheme to support the commander's maneuver," said Sgt. 1st Class Jon Sullivan, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 1/41 FA.

Targets are acquired using a ground laser location system.

"However long the laser takes to get to the target and back tells us the distance to the target, and the tripod gives us the direction," said Staff Sgt. Jim Johnson, 1/41 FA COLT platoon sergeant.

From the time we spot a target, it should only take 45 seconds to get down to the guns, Johnson said.

After the observers spot and locate a target, it is sent digitally down to the Brigade Fire Support Element.

"The BFSE is the command and control node that filters and prosecutes fire missions using the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Battle System,"

said Maj. Brian Gale, 1st Brigade fire support officer. Targets are confirmed enemy or friendly, and from here, missions are sent digitally to the battalion fire direction center, Gale added.

The battalion FDC further evaluates each target and makes sure the data sent down to the platoon FDC is safe and accurate.

"We take the data received by the battalion FDC and turn it into technical data that the guns can read," Childers said.

The Paladins are practicing moving out and occupying a position, Childers said. "In a battle it should only take three minutes to occupy a position and be able to fire rounds safely."

"During the war, artillery fire was fast and lethal," Johnson said.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, 5,196 rounds were fired by 1/41 FA, and every one of them went where they needed to go, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey S. Ashmen, 1/41 FA command sergeant major.

Ashmen said, this is the longest duration we have been in the field since OIF, and everything has run to standard.

BARRACKS

from page 1A

Community Hospital on the edge of the NGTC area, received their first Soldiers from Hunter and the Ramada Inn in Richmond Hill last week.

The living quarters are housed in modular trailers, 18 of which contain four 4-person rooms, a common area with refrigerator and microwave, two washing machines and dryers, and a latrine with two toilets and showers. The other trailer contains three rooms and a staff duty office.

"I was really impressed with the way the barracks look," Kates said. "Everything is clean and new. I think the Soldiers will be satisfied."

Soldiers moving in found brand new bunks, wall lockers, linens, tables and lamps in their rooms.

Sgt. Jarrad Turner, who is originally from the 1014th Quartermaster Company out of Athens, Ga., says the new facilities are better than he expected.

"There's a lot of space here," he said. "They're clean and cool. It's not home, but it'll accommodate for now."

An added bonus, he said, is that now he's staying a lot closer to Winn, where he receives treat-



Spc. Ryan Smith

Sgt. Jarrad Turner, a 1014th QM Co. Soldier, attached to USAG Holding Bn., unpacks his bags in the new medical hold barracks here March 25.

ment. "It saves on gas. The hospital is across the street. Plus, there are facilities here, like the PX, that aren't available in Richmond Hill."

The barracks can house up to 300 Soldiers, though there are approximately 500 in the unit. Senior NCOs and officers, as well as Soldiers with special needs, will remain in hotels in Hinesville, Kates said.

PACKAGE

from page 3A

congregation" and not a certain department or person.

"The good news is, it's not a bomb. When you see a suspicious package, you have to treat it seriously. I salute the courage of the police, they were on top of things," he said.

Lt. John. E. Best, SCPD, said, "You can't be too careful after 9/11; with the upcoming G-8 Summit, with the Mid East turmoil, and with the fact that we are at war — we will treat every incident like the real thing."

Pierce stressed the importance of reporting suspicious packages. "If you see a suspicious package, call the police. If you guess wrong, you'll never guess again."

Poore agreed, and said there are two major issues to be aware of when you first see a suspicious package. Basically, stay away from it because if you touch it or move it, it could have anti-handling devices installed that could cause it to detonate. In addition, radio frequencies can set off bombs as well, so if you're going to call the threat in, stand back while you call.

He said the MPs have chemical detection kits, and the SCMP have bomb-sniffing dogs, so don't be afraid to give them a call and report a suspicious package.

"If there's a concern about ownership of a package, and you think there's a credible threat, or something's not normal, all you have to do is call us. It's not a big deal for us. We do it all the time. It's good training," Poore said.

What to do if you see a suspicious package:

* Don't touch it.

* Don't let anyone else touch it.

* Back away, and report it.

* Call 911; you will be transferred to the right department.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

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

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

The center is located in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. For more information, call 767-3909.

Easter Brunch

Club Stewart will hold an Easter Brunch April 11. Seatings are available at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. Children can get photos taken with the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Egg hunt is scheduled at each seating. Cost is \$11.95 for adults, children 9 through 12 eat half off, and those under 8 eat free. Call 386-2212 for reservations.

ACES

Army Continuing Education System will be holding its 27th Combined Commencement Exercise in honor of the candidates for graduation on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Club Stewart ballroom. The guest speaker will be Maj.Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf.

Div. commander.

If you are a 2003 or 2004 college graduate, please call the Education Center to participate at 767-8331.

Red Cross

Spencers Infant and Children's Clothing Company, Inc., continues to offer complete infant layette sets to babies born to Soldiers deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. To qualify:

- Deployment must have taken place to a combat area.
- Infant must not be more than 18-months-old
- Infant must have already been born.

To receive this gift set, applications must be submitted to the Fort Stewart Station of the American Red Cross. Please call 767-2197 for a faxed copy of the application or stop by the station office in Bldg. 623.

Sunrise service

There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., April 11, at Marne Garden.

Hunter

Hunter Golf Club

The annual club championship is being held Saturday and Sunday. Tee off is at 7 a.m. Saturday. Those interested in competing have until Friday at 6 p.m. to sign up. Entry fee is \$60 for members, \$70 for military and retiree nonmembers. Call 352-5622 for more information.

Community Appreciation Day

Hunter Army Airfield will host its annual Community Appreciation Day Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the ACS parking lot across from the PX. Bring your families for some food, games and fun.

Boat safety checks

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Savannah Flotilla, is performing free checks of your boat's equipment to be sure it complies with federal, state and local safety requirements. The safety checks will be held at the following boat launch ramps from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday
President Street Ramp

Sunday

- Lazaretto Creek Ramp **April 10**
- Skidaway Narrows Ramp **April 17 and 18**
- Bahia Blue Marina **April 25**
- Turner Creek Ramp

For more information, call Dick Luettich at 598-9375.

Hunter Tax Center

The Tax Center, located in Bldg. 1279 on Neal Blvd. (behind the Ranger PT field), is open. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refunds in less than seven days. Hours of operation are:

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

For more information, call 352-5278.

Relationship enhancement

The chaplain's office is sponsoring free couple's communication and relationship enhancement classes at Hunter Club. For a list of the classes and more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers at 572-8605.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Third Party Insurance

Effective July 1, individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call 370-6037/6947 for more information.

Alcohol Education/Screening

As part of National Alcohol Awareness Month, the Army Substance Abuse Program will host a National Alcohol Screening Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 8 in Building 624. For more information, call 370-7536.

"Take Care of Yourself" Classes

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 2 to 3 p.m., April 14 and 11 a.m. to noon April 28. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m., April 28. 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 from Winn or Tuttle. To register, call 370-5071. To register for Winn's April 28 class, call 368-3048 and 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.

Baby Basic Training

This class offers fathers-to-be the chance to ask questions and practice taking care of their children through hands-on training. The class is facilitated by a man for men. The class will be held 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Social Work Services building. For more information, call 370-6779.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 35-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to obey traffic control device
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Birmingham, Ala.

- **Subject:** 2nd Lieutenant, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 67/55, driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Cruelty to animals
- **Location:** Tybee Island

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Sodomy, carnal knowledge
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group

- **Charges:** No insurance,, no drivers license on person, illegal plate transfer, wrongful damage of government property
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 32-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old female, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of methamphetamine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charge:** Rape
- **Location:** Allenhurst

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Indecent acts upon a child
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Civilian, 75-year-old male

- **Charge:** Improper parking
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 59-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, no drivers license
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds, private property, forgery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Failure to appear
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 17-year-old male
- **Charge:** Failure to yield right of way at stop sign
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

Marne TV

April 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

How to register privately owned vehicles

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

The Vehicle Registration process is an important part of ensuring a safe and secure working environment at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Command Policy Letter No. 09-11 (Motor Vehicle, Motorcycle, Visitor Pass and Temporary Pass Registration) identifies the requirements to register privately owned vehicles. This information is provided to ensure that you are in compliance with the policy letter, and ease the registration process for you and your family.

The DD Form 2220 (Department of Defense Vehicle Registration Decal) is a controlled form/decals. The decal will be issued to all active duty military and civilian employees assigned to Stewart and Hunter, retired military personnel, and contract employees with proper identification.

The registration process is simple and takes only about 15 minutes. The vehicle registration offices are located at Stewart in Building 295 on E. Bultman Road near Gate 1, and at Hunter in Building 1240 on Lightning Road. The Stewart office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. hours and the Hunter Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The decal will be placed on the center of the windshield at the top (above the reach of the wiper blades) with the decal in the top position and the post identifier below it with the expiration date to the right (Driver Side). The top number of the expiration date decal is the month of the expiration (last date of the month) and the bottom number is the year of expiration. Rank insignia will be placed on the passenger side of the DoD Decal. Rank insignia is only available for sergeants major, command sergeants major, colonels and above. The DoD Decals are issued in four-color types:

Blue installation identifier tabs — The blue tabs are issued to all officers, active duty or retired.

Red installation identifier tabs — The red tabs are issued to all enlisted personnel, active duty or retired.

Black installation identifier tabs — The black tabs are issued to all contractor personnel with a contractor job that is longer than 365 days.

Green installation identifier tabs — The green tabs are issued to all Appropriated or Non-Appropriated Department of Army civilian employees.



Temporary Permits are issued for a period up to one year. The temporary permits are generated through the Vehicle Registration Computer System. A photograph of the registrant will be placed on the permit. The temporary permits are issued for a period of more than 24 hours, but less than 366 days. The temporary permits require the same identification and documentation as a permit registration. The temporary permits are displayed in the front windshield/dash at all times while on post. Temporary permits will not be issued if the owner/operator of the vehicle has all the necessary paperwork for a permanent registration.

A 24-hour pass is used for short-term access to the installation. These permits are issued at the gate by the access control personnel. The 24-hour pass is only good for 24-hour access. If the owner/operator requires additional time, he/she must come to the vehicle registration office the next duty day to obtain a temporary permit. 24-hour passes will not be issued if the owner/operator of the vehicle has all of necessary paperwork for a permanent registration.

In order to register a vehicle the owner must produce proof that they are the registered owner of the vehicle, and that they have a current registration, valid insurance and state driver's license. In the event the operator is not the registered owner, the operator must have a notarized affidavit or power of attorney, giving permission from the owner, for the oper-

ator to drive the vehicle.

Decals from other installations will be allowed access.

However, if the owner/operator is being assigned to Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield, they have 10 working days to report to the Vehicle Registration Office to have the decals transferred from the losing installation to the gaining installation.

Stickers are not transferable from one vehicle to another. If a vehicle is traded, sold or otherwise destroyed or becomes inoperable, the vehicle owner must obtain the decal from the vehicle and turned in to the vehicle registration office.

Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors who have registered vehicles will be required to out-process through the vehicle registration office. Soldiers (except for when retiring), civilian employees and contractors no longer employed on the installation, will have the decal removed from the window and furnished a temporary permit to complete the clearing process. Stickers stolen or otherwise missing from a vehicle must be reported immediately to the Military Police Desk. If you have any questions about stolen decals, please call the MP Desk at 767-4895 for Stewart, or 352-6133 for Hunter.

For more information and FAQs, please go to www.stewart.army.mil and enter Vehicle Registration in the Keyword Search, or call Vehicle Registration at 767-5195. The customer satisfaction survey is located at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

ASK THE JUDGE

HHG Storage During Deployment

Capt. Heather Herbert

Claims Judge Advocate

Q: With deployment imminent, how can I protect myself should something happen to my HHG while in storage?

A: Basic claims procedures apply in processing claims that arise from deployment circumstances. However, things are usually complicated because we don't typically inventory our property unless we PCS so there's no formal list of what we own and how much it's worth. During the turbulent period when Soldiers transition to and from deployment, the usual procedures short circuit and people cut corners. Their focus is to do the mission. All soldiers will be in a much better position to receive a fair and speedy settlement if they take the time to prepare an accurate inventory, properly safeguard high-value items and follow a few simple rules.

- Again, an inventory is a key item in providing proof of ownership. Serial and model numbers should be noted when available. If items are of above average quality, soldiers may want to video the room or take pictures of high value items.

- Soldiers should not leave jewelry and other small, high value, easily pilfered items in the barracks room or in storage. If possible, you should secure another means of safekeeping. If the unit has a secure place, such as a unit safe, then this could be used, or a safety deposit box at a local bank could be rented. This is especially critical if your goods will remain in your barracks room during your deployment. It may seem like a lot of extra work, but you must way ask yourself how you will feel if the item goes missing. Grandpa's gold watch is irreplaceable.

- Try to arrange for a unit representative to be present if the Directorate of Public Works or another contractor must enter your room to perform a repair while you are deployed.

- Most importantly, gather receipts and other proofs of ownership and value for safekeeping. Make copies and store in a safe place so you will have them should a claim need to be filed.

If you have further questions regarding the claims process, please contact the Claims Office at 767-8185.

AVIATION

from page 1A

surveillance missions, and are becoming more and more important, the official added.

The Army will spend \$390 million toward UAV acceleration. Currently in the Central Command area there are Ravens, which are tactical UAVs used at the platoon level. The smaller UAVs are referred to as Shadow and the larger ones, I-GNAT and Hunter, are used at division and brigade level.

The Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker advised the Aviation Task Force to improve survivability, increase deployability, optimize capabilities and shorten the logistics tail, the Pentagon official said.

Now the aviation field is following the infantry's example of the Stryker by creating a "common cockpit." Like the Stryker, which has 10 variants but same or similar parts, helicopters will share the same hardware and software.

In 2003, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., implemented their version of "common cockpit" referred to as the Common Avionics Architecture System.

By placing common hardware and software in three of the regiment's aircraft, training was simplified and the logistics demands on the unit were reduced, the G3 official said. The open avionics architecture also will make it easier to upgrade the aircraft with third-party vendor software.

The use of CAAS by the conventional Army is one of 17 initiatives that will be adopted from the Special Operations community, the G3 official said.

"We always want the 160th to be the premier aviation force in the Army," he added. "We always want them well ahead of the conventional force."

Schoomaker, who has served with both conventional and Special Operations forces, challenges the aviation community to use Special Operations initiatives that can be sustained and resourced, the G3 official said.

The need to purchase and upgrade the current fleet is the reason behind the Comanche termination, officials



U.S. Army photo

The Army recently terminated the Comanche, seen above.

said.

"Had we not terminated the Comanche, I would be absolutely concerned," the G3 official said. "By 2011 we would have had to cut our aviation fleet by a sizable number."

At the termination of the Comanche, only two aircraft had been built, and \$6.9 billion spent since 1983, the Pentagon official said. If the Army had continued to fund the program it would cost \$14.6 billion more to purchase 121 aircraft by 2011 and up to \$2 billion more to add the survivability equipment that is being added to the rest of the Army's fleet.

However, the technology that was developed for the Comanche will not be lost, but will be harvested in the Joint Multi-Role Helicopter.

"We needed a place where we could take the Comanche technology and ensure that it was retained. We also wanted to make sure that we had an initiative where we could work with the joint community," the Pentagon official said.

The goal is to work through a joint

solution with the Marine Corps and decide on a new rotorcraft by 2020 or 2025, the official added.

Transformation plans for the aviation field complement the combined arms fight, the G3 official said. If you take any one weapon system, a Bradley, Abrams or UAV and put it up against an enemy, the enemy will learn to deal with it, the official said. It's a combination of all those weapon systems, the official added.

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.*

CENTCOM News

Four 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers wounded

TIKRIT, Iraq — Four 1st Infantry Division Soldiers were injured in an accident involving two military vehicles near Tikrit on March 23.

The Soldiers were treated at the 67th Combat Support Hospital at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher and are listed in stable condition.

The names of the Soldiers are being withheld until notification of next of kin.

The incident is under investigation.

One 1st Inf. Div. Soldier killed, two wounded

TIKRIT, Iraq — One 1st Infantry Division Soldier was killed and two others were wounded by an improvised explosive device near Baqubah at approximately 8:20 a.m. March 25.

The Soldiers arrived at the scene after the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps reported an IED. As the Soldiers investigated, it exploded.

The wounded were evacuated to nearby Forward Operating Base Warhorse and were reported in stable condition.

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

The incident is under investigation.

IED Kills One Soldier

BALAD, Iraq — A 13th Corps Support Command Soldier is dead and one is injured as the result of an improvised explosive device attack Monday near Al-Habbaniya at approximately 10:30 a.m.

They were part of a convoy when their vehicle struck the IED. The injured Soldier was evacuated by air to the 31st Combat Support Hospital, Baghdad.

The names of the dead and injured are being withheld pending next of kin notification.

The incident is under investigation.

Operation Iron Promise five

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers captured 12 individuals suspected of planning attacks on Coalition forces March 22, day five of Operation Iron Promise.

Iron Promise is a TF 1AD operation targeting former regime elements and other extremists who pose a threat to the Iraqi people and stand in the way of a new Iraq.

In addition, TF 1AD Soldiers confiscated three AK-47s, 19 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 50 blasting caps and four pistols. They also conducted 43 escort missions and 600 patrols, including 40 alongside Iraqi Defense Force partners.