

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

Spartans fight their way into Baghdad



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

A statue of Saddam Hussein stands with its head blown off, signifying the end of his regime.

Spc. Mason T. Lowery
50th PAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Spartans soldiers were the first U.S. soldiers to reach Baghdad; they battled their way in, encountering heavy resistance from Republican Guard soldiers while clearing the way for the rest of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) to follow.

It was an important shaping operation to set conditions for taking the seat of power - the Presidential Palace and official government buildings, on Monday, according to Col. David G. Perkins, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander from Keene, N.H.

Task Force 1st Battalion, 64th Armor soldiers lead the way. They attacked up Highway 8 from Objective Saints, where they encountered tanks and dug-in infantry in a significant fire fight, according to Perkins. All their vehicles were hit many times.

1-64 soldiers fired so many thousands of rounds that their ammunition bags filled up, clogging their weapons. They had to empty them over and over and keep on firing, Perkins said.

They finished their first Baghdad battle at Baghdad International Airport - Objective Lions. All 1-64's vehicles were hit and smoking when they pulled in, Perkins explained.

He described one of the many heroic acts he saw during the fight. A tank was hit from the rear and its engine caught fire. The crew jumped out and held the enemy off with their M-16s while medics worked on wounded soldiers.

2nd Bde. soldiers went back in Monday. They went straight for the Presidential Palace, according to 2nd BCT Battle Captain Capt. Matt Morgan from Phoenix. They left so early that they got to the palace before the enemy knew what they were doing. They took the palace and government buildings, establishing a strong foothold in Baghdad.

Approximately 600 Iraqi soldiers were killed Sunday to Tuesday, as well as 70 modified-for-military-use civilian vehicles, and artillery and mortar equipment, Morgan said.

3rd Inf. Div. got its first resupply in the city as refuel trains arrived in to Baghdad Monday, and took the remainder of the palaces Tuesday, according to Morgan. He said the last major objective was a private military airport to be taken Wednesday. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team would come from the north, the 1st Brigade Combat Team from the west, the Marine Expeditionary Unit from the east, and 2nd BCT would meet them there to finish the job.

Morgan said Iraq's Army is falling apart. Almost everything is abandoned and nothing is organized in Baghdad. All that's left are Regime Death Squads — unorganized soldiers willing to stand up to a tank with an AK-47 and die.

"You can shoot at that tank all day long and you're not going to kill it," he said.

The U.S. is predicting the Iraqi Regime will be destroyed in a week. The mission is already transitioning to peace; the Red Cross is in Iraq, according to Morgan.

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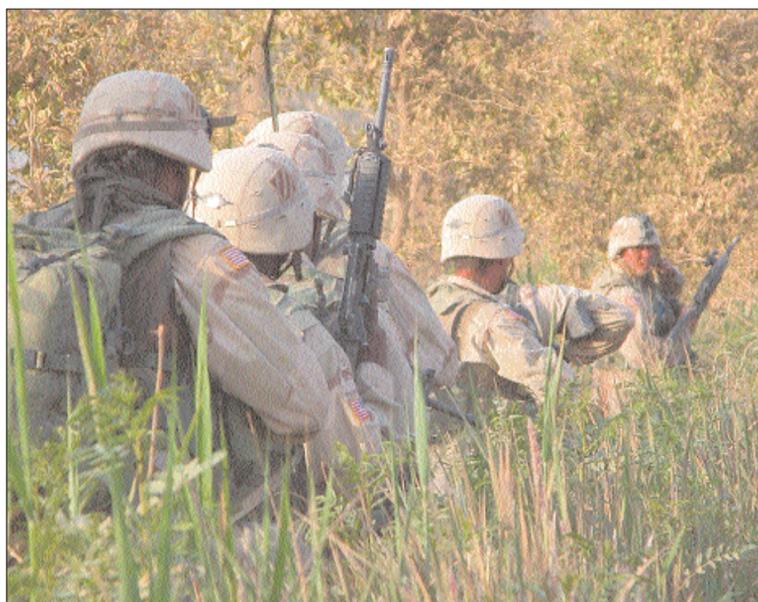
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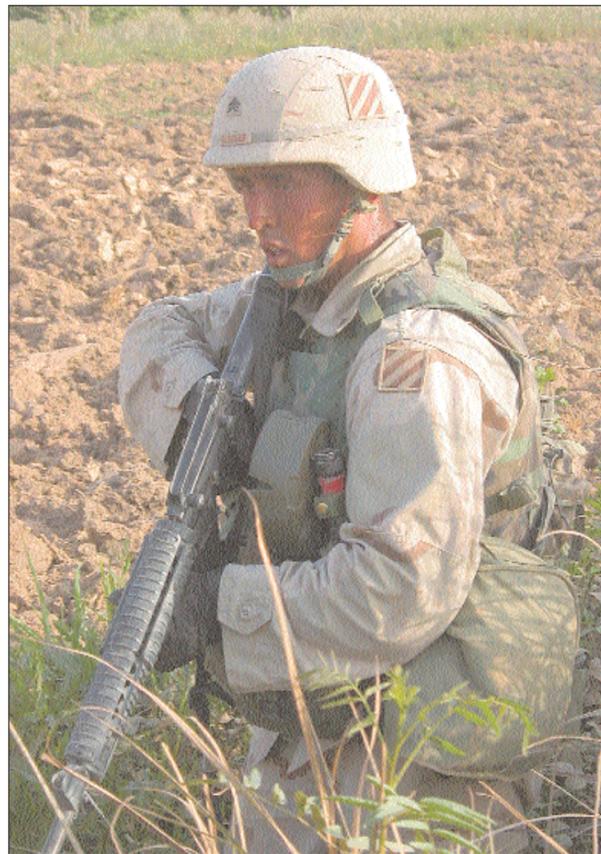
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10th Eng. clears the way ...



Photos by Spc. Mason T. Lowery

(Above) B Co., 10th Eng. soldiers clear a field around a Medina Division garrison April 4 outside the town of Al Yusufyah, Iraq, where another massive weapons cache was found by 2nd Bde. soldiers. (Right) Sgt. Matthew Gloxner, a B Co., 10th Eng. soldier, works with his squad to clear a field around a Medina Division garrison.



Spartan TOC hit by missile

Spc. Mason T. Lowery
50th PAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Spartan tactical operations center received a direct hit from an enemy missile Monday, killing two soldiers, two civilian journalists and wounding 17 soldiers at Objective Spartan, 18 miles south of Baghdad.

Soldiers reassembled the TOC and were back to work in less than an hour supporting the 2nd Brigade Combat Team battle in Baghdad.

Names of the deceased and wounded

are being held pending notification of next of kin.

"It didn't stop a darn thing. It's not as disastrous as it seems," said 2nd BCT Executive Officer Lt. Col. Eric Wesley from Colorado Springs, Co.

"We were totally blessed — it's a tragedy to lose four people, but after walking through that place, which looked like a holocaust, we are fortunate to not have lost more (personnel)," he said.

The missile, which hit at approximately 11 a.m., caused a lot of damage

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Secretary of the Army visits soldiers at Stewart

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Staff Writer

"Nothing has stopped the Marne Division. In the finest traditions of this great division they have written history, and they are going to keep on writing it," said the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas E. White, during a press conference at Marne Gardens.

White visited the post to see the 3d Infantry Division (Mech.) rear detachment and Family Readiness Group Thursday and Friday. He spent time with soldiers and spouses while touring Fort Stewart.

The 3rd ID (Mech.) has been absolutely magnificent and everyone should be very proud of them, White said.

During the two-day tour, White had numerous opportunities to speak to soldiers.

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Sgt. Reba Critser

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White gives a pep talk to 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment National Guardsmen, at Hunter Army Airfield's departure/arrival air control group building April 3.

Bush: Dead or alive, Saddam losing grip on Iraqi people

Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday he doesn't know whether Saddam Hussein survived a Monday American bombing. But, dead or alive, the Iraqi dictator is loosening his vise-grip on the people of Iraq.

A U.S. Central Command spokesman in Qatar said Tuesday that coalition forces had targeted "senior leaders" of the Iraqi regime in a bomb attack in the Baghdad suburb of al Mansour. Officials had nothing to add on the success of that mission.

"The only thing I know is (Hussein's) losing power," Bush said in

remarks he made with British Prime Minister Tony Blair following a summit in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The president said Hussein's grip around the Iraqi people's throats is being loosened. "I can't tell you if all 10 fingers are off the throat (of the Iraqi people), but finger by finger, it's coming off," he said.

Bush said he and Blair discussed Iraq's future "beyond war and beyond tyranny."

"So much of our discussion today has focused on how we continue to get vital supplies of food, water and medicines to them, and how we help the process of transition to the day when

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Weather Forecast

FRI	High 68°	Low 45°
SAT	High 74°	Low 51°
SUN	High 79°	Low 55°

Raiders take Saddam International



Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

The U.S. bombing and artillery campaign on Baghdad International Airport lasted for three days. The metal shell is all that remains of a plane that fell victim to air strikes April 1 to 3. There were no occupants aboard.

1st BCT battles takes control of airport from Republican Guard

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

50th PAD, Traveling with 1st BCT, 3ID

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 1st Brigade Combat Team ended a 72-hour assault north Thursday with the seizure of Saddam International Airport.

Led by C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 3-69 breached the southern wall of the airport following a two-day bombardment from Air Force bombers, and Army rockets and artillery of key targets in and around the area.

"We made it into the airfield virtually unscathed," said Col. William Grimsley, 1st BCT commander. "It wasn't until daybreak that we had enemy engaging us."

The Raiders began their assault April 2 when they pushed past the Karbala Gap and seized a bridge crossing the Euphrates River at Yasin al khudayr.

After refueling and resupplying throughout the night, the 1st BCT rolled north Thursday morning under the cover of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems and 155-millimeter Howitzer canons.

While traveling through the winding roads and canal system of central Iraq, troops were greeted by hundreds of residents in the town of Yusufiyah, who lined the streets cheering and waving to the passing soldiers.

Not all the locals seemed happy to see the

troops, said Lt. Col. James E. Lackey, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment commander.

"I suspect that some of them were wearing uniforms a couple of days ago," he said.

The first tanks breached the walls of the airfield at approximately 7:30 p.m., following a fight on Highway 1, approaching the entrance to the airfield, with C Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Inf., pitted against a two-company sized element of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

"We got here so fast, we caught (the Republican Guard) while they were still mounted on their vehicles," said Lt. Col. Ernest Marcone, TF 3-69 commander. "We were able to knock out their perimeter security, vehicles and dismounts before breaching the series of walls leading to the airstrip."

"When we got through the walls, there was no illumination and we had no idea where the enemy were. We essentially did a movement-to-contact in the dark — probably the most difficult mission a task force can undertake."

Following the initial fight to get onto the airfield, Grimsley described the scene at the airfield as "eerie," because there were no signs of the enemy within the perimeter, and all of Baghdad was without power. The only illumination filling the sky was the burning remains of targets taken out by bombs, rockets and artillery rounds.

Five hundred artillery rounds and 90 rock-

ets were fired in the area in a 12-hour period. Four 2,000-pound bombs were also dropped on the Special Republican Guard's headquarters on the airport's east that night, according to Lackey. Additionally, three Air Force satellite-guided bombs struck barracks and hangars on the airport's northern side.

While TF 3-69 was clearing the runways early the next morning, around 4:30 a.m. the "enemy came alive," according to Grimsley.

A Co., 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment and B Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment attacked a Special Republican Guard compound to the east side of the airfield while C Co., 3rd Bn., 69th Armor and C Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Inf., conducted a simultaneous attack on the west side of the airfield.

"The fighting was vicious for about three hours," Marcone said. "By the end of (the fighting), we killed upwards of 250 Special Republican Guard soldiers, captured 40 and destroyed three tanks, numerous artillery and mortar pieces, and a couple anti-aircraft guns."

One of the Iraqis killed was an SRG brigade commander.

"We captured his personal journal, radio and night vision goggles — the first we've found in the enemy's possession," Marcone said.

Unfortunately, a TF 3-69 soldier lost his life when the element he was traveling with

came under hostile fire and the vehicle he was in drove off the road into a canal, causing him to drown, according to the initial report.

Eight other TF 3-69 soldiers were wounded during the 12 hours of fighting for control of the airport, that has since been renamed Baghdad International Airport by allied forces.

In spite of losses, leaders remain confident that their units and soldiers will prevail in any conflict against Iraq forces.

"There is no force the Iraqis can put up against us that can defeat us," Marcone said.

The highest-ranking soldier in the 3rd Infantry Division agrees.

"When we've gotten into fights, there's been no doubt who's winning those fights," said Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commanding general. "The soldiers have performed magnificently and will continue to do so."

Blount knows this war is still far from over.

"We still have some fighting to do," he said. "I expect the resistance in this area alone to last a few more days."

All agree that the soldiers are doing an outstanding job — before, during and after battles.

"I have great leaders and soldiers who are brave and compassionate when they need to be, regardless of the conditions," Marcone said. "Americans should be proud of their fighting men and women ... I am."



A ball of fire and smoke envelops the evening sky north of Baghdad International Airport Saturday, providing the lone light source for those within the city, south of the Tigris River.



Task Force 3-69 soldiers work in the scorching heat to set up the task force's tactical operations center Saturday at Baghdad International Airport.

Parent University offers "higher education" for moms and dads

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Even though most parents will never be able to fully understand their kids or help them with all their problems, some have definitely earned an "A" for effort.

About 60 parents showed up at Pulaski Elementary in Savannah bright and early Saturday morning to attend Parent University, a series of classes designed to help mothers and fathers get to know their children's needs and behaviors and learn to deal with them in a healthy and productive fashion.

Dave Smith, the Directorate of Community Activities and Services' School Liaison Officer for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, said the University was founded by Michael O'Neil, and first organized by parents to help understand their kids and get a better idea of what was going on with them at school.

"As time went on," said Smith, "they saw that there was a need for more classes geared toward parents' needs, such as finances and stress management."

Vanessa Williams, a parent of five who has been attending Parent University for four years, said, "You learn a lot of information you didn't know. It really helps you to raise kids."

One of the classes Williams attended was about discipline and unruly children, and was taught by Linda Heywood.

Consistency is a key to discipline, said Heywood. Parents



Pfc. Emily Danial

Dave Smith, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield school liaison officer, addresses parents to inform them about the classes they will be attending throughout the day.

need to provide unchanging standards if they want their children to respect their authority.

She said if kids know their parents will stand firm on the consequences of set rules, they are less likely to challenge their authority.

Questions from parents were welcomed at all times during the session, turning it into more of a discussion than a lecture.

Williams pointed out that the University's focus was not only on what individuals could learn from the instructors of the classes, but on what parents could learn from each other through their involvement in the classes.

"I think it's a great place to go to learn about kids," she said, "but it's also a place where we can come together with other mothers and get different perspectives and ideas."

"We try to encourage parents to ask questions, to interact," said Smith.

He said one factor that allowed so many parents to come together at the University was its location at Pulaski Elementary.

"That made it in a central location for the community, rather than having it on post," he said. "We're trying to eliminate any obstacles that might be in the way of parents' attendance."

Other ways of eliminating obstacles included free childcare for "students," open registration and a free lunch, supplied by Barnes Restaurants.

Other classes offered at the University deal with community resources, helping prepare children for pre-k and kindergarten, preparing children for standardized tests, and dealing with homework stress.

"This is a grass roots organization," said Smith. "We want to encourage parents to be a part of it."

"It gives me strength," said Williams. She added "Join Parent University!"

And may you graduate with honors.



Pfc. Emily Danial

Linda Heywood, one of the "professors" of Parent University, teaches a class on discipline and how to deal with difficult children's behavior in the home.

For more information about Parent University, call (912) 767-6533/6071.

Multi-component unit preps to team up while deployed

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Active duty and Reserve soldiers of the 416th Transportation Company at Hunter Army Airfield have only worked together as a multi-component unit a couple of times in the past few years, but now they're gearing up and getting ready to do just that.

The Reserve component of the unit was called to active duty March 22 as part of the partial mobilization authorized by the president, and when it arrived, its active duty battle buddies were already deployed.

Some Reservist soldiers in the unit shared their anticipations about what it would be like to work with their active-duty counterparts.

"It'll probably be awkward at first, but I think they'll eventually see us as part of their unit," said Spc. Larry Harrington.

"It depends on how they see Reservists," said Staff Sgt. Savoy Norton.

Staff Sgt. Jerome Blackman reaffirmed Norton's point, saying, "We drill one weekend a month, they're here 24 hours a day, seven days a week ... a lot of young soldiers see the Reserves as college money."

The unit has four platoons, three of which are active duty. Even so, there are soldiers in the Reservist platoon who are not strangers to the ways of Regular Army soldiers, and have been using that fact to the advantage of the unit.

"I served eight and a half years on active duty," said Spc. Christie Archer. "I'll be able to share my experiences."

Sgt. Barry Johnson, the unit's non-commissioned officer in charge of

training who holds a dual status between the two components, said he was optimistic about the two components being able to disregard their differences to accomplish their mission — namely, transporting cargo necessary for different operations.

"416th is an entity," he said. "You got good people on both sides. The reservists are thriving ... the majority of them are prior (active duty), so they just need a chance to get into it."

He said the newly arriving Reservists have seemed to adjust well to their change of assignment.

"They like it," he said, "but as with any system, it has issues it needs to work out. (The system) has run well so far, and now it's starting to run even better."

The uniqueness of 416th's situation has provided the unit with a different type of challenge than others, as many of its soldiers are only mildly acquainted with each other and still must work together as a team, getting to know one another along the way.

Archer said the two components have trained together before, but as the Reservists drill on weekends when the rest of the unit is off duty, they have rarely seen each other, except for during her component's annual two-week training.

"If 416th has port operations, we do that with them," she said. "If they go to the field, we go with them, but it depends on what's going on."

Despite these obstacles, though, the unit appears to be up to the challenge, according to Johnson.

"416th is an overall good company," he said. "We've got a job to do, let's do the job."

Archer added, "We're ready to go."

Volunteer of the Year

Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer



Spc. Casandra Bolton

On Friday, the Army Community Service held an award ceremony to recognize the volunteers who have made huge contributions in 2002.

The combined contributions of the volunteers at Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart totaled 6,982 hours, which saved the post \$85,180 in 2002.

Lucia W. Braxton, Chief of ACS, announced the recipients of the awards and they were presented with a certificate or a plaque, a flower and a bag to show that they were appreciated.

Serena Buckner, Volunteer of the Year at Fort Stewart said, "I was surprised. My job coach told me about

Serena Buckner, Volunteer of the year at Fort Stewart.

See VOLUNTEER, Page 16A

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

CG: 3rd ID continues to tighten noose

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III
3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army
Airfield commanding general

Commentary

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) continues to tighten the noose in and around Baghdad, pressing hard for a regime collapse. Our ability to stay on the offense and maintain the initiative while defeating Iraqi Republican Guard and paramilitary forces demonstrates to the Iraqi people that their formerly oppressive government is no longer in charge. We are now hitting at the very heart of Saddam Hussein's power in downtown Baghdad — his palaces, ministries and personal icons — all symbols of his repressive regime. While it is difficult to predict when the end will come, it is clear that the regime is on the brink. The Iraqi people have begun celebrating in the streets and jubilantly greeting coalition forces. They are beginning to understand we are here to stay and Saddam can no longer terrorize them.

Our success has not come without great sacrifice. The coalition forces have suffered casualties during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Marne soldiers and their families have been among those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It saddens me when we lose a soldier under any condition. On behalf of the entire division, my condolences go out to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives in defense of freedom. We continue to pray for our injured soldiers so that they may recover fully.

After two weeks of hard fighting across the harsh desert of southern Iraq, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) forces led by the 1st Brigade Combat Team entered Baghdad International Airport (formerly known as Saddam International) in the early morning hours of April 3. The surprise of our advance was evident as the tarmac was quiet and calm. The silence was soon broken and the importance of the airfield as a symbol of the regime became plain when Iraqi forces counter-attacked. As has been the case since we left Kuwait, Marne soldiers gave no ground and defeated the forces thoroughly with the combined affects of ground forces, artillery and close air support.

We have used the foothold of the airport to push in and around downtown Iraq effectively cordoning off all major routes. The 3rd BCT finished the isolation of the city in our sector Sunday. The Hammer Brigade crossed the Euphrates River from north of Karbala,

moving northwest around the city defeating more than a battalion of Republican Guard and destroying extensive quantities of military equipment and materiel. We have isolated Baghdad from the Tigris River in the north, counter-clockwise to the Tigris in the south. We wait for the Marines to complete their tough fight up the Tigris and link up with us, effectively putting a stranglehold on the city.

After the Cordon was complete, the 2nd BCT moved downtown Monday into the heart of Baghdad to press the initiative and continue pressure on Saddam's regime. There was fierce fighting with Saddam's Special Republican Guard and civilian-attired paramilitaries. They were repulsed handily. To demonstrate that Saddam and his regime were no longer in control, The Spartan Brigade entered two of his presidential palaces in the downtown, established positions on the VIP parade ground where Iraqi forces have marched, and blasted down a prominent statue of Saddam at a nearby pavilion. We have more than a foothold and we have no plans to leave.

The Raider Brigade, Hammer Brigade and 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry continue to strengthen their gains by systematically searching the areas under their control. They have found and destroyed large amounts of abandoned equipment, several huge caches of explosives, and eliminated small pockets of resistance.

Our control of Baghdad, came after a lightning strike northward from positions in south-central Iraq near the town of Al Najaf. Contrary to popular belief, we were not bogged down in this position, nor were we undersupplied. It had been our plan all along to stop at this point and consolidate our forces after our initial 250-mile thrust across the Kuwait border. It was a maneuver that was unprecedented in its distance, size and time to accomplish it.

What did slow us down was a three-day sandstorm that was of near biblical proportions. When the weather subsided our logisticians at the battalions, with DISCOM and with the 24th Corps Support Group, worked hard to resupply the line. They do not often get the limelight that the frontline does. But they

work extremely hard supplying the line and are just as susceptible to the dangers of combat as demonstrated by the casualties among our service support soldiers.

One of our decisive capabilities has been accurate, timely and extremely effective fire support. The cannons and rockets of Marne Thunder have been firing nearly nonstop, around-the-clock. Radar and counter-battery fire have silenced any attempt of the Iraqis to use their artillery systems effectively against us. The 15th Air Support Operations Squadron has stacked close air support overhead often reducing targets to nothing more than minimal resistance.

Our Aviation Brigade has been second-to-none. While other helicopter aviation within V Corps was grounded or indecisive about flying, our aviation battalions have been a dependable force. From the time we crossed into Iraq, through current operations around Baghdad, they have been a formidable attack helicopter and general support force.

The separate battalions have provided outstanding force enhancement to the division. The 123rd Signal Battalion has kept pace with our unprecedented advancement enabling us to talk over great distances without a break in communication. The 3rd Military Police Battalion has kept the military routes open and has treated enemy prisoners with dignity and compassion. The 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion has provided outstanding intelligence analysis with the innovative use of signal and human intelligence sources from the tactical and strategic level. Our air defenders from 1st Bn., 3rd Air Defense Artillery defeated the air threat provided additional assistance shoring up our logistical supply lines.

The soldiers of the Marne Division have been absolutely professional and extraordinarily disciplined in the execution of their mission. They have taken part in truly historic operations to liberate an oppressed people and rid the region of a terrorist with weapons of mass destruction. The outpouring of support for our mission from families, friends and communities has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. I am extremely proud to be the commander of this great division. While our mission hasn't ended yet, we will continue to conduct our Nation's business as safely as possible and hope to bring everyone home soon.

"Rock of the Marne"



Maj. Ben. Buford C. Blount, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commander, contemplates movement activities north, late in the evening March 30 to advance against Republican Guard units the next day.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What do you believe is the best way to discipline children?

"On occasion you should be able to spank them without abusing them."

Ronald Ellis, Retired Air Force



"Explaining what they did wrong and why it is wrong."

Sgt. Frank Atwood, HHC, 1st Brigade, 3rd ID



"Set a good example and educate them when they are young."

Sgt. Kevin Kane 123 Signal Battalion



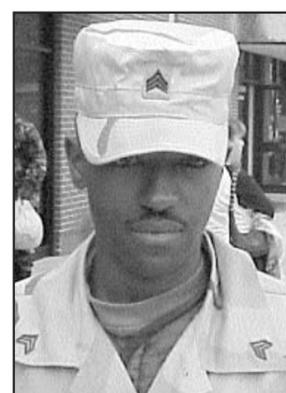
"Time-out to think what they have done and take away activities they like."

Spc. Luedith Weathersby 801st CSA



"Create respect as a parent."

Laura Slack Family member



"Talk to them." Sgt. Ervin Holmes B Co., 122nd Eng. Bn.

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Ticks are back, ready to attack

Prepare to avoid these pests

Laurie Kemp

Winn Public Affairs Officer

It's spring again. The trees are green, flowers are blooming and children, like ticks, are starting to play outdoors.

Primarily considered just a springtime pest, it is important to protect against ticks because there is the potential to contract Lyme disease.

According to Capt. Robert G. Lowen, Installation Entomologist, not all ticks can spread Lyme disease. Only the black-legged, or deer tick, can carry the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lyme disease is caused by the bite of infected ticks that carry the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. These bacteria cause more than 16,000 infections in the United States each year.

While Lyme disease is easy to test for and treat, Lowen said, it could have serious side effects if left untreated.

"Sometimes people just seem to have a fever or flu-like symptoms, other times a

bull's-eye rash forms and joint pain follows," Lowen said. In the worst cases, the disease spreads throughout the body and can cause inflammation of the heart or create pain that seems to move from joint to joint.

"The tick has to latch onto you for about 36 hours before it can transfer the disease so don't panic if you notice a tick on you," Lowen said.

"Simply take a pair of good tweezers and start pulling, slowly and steadily, from as close to the head of the tick as possible," he said.

Lowen warns that pulling too fast could result in leaving the head in the skin which could cause a minor infection. If this is the case, he recommends seeking non-emergent medical help.

Once the tick is removed, wrap it in adhesive tape, burn it or flush it down the toilet, Lowen said.

Protection is the best prevention of the disease, Lowen said. He recommends wearing insect repellent and long sleeves and pants when going through brush or tall grass areas. He also recommends checking waistbands,



shirt cuffs and sock lines for ticks.

For more information about Lyme disease, talk to your healthcare provider or check out the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

Tips to avoid ticks

- **Avoid brush areas and tall grass**
- **Wear long pants and sleeves if you will be in brush or tall grass areas**
- **Apply insect repellent**
- **Get rid of brush and woodpiles around your yard**
- **Check around waistbands, shirt cuffs and sock lines for ticks**
- **Remember to check yourself for ticks anytime you have been outside**
- **Don't forget to check your pets**

2nd Bde Doc keeps soldiers in stitches



Spc. Maston T. Lowery

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

50th PAD

SOUTHERN IRAQ — When it's time to do his rounds, Doc Spartan doesn't hop in his Beemer and commute to his private practice in the 'burbs ...

He steps out of the Humvee that serves as his office, bedroom, and clinic, smiles and walks among 2nd Brigade Combat Team soldiers in the middle of war in Iraq.

He reacts to medical emergencies, makes sure soldiers are drinking enough water, changes field dressings, and dishes out equal doses of Doxycycline and humor.

"It's the only job where you can stab people and they say 'Thank you,'" 2nd BCT Surgeon Doctor (Capt.) Robert Meadows from Hinesville, Georgia, explained with a grin.

"I had Cox in stitches, even though I didn't put any stitches in him," Meadows said of his cot-side manner with Sgt. Brian Cox, a B Battery, 1st battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery soldier from Cheswick, Pa., who suffered mortar wounds at Objective Rams near the Iraqi village of An Najaf.

"There's a time to be serious and there's a time not to be. A lot of people are way too serious. If you can't laugh at yourself — who can you laugh at," Doc said of his way with patients.

He's been in the Army 18 years. He spent his first 10 years as an Infantryman, but said he knew since junior high school that he was going to be a doctor.

"I always volunteered in hospitals — it

just took me longer to get there than I thought it would," Meadows said of his decision to become a doctor.

He became an Army doctor for many reasons. One reason was his wife was in the service, and he said the second was, "I had all that time invested in the Army, and I liked it."

Another reason he said he became a doctor was to take care of soldiers' family members. "I could relate to family members, having sent my wife off to the Gulf War. I know the frustration of the medical care systems — my wife's dad is retired Army."

He said his wife helped him decide too. "She's always been smarter than me."

In addition to treating soldier's physical injuries, Spartan Doc acts as a field psychologist, dishing out coping strategies such as his three rules for surviving the Army:

1. Wherever you are sucks. 2. Wherever you're going is better, and 3. Wherever you've been was great; "So you might as well enjoy where you are now," ... because eventually you will look back on it as having been great.

When the casualties come in, or it's time for him to go to a casualty, it's time for the Spartan Doc to get serious. He wears a medical load-bearing vest, filled with everything he needs to combat any injuries he might find. "What am I going to need, what am I going to see when I get there," are the thoughts he said run through his mind when he prepares to treat a casualty.

"I just make sure I grab the stuff I'm going to need."

He said one of the hardest decisions he makes on the battlefield is whether or not to call in a medical evacuation helicopter.

"You don't want to hold on to a soldier above your level (of medical assistance), or who could deteriorate. You have to weigh the advantages of getting a patient to a better qualified doctor with risking a helicopter crew (flying into a dangerous area) or taking them from a more seriously wounded casualty."

Spartan Doc explained an Army Doctor's job. "It's scary, people can die. It gets the adrenaline pumping — like being mortared," he said, scanning the horizon for incoming bombs. "You've got to stay calm and remember your training — just like any job in the Army."

He said he's glad to be in Iraq. "If you're an Army doc, there's no place you'd rather be than right here. We're changing the face of a region. We're going into a foreign country and establishing a new government — a government that helps people."

His own coping strategy is, "I just roll with the situation, try to see the best or humorous side of the situation. Things are rarely totally bad. Someone can be tired or scared — sometimes you have to remind him that it could be worse."

He said he's terrible at making jokes, but "They say laughter is the best medicine. I'm not sure that's true, but it can distract (wounded soldiers) for awhile."

Spartan Doc, Capt. Robert Meadows, changes Sgt. Brian Cox's dressing March 27 in the Iraqi Desert. Cox received the wound at Objective Rams, near the town of An Najaf three days earlier from Al Kut fighters.

Medics don't discriminate

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

50th PAD

SOUTHERN IRAQ — One of the ironies of current American Wars is medics treat more enemy casualties than their own. 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers are quick on the draw, but even quicker to pick up a wounded enemy and take him to a medic for care once the bullets have landed.

Medics don't discriminate. "Casualties come in from the same place. Soldiers bring them in. The same people trying to kill each other wind up in the same (medical) tent," said 26th Forward Support Battalion Surgeon Doctor (Capt.) Andrew Doyle from Silver Spring, Md.

2nd BCT Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick Ratigan, a native of upstate New York, said, "They treat 10 enemy soldiers to one of ours. The docs and medics treat them just like our soldiers. All life is sacred. Even if it is the enemy, it's still a valuable, sacred life."

1st Lt. Autumn Leveridge, 555th Forward Support Team executive officer from Brazoria, Texas, said the first casualty treated at the Objective Saints Forward Support Team facility was an enemy soldier — "Just a casualty, just a patient like anybody else. Who are we to judge what they do to us," she asked. "It's a patient — not an Iraqi or an American, just a patient. By the time we get them in, they're stripped down anyway, and a body is a body is a body."

Spc. Breezi Aguilar, a C Co., 26th FSB medic from Melbourne, Fla., has been treating American and Iraqi casualties for weeks. The first Iraqis she treated were civilians.

"They were just innocent bystanders," she explained. "After yesterday's round, (on the 2nd Brigade Combat Team tactical operations center) for a second I had doubts, but they aren't all fighting because they want to."

"We just treat them humanely. This is our job — if we don't do it, no one will do it for us."

She said she's seen American infantrymen and enemy soldiers being treated in the same medical tent and wonders how they must feel. "We can't discriminate, there's no room for that."

Grenades won't stop soldiers from helping

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

50th PAD

AL MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq — Spartan Civil Affairs soldiers, Psychological Operations soldiers and the Spartan Doc drove into Al Mahmudiyah, near Objective Spartans Monday to help an Iraqi hospital and the Ministry of Sanitation.

They had a grenade thrown at them by someone in the crowd that had formed while they were trying to help. The grenade went off in the air. It sounded like a gunshot — it was a dud. The soldiers dispersed, but continued their mission at Rahshib, the next town over.

They visited the hospital in the first town to have a face-to-face meeting between an Iraqi and an American doctor — 2nd Brigade Combat Team Surgeon Doctor (Capt.) Robert Meadows from Hinesville, Ga., to build trust, and to deliver medical supplies. They visited the Department of Sanitation to help the town turn its water back on.

Capt. Major Bowen, the 422nd Civil Affairs team leader from Raleigh, N.C., wrote the Iraqi doctors passes to get to their dead and wounded. "We want to let them know they can use their ambulances, because they were getting stopped at check points."

The soldiers were soon told to leave the hospital. "There's still a lot of Baath party control — they don't want us helping," Bowen said. Contact between doctors was made, medical supplies were dropped off, so Bowen said he considered the hospital mission successful.

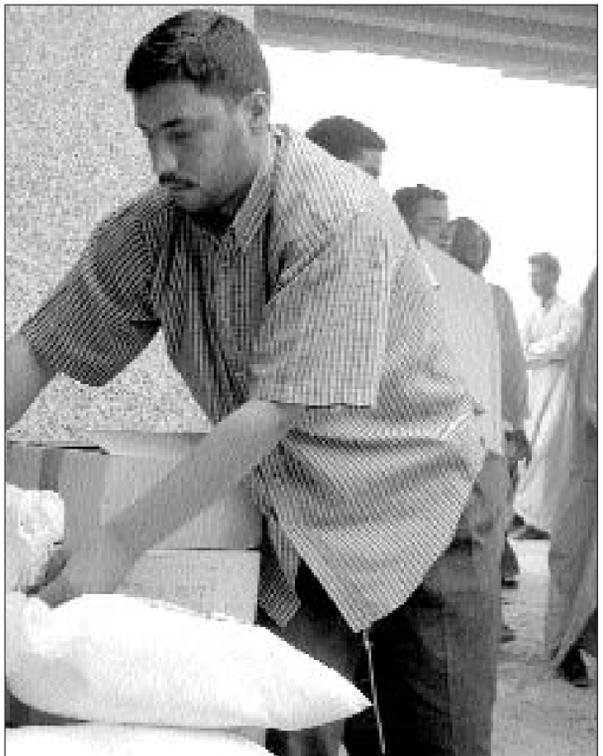
They turned the town's water on the day before, but it was turned off again, so they went to the Ministry of Sanitation after the hospital to talk to the director and write him passes to drive through checkpoints to fix the water system, Bowen said.

The grenade was thrown while the soldiers were at The Ministry of Sanitation, which is across the street from a Baath Party headquarters building. Two men from the building crossed the street and joined the crowd.

"We're sending our guy in to grid (get a grid location of the building). It's now a point of concern," Bowen said.

They continued to try to help the civilians, even after the grenade was thrown, because it wasn't the people who threw it. "The people are good to go, but the Baath Party has such a tight hold over them that they're caught between a rock and a hard place," he said. "Everybody we've talked to is extremely happy we're here, but they know the Baath Party still has control over them. They can't wait for this to be over. Once the fight is over, you'll see more open support."

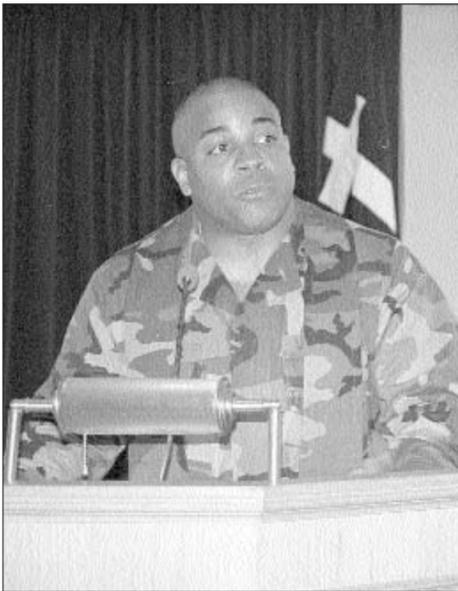
They heard about the direct enemy hit on the 2nd BCT TOC when they arrived in Rahshib to try to get its water turned back on. They immediately headed for the TOC since they had the Spartan Doc with them.



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

An Iraqi civilian stacks medical supplies donated by 2nd BCT soldiers April 7 at a hospital in Al Mahmudiyah.

3220th Chaplains ready to minister



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Chaplain (Maj.) Alvin Miller, Marne Chapel Pastor, leads a sermon.

Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer

Anyone at Fort Stewart on a Sunday can see the parking lot at any one of the chapels on post, filled to the limit with cars and people raising their voices to the heavens.

Soldiers of the 3220th Garrison Support Unit can be found all over post performing many of the tasks that were once performed by active-duty soldiers prior to deployment.

Spiritual well-being has not been left out of the 3220th's mission. It has posted two chaplains and a team of chaplain's assistants for support, holding services, counsel and hospitality for soldiers and family members or anyone seeking spiritual guidance.

The 3220th chaplain office has a first priority of supporting Fort Stewart and soldiers and families of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), said Chaplain (Maj.) Alvin Miller, Marne chapel pastor.

"No. 2 is soldiers and family of the 3220th. The soldiers of the 3220th now become 3rd Infantry, so they're still 1st priority," he said.

Miller joined the Army in 1981, through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and became a chaplain in 1989 when the National

Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc. ordained him. He is serving his second consecutive year on active-duty after having been mobilized Oct. 15, 2001.

He said jocularly, "I'm Pastor of Marne Chapel, the growingest chapel on post!"

Being in the Chaplains Corps is unique among the U.S. Armed Forces, Miller said.

"It's exciting, you're put in a position to be able to help somebody, your country and your god," he said. "You don't get that, except in the Chaplains Corps."

Staff Sgt. Edwin Paraison, chaplain's assistant, shares Miller's enthusiasm.

"If they need us, whatever it may be, the Chaplains Corps will be here to support them, 110 percent," he said.

Paraison is serving his first tour during a full-scale conflict.

"It's a very learning and challenging experience," he said.

The 3220th's other chaplain is Chaplain

(Maj.) Calvin Dixon of the United Presbyterian Church, who was joined the 3220th just prior to mobilization in early January.

Dixon said that the looming conflict in Southwest Asia and the need for spiritual assistance helped him to make a decision about coming on active duty.

"I could've retired this past year, but I was prone on coming in," he said.

When the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) took many of its chaplains, Vale Chapel was in danger of being temporarily shut down.

"They said they were praying for a chaplain when I came along. They said you're the answer to our prayers!" said Dixon.

He threw his hands up and said, "I looked up and I said thank you god for letting me help these people."

Anybody can come into the chaplains office for counsel, even if not of the same faith, said Miller.

"I said thank you god for letting me help these people!"

Chaplain (Maj.) Calvin Dixon
3220th GSU

927th CSB prepare for deployment with EPW training

Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer

Soldiers on patrol spot an enemy combatant setting up explosives along the wire. There is no time to stop and fumble around. These trained soldiers know how to secure an enemy.

The 927th Corps Support Battalion, an Army National Guard unit out of Camp Blanding, Fla. took part in a major training exercise Friday.

Soldiers and officers spent an entire day gaining knowledge from Enemy Prisoner of War training.

Classes included how to confront, approach, search and process EPWs, said Maj. Kim Barrington, executive officer.

EPW training was divided into two separate curriculums, said Maj. Davis Butler, 927th CSB.

The first lesson was based on the fundamentals and proper methods of securing EPWs with a main focus of safety for both soldiers and enemy captives — information may be gathered from them and the Geneva Convention states that enemy prisoners must be treated as humanely as

friendly soldiers.

Following processing, the soldiers got instruction on what to do with EPWs once properly secured — paperwork, etc., he said.

The unit will be deploying to Southwest Asia shortly and greatly requires this type of training, because one of the 927th's priorities is keeping prisoners for combat units, Barrington said.

"We're the forward support battalion and any EPWs will be brought to us."

927th leaders hope to shape their soldiers into skilled captors for any enemies they may come across during deployment.

"Essentially, (we want them) to have confidence with methods of capture," said Butler.

Soldiers of the 927th said that they took a lot away from the exacting training.

"It's informative; something we need to know," said Spc. Carlos Woods, 927th CSB.

Butler also had thoughts about the training.

"It's needed training and they realize how tricky it is and they're having some fun," he said.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Capt. Joe Lewis searches mock enemy prisoner Spc. Carlos Woods, during the 927th Corps Support Battalion's Enemy Prisoner of War training.

422nd Civil Affairs soldiers reach out to Iraqi locals

Spc. Katherine Robinson

50th PAD

SOUTHERN IRAQ — While U.S. forces fight, and moving continually deeper into Iraq, it is important that the local Iraqi civilians stay out of harms way and receive assurance that the U.S. military is here for their good.

The mission of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit out of Greensboro, N.C., is to watch and help care for the civilians on the battlefield.

“Civil Affairs is in the neutral zone,” said Maj. Alvester Coleman the Civil Military Operations Center commander from Winston-Salem, N.C. “There are fighters and there are those who try to make sure noncombatants ... don’t get caught in the crossfire.”

The battalion is broken up among different units in the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and 38 of its personnel are attached to the division rear asset. Those 38 soldiers have a variety of missions involving the locals.

Some of these missions include escorting civilians through military checkpoints and helping them get to their destinations. During one mission, at a checkpoint where 101st

Airborne Division soldiers were guarding access to a military area, the Civil Affairs soldiers assisted in searching civilians who were fleeing from the bombing in their city. One man, who had no identification, was not allowed through, and two, who said they were deserters from the Iraqi Republican Guard, were sent to enemy prisoner of war camps. The rest were escorted through. Another Civil Affairs mission is to coordinate with the Iraqis to find out what kind of resources they have available and use them. On some occasions, soldiers of the 422nd have come across dead bodies. In these cases, the soldiers must get the grid coordinates of the bodies and contact the local mortuary affairs to remove them.

“We want to make sure the relationship between the civilian populace and the military is a good one,” Coleman said. Since many Iraqi soldiers are family members of the locals, having bodies on the side of the road could create a negative impression of what the U.S. is really trying to do.

The Civil Affairs soldiers interact with the civilians on many levels, including bringing doctors to check out their health. They’ve also helped repair some family’s wells

and revisited family’s to make sure they’re all right, and made sure the people could water their crops. They also helped facilitate a contract with one man, who agreed to give the Army several thousand gallons of water in return for the Army purifying the water and leaving some for the man and his family. They’ve even delivered letters from people to their family members.

“Our mission is to ... alleviate human suffering and to make sure the military doesn’t interfere in the civilian’s daily lives — make sure they can still water their fields ... they can still buy food and get home safely,” said Spc. Ashley Beatty, a chaplain’s assistant with the battalion from Memphis, Tenn.

The soldiers enjoy getting the chance to interact with and help the locals in any way possible. “I love it,” Beatty said. “When I see the little kids it touches my heart.”

“We’re all focused on the same thing,” Coleman said. “... helping the (noncombatants) we encounter on the battlefield.”

Beatty said being a mother and a female helps her relate to the women and the children in a way that males are often not able to. During visits, she sometimes sits with the children, holding them or



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Spc. Ashley Beatty, a 422nd CA Bn. chaplain's assistant, braids the hair of a little Iraqi girl March 31, during a CA visit to check up on the girls' family.

saying ‘Hey, are you okay? How are you doing?’

“I hope the rest of this mission continues to go the way it has been,” Beatty added. “... And I get a chance to help as many people as possible.”

“They are very glad we’re here,” she said. “They’re gracious hosts. Every time we come to visit they hug and kiss us, they serve us tea and bread. They thank us for considering them before we even have a chance to help them — for

3rd MP Bn. soldiers process hundreds of prisoners at EPW camps

Spc. Katherine Robinson

50th PAD

SOUTHERN IRAQ — Throughout the war in Iraq, hundreds of enemy soldiers have been captured or surrendered. It is the job of the 3rd Military Police Battalion to travel with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and handle the enemy prisoners of war at every stop.

The battalion sets up a Division Central Collection Point at every new position, and the soldiers dedicate their time to guarding and caring for the EPWs who are interned there.

The MPs build the collection points using concertina wire, pickets and occasionally, engineer support for berms or ditches for latrines, according to Lt. Col. John Huey, 3rd Inf. Div. Provost Marshal and 3rd MP Battalion commander.

In February, the battalion conducted EPW training at

Camp New York, Kuwait. During the training they practiced searching EPWs, collecting them from other units, inprocessing them and segregating them at the DCCP.

Now as the war in Iraq progresses farther north, running EPW camps is no longer a training mission, and soldiers have to do it smoothly and efficiently.

EPWs who are dropped off at the camp, start by going to a reception team, who searches them for weapons and contraband, then move on to a consolidated holding area, an inprocessing area — where they are given food water and blankets — and a segregated holding area, according to Master Sgt. Tony McGee, the 3rd Inf. Div. Provost Marshal operations sergeant from Florence, S.C. They are separated into groups of officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted soldiers, civilians and females. More than 1,100 EPWs have been processed since the start of the war, he said, although

not more than a few hundred at any one time.

“As we get a couple hundred EPWs we evacuate them (to V Corps holding areas),” McGee said.

As the soldiers become more experienced, the camps run more and more smoothly, he explained.

“It’s a very professional group of military police (and other military occupational specialties) handling these guys. We treat them better than their own do.” The military personnel at the camps include military intelligence specialists, medics, mechanics, communications specialists and members of the criminal investigation division.

The EPWs receive a Meal, Ready to Eat every day, and water from an Iraqi water tanker the MPs confiscated, McGee added. They’re allowed to keep matches and cigarettes, and the MPs even try to avoid giving them MREs with pork products, so the prisoners won’t have to

violate any religious requirements. The prisoners also receive medical treatment if it’s needed, from lifesaving surgery, to headache or cold treatment, McGee said.

“We’ve got a system, and at every camp we’ve been to we get better because we’ve learned something,” he said.

The soldiers have learned that everything has to be systematic, McGee explained. The detainees adjust to a routine that helps facilitate camp operations, Huey added.

For instance, at dinner time, the prisoners have to form lines, get up one at a time, and then leave the area to eat, to avoid confusion.

A sign in Arabic tells prisoners the camp rules, which are also explained to them by interpreters. The sign states clearly that if they try to escape, deadly force is authorized. Even then, if a prisoner entered the exclusion area (where only guards are allowed), they would be told to halt in Arabic and given

three chances before they were engaged, McGee said.

There have been no problems with prisoners attempting to escape or causing trouble, and despite armed guards and double strands of concertina wire, the environment of the DCCP is one of safety and humane treatment for the prisoners, he added.

McGee said at one of the DCCPs, MPs found a warehouse filled with rice and potatoes and other food products. They gave the prisoners their daily MRE, and then for a second meal, Iraqi prisoners were allowed to cook for the other detainees. Most of the prisoners are actually happy to be there because of the treatment they receive, he said.

Manny Khawam, a Department of the Army contractor who serves as a linguist said many of the prisoners claim they didn’t want to fight against American troops at all, but were forced to.

“Most say their families



Spc. Katherine Robinson

A sign in Arabic informs prisoners of the area rules.

have been taken, and brought to Baghdad ... (the Iraqi military says) ‘you fight. If you don’t, we’re going to kill your family.’ This is how they control all of (the soldiers).”

Most of the prisoners want to leave and go to America, Manny said. And because the prisoners are treated so well in the DCCPs, they feel safe.

Raiders push past Karbala



Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

First brigade Combat Team vehicles roll north toward Baghdad amid smoke and clouds following an assault on Iraqi forces April 2 north of the Karbala gap. Led by Task Force 3-69, the 1st BCT traveled and fought for 70 kilometers to bring the 3rd Inf. Div. within 30 kilometers of Iraq.

Task Force 3-69 leads 3ID to outskirts of Baghdad

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich
50th PAD

SOUTH OF BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 1st Brigade Combat Team, led by Task Force 3-69, traveled and fought for 70 kilometers to bring the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) to within 30 kilometers of Baghdad April 2.

The movement, which began at 2 a.m., took 1st BCT through the Karbala gap and across the Euphrates River to a position southwest of Baghdad.

"Any night attack with no illumination is going to be tough; tensions will run high," said Lt. Col. Ernest Marcone, TF 3-69 commander. "The troops were superb."

The first objective was the Karbala gap — an area of land 2 kilometers wide that

stretches from the reservoir west of Karbala, east to the edge of the city.

Shortly before first light, soldiers received small-arms fire from the northern side of the gap from numerous fighting positions.

"After artillery and close-air support eliminated (the Iraqi's) indirect fire capabilities and vehicles, we moved in with infantry dismounts to eliminate the threat," Marcone said.

"The end result was 40 or so (enemy prisoners of war), one of them wounded," he added.

The wounded, an Iraqi regular army soldier, was immediately treated by a TF 3-69 medic when the area was secure. The brigade halted movement 25 kilometers past Karbala to refuel, refit and recon the next objective — a bridge crossing at the Euphrates River.

"The soldiers have been incredible with either little or no sleep the past two days. And all of our equipment made it to this point. It says a lot about our soldiers and maintenance crew that we are fully mission capable."

Capt. Jared Robbins, C Company, 3rd Bn., 69th
Armor commander

"The bridge being safe and intact was crucial to us accomplishing our mission," said Capt. Jared Robbins, C Company, 3rd Bn., 69th Armor commander.

The last bridge 1st BCT had to secure at the Euphrates River, in Kifl, was rigged with explosives and

partially damaged when Iraqi forces detonated it.

This time around, a team from the 11th Engineer Battalion traveled by boat across the Euphrates, checking the underside of the bridge to ensure it wasn't laden with explosives.

"The teamwork by the

engineers was outstanding," Robbins said.

"Their speed and proficiency made it possible for us to cross the bridge in very little time - safely," he added.

The engineers working under the bridge and the security force above were engaged by Iraqi forces on both the north and south sides of the east bank of the river.

"They hit us, all together, with about four or five squads of soldiers," Robbins said. "We took zero friendly casualties."

With the far side of the bridge secure, TF 3-69 was able to cross the bridge and establish an over-watch position, with the remainder of 1st BCT not far behind.

"The soldiers have been incredible with either little or no sleep the past two days," Robbins said.

"And all of our equipment

made it to this point. It says a lot about our soldiers and maintenance crew that we are fully mission capable."

The attack on Karbala and the bridge at the Euphrates River came eight days after the 3rd Infantry Division made an unprecedented two-day movement taking them 300 kilometers into Iraq by March 24 - the fifth day of the ground war.

"This past week in the same location was a drain on the soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas H. King, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment squad leader, before the attack. "We're ready go north, get the job done and head home."

Following the accomplishment April 2's mission, the soldiers of the 1st BCT and 3rd Inf. Div. are one step closer to Baghdad and a ticket home.



A 1st BCT soldier provides security for forces crossing a bridge April 2 at the Euphrates River 25 kilometers south of Baghdad. While checking the bridge for explosives, soldiers with the 11th Eng. Bn. were engaged by Iraqi forces.



(Above) An Iraqi soldier transport and supply truck is engulfed in smoke and flames following a close air support strike April 2 in central Iraq.

(Right) A TF 3-69 medic tends to a wounded Iraqi soldier the morning of April 2 north of the Karbala gap.



Artillery strikes from the 1st BCT on Iraqi positions painted the landscape north and east of the Euphrates River throughout the day April 2.

MEDEVAC company saves lives

Spc. Jacob Boyer

31D (M) PAO

JALIBAH, Iraq, — Within its first 30 hours at an airstrip near Jalibah, seven helicopters from the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) flew 19 missions to carry wounded soldiers to aid stations throughout southern Iraq and northern Kuwait.

The unit's 17 helicopters are attached to the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) for operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Capt. Brian Box, executive officer, 507th Med. Co. (AA). The company is part of the 19th Corps Support Command, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

"We do medical evacuation for critically wounded or medically urgent soldiers from the battlefield," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey A. Hill, forward support medical evacuation team leader. "We also do medical re-supply if time permits, and are prepared to hoist vehicles out of minefields if necessary."

In their first 19 missions from Jalibah, the crews transported 20 U.S. soldiers, three EPWs and a civilian to forward surgical teams, ambulance exchange points or the 86th Combat Support Hospital, said Box, a Kingwood,

Texas, native.

Box said most of the soldiers picked up were not injured in combat. "80 to 85 percent" of the casualties were hurt in traffic accidents as a mass of troops moved north into Iraq.

"I'm not surprised so many have been hurt in accidents," he said. "My commander said last time, a lot of casualties were either EPWs or vehicle-related accidents. When you're moving as many vehicles as we are, people get tired, it's dark and it's dusty. Driving out here is a challenge."

Each brigade combat team has a forward support medical evacuation team, consisting of three UH-60 Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopters, to support it, he said. The remaining helicopters are with 4th Brigade and augment the teams with the brigades.

Two of the crews with 4th Brigade are always ready to go up at a moment's notice, and the remaining crews are ready to fly missions if the on-shift helicopters are gone, said Hill, a Brookfield, Mo., native.

The pilots have been working 12-hour shifts since the operation began, constantly flying out, sometimes into contested areas, to get people to the care they need, Box said.

In addition to transporting injured combatants, the crews also pick up an occasional civilian, he said. A teenage boy with a broken leg was brought to one of the crews by his father and flown to the 86th Combat Support Hospital at Camp Udairi, Kuwait.

If the area they are flying into is contested, the MEDEVAC helicopters are escorted by two AH-64 Apache helicopters from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, said Col. Curtis D. Potts, commander, 4th Brigade.

"The 507th has been doing Herculean work," said Potts, a Skokie, Ill., native. "When I went to bed (March 22) they'd run 10 missions, and they've run almost as many since then. "They're good pilots, and they're dedicated to what they do. Their pilots are always right by the (tactical operations center) waiting for their next mission."

The 507th's crews do not like to hear a mission is coming, because it means somebody is hurt, said 1st Lt. Jason J. Hawk, forward support MEDEVAC team leader. But they know how important the job is.

"We're saving lives," the Tampa, Fla., native said. "That's the most important thing to remember."



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Blackhawks from the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) fly out from an airfield near Jalibah to pick up casualties on the battlefield.

1/3 FARP keeps U.S. helicopters flying north

Spc. Jacob Boyer

31D (M) PAO

JALIBAH, Iraq, — As coalition forces push north toward Baghdad, it is essential they receive the supplies needed to move forward.

Whether it is a tank on the ground or a helicopter in the air, it needs fuel and ammunition in order to keep fighting.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment set up a forward arming and refueling point at an airstrip near Jalibah March 20 to keep Army and Marine helicopters going in support of ground forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We set up a six-point FARP to rearm and refuel 1/3 Aviation's attack helicopters at first," said Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Campbell, FARP noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/3 Aviation. "But in a wartime situation, if any bird comes in, we have to be ready."

In addition to rearming and refueling their battalion's AH-64 Apaches, the soldiers also supported Blackhawks and several Marine aircraft, including Cobras, Hueys and Sea Stallions at the six points they had set up for three days, said the Charleston, S.C., native.

The soldiers have been highly motivated," said Capt. Dan Ostrowski, 3-5 platoon leader, HHC, 1/3 Aviation. "They've had to

learn to fuel three new birds in the last 72 hours. Nobody's ever refueled them, and even in combat, they're all lining up to learn."

"It's fairly simple," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Robinson a petroleum supply specialist with HHC, 1/3 Aviation from Jacksonville, N.C. "With the aircraft we have coming in, it's learning how much fuel it takes and where to hook the fuel line up."

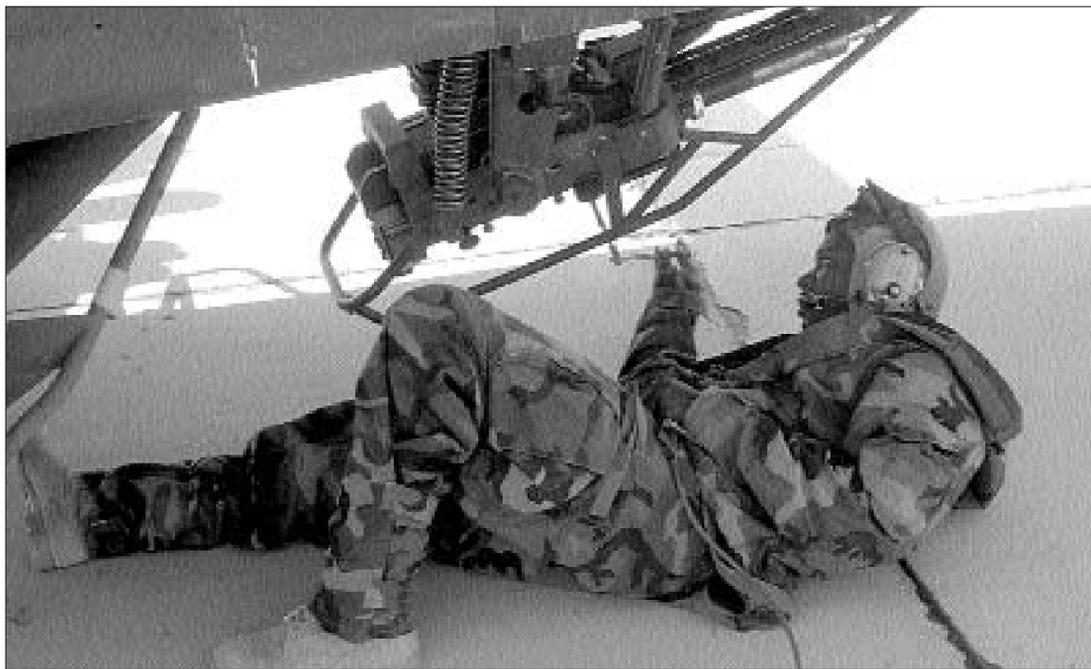
Within their first 72 hours at Jalibah, the FARP's 22 soldiers had supplied U.S. aircraft with 25,800 gallons of aviation fuel, 2,000 rounds of 30 mm ammunition, 120 2.75 inch rockets and 23 Hellfire missiles, said Ostrowski, a Pittsburgh native.

When a helicopter comes in, a radio operator tells the pilot which point to pull into, Campbell said. All of the soldiers have to be ready for an aircraft to come in at any time.

"It's an all-day job, said Pfc. Crystal Blalock, a petroleum supply specialist with HHC, 1/3 Aviation from Chicago.

"You get your rest and everything whenever you get time, because you're on call for when your point gets filled in," she said.

The soldiers woke up at 4 a.m. March 20 to get started on a seven-hour convoy to the site, Ostrowski said. They stayed up until 4 a.m. the next day setting up the point and were awake our hours later to start full operations before 1/3



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Pfc. Gilbert Henderson, makes an adjustment to the 30 mm cannon on an AH-64 Apache helicopter at the FARP being run by HHC, 1/3 Avn. near Jalibah. The FARP supplied more than 2,000 rounds of 30 mm ammunition in its first 72 hours.

Aviation's helicopters arrived at the airfield.

"My soldiers have been doing an outstanding job," Campbell said. "They were up for 24 hours, and got back up ready to perform any mission. This is a superb team."

"The support guys are the unsung

heroes," said Col. Curtis D. Potts, 4th Brigade's commander, who hails from Skokie, Ill. "It's not the sexiest job, and it's hard, heavy work, but they're doing it every time."

Ostrowski said seeing the helicopters coming to the FARP in need

of fuel and ammunition was proof his soldiers were doing their job.

"It makes us feel good when we see the U.S. flag pushing farther north," he said. "We see the pilots come in with empty missile racks, and give them what they need to win the war."

Hellfire: 1/3 Aviation fires first RF missile in combat

Upgraded missile destroys Iraqi command and control posts

Spc. Jacob Boyer

31D (M) PAO

SOUTHERN IRAQ — An AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot fired the first RF Hellfire missile in combat March 20 when B and C Companies, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment undertook their first combat mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Warrant Officer Matt Roe, B Co., 1/3 Aviation, fired the missile, an upgraded version of the Hellfire during a mission to destroy Iraqi observation and command posts near the Kuwaiti border before ground troops moved in, said Col. Curtis D. Potts, commander, 4th Brigade.

The Apaches flew across the border and observed artillery fire on the targets before destroying anything that was left after the initial barrage, said Roe, a Crystal River, Fla., native.

Roe fired the missile at a prefabricated observation post that survived the initial barrage and scored a direct hit, he said.

"It was a quick engagement, and I wanted to destroy it," he said. "I'm definitely happy it hit."

The difference between the RF missile and a typical Hellfire is the RF targets with radar instead of lasers, said Chief Warrant Officer Myke Lewis, aviator, B Co., 1/3 Aviation.

"It's a fire and forget missile," said Lewis, a Winston-Salem, N.C., native. "Once it's fired, it doesn't need to be tracked. It receives its targeting data from the fire control radar on top of the Apache Longbows."

All of the Apaches came back from the mission, and only one experienced minor trouble.

The Apache carrying Lt. Col. Dan Williams, commander, 1/3 Aviation and Chief Warrant Officer David Keshel experienced difficulties after taking fire from the ground and had to temporarily land in Iraq.

After getting the helicopter on the ground, Williams, a Florissant, Colo., native, sent out his coordinates, and other Apaches pulled security while Keshel, a Savannah, Ga., native, worked on the problem.

Bradleys and medics from the 1st Brigade Combat Team came to their aid while they were on the ground.

"I'll never forget the Bradley driver reaching out to shake

my hand and all of them making sure we were okay," Williams said.

"It was a real brotherhood thing. I can't say enough about the ground guys. They were there for us just like we'll be there for them."

With the problem fixed, Williams and Keshel were able to fly back to Camp Udairi.

Although the Apache going down forced a change in plans, Potts, a Skokie, Ill., native, said the pilots had previously talked about the possibility and were prepared for the contingency.

"We met last night and talked about contingencies," Potts said. "We talked about a shoot down in particular, and it

worked exactly like we talked about."

Potts said 1st Brigade elements were on the way to Williams before the call was even made.

All of the targeted observation posts were destroyed in the attack, Potts said. "This was a good mission," he said. "We did what we were supposed to do. The O.P.s were cleared out and everybody came back okay."

Williams said that with operations underway, the pilots of 1/3 Aviation are prepared to support the ground forces in every way.

"That was a hell of a way to start a war, but the war is on," he said. "Now our brothers are on the ground, driving 307 miles north to Baghdad, and we need to be there for them."

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 21-year-old female, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Douglas
- **Subject:** Civilian, 45-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, trespassing, defective equipment
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private First Class, 20-year-old female, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Failure to appear
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Civilian, 29-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield
- **Subject:** Civilian, 27-year-old female
- **Charges:** Wrongful appropriation of funds
- **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield
- **Subject:** Civilian, 42-year-old male
- **Charges:** Larceny of private property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private First Class, 19-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Improper left turn, failure to obey lawful regulation or order, driving on post suspension
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 27-year-old female
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, damage to private property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private First Class, 29-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Simple battery
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Civilian, 20-year-old male
- **Charges:** Possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute

- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 21-year-old female
- **Charges:** Possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Master Sergeant, 43-year-old female, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, children playing in streets
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Civilian, 43-year-old male
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old female
- **Charges:** Improper parking
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving while license revoked
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 20-year-old female
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 25-year-old female
- **Charges:** Improper passing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 25-year-old male
- **Charges:** Defective turn signals
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 22-year-old female
- **Charges:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 29-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 74/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Tampa, Fla.
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
- **Charges:** Improper lane change
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 39-year-old female
- **Charges:** Failure to use due care
- **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield

Courts-Martial

The following cases were tried by special courts-martial or general courts martial at Fort Stewart with the following results:

Special Courts-Martial

United States v. Spc. Aaron P. Morgan, C Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. On April 7, the military judge found Spc. Morgan guilty of False official statement and wrongful appropriation. The military judge sentenced Spc. Morgan to: be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 45 days and a bad-conduct discharge.

General Courts-Martial

United States v. Spc. August B. Miller, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 26th

Forward Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Georgia. On Feb. 28, March 24 and April 1, the military judge found Spc. Miller guilty of Adultery, indecent acts with a child and attempted indecent acts with a child. The military judge sentenced Spc. Miller to: be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for nine years and a dishonorable discharge.

United States v. Spc. Thomas R. Lipscomb, A Compnay, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, Fort Stewart, Georgia. On April 2, the military judge found Spc. Lipscomb guilty of AWOL, Larceny, wrongful appropriation, housebreaking and desertion; and not guilty of larceny, housebreaking, drunk on duty and false swearing. The military judge sentenced Spc. Lipscomb to: be reduced to the grade of E-1, total forfeitures of all pay and allowances, confinement for four years and a bad-conduct discharge.

BUSH

from page 1A

Iraq is governed by the Iraqi people for the Iraqi people," Blair said.

Both leaders spoke of Iraq's political future. American officials have described at length how coalition military leaders will govern Iraq for a brief time until an interim Iraqi government can be formed. Bush and Blair today reiterated that coalition control will be short-lived.

"We'll move as quickly as possible to place governmental responsibilities under the control of an interim authority composed of Iraqis from both inside and outside the country," Bush said.

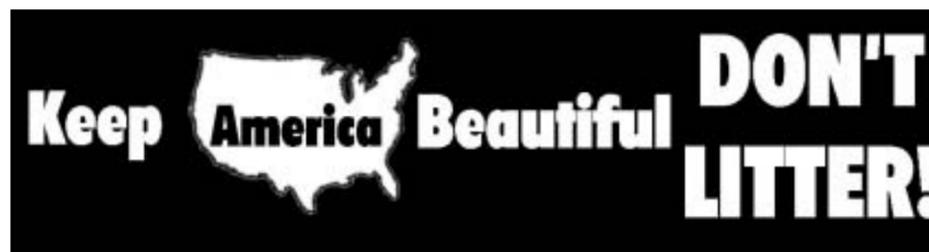
Iraqi expatriates living in the United States and other Western countries have worked closely with coalition leaders to lay the groundwork for an interim post-war government.

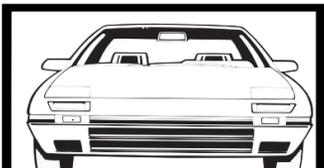
Bush and Blair said coalition forces won't have a permanent presence in Iraq.

"Our forces will not stay in Iraq a day longer than necessary," Blair said. "We will take on the legal and moral obligations that will fall to us as the forces on the ground to stabilize the country, to keep the basic services going, to protect civilian life."

He added that coalition control will transition to an interim government. From there, it will move to "a truly representative government which respects human rights and the rule of law, which spends Iraq's wealth not on palaces and weapons of mass destruction but on the well-being (and) prosperity of the people of Iraq."

Bush noted that the United Nations will have a "vital role" in providing humanitarian assistance and creating an interim government, but the Iraqi people are ultimately responsible for deciding who serves in the interim government and what form a permanent government takes.





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Casualty update

The Department of Defense announced Tuesday the identity of five 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers killed in action in central Iraq.

Twenty four division soldiers have been killed in combat-related incidents during the war. The next of kin have been notified. No further information is available locally.

They are:
Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, age 34, of Apollo, Pa., was killed in action April 5, in central Iraq. Booker was assigned to 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.).

Pfc. Gregory P. Huxley, Jr., age 19, of Forestport, N.Y., was killed in action April 6, in central Iraq. Huxley was assigned to Company B, 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.).

Staff Sgt. Lincoln D. Hollinsaid, age 27, Malden, Ill.,

was killed in action April 7, in central Iraq. Hollinsaid was assigned to Co. B, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.).

2nd Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor, age 24, of Clifton, Va., was killed in action April 7, in central Iraq. Kaylor was assigned to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.).

Pfc. Anthony S. Miller, age 19, of San Antonio, Texas, was killed in action April 7, in central Iraq. Miller was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2nd Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.).

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield commanders, soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of soldiers stationed here and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.

VOLUNTEER

from page 3A

volunteering, and I just came and started last year in April.”

Braxton said, “This ceremony is good because we get to take the opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to all of the volunteers.”



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Michelle Rice, Volunteer of the year at Hunter.

Sherrell B. Catchings, ACS Volunteer Program Coordinator, started off as a volunteer at Fort Stewart last October and now she is a paid employee. “I have been a military spouse for 19 years, and I have volunteered at every post that I have been to.”

Volunteering helps spouses’ meet new people as well as supporting their soldier.

Doris Clark, relocation coordinator of the ACS who recently transferred to Hunter said, “When women volunteer, it helps them to meet new friends and support their soldier.”

“The ceremony recognizes their hard efforts,” said Clark.

The following are the winners of the certificate of Merit; next to their name is the program they represent:

- Laura K. Arisohn, Family Advocacy Program
- Judith-Anne Cumbus, Relocation Assistance Program
- Angel Dargan, Relocation Assistance Program
- Renee Davie, Mayoral Program

- Stephanie Harvie, Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building and the Family Advocacy Program
 - Jennifer Hatcher, Family Advocacy Program
 - Joshua Kipke, Army Family Team Building
 - Matthew Kipke, Army Family Team Building
 - Zachariah Kipke, Army Family Team Building
 - Dawn Olin, Family Advocacy Program
 - Sunny G. Rose, Outreach Program
 - Debra Sparks, Army Family Action Plan and Army Family Team Building
 - Robin Weber, Army Family Team Building
 - Taleisha Williams, Information and Referral
- Volunteers of Merit:**
- Christie Mullinex (Fort Stewart)
 - Leah Williams (Hunter)
- Volunteers of the Year:**
- Serena Buckner (Fort Stewart)
 - Michelle Rice (Hunter)

VISIT

from page 1A

He thanked the troops for doing such a wonderful job and making the sacrifices they do everyday in support of this global war on terrorism, he said.

“I’ve never seen a better Army than the one we have fielded today,” White said. “I’ve been a part of the Army one way or another since 1963.”

It is the most dedicated, professional, tough, disciplined Army and it wins, he said.

Among the soldiers, the Secretary of the

Army spoke to spouses of the soldiers.

“We make every effort to get information to family members as rapidly as can, but understand we also want to be precise about it,” White said. “We are talking about the well-being of soldiers.”

It’s a great Army that is on the march today, he said. That is no more evident than standing in front of the Rock of the Marne Headquarters here, we should all be proud as Americans for the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Sgt. Reeba Critser, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

At a meeting with Fort Stewart’s, Ga., Family Readiness Group leaders April 3, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White discussed challenges for spouses when their loved ones deploy to support the war on terrorism.



TOC

from page 1A

because the TOC was in an enclosed compound, Wesley said. The TOC soldiers had moved into the compound the day before.

The Spartans lost 16 Humvees and two 1/2 Ton vehicles, six trailers, and miscellaneous gear in the attack, according to Wesley.

Once the smoke cleared, soldiers collected as much gear as they could. They didn’t want the enemy getting their hands on soldiers’ personal and professional belongings, Wesley said.

The battle raged on in Baghdad, still supported by the Spartan TOC — shaken but undaunted.

Brigade Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick Ratigan, a native of upstate New York, said, “It was a tragedy, but think about how much worse it could have been. We lost four good men, but we could have lost 20.”

Division Mental Health arrived at the TOC to see how the soldiers were feeling. Sgt. Luke Henry, a DMH soldier from Hinesville, Ga., said, “I think, under the circumstances,

they’re handling it very well. They’re doing better than my training taught me to expect. (coping) is never easy, but they’re doing it.”

Pvt. 1st Class David Sirabella, a 2nd BCT Headquarters and Headquarters Command soldier from Winthrop, Maine, was friends with the two soldiers who died. He was talking with them minutes before the missile hit. “It shouldn’t have happened; they were good people,” he said.



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

The Spartan TOC, hit by an enemy missile April 7.

LIFE & TIMES

B SECTION

On Post

Spouses' night out

A Spouses' Night Out will be held 6 to 10 p.m., Friday at Club Stewart's Patriot Corner. There will be line dancing and ballroom dancing lessons at 7:30 p.m.

There will also be board games, music, snacks, cards and a beverage station. Child care is available, call CYC at 767-3203 for child care requirements.

Tax assistance available

Get free tax assistance at the Marne Tax Assistance Center. The center is open 9 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Building 9611 in the National Guard Training Center area. Call 767-3909 for more information.

Toastmasters

Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your communication skills.

The Dog-Faced Soldiers Toastmasters International Club meets noon every second and fourth Wednesday at Club Stewart and is open to everyone. For more information, call 767-0383 or email at Bowenja@stewart.army.mil.

Education Center hours

The Main Education Center and 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Centers, Buildings 130 and 1237 have expanded their hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours until no longer needed.

Computer access will be available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Center, Building 1237, will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Facility closed

The Libby Auto Craft, at Fort Stewart, will be closed for staff training, April 14.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for Special Olympics, April 18. To sign up, call 767-5058, 767-5059 or show up at 7:30 a.m. at the Fort Stewart Quick Track on the day of the event. Volunteer orientation will be at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed the entire day to escort children to their events or for part of the day as cheerleaders for athletes. The games end about 3 p.m. Wearing walking shorts and tee-shirt or sweatshirt is recommended.

Off Post

Parent's night out

Enjoy a night out while your kids have fun at the YMCA 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays and every 2nd and 4th Saturday. Rates per child, per hour are E-1 through E-4, \$1; E-5 through E-6, \$1.25 and all others, \$1.50.

Children may bring swimsuits. Registration is required and may be completed when children are dropped off.

Historic Marker Dedication

The Historic Marker Dedication of the 16.5 Mile Historic Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Corridor has been rescheduled due to flooding to 11 a.m., May 3 at the SOC Museum and Nature Center.

There will be a arts, crafts and baked goods sale and a Bull Roast Celebration from noon to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 748-8068.

To publish a brief in *The Frontline*, call 767-3440 or fax us at 767-5979. Deadline for briefs is Friday at noon.

CYS kicks off Month of Military Child

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Staff Writer

The Child Youth Services here held a ceremony and parade April 1 to kick off the Month of the Military Child.

The children lined up on the road in front of the Child Development Center and walked around in a parade led by members of the Bradwell Institute Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Afterwards, Linda Heifferon, director of community activities and services, and Dagmar Peguero-Olinger, child youth services coordinator, both spoke to the crowd of children and adults. Heifferon led the crowd in the "The Hokie Pokie."

The festivities came to a close with everyone in attendance dancing to "The Macarena."

"The Month of the Military Child is a month we honor children every-

where," said Becky Pringle, child development center director. "The month is celebrated through different activities."

April 18 is wheels day, she said. Vehicles from the community park at the CDC to give the children a chance to see vehicles of different sizes.

There will be a spring dance on April 25.

"This is where children and parents get together and have fun," she said.

April 30 is a family sports day and picnic, she said.

These activities help the children be themselves, she said.

The Month of the Military child has been going on nation-wide for more than 13 years, Pringle said.

Children are our future and it is important to help mold and shape them for success in life, she said. Hopefully, they make our country proud.



Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

(Above) Linda Heifferon dances "The Macarena." (Left) Children from the Child Development Center participate in the parade.

Spouses of retired military offer encouragement

Casey B. Craig

Volunteer

Glancing out the window, trying to catch sight of the mailman as he delivers the latest batch of mail from overseas.

Watching television or reading the newspaper scouring for any news about your soldier's unit and wondering where on that map they might be. Worrying if anti-war protestors will still be

marching in the streets when your spouse comes home.

Trying to keep life as normal as possible for your children while their other parent is far away facing danger.

Discovering it is tough to be strong and hold everything together when sometimes you feel like you are crumbling inside and cannot take another day like this and the ones before.

Such was life of the military spouse in the 1960's during Vietnam.

And is for some spouses at Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and most military posts this spring.

Two weeks into the Iraqi war, it was perfect timing for the Division Chaplains and 2nd Brigade's

Prayer Group to bring in a team of women married to active duty soldiers or whose husband's are now retired military, to share how they fought loneliness and coped as single parents while their spouse was far away fulfilling military commitments.

Wives of Warriors-Connected by Hope, speakers hoped by sharing what worked for them, someone in the audience experiencing now what they had in the past, would glean one suggestion to take home to their family, give some relief to an area of home life or a nugget for themselves to use during the infrequent quiet times.

Ilene Stubbs opened the two-day conference

Friday night at Club Stewart speaking to a group of military spouses about her experience while her husband served in Vietnam.

Stubbs's focus was to get the audience to be able to recognize signs of stress because "realizing you are stressed is 90 percent of the battle," she said.

Signs could range from extreme irritation over minor things, difficulty in sleeping, worry, fatigue, talking to people but not hearing them, to anxiety over making a decision that might not have been overwhelming before.

As she went down the list, more and more heads around the room began to nod in agreement.

Stubbs offered fairly easy solutions to the problems of stress: get organized, good nutrition and simple exercise, pamper yourself, and have a support group of positive friends, among other ideas.

Saturday, Judi Rossi was scheduled to share the ways a marriage can grow through a deployment.

Rossi's husband of 28 years is a retired Army tanker.

Following lunch, Doris Waldrop dealt with a topic on many people's mind, dealing with loneliness.

The afternoon was rounded out by a workshop where attendees could ask more in-depth questions including parenting issues.



Casey B. Craig

Wives attending the conference participate in an activity as part of the introduction to the seminar.

ACS Block Party gets huge turnout in support of Month of Military Child

Spc. Casandra Bolton

372nd MPAD

Children's laughter filled the warm day as people shopped for bargains and indulged in the several activities at the Block Party sponsored by the Army Community Service. The block party offered many different events centered on the military child.

Janet Blanks, a member of the "battle fighters," a team for the American Cancer Society, thought Saturday to be a very essential day to her.

"We have tried to have yard sales in the past, but we were rained out," said Blanks. "Today was a great day."

The ACS offered different activities such as a child walk, a dunking booth, a flea market and even a barbecue that served up hotdogs, chips and soda to all of the participants.

When the big yellow fire truck showed up, children gathered around in "awe." Their eyes opened wide as the ladder was raised.

"I came out here with my niece," said

Evelyn Griffin "I bought a lot of handy things."

At the flea market, Griffin said she found everything from curtains to an outdoor grill.

Griffin wasn't the only one walking around with her arms full of goodies, children were riding newly purchased bikes and some tables were just trying to get rid of their goodies at any means necessary. One man was yelling "any three items for a dollar," and of course that brought lots of attention to his table.

While people continued to shop and mingle, the ACS decided to officially start the day of activities by having someone sing the National Anthem.

Angela D. Stanley, sister-in-law to a deployed soldier, sang the National Anthem. "This is a wonderful event," said Stanley. "Where there is unity there is strength."

The activities started at 9 a.m. and the fun didn't end until 3 p.m. The day turned out to be a huge success for members of the ACS as well as a day of fun for those members of the military community who participated.



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Two young "soldiers" take a break from all of the activities on Saturday at the block party.

Students, teachers and parents show support during ...

Patriotic Day celebration

Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer

Brittin Elementary School held a rally for soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), Friday.

The oldest child in each family and faculty spouses of deployed soldiers placed yellow ribbons over a large "yellow ribbon form."

The celebration, held at 8:45 a.m. was called Patriotic Day and children and faculty donned patriotic red, white and blue clothing.

More than 300 ribbons were placed, in total by the school, as well as a larger ribbon

with red dressing to honor Brittin's Support and Over-watch Units: 4th Battalion, 64th Armor and 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, said Sherry Templeton, principal.

Students and spouses were called up, one-by-one, with the names of their deployed soldier.

"This is a day for us to honor your military family," said Templeton, who also reminded students of the responsibility that they have as children of soldiers.

Participants and spectators said that it was a great experience for the children to have an opportunity to be active in supporting deployed soldiers.



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

(Above) Karrim Rasheed waves an American flag in support of his father, Sgt. Khalil Rasheed, who is currently deployed to the Middle East.

(Below) Quentin Morris, educational aid, and Spc. Michael Winters, school resource officer, staple yellow ribbons to a large "yellow ribbon form."



Brittin Elementary School students raise and cover their hearts as they stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



A student brings up his ribbon to be fixed to a large "yellow ribbon form." Students were called up one-by-one by the names of their deployed sponsor.



Students, teachers and parents came dressed in bright red, white and blue to show support for troops during the Patriotic Day celebration

— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER —

The real beauty of America

Chaplain (Maj.) Alvin E. Miller

Special to The Frontline

As I observed the American soldier in combat over this past week via television, I concluded that other than Jesus Christ, the American soldier is the most precious gift God has given to America. The American soldier is the true hero of this great republic. It does not matter whether we are talking about the present or the past; it is the American soldier who has paid the ultimate price for his or her country, fellow citizens, and in many cases, his or her God.

Thus far, during the "War on Terrorism" to include Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and the corroboration of U.S. governmental agencies along with the cooperation from other allied nations, have become a beautiful master piece of global art. The coordination of global networks, the sharing of information, and enhanced security measures by many countries, have created a universal web of confiscation and destruction for predators that prey on terrorizing people and nations with violence, fear, and destruction.

Yet, when I consider the daunting steadfastness of America's military might and wit (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine and Navy), and the tenacious spirits of the men and women in uniform, who have vowed a commitment of allegiance and pledged an oath sacrifice to

defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, both foreign and domestic; I say to myself, this is the real beauty of America.

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien said it best when he echoed these true words about the American soldier:

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who gave us our freedom of press.

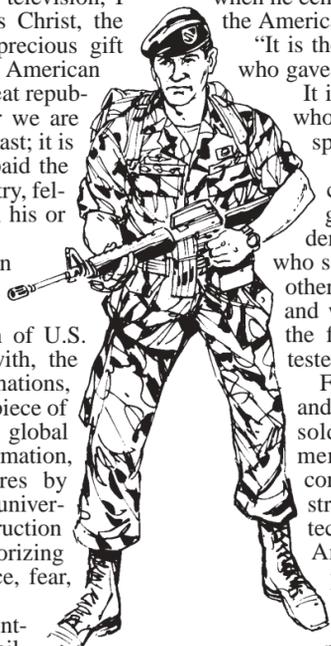
It is the Soldier, not the poet, who gave us our freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizers who gave us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the Soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves others with respect for the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Finally, I continue to pray and hope that the American soldier, his or her family members, and friends will continue to look to God for strength, guidance, and protection like many of the great American Soldiers of the past have humbly done.

Therefore, by doing so, the American soldier will remain good, and if the

American soldier remains good, then America will remain a great and free nation where compassion for God and others will remain to be the blueprint for our creed and motto: "In God We Trust!"



Pet of the Week

Lady Di is a 5 month-old, 25 lb. flat-hair retriever. She is very sweet and loves to play with children.

If interested in adopting a cat or dog, call 767-4194 or stop by the clinic located at 461 W. Bultman Ave., Building 1180, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.



Fort Stewart and Hunter Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Fort Stewart

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Lent Soup Supper (Fridays of Lent)	Victory	6 p.m.
Stations of the Cross (Fridays of Lent)	Victory	7 p.m.
Penance Service (April 14)	Victory	7 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper (April 17)	Victory	7 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy (April 18)	Victory	6 p.m.
Easter Vigil Celebration (April 19)	Victory	8:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass (April 20)	Victory	9 a.m.
Easter Sunday Mass (April 20)	Victory	7 p.m.

Lutheran

Maundy Thursday Service	Marne	7 p.m.
Good Friday Service	Marne	7 p.m.
Easter Vigil	Marne	7 p.m.
Easter Service	Marne	11 a.m.

Ecumenical

Easter Sunrise Service (April 20)	Marne Garden	6 a.m.
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Hunter Army Airfield

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Penitential Service (April 16)	Hunter	5:30 p.m.
Good Friday Mass (April 18)	Hunter	5 p.m.
Easter Vigil (April 20)	Hunter	12:30 p.m.

Protestant

Good Friday Service (April 18)	Hunter	11:30 a.m.
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Ecumenical

Easter Sunrise (April 20)	Hunter	6:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast (April 20)	Hunter	Follows Service

SPORTS & FITNESS

On Post

Basketball courts opened

The Hunter gym's basketball courts are newly renovated and now open.

Tae Kwon Do lessons

Tae Kwon Do is available for children and adults.

Classes are held 5 to 6 p.m. for children and 6 to 7 p.m. for teens and adults, Tuesday and Thursday at Fort Stewart Youth Services Center, Building 7338, Austin Road in Bryan Village next to the shoppette.

The cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call Child and Youth Services at 767-2312.

Marne tournaments

A 9-pin, no-tap tournament will be held the first Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes.

Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

A scotch doubles tournament is held the third Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple. For more information, call 767-4866.

Newman offers training

The Newman Physical Fitness Center now offers personal-training consultations. Consultations consist of health screenings (body fat assessments), exercise prescription and nutritional counseling. Consultations are on appointment basis only.

Persons desiring this service may contact the Newman Physical Fitness Center at 767-3031.

Golf course

Taylor's Creek Golf Course offers Senior Blitz on Thursdays with a 9 a.m. tee off. They also offer a Dogfight Tournament at 7:30 a.m. and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

• **Troops Tune Up**, a soldiers free clinic, is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **A Ladies Free Clinic** is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

• **Liberty High golf match** is scheduled for Wednesday.

• **A "Junior Golf Academy"** is scheduled to begin in April and during the summer.

Anyone who wants to schedule a fundraising event for Family Support Groups, Unit Activities or a private organization is asked to contact Charlie Dobbertin at 767-2370.

Pool passes

Pool passes will be available May 23. Call Andy Arrington, DCAS Aquatic Director, at 767-3034 for more information.

Picnic areas

Picnic areas are available at Fort Stewart and Hunter. To reserve the picnic areas, call Outdoor Recreation Center at 767-8609.

The center also rents boats, trailers and kayaks, as well as small items such as cookers, pots and pans.

Off Post

Military night at the YMCA

The 1st and 3rd Friday of each month are Military Night at the YMCA. Show your Military ID and enjoy the Y free of charge from 4 to 10 p.m.

Baseball players wanted

If you are interested in playing baseball for a semi-pro baseball team, contact Art Lewis at 352-6749 or 767-6572, or James Simmons at 767-3031 or 369-3974.

For more information, email simmonsh@yahoo.com

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.

Fort Stewart hosts racquetball tournament

Top players from South East come to compete

Spc Jonathan M. Stack

Staff writer

Former world racquetball champion, Mike Ray, 40, slams U.S. champion, Mitch Williams, 21, two games to zero to win the Coastal Georgia Open Racquetball Tournament at Newman Physical Fitness Center Sunday.

Fifty-five racquetball players came from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida to participate in the Tournament.

There were eight different tournament categories for every degree of player. There was the Men's Open, Men's Open Doubles, Men's A, Men's A Doubles, Men's B, Men's C, Men's B/C Doubles, and Men's 35+/45+.

A player played two games against an opponent and if he won both games he moved into the next round.

If each player won one game they went into a tiebreaker to advance to the next round.

In the men's open finals Williams faced Ray for \$400 in prize money. Participants and spectators gathered around the court to watch an intense match between two great players.

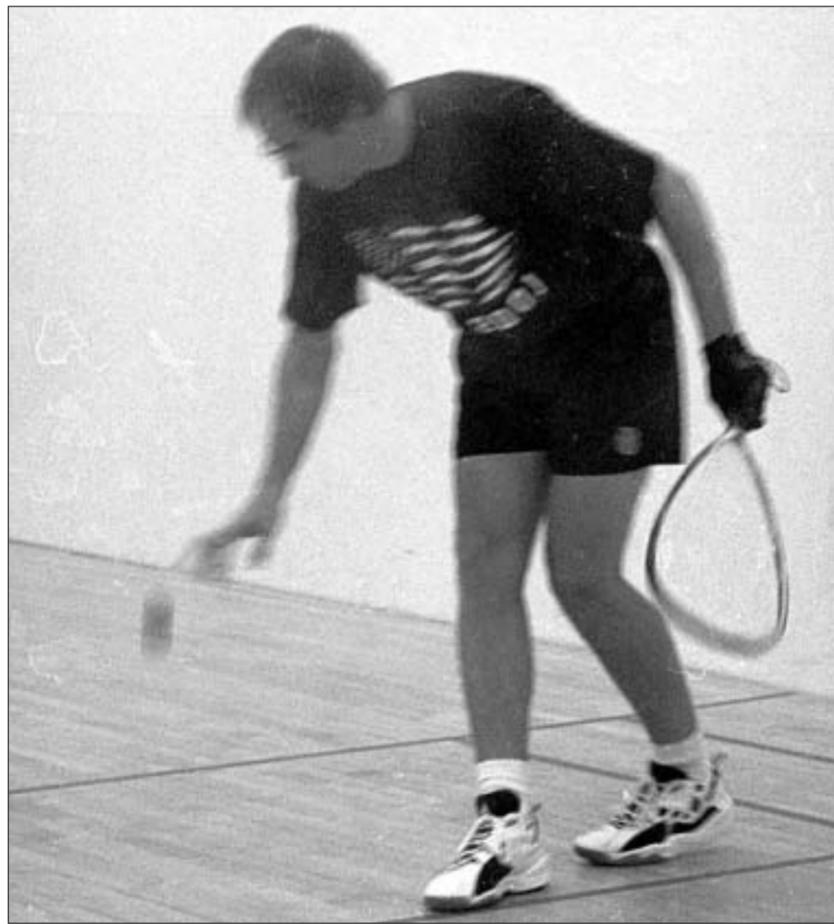
The first game was exhilarating, watching both players compete strongly to win the first match. Ray took the first game 15-13.

Ray said, he has been playing this game since 1979. He added that he loves playing the game, and it is a great workout.

The second game was just as exciting as the first. Both players gave it everything they had. Williams tried hard to go into a tiebreaker match, but Ray won that game 15-11 to become the victor of the Men's Open.

"I hit a few fortunate shots to win the matches," Ray said.

Team Ektelon is donating the profits made from the tournament to Fort Stewart's Morale, Welfare and Recreation services.



Photos by Spc Jonathan M. Stack

Mike Ray gets ready to serve to Mitch Williams in the first game of the Coastal Georgia Open finals Sunday.



Mitch Williams dives for the ball in the second game of the Coastal Georgia Open finals.

Drink water!

Tips on how to stay hydrated as it gets warmer

Spc Natalie Schlotman

Staff Writer

Now that spring is here, the temperature and humidity are on the rise. More people will be heading outside to work or play in the sunshine. The best way to stay healthy and energized while doing physical activity outdoors is to stay hydrated, according to the American Council on Exercise.

If a person does not drink enough liquids, his body will not have enough fluids to cool itself and he will become dehydrated. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, muscle cramps, loss of coordination, heat exhaustion or heat stroke, according to the council.

Water is also essential because it regulates the body's temperature, according to the council. Water is also vital for absorbing nutrients, cushioning organs and improving digestion. Water can make you look better too, because it is the best moisturizer for a person's skin, according to

the council.

To stop dehydration before it starts, a person should drink water before, during and after any outdoor activity or exercise session. It is important for a person to drink before thirst strikes, as thirst is the way the body signals dehydration. Urine color can indicate dehydration as well. A person's urine should be nearly clear. Dark colored or strong smelling urine is a sign of dehydration.

Water is the best beverage choice, according to the Life Fitness Academy Education Website. However, a person can take in water many different ways. Fruit juice, milk, decaffeinated beverages, fruits, vegetables and soups are all ways to take in water.

Also, sports drinks are helpful, especially for athletes who exercise for periods of one hour or longer, according to the Website. A sports drink replaces electrolytes (potassium and sodium) a person loses through sweating.

Drinking tips from the American Council on Exercise:

• Drink one to two cups of fluid at least one hour before exercise.

• Drink another eight ounces of fluid 20 to 30 minutes before exercise.

• Drink four to eight ounces of fluid every 10 to 15 minutes during exercise.

• Drink an additional eight ounces of fluid within 30 minutes after exercising.

• Drink two cups of fluid for every pound of bodyweight lost after exercise.

There are many factors that effect fluid needs. In general, men sweat more than women, so men typically need to drink more.

Also, larger or taller people need to drink more. Fitness is also a factor in fluid needs. Fitter people need to drink more water because well-trained athletes begin sweating at a lower body temperature, according to the council.

The hotter it is outside, the more fluid a person needs to regulate his body temperature.

Also, the intensity and duration of a person's activity will also determine how much water he needs, according to the council.

Marne Scoreboard

Racquetball

Coastal Georgia Open Racquetball Tournament

Men's open doubles
Williams/Walters defeated Ray/Karmelin
Men's A
Tripp Isley defeated John Chreatian
Men's A Doubles
Brad/Greg Shapiro defeated Rosner/A. Shapiro
Men's B
Neil Cozad defeated Michael Kaufman
Men's C
Roger Carter defeated Donald Koski
Men's B/C doubles
Cozad/Kaufman defeated Frank Ravelo/Arthur Nixon
Men's 35+/45+
Billy Turner defeated Scott Rollins

Aerobics

Hunter Fitness Center Aerobics schedule

Mondays — 6 to 7 p.m.
Cardio-Stepping
Cardio-Kicking
Buns/Thighs Weights
AB Work Stretch

Wednesday — 6 to 7 p.m.
Cardio-Stepping
Low Impact
Jump Rope
Weights
AB Work Stretch
Fridays — 6 to 7 p.m.
Fun Fridays

Party Dance
Yoga Stretches

Softball

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Intramural Softball

Team roster deadline for Intramural softball is April 18. It is open to active duty, family members, national guard and reserves. A softball clinic is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., April 28 at Club Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Sports Officer. For more information, call Art Lewis at 767-8238 or 352-6749.

Soccer

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Intramural Soccer

Team roster deadline for Intramural Soccer is April 18. It is open to active duty, family members, national guard and reserves. A softball clinic is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., April 28 at Club Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Sports Officer. For more information, call Art Lewis at 767-8238 or 352-6749.

Spring Schedule

Spring schedule for basketball, volleyball, softball, racquetball and tennis. Call 767-8326 to sign up.

Volleyball Tournament	April 14-17
Softball League	May 3-June 26
Softball Tournament	July 7-10
Racquetball Tournament	June 14 & 15
Tennis League	June 9-26

Got Scores? Contact the Frontline staff at 767-3440 or e-mail Frontline@stewart.army.mil.

Volunteer Spotlight



Zoe M. Muniz



Zoe M. Muniz, a native of Puerto Rico, is a Red Cross volunteer at Winn Army Community Hospital.

She is a volunteer in Educational and Developmental Intervention Services. "I volunteer to interact with people, for the opportunity to gain new experiences and for the joy of being helpful," Muniz said.

Her hobbies include painting, making stained glass, camping and watching movies. Muniz and her husband Luis have two children, 10-year-old Luis Adrian and 6-year-old Anamaria Zoe.

If you would like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or send an email to Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil.



WOODRUFF THEATER

April 10 — April 16

Admission for all shows is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.



Deliver Us from Eva (R)

Starring: LL Cool J., Gabrielle Union
Tonight Free Showing at 7 p.m.

Hardened by her parents' deaths, Eva gives up her dreams to provide for her three sisters. The sisters honor and obey Eva's every decision, often at the expense of their self-absorbed men. Fed up, the three men conspire to rid themselves of Eva once and for all. Run time: 105 minutes

Cradle 2 the Grave (R)

Starring: DMX, Jet Li
Friday, Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m.

When an international criminal kidnaps the daughter of a gang leader as part of a diamond heist, it causes a city's police to engage in an intensive search aided by the father's gangsters. Run time: 101 minutes

Gods and Generals (PG-13)

Starring: Bruce Boxleitner, Bill Campbell
Saturday Free Showing at 7 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m.

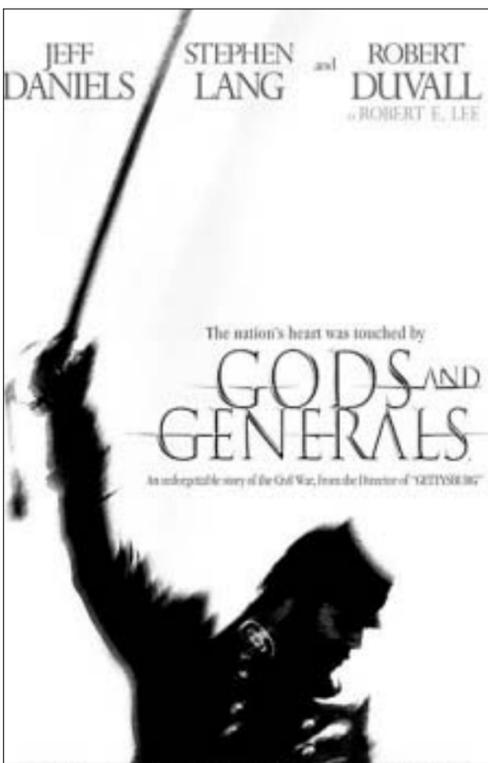
Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, the famous Confederate general who, along with fellow General Robert E. Lee, must weight the consequences of his actions, as each battle costs the lives of thousands of men. Over on the Union side there's Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, who, like Jackson and Lee, is fond of making long, poetic speeches to his troops. Beginning with the start of the war and ending with Jackson's death, the film chronicles the three main battles leading up to Gettysburg. Run time: 229 minutes

The Life of David Gale (R)

Starring: Kevin Spacey, Kate Winslet
Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Dr. David Gale, a Texas professor and advocate for the elimination of the death penalty, is falsely accused and convicted of the rape and murder of another activist, Constance Harraway and ends up on the state's notorious death row himself. Run time: 130 minutes

Free Showing
Thursday — Deliver Us from EVA
Saturday — Gods and Generals



Birth announcements

March 14

Gabriel Damian Dennhardt, a boy, 10 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Sgt. Stacy Amber Dennhardt.

March 24

Richenelle Munoz Isip, a girl, 7 pounds, born to Staff Sgt. Richelieu Calabia Isip and Janelle Munoz Isip.

Dominick Miles Miller, a boy, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Gregory A. Miller and Rosalie A. Miller.

Nathan Kyle VanArsdale, a boy, 8 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Spc. John VanArsdale and Jeanna VanArsdale.

Nija Michelle Marie Rutledge, a girl, 8 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. Keith Love Rutledge and Spc. Yvette Rutledge.

Ameria Zaniyah Roberts, a girl, 6 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Rafael Dontee

Roberts and Victoria Daniels (Military dependent).

Nyla Elizabeth Smith, a girl, 8 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Capt. Donald Eugene Smith II and Capt. Alesha Lynette Daniels.

March 25

Jonathan V. Harris, a boy, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Jonathan Harris and Pfc. Sheryl Harris.

Luke William Nunez Franklin, a boy, 5 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Claude Franklin and Capt. Elizabeth Nunez.

Elijah Jovan Bell, a boy, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Pfc. LaKisha Bell.

March 26

Wyatt Andrew Price Smith, a boy, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Staff Sgt. Todd A.

Smith and Julie Smith.

Katelyn Alexandra Bechtel, a girl, 7 pounds, 8 ounces, born to Pfc. William C. Bechtel and Jodi Kristine Bechtel.

Andrew Mattias Timp, a boy, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Sgt. Jeremi Allan Timp and Karen Elizabeth Timp.

March 27

Timothy Kollin Swart, a boy, 9 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Capt. Timothy John Swart and Heather N. Swart.

Sofia Ellen sue Hutchison, a girl, 5 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Sean Hutchison and Spc. Shannon O'Connell.

March 28

Alexandria Leanne Anderson, a girl, 3 pounds, 5 ounces, born to Spc. John Micheal Anderson and Mandy Lynn

Anderson.

Gabriel Malik Lopez, a boy, 6 pounds, 5 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Roswald Lopez and Janel M. Lopez.

Jonathan Ricky Scott, a boy, 5 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Sgt. James Scott and Debra Scott.

March 30

Nevaeh-LaShay Destiny Alexandera Bennett, a girl, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Stacey Bennett and Pfc. Brandi Bennett.

Gavin Reed Cherry, a boy, 8 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Sgt. Christopher Reed Cherry and Rebecca Nell Cherry.

March 31

Steve Anthony Cruz, a boy, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Jose A. Cruz and Madeline Cruz.