

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

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# 559th: Back and better than ever

**Pfc. Emily Danial**  
Staff Writer, Public Affairs

Hunter Army Airfield welcomed back 140 soldiers of the 559th Quartermaster Battalion at around 10:30 p.m. June 18 at 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment's hangar.

The battalion's 512th Quartermaster Company and 205th Quartermaster Team made up the majority of the soldiers returning from participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a water supply battalion, the units that deployed served a crucial purpose in the Middle East, according to 1st Lt. Jonathan Jessup, executive officer of the 512th.

"When you go two, three days a week without a shower," he said, "you all of a sudden, without even knowing it, realize what an important commodity water is."

Soldiers in the 512th were deployed in January and assigned to the 24th CSG, said Jessup.

"Our mission," he said, "was to provide storage water for the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and any other non-divisional units operating in our area."

Providing water for all those soldiers was no small task, either, according to Jessup.

"We have an 800,000-gallon storage system that travels with us, and whenever it's time to do our job, we set it up ... and hook it to the water purification system," he said. "That would feed into us, so we can store large amounts of water. People can come to us if their water buffalos or tankers are empty, and fill up with water."

The water supplied by the 512th was used for laundry, showers or just plain drinking, said Jessup.

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Spc. Christopher Hile embraces sons Julian, 2, and Cameron, 18 months, with wife Alisha, June 18 upon his return from Iraq at Hunter Army Airfield.

Pfc. Emily Danial

## Davie passes reigns to Goble

**1st. Lt. Amy Phillips**  
HAAF Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Gerald S. Davie, outgoing garrison commander of Hunter Army Airfield, is leaving the Coastal Empire for the great Pacific with his family to embark on a "family adventure" to his new assignment on the Kwajalein Atoll.

"We are not eager to leave — even though these past two years have been the most challenging ones in my 19 years of service ... What a great place to live and work. Savannah is wonderful and a supportive community," said Davie.

"The most important reason why we are a world-class power projection platform is the people who work here

See CHANGE, Page 6A



Pfc. Emily Danial

Col. John Kidd, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, passes the Hunter colors to Lt. Col. Jeffery Goble, the new Hunter garrison commander.

## BRAC panel discusses impact of potential installation closure

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

Will Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart still be here after 2005?

If not, how much does it matter to the surrounding communities?

The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce met Tuesday for its monthly luncheon with attendees from Savannah, Hinesville and the rest of Coastal Georgia to be confronted with the harsh truth — after the next round of Base Realignment and Closure proceedings, the installation could be shut down, taking these communities' economies with it.

Since the first of four BRAC rounds, 20 percent of the Department of Defense's installations have fallen

victim to closure or reduction. Till now, Georgia's 20 military installations have dodged BRAC's carving knife.

However, now's not the time to sigh with relief, because the simple fact that we've been spared up till now, along with a few other factors, makes Fort Stewart and Hunter prime targets for BRAC in 2005, said Bill Cathcart, former president of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of the Chamber's Military Support Initiative.

Cathcart brought together a panel of experts to discuss the effect of a possible closure and the need for community leaders to do their part to keep tragedy from striking local installa-

See BRAC, Page 7A

## President nominates retired general as CSA

**Angela Yeoh**  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush has nominate to be the U.S. Army's new chief of staff, following last week's retirement of former Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., before retiring in 2000. He would be the first retired four-star officer ever to be called back to service as the U.S. Army chief of staff.

In fact, Schoomaker is the first

retired general to be called back to active duty with the Joint Chiefs since President John F. Kennedy recalled Gen. Maxwell Taylor in 1962 to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Taylor had served a four-year term as Army chief of staff from 1955-1959, and retired in 1959 before being summoned by the president to return in 1962 as chairman.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced today that the president had nominated Schoomaker as Army chief of staff. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane has served as acting chief

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### Weather Forecast

**FRI**  
High 93° Low 68°

**SAT**  
High 88° Low 69°

**SUN**  
High 83° Low 70°

# Leadership, Excellence



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Damon Hampton crosses a rope bridge at Camp Blue Heron at the JROTC summer camp competition. Cadets participated in three events June 19.

## JROTC cadets learn new skills

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**

Staff Writer

Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets from all over Southeastern Georgia attended an annual summer camp at Boy Scouts of America Camp Blue Heron in Riceboro, Ga.

From June 15 to 20, 154 male and female cadets from Beach, Benedictine, Bradwell Institute, Groves, Liberty County, Savannah, Windsor Forest, Emanuel County, Southeast Bulloch, Statesboro, Swainsboro, Ware County and Portal high schools participated in activities aimed at building leadership and survival skills.

"The reason that they're here (at camp) is to learn to be the upper level leadership," said retired Maj. Tom McElwee, camp public affairs officer.

Summer camp culminated, for the cadets, in a competition June 19 that evaluated aptitude of the newly learned skills. Three companies of about 50 cadets each participated in a land navigation course, rope bridge exercise and first aid station. Proficiency and time were the basis for scoring in the competition, McElwee said.

In land navigation, cadets were given a compass and coordinates to follow. To score well they had to find the right point and make it through with a quick time. At the rope bridge, cadets were made to assemble and cross a rope bridge, and at the first aid station they had to splint and litter-carry a simulated casualty.

"You train to standard, you

test to standard. Today we're doing these tests," said Retired Col. Arthur L. Holmes Jr., camp commander.

He described some of the preparations that make the cadets ready for this day. One of the most important things, Holmes said, is that they begin every morning with physical training.

"And we purposely split schools up so they can interact with students from other schools," he said.

In previous years, the camp was held at Fort Stewart, but the absence of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) has made getting the necessary support impossible, said McElwee.

"This year, we've kind of married up with (the Boy Scouts) to use their facilities to train JROTC Cadets," he said. "It's an excellent facility."

"Here we learn how to live in tents and not billets. I think that builds character," said Holmes.

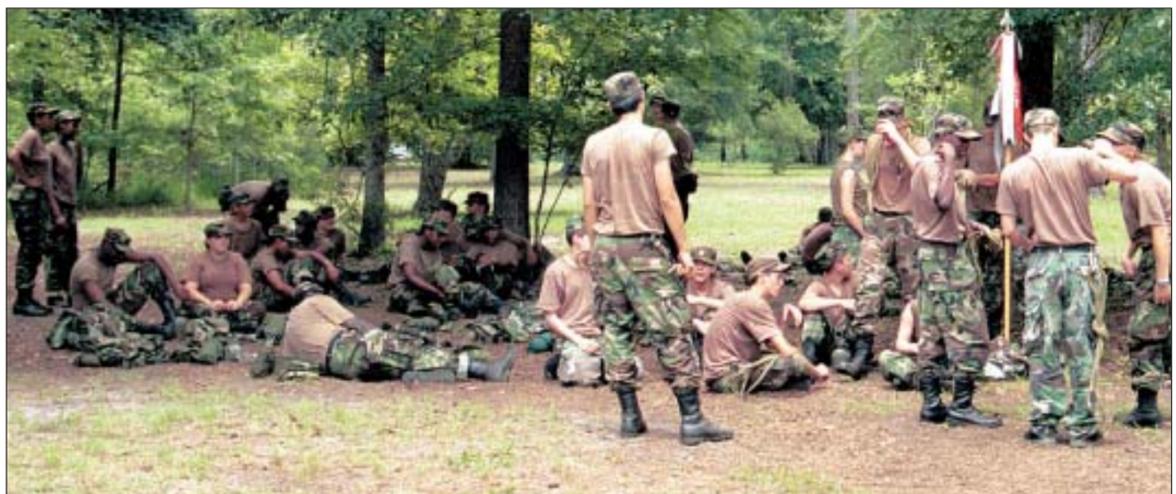
Both McElwee and Holmes were very thankful for the high level of cooperation and teamwork they were able to get from the Boy Scouts.

One cadet, sophomore Katy Taylor, from Palatka, Fla., plans to join the Coast Guard after high school. She said that JROTC has taught her discipline and leadership. Summer camp has taught her something extra.

"At camp I've learned to appreciate people," she said.

The competition was held the day before the cadets departed for home.

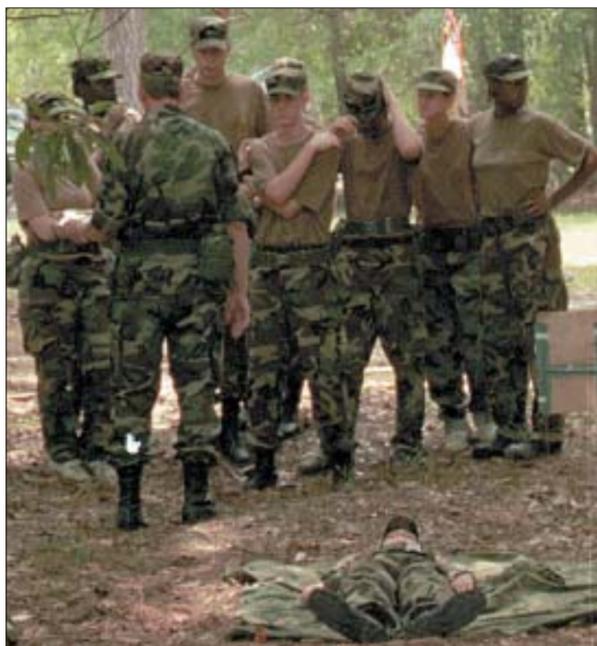
"Tomorrow you're going to hear them saying: I don't want to go home," McElwee said.



JROTC cadets take a rest in the shade in between events at the competition June 19.



2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, A Company, carries a simulated casualty through the obstacle course.



JROTC cadets receiving a briefing prior to the litter carry exercise.

# 1/9 FA provides security for gas distribution

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

50th PAD

KAHNDARI, Iraq — Everyday 8 million liters of benzene is imported into Iraq from Turkey, Jordan and Kuwait. Additionally, liquid propane gas is also imported and distributed throughout Iraq.

Iraqis depend on LPG to cook so the gas is very much in demand, but it is in short supply. The reason for the shortage is a suspected act of sabotage in Basrah, which left the country 1,200 tons short. Another reason is a break and subsequent fire at the refinery in Baji. So to compensate for the fuel shortage, trucks are bringing in an additional 20 tons of LPG.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, began providing security this week for propane distribution in Kahndari, 15 miles east of Fallujah.

The mission is just one of many humanitarian efforts in the Fallujah area conducted by elements of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

The primary reason for the security presence is to maintain order at the distribution site.

"The situation (Monday) was a little chaotic when we first arrived," said Staff Sgt. Juan Cardona, C Battery, 1/9 FA gunnery sergeant. "Once we set the ground rules, everything was under control."

There is a national distribution system in place in Baghdad. The Minister of Oil determines the distribution plan for fuel throughout the country since he knows where fuel is needed. This is an effort by the coalition to ensure Iraqis get used to managing their lives.

The platoon-sized element works in conjunction with the Ministry of Oil merchants and interpreter on site. Though the wait for the maximum two-tank purchase could be up to three hours, it's a much more appealing option than what some locals have resorted to.

"On the black market, people are paying upward of 3,000 dinar for a tank of propane.

The merchants here are offering a tank for 250 dinar," said Capt. Matthew C. Payne, C Battery, 1/9 FA commander.

It is Iraqi dependency on the fuel for cooking that puts it in such high demand. Residents are limited to two bottles of LPG. Each bottle holds 12 kilograms LPG, but since the demand is so high, bottles are filled with 10 kilograms to maximize the fuel supply.

**"Ultimately, we want the people to fully operate this site. It will be a good day for both soldiers and locals when we no longer have to intervene in their daily lives."**

Capt. Matthew C. Payne  
C Battery, 1/9 FA commander

presence here."

The interaction between 2nd BCT soldiers and the local populace through presence patrols, security missions, area improvements and supply distribution has significantly strengthened relations between U.S. troops and Iraqi citizens, according to Cardona. "We've been able to meet many of the local people, address their concerns and, in many cases, help them in some way."

Payne agrees, "Once we established a relationship with the people, they were happy."

Both soldiers agree the situation in the brigade's area of operation has improved substantially.

"You're still going to have some lawlessness wherever you go," Cardona said. "But the situation here is, without a doubt, much better than it was two weeks ago."

"Ultimately, we want the people to be able to fully operate this site," Payne said. "It will be a good day for both soldiers and locals when we no longer have to intervene in their daily lives."

As the campaign to change the hearts and minds of Iraqis continues, so will the patrols, security missions and supply distribution in the 1/9 FA sector of central Iraq.

"In America, many homes have the luxury and option of gas or electric," Payne said. "We just want to help them obtain the necessities and get their home life back to normal."

As of Tuesday, feedback from local residents was positive.

"They're just happy that this (site) is back in operation," he said. "The town council has personally thanked me for our



Spc. Adam Nuelken

An Iraqi boy carries two empty gas cans to exchange while red legs with C Btry., TF 1/9 FA pass out numbers to people waiting in line.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

# CG: Morale, comfort of soldiers top priority

**Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III**  
3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commanding general

We have enjoyed great progress in the regions recently assigned us for improvement by the Coalition Joint Task Force. We are removing bad elements from the Fallujah and Balad areas while assisting the local residents to take control of their own destiny. Strides this week were made with local law enforcement, infrastructure improvement and ensuring a safe and secure environment.

The Division Provost Marshal, the 3rd Military Police, and the 30th Military Police Detachment (CID) issued new Iraqi Police brassards and .38 Colt revolvers during a very visible, symbolic ceremony Monday. The Fallujah mayor and chief of police made public comments at the ceremony supporting coalition efforts in the region.

Marne MPs began training classes Wednesday to ensure all police officers had a common core of knowledge. Joint U.S. and Iraqi patrols have been very successful. Additionally, the 3ID(M) Judge Advocate General section provided assistance to the Fallujah judicial system with the prosecution of its first post-war cases. Iraqi citizens in this area are well on their way to enforcing their own laws.

Division Engineers have made great strides improving Fallujah area utilities. The water supply is at pre-war levels and electricity is greater than pre-war power. While the water is still below required production needs, the purchase of additional power generation and the repair of existing pumps

should provide all the clean water necessary in about two weeks. The sewage and sanitation systems are getting a much needed overhaul. Sewage lines are being cleaned and repaired. Coupled with the repair of garbage trucks that are now regularly picking up trash, the clean water and the proper disposal of waste will improve the health in the area.

Engineers have clearly improved the quality of life for citizens of the Fallujah area. They repaired seriously dilapidated schools and delivered stationary supplies to provide a much better learning environment for the children. They have repaired soccer fields and recreational equipment from what were once dump sites. Most importantly, they have cleared nearly 90 percent of known caches left from the former regime and will soon have the remaining few sites removed to improve the living environment.

I visited 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry last week in northern Iraq near Balad where they are supporting the 4th Infantry Division in that unit's sector. They are doing an outstanding job eliminating threats to a future free and democratic Iraq while providing humanitarian assistance and directing civil affairs projects. Just as we are improving conditions for soldiers in



the Baghdad, we are steadily improving living standards for the Garry Owen troopers. Their most urgent need is power generation and we will provide that for air-conditioning and other needs in the next several days.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery safely returned to Kuwait to join the other elements of the Marne Division returning their prepositioned equipment for reconditioning. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team and 24th Corps Support Group have turned in all the equipment they drew from the prepositioned stock. Other units continue to return equipment in an orderly manner. While we still do not have word about our redeployment to go home, the reconditioning and turn-in will make our eventual return all the more quicker when we do receive orders.

We continue to boost amenities for the soldiers to make the tough conditions of Iraq and Kuwait as tolerable as possible. Soldiers who have returned to Kuwait enjoy the pre-existing infrastructure at the semi-permanent camps.

We are busing soldiers in Kuwait to Arifjan Air Base and Camp Doha for them to enjoy larger PX facilities, swimming pools and the substantial food courts. We continue to improve air conditioning in both locations to provide areas of rest and relaxation from the heat of the day. The morale and comfort of soldiers is a top priority and I will continue to improve conditions as long as we are here.

We continue to bid farewell to some of our great leaders in the division. Col. Dave Perkins, Spartan 6, turned over the reins of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team to Col. Joe Disalvo in a ceremony June 20 in Fallujah. Lt. Col. Bob Roth assumed command of the Tusker Battalion, 4/64 Armor, from Lt. Col. Philip deCamp in an evening ceremony June 22. The Hammer Brigade had a succession of changes during the day June 22 at Camp New Jersey in Kuwait, led by Hammer 6. Col Salazar took command of the 3rd BCT from Col. Dan Allyn. Lt. Col. John Harding gave up command of the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery to Lt. Col. Bob Riseberg, and Scott Spelmon took command of the 317th Engineer Battalion from Lt. Col. Bob Tipton. Our outgoing warriors will be missed, but I am absolutely convinced our soldiers have great leadership for future success.

Conditions in Iraq get better every day for its citizens and Marne soldiers have shouldered a heavy share of the work. I am extremely proud of the work they have accomplished and the compassion they show every day. While they might not see it today, in the near future they will be able to look back over their shoulders and see the difference they made for a countries future.

**"Rock of the Marne"**



Fallujah chief of police Brig. Gen. Riyadh Abbas Abdullahtif Karbool presents a Fallujah policeman with his new Iraqi Police brassard during a ceremony Monday at the Fallujah Mayor's compound.

## Salazar gives a few words of comfort



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brantley  
Col. Steven L. Salazar, incoming 3rd BCT commander, waits to receive the brigade colors.

Greetings from Camp New Jersey, Kuwait. I am Col. Steven L. Salazar and it is my honor and privilege to be the new commander of the Hammer Brigade Combat Team.

With the privilege of being Hammer 6 comes responsibility for leading, training, maintaining and caring for the Sledgehammer team's soldiers and families. Our mission remains being ready to deploy, fight and win. Clearly the Brigade has done all these things in the past few months. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, supporting the 3rd Infantry Division, served and fought with distinction in Iraq helping overthrow Saddam Hussein and bringing freedom to the Iraqi people.

Our position in Kuwait supports the 3d Infantry Division's mission of assisting in the stabilization of Iraq and its efforts to redeploy quickly upon successful conclusion of that mission. Both efforts continue. We will continue to support 3ID efforts as required.

In the meantime, we are working to provide soldiers the opportunity to take short R & R trips to Doha and Arifjan where they can take advantage of swimming pools, fast food restaurants, and a larger PX than what is available in our

Kabal. The USO brought several celebrities to Camp New Jersey earlier this week to include: Wayne Newton, Paul Rodriguez, Alyssa Milano, Brittany Murphy, Neal McCoy and Shelly Wright. Some of our soldiers even had the opportunity to go to Doha to see Kid Rock perform in concert.

Despite all this your soldiers are certainly ready to fly home when we receive the order.

I understand how hard the soldiers of the Hammer Brigade have been working and how long they've been separated from all of you back home. My number one priority is to continue improving the quality of life for our soldiers and being prepared to redeploy as quickly and efficiently as possible. We all appreciate your understanding and support.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Col. Dan Allyn and his wife Debbie for their selfless service to both the soldiers of the Sledgehammer Brigade and their families. We wish them the best of luck with their next assignment at the Pentagon. I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

**Steven L. Salazar**  
**Hammer 6**

## Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

**Why should soldiers returning from deployment receive health screenings?**

**"To get a good accountability of troops' health and welfare after deployment."**

**1st Lt. Adrian DeRyder**  
**Incoming 559th HHD**  
**Commander**



**"It's easy to get bacteria and infections when you're overseas because conditions can be unsanitary ... health screenings are just a smart thing to do."**

**1st Sgt. Phillip Dixon**  
**HQ CO, HQ CMD**

**"So you can keep the risk low of them spreading anything they might have gotten while they were overseas."**

**Pfc. Michael Flores**  
**559th HHD**



**"It's good to get health screenings because over there, it's easy to get infections and such due to the harsh environment, poor nutrition, insects and filth."**

**Maj. Charlotte Herring**  
**HHC 3ID**

**"Because you never know what kind of diseases there are in the country they were in."**

**Spc. Anthony Tarver**  
**A Co., 603d ASB**



**"Because while they're over there, they're subject to depleted uranium munitions that emit radiation."**

**Pfc. Mackenzie Wilsoncroft**  
**HQ CO, HQ CMD**

**Voice your opinion!**  
**Write a letter to the editor!**

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# Bush says U.S. facing down remnants of Iraqi regime

**Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. military personnel are facing down the remnants of the Hussein regime even as coalition personnel continue to search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, President Bush said in his weekly radio address June 21.

Bush said American military personnel are making life more secure for Iraqis, and other personnel are working with Iraqi citizens to jumpstart the economy for long-term security.

The president noted that remnants of the old regime and its terrorist allies are behind the series of attacks on U.S. military personnel. He said these remnants are trying to destabilize the region and are sabotaging coalition efforts to bring a better life to all Iraqis.

"Our military is acting decisively

against these threats," he said. "In Operation Peninsula Strike and Operation Desert Scorpion, our forces have targeted Baath Party loyalists and terrorist organizations. In Baghdad, more than 28,000 American combat forces and military police are enforcing the law and arresting criminals. We are also training Iraqis to begin policing their own cities."

But even as forces bring security to the region, other forces continue the hunt for weapons of mass destruction. "Military and intelligence officials are interviewing scientists with knowledge of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs and are poring over hundreds of thousands of documents," Bush said.

"For more than a decade, Saddam Hussein went to great lengths to hide his weapons from the world," he continued. "And in the regime's final days, documents and suspected

weapons sites were looted and burned. Yet all who know the dictator's history agree that he possessed chemical and biological weapons and that he used chemical weapons in the past."

Bush pointed out it was far more than just the United States who believed Saddam Hussein possessed these weapons. Intelligence services of many nations concluded that he had illegal weapons. United Nations inspectors documented evidence of these weapons and the Iraqi regime never convincingly explained what happened to them. "We are determined to discover the true extent of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs, no matter how long it takes," he said.

The United States also continues to provide aid to the people of Iraq. He said the United States has spent \$700 million for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance. "This

month the World Food Program is distributing food rations to about 25 million Iraqis," he said.

"America and our partners are also repairing water treatment plants to provide more clean water. Each week, through our efforts, more electricity is made available to more people throughout the country. And after years of neglect, Iraq's 4.2 million children under the age of 5 are receiving vaccinations against diseases such as polio, measles and tuberculosis."

The president stressed an issue that has come up repeatedly in the last few weeks: that Iraq's long-term success also depends on economic development. "Our administrator in Iraq has announced a \$100 million fund to pay Iraqis to repair buildings and utilities," he said. Billions hoarded by the former regime have been found and that money will also be used to rebuild the infrastructure

that suffers from 30 years of neglect, Bush stated.

The country has also started selling oil and that money will not simply build palaces for Saddam but be spent to make life better for all, the president said. Iraqi is opening to the world, the president observed, and how it recovers from the nightmare of Saddam Hussein will send a message throughout the Middle East. "Over time, a free government in Iraq will demonstrate that liberty can flourish in that region," he said.

The president thanked American service members for their service in Iraq and assured them that the Iraqi people also appreciate their willingness to aid the country. "For the people of free Iraq, the road ahead holds great challenges," he said. "Yet at every turn, they will have friendship and support from the United States of America."

## Change

from page 1A

every day," said Davie. "They provide the brains to move it all. They understand what needs to be done and they execute."

The command certainly needed plenty of brains to efficiently deploy 12,000 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers based at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield; 5,300 non-divisional and tenant soldiers; more than 16,000 reserve component soldiers; 9,251 short tons of equipment; 261 cargo/transport flights; 156 civilian/charter flights; and 105 military flights that have flown out of Hunter in the past year support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

When asked what he thought his major contribution to Hunter has been, he said, "Ask me in a couple of years when I've had time to soak it all in and look back in retrospect!" The facts are in however, and the awards Hunter has received speaks of Davie's contributions: Hunter won the Army Times' 2002 "Best Community Spirit" and the Runner-up Award for the "Best Post" in the nation.

"Gerry and Renee were a super command

team always putting soldiers and families first," said Col. Gerald Poltorak, who recently relinquished command as the Fort Stewart garrison commander.

Davie and wife Renee extend many thanks to the leadership, the family support groups and the city of Savannah for their hospitality and dedication. "They have put their hearts and souls into Hunter's morale and welfare."

Incoming garrison commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Goble has served in the III Corps Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla.; 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Devens, Mass.; Headquarters, U.S. Army Special Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and U.S. Army Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy.

"I am excited to be in garrison command at this point in time in history ... Being in on the ground floor of the installation management agency is an incredible opportunity, one that I consider myself lucky to have. I believe deeply in IMA's purpose and vision, and will do everything in my power here at Hunter to make it a

success," said Goble.

Lt. Col. Goble holds a Masters of Arts in International Relations from Troy State University and a Masters in Military Arts and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His significant military education includes the Field Artillery Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, the Special Forces Qualification Course, the Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs Courses, the Command and General Staff Officers Course, and the Advanced Military Studies Program of the School of Advanced Military Studies.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, and the French National Defense Medal.

"Lt. Col. Gerry and Renee Davie have set the bar as a command team here very high ... Your impact here has obviously been immeasurable. I hope you can trust that we will take good care of this place," said Goble.

## 559th

from page 1A

"The main difference between our water and bottled water," he said, "is the chlorine we have to add to get the bacteria out. A lot of people will smell the chlorine, and that turns them off."

Still, in the desert, water is water, and the return of these soldiers was like water in the desert to family members and friends who greeted them that evening.

Filicia Sims, wife of Sgt. Geoffrey Sims, said, "I'm so joyful ... one of the first things we're going to do — after we eat — is sit down and talk about everything!"

What came next, she said, might not be fit for print.

It's easy to see that these soldiers mean as much to their families as the water they provided in the desert meant to the units there — and now that they're back, maybe they can work on Savannah water.

# BRAC

from page 1A

tions and towns.

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. William Bland, retired Army Col. Frank Norton and Hinesville Mayor Tom Ratcliffe joined Cathcart on the BRAC panel to present information and answer questions from attendees.

The panel addressed some of the possible reasons for the two posts to be impacted by BRAC's upcoming decisions, and what that impact could ultimately be.

According to Cathcart, some of Fort Stewart and Hunter's "traditional selling points," the things that define them as essential posts, are not quite cutting the proverbial mustard.

What are they?

"Fort Stewart occupies 280,000 acres, making it one of the largest military installations in the nation," said Cathcart. "Hunter has an 11,000-foot runway, one of the longest in the nation. We have a world-class port facility, paired with exceptional rail and highway interconnection, and, the installation was the first one visited by President Bush following his inauguration."

Sounds pretty good, right? Not so fast — Cathcart followed the good news with the bad.

"Fact is ... Fort Stewart is not the best place

to maneuver tank units," he said. "Regarding the runway ... troops can now be effectively airlifted from anywhere in the country. What about our great port capability? Following the Gulf War, tons of equipment and supplies were pre-positioned at key sites around the world. Shipping ... everything directly from the U.S. is no longer a necessity. And (in 2005) President Bush will be handed a final list of proposed base closings. At that point ... he can no longer influence or edit the listed facilities. He must approve or reject the list as a whole."

Even Ratcliffe wasn't optimistic about Hunter's strong qualities saving the installation, since Fort Stewart's closure would be synonymous with Hunter's dying breath.

"Hunter's a world-class projection platform," he said, "but it is simply not unique."

Now, according to Cathcart, having been stripped of some of its indispensability, the installation may be in particular danger because of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's desire to reduce the number of active Army divisions from 10 to eight — a drop of 20 percent.

"(Rumsfeld) also plans to transform the Army into a fighting force of lighter, more

mobile, more rapidly deployable divisions or units," said Cathcart. As one of three heavy divisions based stateside, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) does not fit Rumsfeld's picture of a "light fighting force."

"There is no doubt that the Fort Stewart/Hunter installation is vulnerable to reductions or closure," said Cathcart.

So what's the worst that could happen?

Cathcart gave five potential scenarios:

- The BRAC Commission could decide to not only leave Fort Stewart and Hunter alone, but also shift other units here from facilities that do get shut down
- BRAC could leave the installation completely alone, with no changes
- The installation itself could be left alone, but the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) could be relocated
- BRAC could relocate or deactivate the division and order the installation closed, with the probability that government acreage would eventually be transitioned to private development

The government could decide to close Fort Stewart and Hunter and "mothball" it — hold on to all the property indefinitely, eliminating any chance of economic recovery

Economic recovery was a major concern in

the meeting, considering the fact that there would need to be quite a bit of it should the government choose the fifth option. Cathcart said the direct impact of the installation's closure would result in a loss of about \$1 billion, plus another \$1.1 billion in indirect economic impact.

More than 40,000 jobs would be lost, not to mention the \$900 million payroll the installation generates.

Cathcart and other community members are hoping that these economic factors will help to convince Rumsfeld and BRAC that Fort Stewart and Hunter are essential parts of the Hinesville and Savannah communities — they definitely caught the attention of the Chamber meeting's participants.

"The meeting was very informative," said Kelley Kline, sales coordinator at Homewood Suites by Hilton. "I know the economic devastation that a base closing has on a community because I came from Louisiana, where England Air Force Base was closed as a result of a previous BRAC round. Just speaking for the hotel industry, I know the significant impact of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield on Coastal Georgia.."

# CSA

from page 1A

Staff Gen. John M. Keane has served as acting chief of staff since Shinseki's retirement June 11 and will continue in that position until the Senate confirms Schoomaker.

Schoomaker received a bachelor's degree in Education Administration from the University of Wyoming and an MA in Management from Central Michigan University. He was appointed as a second lieutenant in June 1969 and went to the Armor Officer Basic Course.

He served as a reconnaissance platoon leader from January 1970 through April 1971 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He then served as a rifle company commander in Germany through June 1972, and also commanded a troop of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from April 1973 through June 1974. Schoomaker next spent 14 months in Korea, where

he served as an assistant inspector general for the 2nd Infantry Division and then as a battalion operations officer.

In February 1978, he assumed command of the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C. Then in August of 1981, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

From October 1983 until February 1984, he was in Beirut, Lebanon, as part of the Department of Defense Commission investigating a terrorist incident there after a vehicle loaded with explosives ran a road block.

Schoomaker attended the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., from August 1988 to June 1989. Then he commanded the Combat Applications Group

(Airborne) at Fort Bragg. He next served as the assistant division commander, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from July 1992 to July 1993.

Schoomaker then served as deputy director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization for the Army at the Pentagon through July 1994.

He commanded the Joint Special Operations Command, United States Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, through August of 1996. Then he became commanding general of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg until October 1997.

In November 1997, he became the commander in chief of the joint United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. where he served until retiring.



DA Photo

**President Bush nominated Retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker as the new Army chief of staff.**

# Citizens donate 300 coolers to OIF troops

Staff Sgt. Ward Gros

143rd TRANSCOM

A group of citizens in Baker County, Fla., teamed up with the staff at Fort Stewart to provide a bit of relief for U.S. Army truck drivers by donating nearly 300 softside coolers to be used during missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The coolers were the brainchild of Capt. Bobby Hart, a public affairs officer with the 143rd Transportation Command, from Orlando, who writes a weekly diary that is printed in three newspapers around his hometown.

"Everyone was always asking what they could send me," Hart said. "I kept telling them besides a plane ticket home, I didn't need anything. I had worked during the combat phase in operations and knew what our drivers were going through, so I decided to see if we could do something to help."

The problem with shipping the coolers initially threatened to derail the plan. The cost to ship them commercially would have exceeded \$1,000. Hart contacted Col. Ed Marrero, chief of staff at Fort Stewart and a former 143rd TRANSCOM soldier. "Some people told me it couldn't be done," Hart said. "I contacted Colonel Marrero and he just said, 'Let's do it.' He got in touch with Rita Johanson and she said if we could get the coolers to Hunter Army Airfield the next day, she would get them on the plane. Everything just fell into place."

Hart, a Baker County resident, contacted a close family friend, Kelley Norman, on a Sunday morning and she went to four

area churches that day to start the ball rolling. In just over two weeks, the coolers arrived in Kuwait and were distributed to the drivers.

"This is too cool," said Capt. Tami Gibson, of the 419th Transportation Battalion from Bartonville, Ill. "Our drivers will love them. They are really suffering out there."

Drivers say the temperatures in the trucks exceed 140 degrees at times

**"Everyone was always asking what they could send me. I kept telling them besides a plane ticket home, I didn't need anything."**

**Capt. Bobby Hart**  
143rd TRANSCOM public affairs officer

prompting the drivers to call them "microwaves." "They will heat you up in a hurry," one driver said.

The brutal temperatures have caused soldiers many difficulties because of the need to continually drink water to prevent dehydration. The problem is so severe, some drivers give each other fluids intravenously. Others have driven for hours and then passed out as soon as they tried to stand.

"We have to drink all the time," said Staff Sgt. Richard Luthiger, of the 257th

Transportation Company from Las Vegas. "After a couple of hours, the water gets so hot you can't drink it. In fact, it doesn't take long, and it just doesn't taste very good."

Hart said he got the idea for the coolers from his days of deep sea fishing and scuba diving.

"When you're in the middle of the Gulf and the fish aren't biting, the temperature feels at least 150," Hart said. "We freeze a gallon of water and it will keep everything else cool for a long time. We hope the drivers can do the same thing."

Hart said he asked for the softside coolers because of ease of shipping and their versatility. "A lot of these guys sleep in their trucks, so I guess the coolers can double for pillows," Hart said.

Another example of how things fell into place happened when the coolers arrived in Kuwait. Hart knew the coolers had arrived, so he and Staff Sgt. Ward Gros went to the airfield armed with just a flight number.

They pulled up to the first movement control tent they came to and asked 1st Lt. Buck Watford what the best way to find the pallet would be. "He told us that without a cargo documentation number, it would be nearly impossible," Hart said. With tens of thousands of pieces of equipment and pallets of supplies scattered throughout several square miles, Watford likened it to finding a needle in a haystack.

Watford asked when the flight was scheduled to arrive. When told he asked the unit to which the pallet was going.

"He looked at me when I told him and said, 'Sir, you must be living right,'" Hart said. "He walked right over to the pallet."



Staff Sgt. Ward Gros

A soldier shows one of the softsided coolers that was donated by a group of citizens in Baker County, Fla. The coolers were donated to provide a bit of relief for U.S. Army truck drivers during their missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In remembrance of Petty Officer James G. Caines ...

## Coast Guard Air Station celebrates 40 years



1st Lt. Amy Phillips

1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Hunter Deputy Public Affairs Officer

The Coast Guard Air Station Savannah celebrated 40 years at Hunter Army Airfield June 16 with a historical brief, memorial service and rededication of a hanger to Coast Guard Petty Officer James G. Caines and a picnic-style lunch for the Caines family and station personnel.

Caines was a rescue swimmer who sacrificed his life during a rescue mission in June 1997.

"To have something as special as a hanger being dedicated in remembrance of someone who, while serving has given their

life for their country is a sobering experience. It recalls to mind the danger of what we do, the dedication of our people and reminds all of us that we need to be professional in everything and we may be called upon at one point to give our lives," said Captain Gail Donnelly, station commander.

The air station was commissioned in 1963 on what was then known as the Hunter Army Air Force Base. Since 1963, Air Station Savannah has provided search and rescue coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from the North and South Carolina border to Melbourne, Florida, averaging more than 250 SAR cases a year. Other responsibilities include homeland security,

maritime law enforcement, drug interdiction, calls for navigation aid, marine safety, and environmental protection.

"The Coast Guard is very multi-tasking, multi-functional. Day to day routines can be interrupted by any number of missions. It's pretty exciting," said Telecommunications Specialist First Class Virginia Yoder.

The memorial service consisted of a prayer, and the hanging of photos of Caines and his family on a wall dedicated for him in the Cruise Lounge.

"He loved the water and always wanted to help people," reminisced William Caines of his son James.

Joshua, son of the late Petty Officer James Caine in a HH-65B Dolphin helicopter.

# Engineers get rid of missiles, UXOs around Fallujah

Spc. Katherine Robinson

50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Rocket propelled grenades, missiles and mortars; these are only some of the types of weapons and unexploded ordnance lying in and around Fallujah.

The 10th Engineer Battalion, with help from the 890th Engineer Battalion, a National Guard unit from Picayune, Miss., spend their days collecting and destroying dangerous ordnance for the safety of both soldiers and civilians.

Soldiers from A Company, 10th Eng. Bn., collect some of the weapons and UXOs for redistribution later, and destroy others depending on the type.

On a June 17 mission, A Co. soldiers started the day by picking up mortars out of a swamp, with a crowd of children gathered around to watch and offer help, then loaded heavy equipment tractor trailers with surface-to-air missiles. There were about 30 missiles in the cache they found near Fallujah, all different sizes and ranges.

"Our company has the mission of collecting UXO in the (2nd Brigade Combat Team)

sector," said 1st Lt. Thomas Booth, A Co.'s 1st Platoon leader. "The majority of things we're finding are anti-aircraft rounds, surface-to-air missiles and tank rounds."

According to Sgt. Michael Mitchell, an A Co. squad leader, cleaning up UXO protects civilians and soldiers from danger.

"We don't want kids playing with this stuff, we don't want people driving over it, and we also don't want the wrong people to get hold of it and use it to kill American soldiers," he said. "A lot of these (ordnance) are fully mission capable and can be used."

While the soldiers are out, they often get to interact with local civilians and children, who, many times, show them where to find small UXOs.

"It makes you feel better about what you're doing," Mitchell said. "It's a good thing when they want to participate and help get rid of these things."

There are still thousands of UXOs in the Al Fallujah area.

Whether they're picking them up by hand, pulling security so cranes can pick up the larger ones, or blowing them up at demolition sites, engineer soldiers remain vigilante in their mission to make the city safe.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Trying to help, an Iraqi child hands two mortar rounds to Sgt. Michael Mitchell, A Co., 10th Eng. Bn. June 17 near Fallujah. "The mortars weren't dangerous at all," Mitchell said. "None of them were fused."

## Experimental vessel designed for speed



Spc. Petersi Liu

The 86th Combat Support Hospital medics arrive at Qatar onboard the Theater Support Vessel Spearhead (TSV-1X). Passengers praise the experimental Army vessel as the smoothest riding sea vessel ever.

Spc. Petersi Liu

CFLCC-PAO

QUATAR, Kuwait – The first experimental Theater Support Vessel USAV Spearhead (TSV-1X), made from 100 percent aluminum, was designed for high speed mobility and model for a standard version of the Army TSV vessel that is scheduled to debut 2005, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick May, Commander of TSV Spearhead, 469th Transportation Company, a detachment of 24th Transportation Battalion.

The TSV-1X Spearhead, commissioned late 2002, is an \$85 million experimental product of the Advanced Concept Demonstration Program by the Office of U.S. Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Army. The vessel was meant to carry 34 Strykers, experimental six-wheeled armored vehicles designed to rapidly deploy troops to the fields, said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Simoneaux, TSV Spearhead marine maintenance supervisor.

The aluminum corrosion resistant vessel is approximately 380 feet length by 78 feet width in the middle and can carry 820 tons of cargo while getting speeds of up to 48 knots, May said.

The vessel has seating for 299 passengers and carry cargos such as cargo trucks, trailers, and other tactical vehicles. The older cargo vessels do not carry passengers, he added.

"The aluminum vessel has a certain swiveling feeling to it because it is light-weight. The whole vessel is made from four major parts, each four parts has shifting plates, which swings freely and automatically according to sea currents. This absorbs the shock and prevents the ship from cracking," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Wagner, TSV

Spearhead chief engineer.

The vessel has a hollow bottom with two sponsons on the sides, enabling it to glide through water currents with less water friction since the vessel barely touches the water, said Wagner.

The vessel has a capacity of 250,000 gallons of fuel. It burns 55 gallons of fuel for every nautical mile traveled at 40 knots cruising speed, Simoneaux said.

Despite the consumption of fuel, the operating expenses are a fourth of what it costs for a comparable size shipment via six cargo planes, May said.

With air, passengers travel separately. By the time passengers get their air cargos, the TSV vessel would have traveled to the same destination with the whole package, May said.

The TSV has four engines, three hydraulic systems, many pressure gauges and valves that are computerized. Older vessels have manual gauges and required human supervision, said Simoneaux.

There are security cameras installed everywhere on the vessel for security reasons, he added.

The vessel transported the 86th Combat Support Hospital in its journey to Qatar June 14. When the vessel is floating at the coastal line about ten miles off of mainland Qatar June 16, waiting for diplomatic permission to dock, the vessel crew pulls 24-hour protection shifts on waters known to have past terrorist attacks, said Spc. Kendall Venard, TSV Spearhead watercraft engineer, who manned one of the two squad automatic rifles on the front deck.

An inflatable boat with two soldiers carrying M-16 rifles makes circles around the vessel for precautionary measures. It is never too safe out on the sea, no matter how great the new vessel is, he added.

# Hammer 6 signs off

## Allyn shares thoughts on Sledgehammer Brigade



**Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley**  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech) Public Affairs

CAMP NEW JERSEY, Kuwait — **"He is a tactical expert. He has charisma and a great presence. His favorite quote is 'If something needs to be fixed, look in the mirror and you'll see who's going to get it done.'"** Capt. Alonzo Ford, HHC, 3rd Brigade

"It has been my privilege to serve with them," said Col. Daniel B. Allyn on the eve of his change of command ceremony, referring to the soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "I hope they know how much I love them and am absolutely proud of them — what they've done for the brigade and nation, in particular, in the past year."

Allyn's respect and genuine concern is evident in the way he speaks of his soldiers, soldiers who demonstrated under the harshest conditions the level of commitment and endurance in training and combat, he said.

"They consistently accomplished the mission and stood undaunted when facing a myriad of challenges," he said.

Allyn said the sacrifices the soldiers made in the past 15 months — from Operation Desert Spring here from March to November 2002, and again in January — is an indication of the soldiers we have right now.

Through months of training, executing force on force missions from company to BCT level maneuver live fires, Allyn boasted he was proud of the brigade live fire where the entire BCT synchronized as one. "This is something we can't do in the U.S. We executed against the toughest enemy — ourselves," Allyn said, "in 130 degree heat and sand storms."

"We proved ourselves and executed a level of competence and confidence that we could handle any challenges — enemy-based or environmental — during Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said.

Allyn said he will take away from this deployment a validation that training works, and not

only will soldiers accomplish the mission, but take care of their own.

**"He tells it like it is — a man of his word. He keeps the soldiers informed of what is going on and lets the leaders do their jobs."** Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mims, HHC, 1/15 Infantry

Allyn said while morale is remarkably good, the period of uncertainty on when they'll redeploy has been harder on the soldiers than the training or combat they've faced.

"Never underestimate the endurance of the American soldier," he said. "They can excel in areas historically that people would say are unbearable."

He said he was awestruck by 3rd BCT's turn-in of equipment and vehicles at Camp Arifjan.

"They give and give and they are still smiling. They may have had air conditioning in a warehouse while they were down there or had the opportunity to go to the pool."

"It's an excellent patriot who expects little in return," he said.

**"He's what Be, Know, Do means to leadership. He cares for his soldiers and believes in the NCO Corps."** Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Valrie, C Co., 2/69 Armor

The repetitious manner his unit attacked every mission with full knowledge the enemy wanted to kill them demonstrated the soldier's duty and overwhelming dominance, Allyn said. "That speaks to me the confidence they have."

One instance of confidence witnessed by Allyn was of an NCO who directed the placement of his element while receiving direct fire.

"He jumped in his Bradley to destroy the enemy element bringing fire against us."

"Seven hours later, that same NCO conducted a casualty evacuation through three rifle propelled grenade attacks, direct fire and ambushes to get the wounded to a higher level of care," he said.

Allyn said his soldiers had been attacking for 18 hours and when the NCO returned, he had

been on his feet for 36 hours. "That is indicative of leadership, courage and commitment to duty that happened throughout this war."

**"He's a humble man. His knowledge as a commander was the leadership we needed at all times. Being humble is not a weakness; it's a strength. His soldiers respect and admire him."** Chap. (Maj.) Jose Resto, 3rd Brigade Chaplain

"A good leader is one who maintains the soldier as the centerpiece of his focus, to ensure that if they are called to combat, they will face no challenges that you could not prepare them for in training," he said.

Allyn said that when he looks back on his time as commander of the 3rd BCT, he will think of two things — the faces of his soldiers and the faces of the Iraqi children.

He said that the soldiers during training faced extreme heat and blistering winds, but were unwilling to yield to the conditions causing their equipment to break.

"I saw that same will of steel in Iraq from the second to third week of offensive operations when we went from one mission to another," he said.

"The soldiers looked you in the eye and said, 'What do you need done, sir?'"

He added that the faces of the children and their absolute joy over being liberated from the Iraqi regime would live with him for the rest of his life.

**"He takes care of us, the soldiers, whether we are in the rear or on the battlefield. He gave us ample time to be with our families. We focus on training but never forget the families."** Cpl. James Miller, HHC, 1/10 Field Artillery

Behind every soldier is a family, and Allyn sees the Family Readiness Groups back at Fort Benning as the unsung heroes, he said.

For the past 15 months, families of Task Force 1-15 Infantry have seen their soldiers for one month, while the rest of the BCT was home for three months.

"They've been unyielding in their commitment to take care of the homefront, units and soldiers forward so they (the soldiers) can take care of the mission," he said. "They have been the MVPs across the board."

Allyn added that besides his wife and children, what he's most looking forward to are redeployment orders for the rest of 3rd BCT.

"You fought a 360 degree fight ... from An Nasiriyah to As Samawah to Karbala. When you are the anvil, be patient. When you are the hammer, strike!" Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commander, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.)

Combat tested in Operations Urgent Fury in Grenada, Just Cause in Panama and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Allyn said the speed, lethality and decisive manner in which this campaign was executed, exceeded his frame of reference from previous combat experience.

To the soldiers of 3rd BCT, Allyn said, "You've helped to write history these past few months. You've ensured three towns and north-west Baghdad will not be simple geographic references on a map. You are testimonies to courage, commitment and sacrifice. You've brought hope of freedom to an oppressed nation."



Maj. John Seagars, executive officer for Task Force 2-69 Armor, part of the 3 BCT walks the streets of Baghdad while his tank patrols to his right.

Harry Smith, anchor for The Early Show on CBS, conducts a live television interview with Col. Daniel B. Allyn, 3rd BCT commander Feb. 6 at Camp New Jersey, Kuwait.

File photos



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Jones, squad leader with C Company, Task Force 1-15 Infantry, covers his squad as they check a room while clearing a building east of Karbala. (Right) A 3rd BCT soldier greets his family after returning from Operation Desert Spring. The 3rd BCT was deployed from March to September 2002.



A 3rd BCT M1 Abrams tank fires during a live fire while deployed to Kuwait during Operation Desert Spring.

# 3rd BCT rolls stock to Arifjan



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

Spc. Wesley Ashenbramer, A Co., 1-30 Inf. cleans his Bradley Fighting Vehicle at Camp Arifjan's wash racks on his 22nd birthday June 17. The Lincoln, Neb., native's unit was one of several from the 3rd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) cleaning and turning in Army Preposition Stock vehicles prior to redeployment.

## Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — A critical piece to the redeployment puzzle was accomplished June 17 as the final elements of 3rd Brigade Combat Team completed the turn-in of Army prepositioned stock.

About 55 vehicles from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and A Company, 1-30 Infantry, as well as HHC, 3rd BCT, convoyed from camps New York and New Jersey to Camp Arifjan, a two-hour trek.

Before these soldiers can step onto a plane bound for home, vehicles and equipment they drew upon arrival in January must be staged, thoroughly washed, inspected and turned in.

No vehicle moves from the staging areas to the wash racks without a ground guide. Speed limit is five miles per hour, as most vehicles inch along to one of 48 concrete wash racks at the upper wash rack. Another 48 await soldiers in the lower wash rack.

Chock blocks must be in place and eye protection must be worn at the wash rack. There's even an amnesty box for overlooked rounds. A Bradley can have a lot of hiding places.

Once vehicles are angled on the wash racks, the cleaning process begins. A powerful jet of water changes to mud as the spray meets the caked-on dirt. It's like a car wash on steroids.

Spc. Joseph Strittmatter, 140th Quartermaster Company from Fort Totten, N.Y., is one of many soldiers in orange safety vests — monitors, as they are called. It is their job to

ensure vehicles get married up with wash racks and that pressure washers are working properly.

"We can shuttle in about 250 vehicles a day — tracked, wheeled, trailers, you name it," he said. "They all have to be washed."

"Because their movement is limited from the staging area to the wash racks, our main concern is heat injuries," said 1st Lt. Bradley Kelso, wash rack officer in charge, 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard.

He had reason for concern.

On that particular day, the temperatures were upward of 120 degrees. And there's no shade, unless you are under a Bradley Fighting Vehicle cleaning the tracks.

Lots of cold water is provided for soldiers, and if there's time after turn-in, a dip in the pool during the short stay at Arifjan.

Following the wash, vehicles are inspected on the rack. With a seal of approval - a sticker signifying the standards have been met — the vehicle moves on line to await turn-in.

After that, the hard work is done — the puzzle is complete.

The wash racks and turn-in process are operational 24 hours a day. Monitors work in three shifts, with the 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. shift being the most coveted, for obvious reasons.

The units departed on buses back to their respective camps as convoys of other vehicles pull in to start another process. Only this time, staging, washing, inspecting and turn-in will occur under the glare of lights instead of the hot Kuwaiti sun.

# 3rd BCT gets new commander, old comrade



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

Col. Steven L. Salazar speaks to 3rd BCT soldiers after taking command of the unit.

## Sgt. 1st Class Mike Brantley

3ID PAO

CAMP NEW JERSEY, Kuwait - The thunderous beat of Peter Gabriel's Sledgehammer echoed into the sand-filled morning sky June 21 as the men and women of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team bid farewell to one commander and welcomed another.

Col. Steven L. Salazar, returning for the third time to the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), took command of the combat-tested team from Col. Daniel B. Allyn in a change of command ceremony here.

"Back home it's just another day - some are playing golf, cutting the grass or fishing. But today, the passing of colors of the outgoing commander to the

incoming commander is an event made that much more special for the brigade and what its soldiers have accomplished," said Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commander, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.)

The newest Hammer 6, Salazar, who was born at Fort Benning and entered the Army as an infantry soldier in 1976, was commissioned an infantry officer in 1982.

He has commanded D Company, and

**"Today, the passing of the colors of the outgoing commander is an event made that much special for the brigade."**

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commander

commander of the 1-8 Inf., 4th Inf. Div. (Mech.) Fort Carson, Colo.

Allyn, a Berwick, Maine native and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, departs the Sledgehammer family for duty on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 7th Inf., 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and served as operations officer for the 3rd BCT, 24th and 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) He also served as the com-

2002 Water Quality COMBINED REPORT



2002 Water Quality Report



## Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's Annual Water Quality Report



The Directorate of Public Works is pleased to present Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's annual Water Quality Report. This report provides you with a detailed account of all the water monitoring and testing results gathered during 2002. As always, our constant goal is to provide our patrons with safe and dependable drinking water. Additional copies of this report will be available at the Installation's Environmental Offices: Fort Stewart Building 1137 and Hunter Building 1026.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

Fort Stewart's main water supply comes from five municipal groundwater wells that are approximately 500-feet deep, while Hunter residents are serviced by two 500-foot deep wells. Groundwater is stored in permeable rock layers called aquifers, which are like underground lakes. Our groundwater is supplied by the Upper Floridan Aquifer. Before the water is distributed, the water is chlorinated to kill disease-causing organisms and fluoridated to promote dental health.



### Protecting Your Water Source

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land or through the ground, water dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Therefore, water can pick up substances as by-products from both the presence of animals and human activities.

- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
  - Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial and domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, or mining and farming activities.
  - Pesticides or herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban runoff, and residential uses.
  - Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and they can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
  - Radioactive contaminants, which can be either naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same public health protection. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been performed on the source of your drinking water (the Upper Floridan Aquifer). The Wellhead Protection Plans at Fort Stewart and Hunter were developed to determine the susceptibility of contaminants entering our drinking water supply and to better identify ways for protecting our water source. For further information, a copy of these Wellhead Protection Plans may be reviewed at the Fort Stewart Environmental Office, 1550 Frank Cochran Dr. (Bldg. 1137), Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4927. Point of contact is Tressa Rutland, 912-767-2010.



Consumers can cut water use by 15% through conservative practices.

### Vulnerability

Both MEDDAC's Preventive Medicine and DPW continually monitor the drinking water for contaminants. Our water is safe to drink; however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Water Quality Data

Below is a table that indicates the constituents that have been detected during sampling of FS and HAAF's water supply system.

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS <sup>1</sup>						Violation	Source of Contaminant
			Fort Stewart			HAAF				
			Detected	Range of Detection	Sample Date <sup>2</sup>	Detected	Range of Detection	Sample Date <sup>2</sup>		
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.1*	0.9-2.1	Jan-Dec 2002	1.14*	0.26-1.44	Jan-Dec 2002	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead (ppb)	AL-15	0	2.5**	0-2.8	Aug 2002	2.5**	0-1	Aug 2002	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	AL-1000	0	50**	0-60	Aug 2002	50**	0-99	Aug 2002	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

<sup>1</sup>The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk in some instances naturally occur in drinking water systems. <sup>2</sup>Average of all detections. <sup>3</sup>Value represents 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of most recent sampling, see frequency below. <sup>4</sup>Based on most recent sampling equipment.

As mentioned, Fort Stewart and Hunter monitor constantly for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Many other contaminants have been analyzed also, but were either not present or were below the detection of the laboratory.

### Terms and Abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** Highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**ppm:** Parts per million; a unit of measure equivalent to a single penny in \$10,000.

**ppb:** Parts per billion; a unit of measure equivalent to a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**TTHM:** Total Trihalomethanes; by-product of drinking water disinfection.

**Range:** The range of the highest and lowest analytical values of a reported contaminant. For example, the range of an unregulated contaminant may be 10.1 (lowest value) to 13.4 (highest value). EPA requires the range to be reported for certain analytes.

**ND:** Not Detected.

### Georgia Water Restrictions

Over the last four years, much of Georgia has suffered through drought conditions. As a result, the Coastal Empire had been under strict water usage restrictions for the past year. However, due to long overdue rainfall and people adhering to restrictions, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has been able to revise the water restrictions for most of the State of Georgia that were mandated and originally put into effect in June 2000. In March 2003, the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources approved alternate day outdoor watering restrictions. Currently, homes and businesses with odd-numbered addresses may water on **Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays**. Likewise, homes and businesses with even-numbered or unnumbered addresses may water on **Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday** while all outdoor watering will be prohibited on **Fridays**. Although the water usage restriction situation for our area has changed, the need to manage and maintain our limited water supplies has not. Everyone at FS and HAAF must continue to do their part by conserving water. Changing our water use habits in ways that will help the resource sustain itself is important not only for ourselves and for the animals and plants upon which we depend for food, but also for future generations. Compared to a year ago, the outlook is brighter for our water supply but we need to continue conserving to help eliminate drought conditions for the State and to help us all in the future.

### Conserving Our Water Supply

Every day throughout the world, nations are facing water problems in terms of both quantity and quality. Between 1950 and 1970, global water demand tripled and is expected to double within 35 years. Although 75 percent of the earth is covered by water, only 1 percent is available as renewable fresh water, and only about one-third of all precipitation that falls on the land goes back to the oceans by rivers and runoff. We are a nation whose water needs are rapidly rising while available supplies are shrinking; regional water crises are becoming increasingly frequent as water tables are falling and stream flow is decreasing. We can no longer take our drinking water for granted. This means that individuals, municipalities, industries, and governments must be proactive in conserving and protecting our water supplies. As Georgia continues to experience the after effects of the previous year's conditions, we must realize that the consequences of such little rainfall are far-reaching, affecting humans, wildlife, and vegetation. Additionally, the severity of its impact on society is often exacerbated by the demand that people place on the water supply. Water is the most precious commodity we have on this planet; we ought not to treat it as if it were an unlimited resource. By shifting our priorities for water usage, we can prevent water scarcity. The well has run dry in many places—it's not make our community next!

### Monitoring Frequencies

Our water systems use only EPA approved laboratory methods to analyze your drinking water. Our personnel take water samples from numerous locations throughout the distribution system and residents' taps; samples are then delivered to an accredited laboratory where water quality analyses are performed as follows:

Parameter	Fort Stewart Frequency	HAAF Frequency
Biological Contaminants	Once a month	Once a month
Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOC)	Once every 3 years	Once every 3 years
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOC)	Waived <sup>3</sup>	Waived <sup>3</sup>
Inorganic Contaminants (IOC)	Once every 3 years	Once every 3 years
Lead and Copper	Once every 3 years	Once every 3 years
Nitrate/Nitrite	Once every year	Once every year
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	Once a quarter	N/A <sup>4</sup>
Unregulated Contaminants	Approx. once every 3 yrs	Approx. once every 3 yrs

<sup>1</sup>The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) issues FS & HAAF a SOC monitoring waiver for 2003-2004 because EPD studies have shown that the drinking water is not vulnerable to contamination from SOC at either installation. <sup>2</sup>For EPD rules and regulations, TTHM sampling is not required for drinking water systems with less than 10,000 connections.

**Flushing Program**—Water distribution systems typically have looped water mains that keep water flowing throughout the system—keeping it "fresh". Periodically, the DPW flushes the lines to aid the process. But, the lines that lead from the main to your individual building are flushed only when you use the water in the building. The DPW ENRD recommends you flush your lines for about 2 minutes after extended periods of non-use, such as after a vacation. You can help improve the quality of your water.

Questions? Call DPW Environmental & Natural Resources Division: 767-2010

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# NG ADA takes to range to fire Stinger missiles

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**

Staff Writer

The 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, a National Guard unit and subordinate unit to the 35th ADA Brigade, out of Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted a live fire exercise at Fort Stewart's Red Cloud golf range June 21.

The 2/263rd was conducting its annual training at Fort Stewart. The unit tries to complete a live fire exercise on a yearly basis, but hasn't since 2000, said Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest James, battalion command sergeant major.

According to him, Fort Stewart was the only location available this year, and it affords the battalion many training opportunities not available at many installations.

"One of the good things about Fort Stewart is that we can do live fire," James said. "The AT period is really like the evaluation ... they train all year."

The 2/263rd uses the Avenger System to fire Stinger missiles at airborne targets. The battalion has another mission, which like many National Guard units is to provide natural disaster relief.

"We have a lot to get done in the short period of time that we're here," he said.

Staff Sgt. Tony Brown, Avenger technician, discussed the complexities of keeping

the system afloat.

"A lot of service maintenance is done to keep the system running," he said "You've got eight Stinger missiles and a 50 caliber machine gun mounted on the side, all electronically controlled."

Brig. Gen. Herman "Butch" Kirven, the higher echelon Deputy G-2, wants to see more avenger training for the 2/263rd.

"They train all the time at the moving target simulator," he said, indicating his faith in the 2/263rd's ability to neutralize targets with live ammunition. "But we expect to have our training intensified in the near future."

Kirven was on site to watch the exercise and see how the unit performed.

"I expect to see some friendly competition between the units participating. I think they'll do very well," he said.

The 2/263rd had no problem hitting targets. Thirteen Avengers fire a total of 13 missiles at small gasoline powered airplanes launched from the side of the range.

Avenger Crewmember Spc. Jonathan Perry was not surprised.

"The Avenger is mobile and it's fast," he said.

In order to complete the exercise, the 2/263rd needed help outside the battalion for radar tracking. The Florida National Guard provided Sentinel Radar System aid



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

**The 2nd Bn, 263rd ADA performs live fire training exercises using its Avenger system at Fort Stewart's Red Cloud golf range June 21.**

for the 2/263rd, said Lt. Col. Roger J. Drumm, battalion commander.

"The 2nd Bn, 265th ADA out of West Palm Beach, Fla., has been extremely supportive of our effort," he said.

Having the chance to perform a live fire exercise was a great chance for the battalion

to see how well training paid off, so they can better support the 35th ADA Bde., said James. The battalion has many soldiers who haven't fired live missiles since their Initial Entry Training.

"These troops here on the ground are top of the line," James said.

# Army to rename more than 150 MOSs

**Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs**

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Personnel specialists Armywide are changing more than 50 percent of the enlisted force's occupational codes. For most enlisted soldiers it will just be an alphanumeric change, for others it could mean a career change.

The Army has 230 military occupational specialties — a number that changes everyday, said Randy Newman, chief of the Classification Structure Branch. By fiscal year 2009, about 150 of them will be renamed or deleted, he said.

The codes will be aligned with the officer and warrant officer codes for clarity as directed by the former Army chief of staff, retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

The Engineer Career Management Field will be renaming 20 specialties. The Aviation CMF will be renaming 19 specialties. These two have the most soldiers to receive a new nomenclature. However, these soldiers will be among the least affected by the realignment of job designators.

Decreasing confusion on what jobs fall under the Engineer CMF will be the primary benefit, said Lt. Col. Jack Smith, the Enlisted Engineer Branch chief.

"The only consternation will be for those senior NCOs [noncommissioned officers] whose goal is to become a Zulu and make the rank of sergeant major. Their quest will change slightly," Smith said.

Combat engineering senior sergeant, 12Z, will be converted to 21Z. However, general engineer supervisor, 51Z, will be reclassified to 21X and topographic engineering supervisor, 81Z, will be reclassified to 21Y. Bottom line, Smith said, they will be sergeants major responsible for leading troops.

The Aviation Branch is not consolidating any individual specialties, and the change will not affect promotion or assignment eligibility, said Master Sgt. David Wagner, the senior career adviser for the Aviation Branch.

"The most-asked question is whether the change means that aviation soldiers will become combat arms, and the answer is no," Wagner said. "Our pilots and the officers are considered combat arms, but enlisted soldiers will still be combat support."

Most of the realignment changes will take place fiscal year 2004, but the process will be staggered until FY09, said Randy Newman, chief of the Classification Structure Branch.

"The reason the reclassifications will

take so long is because I only have a limited number of MOS codes to use," Newman said. "For example, medical specialists, CMF 91, will be moved to CMF 68. However, right now aviation is coded CMF 68."

Medical specialists will be among the last to get their new designators, but they were the first to announce how the realignment will "doctor" its field.

In October of 2001 combat medics, 91B, and licensed practical nurses, 91C, were combined and reclassified as health-care specialists, 91W. A six-year transformation began for the active-duty medic and an eight-year transition for the reservists.

The advanced individual training for health-care specialists located in San Antonio, Texas, was also extended to 16 weeks from the 12-week course.

"Our medics can now operate autonomously on diverse battlefields," said Lt. Col. Ron Hamilton, the chief of the Health Services Branch. "Based on a study that looked at how civilians in the medical field are trained and medics in Ranger battalions and in the Marine Corps and Air Force, we modified how our medics are trained and re-certified."

Personnel specialists also have a long road ahead. Over the next four years the

position "administrative specialist," also widely recognized as 71L, will not be renamed but deleted, said Sgt. Maj. James Miller, the Adjutant General Branch sergeant major.

"There has been some anxiety and concern among our personnel soldiers, but we have been preparing them mentally for the upcoming changes, Miller said. "Soldiers know that a draw down is inevitable, but some soldiers are ready for a change, and looking forward to reclassifying into another MOS."

When it comes to Transformation, the Adjutant Corps is building the bridges that will get them there and have them waiting for the rest of the Army, Miller said. However, the greatest challenge now is to take care of the soldiers who spent their early years in the Army serving under the AG umbrella, he added.

Staff sergeants and sergeants first class are concerned about being competitive at senior promotion boards after reclassifying into another field, Miller said.

The Army's personnel specialists will move to CMF 42, and with the change in nomenclature officials are hoping to streamline the career field and produce a more diversified administrative soldier.

To date, 115 MOSs have been recoded.

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# Full battle rattle

## Equipment saving lives in Iraq, Afghanistan

**Jim Garramone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Any TV news report from Iraq or Afghanistan shows American service members wearing “full battle rattle.”

Wearing the battle rattle has saved lives in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

One famous case was that of Army Spc. Jason Ashline. The young specialist was part of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. His unit was part of Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan in November 2001.

His squad leader Sgt. Raul Lopez picks up the story: “We were taking a lot of small arms and indirect fire,” he said. The unit moved to get to a more protected area.

“As we were pulling away, ... we started taking it real heavy,” Lopez continued. “In that period of three to four minutes I started to roll down the hill. My guys were right behind me. Ashline ended up taking a round directly

over his heart in his body armor.”

“As soon as he was hit, I was in shock,” Lopez said. “I couldn’t believe I saw it happen a foot and a half in front of me.”

The impact knocked Ashline back, and Lopez grabbed him by the back of his body armor to drag him down the hill. “As I was dragging him down the hill, he was saying ‘I think I’m all right,’” Lopez recalled. “I got him out of the direct line of fire and ripped his vest open to look for blood. To my surprise I couldn’t find an entry wound.”

The interceptor body armor system had stopped a 7.62 mm round. The round had passed through three layers of Kevlar and mushroomed inside the ceramic plate. But Ashline was alive and after another sergeant — Ryan Brown — retrieved the specialist’s weapon, he was back in the fight.

Army officials said that from Afghanistan there are about 25 soldiers who are walking around alive today because their body armor stopped rounds. DoD officials said there are

no firm statistics on the situation from Iraq, but that anecdotal evidence suggests the body armor has saved lives there.

“Everything we’re getting from Iraq and Afghanistan is overwhelmingly positive,” said Dan Power, a spokesman for DHB Industries Inc., the parent company of the maker of the system.

What service members call battle rattle is a two-part system, said David Nelson, the deputy product manager for clothing and individual equipment at Program Executive Office — Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va. “One component is the soft vest that covers the torso the shoulders and the back,” he said during a phone interview. “It’s made of soft material, a mixture of Kevlar and Twaron.”

These are sown together in sort of a sandwich fashion inside a nylon camouflage-pattern shell. The nylon vest has attaching points for load-bearing equipment. On the back of the vest is the grab handle that Lopez found so helpful in dragging Ashline.

The second component of the system is ceramic plates that fit in pockets in the front and back of the vest. These plates protect the heart and lungs.

The vest itself will stop bullets from hand guns and fragmentation from indirect munitions such as mortars and hand grenades, said Norm Fanning, Nelson’s coworker. The plates added to the mixture will protect against rifle and machine gun rounds.

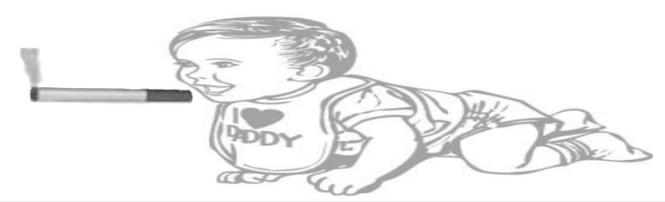
The total weight of the system is 16 pounds.

Fanning said the Army is always looking to modernize the system and make it more effective. “We’re looking at ways to lighten vest even more,” he said. The office is testing new ballistic fibers to see if they can’t save some weight. They are also looking at alternative materials for the ceramic plates so they are less susceptible to damage if dropped.

The current price for the vests is \$585 a copy. The plates run approximately \$500 per plate.



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I want you to remember to RECYCLE! DoD has mandated for us to reduce our waste stream by 40% by the year 2005. To meet this goal, we must recycle.

To help with this effort, blue recycling dumpsters have been positioned next to the brown trash dumpsters for your convenience. Help your office, business, or building to recycle by educating your personnel and by providing recycling bins to collect recyclables.

These bins can be purchased at the SSSC store, Bldg #1082. For more information regarding recycling, please call 912.767.8880.



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## Stewart

**15th Street Gate**

Effective July 1, the operation hours of Gate #7 will be 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Only commercial vehicles will still be allowed to enter during the physical training period of 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Currently the gate is open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please adjust your driving routes due to this change.

**Restoration Advisory Board**

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are conducting a community interest survey to determine whether a Restoration Advisory Board would be supported by the local communities.

The RAB would serve as a focal point for the exchange of information between representatives of the installations and the community regarding restoration activities.

For more information concerning environmental investigations and cleanup activities at Fort Stewart/Hunter, please contact Tressa Rutland at 767-2010.

**Family Assistance Center**

Army Community Service at Fort Stewart scaled back its Family Assistance Center hours of operation. New hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekends will be handled with an on call roster and phones forwarded to EOC.

**Childcare Needed**

Military wives are needed to provide childcare in their homes. Free training and assistance

offered through Youth Services' Family Childcare program. Why not consider this excellent opportunity to make money?

For more information call 767-2311.

**Education Center Hours**

The Main Education Center, Building 130, will continue with expanded hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours. The 1st Brigade/Divarty Learning Center will return to regular business hours. Computer access is available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

**Refuse and Recycling**

Friday's route, the Fourth of July, for refuse and recyclable's pickup in the housing areas will be picked up on the preceding day, the July 3. The contractor, Mid-America Waste Management, Inc., will be off for the Fourth of July. Tenants are encouraged to put their refuse and recyclables out by the curb the night before.

**Scuba Diving Course**

Course consists of 2 four-hour class sessions on July 8 and 9 and 1 two-hour session July 10. Two 4-hour pool sessions are scheduled July 16 & 17 and a diving trip to Florida, the weekend of July 18.

For more information, call Perry Yawn at 767-8326.

## Hunter

**After-school Program**

The Hunter Youth Center is now signing up students in the 6th grade level and higher for a free After-School Program. First through 5th graders may also sign up, however, space is limited. Those who are interested can register at Building 1286.

**Phatt Katz Comedy Show**

The Phatt Katz Comedy Run will present shows at the Hunter Club on Wednesday starting at 9:30 p.m. Performances will feature two comedians and one headliner.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations call 269-0277.

**Continuing education**

Family members, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen can continue their education during their relocation to Hunter Army Airfield, regardless of their specific unit, at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center, Building 1290. For more information, call 352-6130.

Classrooms are also available for training and FRG meetings. For additional information about these locations, or the ACES program, call the Main Education Center at 352-6130.

**First Steps Program**

The First Steps Program needs volunteers. This is a program that provides information and support to expectant and new parents stationed at Hunter. Volunteers make home

visits to expectant parents and provide a 12 month phone call follow up. Volunteers are paid mileage reimbursement and enjoy flexible hours. For more information, call 756-6516.

**Youth Services**

There are various programs available for every age at the Youth Services Bldg. 6052. You can pick anything from basketball to Tae Kwon Do lessons.

For more information call 352-5708.

**Softball Signups Slated**

Intramural Softball registration is still open — sign up today! Semi-pro baseball is also available. All sports open to active duty, reserve component soldiers and family members. For more information call Art Lewis, Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

**Hunting and Fishing License**

Fort Stewart and Hunter AAF hunting and fishing permits and Georgia State hunting and fishing licenses are sold at the Hunter Skeet Range, Bldg. 8250. A Hunter Education course is required for on-post hunting permit. For more information, please call 352-5916.

**One lane traffic on Wilson**

Widening and resurfacing from approximately 800 feet west of the Stephenson Gate to the intersection of Lightening Road is scheduled to commence Monday until July 3, tentatively. Traffic will be maintained to one lane.

## Winn Army Community Hospital

**Family Reunion Support**

Family reunion support is available for families having difficulty adjusting after a deployment. Support is available by appointment or on a walk-in basis.

For more information, call 370-6100.

**Preventive Medicine**

The Department of Preventive Medicine has relocated to buildings PB473 and PB474, across from Army Community Services. For more information, call 370-5085.

**Coping Support Groups**

The Coping Support Group is for adults having difficulty dealing with the stress in their life. The group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday.

The Coping Support Group for Children meets 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday for children ages 6 to 9 and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for children ages 10 to 13.

For more information, call 370-6100.

**TRICARE Hours of Operation**

The TRICARE Service Center will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 370-6015.

**Intervention Services**

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at

risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.

Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments.

For more information, call 370-6349.

**ASAP sees families**

The Army Substance Abuse Program will now see dependant family members at least 18-years old, retirees, contract employees and Department of the Army civilians on a walk-in basis. ASAP is located in Building 620 on 6th Street. For more information, call 767-5265.

**Pregnancy Nurse Line**

Patients more than 20 weeks pregnant who have questions between their regularly scheduled appointments can call the direct nurse line at 370-6550.

**Mental Status Exams**

The Behavioral Health Clinic will conduct Active-duty Mental Status Exams 1 to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All patients with a completed FL92-R who sign in by 1:30 p.m. will be seen. This exam is not a treatment evaluation. All soldiers E4 and below must be accompanied by an E5 or higher. For more information, call 370-6100.

# Early screenings now available

To get a jump on next year's school health requirements, school health screening services are now available at Winn Army Community Hospital and Tuttle Army Health Clinic for military beneficiaries.

Children entering the Georgia school system for the first time are required to have the Georgia Certificate of Eye, Ear and Dental screenings as well as the Certificate of Immunization completed and signed by a healthcare provider.

The required certificates can be obtained from the respective clinics. Remember to bring the child's medical

records, shot records and ID card to the screenings.

**Winn Army Community Hospital****Eye and Ear screenings**

Vision and hearing screenings are available by appointment Monday through Friday.

To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Dental Screenings**

Dental screenings on Fort Stewart are available on a walk-in basis at the spon-

sor's assigned dental clinic.

•Dental Clinic #1 will hold walk-in hours from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 767-8510.

•Dental Clinic #4 will hold walk-in hours from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 767-8930.

**Immunization Screenings**

Immunizations and record reviews are available on a walk-in basis.

Walk-in hours are 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday and Friday and 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday. The clinic is closed until 1 p.m. the third Thursday of the month.

**Tuttle Army Health Clinic**

Tuttle's full-service screening is available by appointment only. The one-time appointment will walk the child through each required clinic. Appointments are held from 12:15 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until August 15.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-652-9221.

## POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Civilian, 46-year-old male  
 • **Charges:** Criminal trespassing, larceny of private property  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Failure to obey a lawful order, failure to stop at a posted stop sign  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 29-year-old male, 2nd Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Drunk driving, lawying drag  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Family member, 22-year-old female  
 • **Charges:** Cruelty to children  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 45-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Family member, 19-year-old female  
 • **Charges:** Speeding 95/55  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Family member, 20-year-old male  
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old male  
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, 24th Support Group  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Drunk driving  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Failure to obey a lawful regulation and/or order  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 24th Support Group  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 41-year-old male, 24th Support Group  
 • **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old female, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, loud music from vehicle, warrant-contempt of court  
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Family member, 19-year-old female  
 • **Charges:** Reckless driving  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 28-year-old female, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Improper backing  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate battalion

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

• **Subject:** Civilian, 24-year-old male  
 • **Charges:** Driving while license suspended  
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Driving while license suspended  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old female, separate battalion  
 • **Charges:** Accidental damage of private property  
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful use of cocaine  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Aviation Brigade  
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine  
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

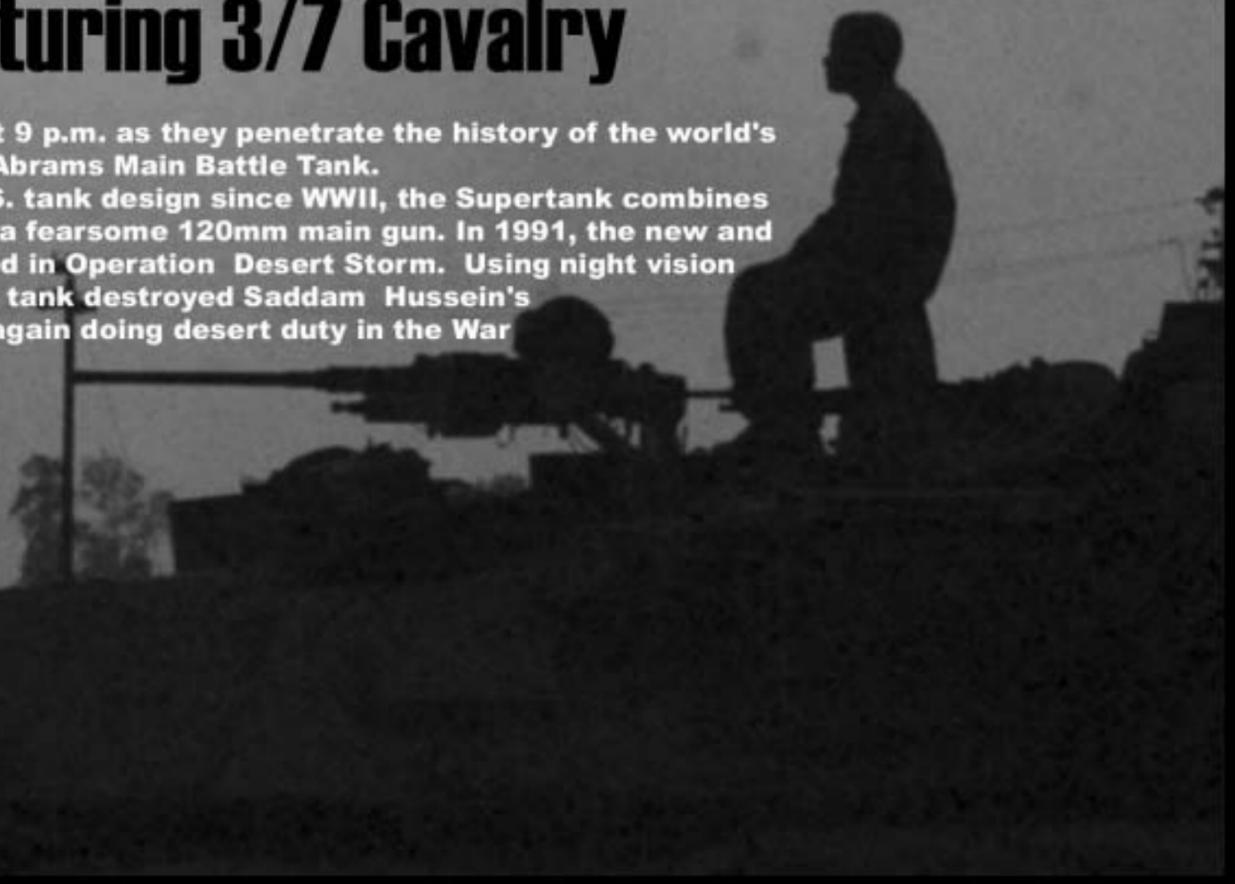
# History Channel special M1 Abrams

## Super tank featuring 3/7 Cavalry

Join the History Channel June 27 at 9 p.m. as they penetrate the history of the world's most sophisticated tank -- the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

In the most radical departure in U.S. tank design since WWII, the Supertank combines speed, heavy protective armor and a fearsome 120mm main gun. In 1991, the new and unproven Abrams tank was deployed in Operation Desert Storm. Using night vision and laser targeting, the M1 Abrams tank destroyed Saddam Hussein's armored Republican Guard, and is again doing desert duty in the War in Iraq.

TV Rating: G



# Ticks may transmit more than Lyme Disease

Bill Wildman

Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kan.

Ticks are very important disease vectors throughout most of the world. For the better part of a hundred years, humans have known that ticks can cause some very serious illnesses.

You can think of a tick as the ultimate Abrams tank of the arthropod world. Ticks are among the most efficient all vectors (disease transmitters). They are capable of causing paralysis through neurotoxic salivary secretions or transmitting viruses, bacteria and protozoa. They attach firmly to the skin, feed slowly on blood and often go unnoticed.

All this and some ticks can live 20-25 years; go long periods without food; lay thousands of eggs; and withstand extreme environmental stresses. Some species are even capable of transmitting pathogens to their offspring through their eggs. If you combine all these factors, you have a vector with a great potential to transmit disease.

Fortunately, only a few species bite humans. Nevertheless, in the last 10 years or so, tickborne diseases have accounted for 95 percent of the vector-borne infections in the United States reported to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The vector infections are Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Human Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia and Colorado Tick

Fever. Of these, the first two get the most attention.

Lyme Disease is caused by a corkscrew-shaped bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is now the most commonly reported tickborne disease in the United States. Lyme Disease can cause such nonspecific symptoms as fever, malaise, fatigue, muscle aches and joint aches. Diagnosis of Lyme Disease is based on a number of things: history of tick bites or exposure, symptoms, and particularly a bull's-eye shaped rash around the site of the tick bite. If a person is treated promptly, results are positive and the risk of later complications is sharply reduced.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is a febrile disease caused by the small bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*. This disease is characterized by a sudden onset of chills, fever, headache, muscle pain and bloodshot eyes. The name "spotted fever" comes from a rash that appears on the hands and feet and gradually extends to the rest of the body. Diagnosis of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can be confirmed through blood tests.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Human Ehrlichiosis and Lyme Disease respond to treatment. Therefore, early diagnosis and treatment are important. Lack of treatment can have quite an adverse effect on your quality of life.

Human monocytic ehrlichiosis is a disease caused by a small, rickettsia-like bacterial

pathogen. HME is the most recent tickborne disease discovered, with the first case of human ehrlichiosis in the United States in 1986. Since then, more than 27 states have diagnosed patients with this disease.

Fever, headache, severe muscle aches, fatigue, chills and nausea are symptoms of human ehrlichiosis that begin one to 21 days following infection.

The symptoms resemble those of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The spectrum of the disease ranges anywhere from an illness so mild that no medical attention is sought, to a severe life-threatening condition.

The best way of preventing Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or other tickborne diseases is to avoid tick-infested areas. If you are a service member, this is easier said than done. If your job causes you to enter tall grass or low shrubs, wear your uniform in the proper way.

A service member should blouse the BDU pants into boots and have the BDU sleeves rolled down. Use permethrin on your uniform and apply DEET repellent to exposed skin. DEET 33 percent formulas are the most effective for adults. Parents should check labels for appropriate milder formulations for children.

Clothing should be treated with permethrin. Permethrin is the most effective clothing impregnant available. It is odorless, non-irritating, and resistant to washing and wear abrasion.

Check yourself for ticks frequently and use the buddy system. Unless you are a dog or cat, reading this, do not use flea and tick collars. They contain different kinds of pesticides, some of which have adverse effects on humans. Look at a photo of flea and tick collar abuse and it will change your mind about wearing them.

Remove ticks immediately with fine-tipped tweezers, grasping the tick as close to the point of attachment as possible and pulling slowly, teasing it off. Contrary to popular belief, they do not unscrew.

Do not use heat from a cigarette, match, vaseline, nail-polish remover, or nail polish to remove the tick. This could cause the tick to expel its stomach contents into you like a syringe, possibly transmitting disease organisms.

The bite should be cleaned like any wound with soap and water, especially if the mouth parts remain. Wash hands with soap and water after handling ticks, since fluid from ticks may be infected.

Save the tick in a jar or vial and call your local preventive-medicine section. Environmental health technicians can identify what type of tick it is and enter the information into your medical record.

Remember, not all species of ticks transmit disease. Identification of the tick may greatly facilitate the physician's diagnosis in cases of tickborne diseases.

# West Nile virus debuts earlier than usual

Jerry Harben

Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Army preventive medicine specialists are waging a war against the West Nile Virus.

Although there have been no cases of humans infected by West Nile Virus in the United States so far this year, according to U.S. Centers of Disease Control statistics as of June 11, the virus has been detected earlier than usual in birds and mosquitoes this summer. Therefore, experts say protective measures are important.

The virus, which can cause a form of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), normally resides in birds and infects humans through mosquitoes that bite both the birds and humans. So, preventing mosquito bites is the best way to prevent human infection.

"Personal protection is the first line of defense," said Lt. Col. Dave West, an entomologist for Medical Command's Proponency Office for Preventive Medicine at Fort Sam

Houston, Texas.

"People should wear long sleeves rolled down, wear insect repellent with DEET and wear uniforms treated with permethrin," West said.

Staying indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening, when mosquitoes are most active, also will help, he said.

Mosquitoes reproduce in standing water, so eliminating pools (even small ones such as in old tires or tin cans) can reduce the threat, West said.

Many military installations will take measures to control mosquito populations, but West noted that, "even with the most effective control measures, there will still be mosquitoes out there."

West Nile Virus is not transmitted from person to person except, in rare cases, by blood transfusion or organ transplant from an infected donor and there is no evidence a person can be infected directly from birds, according to medical experts.

West Nile Virus is commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. In 1999 it was identified in New York and it has

since spread to 44 states. Last year there were 4,156 reported human cases and 284 deaths in the U.S.

Most humans infected with the virus have no symptoms. Some develop mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Less than 1 percent of infections cause serious illness, which could include encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord). Some 3 to 15 percent of encephalitis cases result in death. The elderly are most at risk, experts say.

"Most of our military population is young and healthy. Even though we may become infected, most people will not show signs of disease," West said.

The Web site of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine states that there is no vaccine or specific medication against West Nile Virus, but the symptoms and complications can be treated. By far, most people who get this illness recover from it. The center's Web site at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil> offers more extensive information about the illness and preventive measures.



# Woman Drill Sergeant of the Year

Patrick Buffet

Army News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Two female drill sergeants for the first time captured the titles of Drill Sergeants of the Year for both the active-duty and reserve components.

Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Miranda, E Company, 1/61st Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, S.C., was the active-duty Drill Sergeant of the Year. Sgt. 1st Class Corenna L. Rouse, 100th Division (Institutional Training), U.S. Army Reserve, Louisville, Ky., claimed the top drill-sergeant honors for the reserve component.

Miranda competed against 14 active-duty drill sergeants, and Rouse seven reserve drill sergeants representing installations and training divisions across the country.

"In my heart, I didn't think I had a chance of winning," Rouse said, describing the moments leading up to the announcement at a ceremony attended by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley and former SMA Robert E. Hall, among other distinguished guests.

"In the formation I was fine ... I was like 'do-de-do, let's go see who's going to win.' So when they called my name it was a complete shock. I didn't really have time to let it sink in. I guess if I really thought I had a chance I would have been a lot more nervous," Rouse said.

Miranda said she had "sort of talked herself" into believing the winner would be somebody else as well. "It was all pretty amazing when they called my name. I was just overwhelmed."

To win the DSOY title, competitors must successfully negotiate four major challenges - a physical fitness test; a "surprise topic" essay; an appearance before a board comprised of five sergeants major; and a teaching demonstration of soldier common tasks like setting up a claymore mine and drill and ceremony. The events occur over three days.

"I think the hardest part by far is the PT test because it's right there, the first thing you do," said Rouse, a native of Hagerstown, Md., and now a resident of Louisville, Ky. "And I was told, 'if you don't score 300 (a perfect score), at least have a nice vacation because you're probably not going to win. There was a lot of pressure."

Describing her week, Miranda, a native of Flagstaff, Ariz., first joked, "What day is it?" She then described her PT run as the "worst she's ever done," even though she too achieved a max score on the overall test, and, like Rouse, said the rest of the week

was actually easier in comparison. "Either you knew it or you didn't, it was as simple as that a lot of the time."

In recognition of their win, Miranda and Rouse received a slew of awards, ranging from a Meritorious Service Medal each to trophies, savings bonds and gold watches. The two drill sergeants will also be honored guests at the Association of the U.S. Army national meeting in October. There, they will receive the Stephen Ailes and Richard E. Haines Jr. awards from the secretary of the Army.

Winning the DSOY title also earns the active-duty recipient a change in duty station. Later this summer, Miranda will be relocated to Fort Monroe where she will serve as an advisor to Training and Doctrine Command on initial-entry training and drill-sergeant-related issues. Rouse will also serve in that capacity as her reserve training cycle permits.

One of the most important goals Miranda and Rouse said they have set for themselves in the coming year is to increase interest among lower enlisted soldiers who show strong potential as drill sergeant candidates. It's a decision, they said, most never regret.

"You realize the reward when you see the reaction on a soldier's face everyday you teach them something new," Miranda said. Add to that the phone message she said she received from one of her former recruits taking part in Iraqi Freedom: "The part I remember is, 'drill sergeant thanks for what you taught me, I know I'm going to be okay and come home alive.'"

Miranda also described her job as "humbling" much of the time:

"There is nothing better than working with recruits and just watching it click in their heads. It has nothing to do with yelling at them. It has nothing to do with the position of power that you're in. In fact it's the opposite, it's a very humbling experience to be around these kids coming in the Army today who are not stupid — they're much smarter and in a lot of ways they're more wise about what they want out of the Army."

"I equate it to what teachers do every day," Rouse said. "It's kind of a way to give something back. I was trained well, so let's pass it along. And I think it's at graduation when the soldiers come up to you and there, like, 'drill sergeant, you know I've lost 45 pounds during basic training,' and their parents are emotional and saying I can't believe this is my son — that's when you realize what impact you made."

On an even grander scale, drill sergeants contribute directly to the sense of pride American's feel for it's oldest service, noted

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC's commanding general, who delivered remarks at the DSOY ceremony.

"We're the most respected institution in this nation because of the soldiers who wear our uniform," Byrnes said. "And the reason they wear their uniform so well, and they serve this nation so well, is because of their drill sergeants. (It's) because of where they come from — basic training, AIT, the schoolhouse where tomorrow's victories begin today. You make it all happen for us."

"You know, the feedback we've received from leaders and soldiers in both Afghanistan and Iraq is that drill sergeants have gotten it right," Byrnes also said. "Our training and leader development programs have been validated by our soldiers and

leaders in those two great operations. You continue to produce the quality soldier that this great Army expects and the soldiers in the field validate that process.

"We see a lot of talk in the news about precision weapons. I think it's more about the caliber of the soldier than the caliber of the weapon. And when we're talking special caliber of people, drill sergeants come to mind - noncommissioned officers dedicated to the future of the Army; dedicated to the future of this nation by providing trained and ready soldiers."

"Yours is the tough job — not everyone can do it; not everyone wants to do it," Byrnes concluded. "But we recognize the value of the drill sergeant to the Army because you deliver every day without fail."



Photo by Patrick Buffet

Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Miranda of Fort Jackson, S.C., wins the title Army Drill Sergeant of the Year for the active component.

## LIFE &amp; TIMES

B SECTION

## On Post

## 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](mailto:Bowenja@stewart.army.mil).

## Swimming lessons

Classes are open to military adults and children, DoD civilians, retirees, National Guardsmen and Army Reservists.

The two-week sessions will be held at Corkan Gym and Bryan Village Pool during June and July. The cost is \$25 for youth and adults, \$15 for infants and toddlers.

Call 767-2312 to sign up for swimming lessons.

## CYS Central Registration

The CYS Central Registration, Building 443 will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday by appointment only; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only and all day Wednesday for walk-in. Pick up records from your child's program (SAS, CDC, FCC and YS) prior to update. For more information, call 767-2312.

## July 4th Events

•**Bait Casting Contest** — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Donovan Parade Field. Participants are allowed three "tries" to land the plug into the pool. Those who hit the target two out of three tries wins. No registration required. For additional information contact Susan Chipple, 767-8609.

•**Sports USA** — Come and enjoy the following events before the concert and fireworks on Donovan Parade Field at 7:30 p.m. No registration required.

•**Outdoor Cookout** — Noon-5 p.m. Enjoy a hotdog, lemonade, watermelon for only \$2. Activities following the picnic include hula-hoops, golf-tee, craft show, jello wrestling, limbo contest and more!

## Commissary notes

Fort Stewart Commissary will be open June 30th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for your shopping convenience. There will be a pre-4th sidewalk sale starting tomorrow through August 6th.

There will be a variety of specials from paper goods to meats, so come out and stock up for the 4th and for your summer events.

The Deli has a new picture perfect scanner for your personal pictures to be scanned and put on your cakes.

There is no extra charge for this service. Call the Deli department at 767-9309 a day or two to set up a time to come and have your picture scanned.

## Off Post

## Disaster Services Training

Disaster Services Training will be held July 10th 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Pembroke Welcome Center

Training will cover Introduction to Disaster Services and Mass Care. Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist with our mission of helping individuals prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. For more information, call the American Red Cross Liberty Branch Office at (912) 876-3975

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.

## Georgia sets bar

### State first to change in-state tuition rules

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

Georgia was the first state to change its in-state tuition rules to mirror the Army's desire for soldiers and their family members to have in-state tuition eligibility both in their state of legal residence and the state where the soldier is assigned, and continuity of that eligibility once established.

"Tuition rates vary slightly within the University System of Georgia depending on the school of choice," said Carolyn B. Darsey, education services officer. "For example, Armstrong Atlantic State University tuition rate is \$84 per semester hour compared to \$335 for out of state residents."

"Out of state tuition fees in Georgia can be as high as \$13,000," she said. "This will save soldiers' and their families' tuition money in addition to the HOPE scholarship eligibility which is applied only to students attending Georgia colleges and universities," Darsey said.

Last November's Army Family Action Plan

identified the financial hardship placed upon military families due to varying in-state college tuition rules as those families are required to move from state to state due to military reassignment as its number one issue. The delta, or difference, between average annual in-state and out-of-state tuition costs ranges from \$3,000 to more than \$17,000, according to research by Mike Tevnan, an education specialist at the Total Army Personnel Command.

That delta can often make the difference between a soldier being able to afford sending a family member to college or not, said Patty Shinseki, wife of former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki and host of the annual Army Family Action Plan meeting for the past four years. Soldiers and their families shouldn't be penalized by virtue of the many moves their service to the nation often requires, she said.

The change came into affect in May 2003

"Prior to this change soldiers and their family members reverted back to out of state tuition rates when the soldier retired or moved back to his home of record," she said.

"With this new law more military family members may pursue education here and choose to make their home in Georgia based on this new initiative," she said. "Now, regardless of whether or not the family stays in Georgia, the family member or the retiree will be eligible for in-state fees. This will remain in effect for the family members even if the soldiers moves or is transferred to another state."

In order to start the process a student should go to the registrar's office of their respective college to ensure that they get in-state tuition rates, Darsey said.

Army officials are prohibited by law from lobbying — in other words, leaders cannot call up lawmakers or their staffs and tell them what the Army wants whenever they feel like it. Army officials can, however, respond to queries from those lawmakers and staffs about what the Army is interested in and talk about the issue through established normal lines of communication between lawmakers and the Army. It can also use

See EDUCATION, Page 3B

## Sharing support ...



Sgt. Raymond Piper

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) color guard, made up of Staff Sgt. Arthur Barron, NCOIC, Spc. Jorge LeBron, right rifleman, Staff Sgt. Amel Brooks, National Colors, Staff Sgt. Derek Swenson, Army colors, Spc. Brian Williams, Garrison flag, and Pfc. Victoria Ragan, left rifleman, present arms as the bugler from the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve plays taps Saturday at Little River Park on Lake Sinclair in Milledgeville, Ga. The color guard supports the Fishermen for Heroes bass fishing tournament, as the fishermen raise money for a scholarship fund for the children of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) soldiers killed in action.

## Ride raises nearly \$3,000 for soldiers

Spc. Jonathan Stack

Associate Editor

Robin and Rick Omora, natives of Waycross, Ga., sponsored the Armed Forces Ride June 14 to raise money for the chaplain's fund and Army Community Service.

The reason for the ride was so that when soldiers have a hardship or something outside the norm they have an agency to support them in their time of need or distress, said Sgt. Major R.D. Curtis, installation ceremonies non-commissioned officer.

True Soldiers Motorcycle Club, from Hinesville, Ga., attended and helped in the raising of \$2,988, which was split equally between the two organizations.

The club is made up retired and active-duty service members.

The ride started at Waycross, Ga. and ended in Blackshear, Ga., with 140 motorcycles participating in the ride.

The chaplain's fund will use their \$1,494 towards "Operations Helping Hand," Curtis said.

It is important to help programs such as these because not only does it help out the soldiers but it helps the soldiers' families in a time of need or when the spouse is deployed and not there to help.



Sgt. Michael S. Kellog

Sgt. Maj. R.D. Curtis, installation ceremonies non-commissioned officer, hands Lucia Braxton, chief Army Community Service, a check for \$1,494.

# Fishermen for Heroes ...

# Anglers raise money for trust fund



**Sgt. Raymond Piper**  
Editor

Fishermen woke early Saturday morning to chase after the elusive bass during a fishing tournament at Little River Park on Lake Sinclair in Milledgeville, Ga., but the goal wasn't just to catch fish.

The tournament was held to raise money for a scholarship fund for the children of 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An estimated \$80,000 was raised for the scholarship fund through donations from sponsors, raffles and the tournament. Raffle prizes ranged from hunting rifles to vacation packages.

More than 120 sponsors donated items or money to the event and 71 boats launched from the shores of the lake to participate. The fishing began as soon as there was enough light for the boats to safely hit the water.

"This is America at it's best," said Col. John Kidd, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Garrison commander. "These are great people in Milledgeville and they're doing a really fine thing to support the families of these soldiers killed in action, and provide a long-term sustainment for their families' education and welfare."

The funds will be placed in a trust fund under the names of the children for them to use when they become eligible for college or higher education. To date there has been 35 soldiers that have lost their lives, leaving behind 27 children.

Organizer Comer Gheesling

said, "We wanted to do something positive so we set up the fund for their children. The money will be there for each of the children no matter where they go to school."

Lt. Col. Craig Finley, 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery (MLRS), thanked the participants and attendees and said he was proud to be there with patriots.

"You are a beacon of hope for the grief-stricken families and your gesture means so much to our soldiers," Finley said.

Robert Anderson and Mike Cleveland took first place with their catch that weighed in with a total weight of 20.66 pounds. There was a five-fish limit for the weigh in.

For first place, they were awarded \$1,500, which they donated to the scholarship fund.

The second place winners were Mike and Brian Brown with a total weight of 16.77 pounds.

The event was opened to the public at lunchtime where donations were accepted for food and drinks. Attendees were entertained by the Scoggins Hill Blue Grass band and the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) color guard posted the colors after the bands finished. Taps was played to honor the fallen soldiers as the color guard presented arms.

The phones were open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for people who weren't able to be there in person to make donations to the fund.

Kidd said, "We're really excited about the donations and thankful for all of the support that we receive from the community."

Photos by Sgt. Raymond Piper

A Dixie Bass Organization prepares to weigh a Bass for the big fish category Saturday during the Fishermen for Heroes event at Little River Park on Lake Sinclair in Milledgeville, Ga. The event raised an estimated \$80,000 dollars for the scholarships.



(Above) Fish are dumped down a chute into a waiting basket to be weighed. There was a five-fish limit for what could be weighed. (Left) Fishermen try their luck as they cast their lines out.



(Above) The Scoggins Hill Blue Grass Band entertains the crowd with different folk and bluegrass music during the event. (Left) Col. John Kidd, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Garrison commander, thanks the attendees for their patriotism and donations.

# Postal Service honors Korean War Memorial

Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A photograph of stainless steel statues of a patrol trudging through snow toward an objective is featured on the new commemorative postage stamp honoring the Korean War Veterans Memorial that's slated to be dedicated by the U.S. Postal Service July 27.

The 37-cents stamp also honors the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended hostilities during the Korean War.

The stamp's official first day of issue ceremony will take place at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Washington's National Mall.

The statuary troop patrol consists of 14 soldiers, one sailor, one airman and three Marines. The 7-foot-tall figures represent racial and ethnic cross sections of America — whites, African-Americans, Asians, American Indians and Hispanics.

One Marine carries an ammunition case about the size of a lunch box and a tripod on his shoulder.

The airman, wearing a fur hat, is the only one not wearing a helmet. There's also a statue of an African-American Army medic and a South Korean soldier fighting with the American unit.

Previous U.S. stamps have recognized the bravery of Korean War veterans and the significance of the Korean War in U.S. and world history. In 1985, the Postal Service issued the 22-cent

"Veterans Korea" stamp. "The Korean War," a 33-cent stamp, was issued as part of the 1950s, and the "Celebrate the Century" stamp pane in 1999.

Shown marching in a wedge formation as if on patrol, the statues represent troops walking grimly through a triangular field of juniper bushes and marble barriers that symbolize the rough terrain in Korea. Their objective, at the apex of the triangular "field of service," is symbolized by a masted American flag. The figures are clad in wind-blown ponchos to recall the harsh weather troops endured during the three-year war —1950 to 1953.

The 19 statues reflect off a shiny, 164-foot-long black granite wall. A computer-controlled sandblaster etched the wall's 41 panels, creating a mural of more than 2,500 images of U.S. personnel who supported combat troops. The etchings represent Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel. Equipment etchings include everything from rocket launchers, vehicles and tankers, to hospital units, to chaplains of all denominations and switchboard and radio operators.

Faces etched into the wall came from photographs in the National Archives and the National Air and Space Museum. Some of the people whose images were used are still alive.

The reflective quality of the granite creates the illusion of 38 statues, symbolic of the 38th Parallel and the 38 months of the war. When viewed from

afar, it also creates the appearance of the mountain ranges of Korea.

The third element of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, an area of remembrance, consists of a circular reflecting pool at the apex surrounded by a grove of 40 Linden trees. "Freedom Is Not Free" is engraved on the segment of the wall that extends into the pool area.

The memorial recognizes the contributions of more than 1.5 million Americans who served in Korea during the war. It also acknowledges the United Nations member countries that assisted South Korea in the conflict.

The Pool of Remembrance bears the inscription: "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

More than 3,000 soldiers from other United Nations countries were killed and 16,000 were wounded. South Korean casualties vary greatly, with estimates ranging from 50,000 to more than 400,000 dead and hundreds of thousands wounded. Millions of civilians are thought to have been killed or wounded.

John W. Alli of Catonsville, Md, took the photograph on the stamp just before a snowstorm in January 1996. Alli, who served two tours of duty in the Persian Gulf as a Marine Corps second lieutenant, is now a commercial airline pilot and a lieutenant colonel aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

## AAFES INDEPENDENCE DAY OPERATING HOURS JULY 3, 4, 5 and 6

### FORT STEWART

Main Store	10 am to 6 pm
Hospital PX	Closed
National Guard PX	Closed
Main Shoppette/Class Six	9 am to 9 pm
Bryan Village Shoppette	9 am to 8 pm
Brigade Troop Store	Close at 9 pm
July 4	Reopen at 3 pm
Victory Shoppette	24 Hours
Anthony's Pizza	10:30 am to 6 pm
Robin Hood	Closed
Wetzel Pretzel	Closed
American Eatery	Closed
Blimpie	12 am to 6 pm
Burger King July 4 & 5	10 am to 6 pm
July 6	10 am to 9 pm
Anthony's Pizza	11 am to 8 pm
Popeyes July 3	10 am to 8 pm
July 4,5 & 6	11 am to 6 pm
Car Care Center	Closed
Military Clothing Sales	Closed
July 4,5, & 6	Closed
Woodruff Theater	7 pm Showing

### Fort Stewart Concessions

Short Term Concessions	11 am to 4 pm
Barber Shop	10 am to 4 pm
Beauty Shop	Closed
Cedric's Gift Shop	10 am to 4 pm
Flower Shop	Closed
Alterations	Closed
Laundry/Dry Cleaners	11 am to 4 pm
Optical Shop	Closed
General Nutrition Center	10 am to 4 pm
Shoe Shine	Closed
Alltel Wireless	Closed
MCC Phone Center	Closed
Brigade Barber Shop	Closed
Laundry/Dry Cleaners	Closed
Alterations	Closed
Sprint Barracks Phone	Closed
Economic Car Rental	Closed
E L Car Wash/Detail	Closed

### HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

Main Store	10 am to 4 pm
Hunter Corner Express	9 am to 6 pm
Military Clothing Sales	10 am to 4 pm
Burger King	11 am to 4 pm
<b>Hunter Concessions</b>	
Short Term Concessions	11 am to 4 pm
Flower Shop	Closed
Laundry/Dry Cleaners	Closed
Alterations	Closed
Beauty Shop	Closed
Barber Shop	Closed
Optical Shop	Closed
Economic Car Rental	Closed
C's Boot Shine	Closed
Sprint Barracks Phone	Closed

## Education

from page 1B

its civilian aides to the secretary of the Army to let legislators know military favorable in-state tuition rules are important to the Army.

The tuition issue was a prominent part of a presentation by Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Reginald Brown at the CASA conference in February. Tevnan credited the Georgia and Texas CASAs for immediately getting the issue in front of their state legislative bodies. That action was particularly timely in Texas where the legislative body only meets formally once every two years.

Col. Gina Farrissee, the Army adjutant general, gave in-depth information packets about how each state handles its in-state tuition rules for the military and family members and what the Army would like to see to the CASAs. She is forwarding similar packets to each state adjutant general and the commanders of every Army installation in the United States

so they will be prepared to discuss the issue with lawmakers and their staffs if the proper opportunity presents itself.

The Department of Defense liked the Army's in-state tuition initiative so much that John Molino, deputy under secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, directed other services in January to designate a senior ranking official to work closely with the Army in getting the word out to state education regulatory bodies as it benefits all service members.

There are currently 15 other states trying to start this in-state tuition program. These states are Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah.

"The Army Continuing Education System fully supports this initiative and all programs that promote the higher education of our soldiers, their family members, Department of Army Civilians, and local civilians," Darsey said.

# SPORTS & FITNESS

## On Post

### Basketball courts opened

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

### Youth B-ball camp

Sign-ups are now underway for Basketball Camp being conducted at Fort Stewart's Corkan Youth Gym until Friday. Sign-ups are open to Youth Services members, living both on and off-post, ages 6 to 17.

You can sign up at Fort Stewart's CYS, Building 443, behind Corkan Pool.

CYS is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch from 1 to 2 p.m.

The cost is \$25 and includes a free Basketball Camp T-shirt.

For more information, call CYS at 767-2312 or Corkan Youth Gym at 767-2143

### 4th of July events

• **Softball Tourney** — 9 a.m. until completion. Fort Stewart Softball Complex, across from Heritage Bank. Teams must register at Fort Stewart Sports Office by July 1, or call Perry Yawn, 767-8326. The tournament is free. First and second place team trophies will be given. All participants get Marne T-shirts.

• **Family Day Bowling** — 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Marne Lanes Bowling Center. Pay only \$1.25 per game and \$1.25 for rental shoes. Direct questions to Jerry Evans or Gladys Pointer at 767-4866/3294.

• **Taylor's Creek Golf** — Anyone who plays the course, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., can submit their name into a drawing for a free round of golf, a golf car and a dozen golf balls. Contact Tommy McArthur at 767-2370 or 452-5622 for additional information.

### 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.

• **A "Junior Golf Academy"** is scheduled to be held 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 are now available. Call Andy Arrington, DCAS Aquatic Director, at 767-3034 for more information.

## Off Post

### Firecracker 5000

The Island Packet Firecracker 5000 Road Race and Fun Walk will be held 8 a.m. July 4 at the Mall at Shelter cove.

Runners from all over the United States participate in this Independence Day Event. It is the largest road race in Beaufort County and will be limited to the first 1,000 participants registered.

For more information or to register, contact Bear Foot Sports at (843)379-3440 or register online at [www.bearfootsports.com](http://www.bearfootsports.com).

### Beach Challenge

On Aug. 9. Bear Foot Sports presents the first-ever multi-sport, team-only Beach Challenge, pitting teams of four athletes against one another in head-to-head competitions on the beach and in the water.

For more information call Bear Foot Sports at 843-379-3440

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.

Assured a spot in championships ...

## Soldier makes Team USA For 2003

### Tim Hipps

Army New Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Spc. Michelle "Mickey" Kelly resorted to her cross-country expertise June 8 to win the women's 2003 U.S. National Modern Pentathlon Championship at Penrod Equestrian Center.

The victory assured Kelly a spot on Team USA for the 2003 World Championships. She entered the last of five events exactly one minute behind leader Monica Fling and eventual runner-up Mary Beth Iagorashvili, America's No. 1-ranked pentathlete in the daylong competition.

It didn't take long, however, for Kelly to run them down and win going away with an 11-minute, 3-second clocking in the 3-kilometer, cross-country run.

"I didn't want to go out too fast, and I never want to take anything for granted," said Kelly, 25, a native of Chatham, N.Y., and member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. "I knew that I could do it, but I like to wait to talk about it until after I've crossed the finish line."

Kelly was consistently strong in shooting, fencing, swimming and equestrian - the other four sports that make up modern pentathlon - knowing all along that the cross-country run would be her ace in the hole.

"Most importantly, I had a pretty good day," continued Kelly, who ran cross country, indoor and outdoor track for Cortland University in upstate New York. "I wasn't super-high in anything, but I hung in there and stayed within reach of everyone, and that was important for me because I know I can run fast."

Kelly began the day by scoring 940 points in shooting a 17-caliber air pistol from 10 meters. In fencing, she placed seventh by winning 16 of 30 one-minute bouts for 888 points.

Kelly kept pouring it on in the 200-meter freestyle with a fourth-place finish in 2:31.22.

Kelly placed fourth in equestrian event, in which riders randomly draw for their mounts, then race against the clock, jumping 12 barriers, including a double and triple jump aiming for a perfect score of 1,200 points.

Ditto for 1st Lt. Anita Allen, who entered the Nationals ranked No. 2 in America but who has been battling allergies and a nagging foot injury. She finished fourth overall and third among Americans.

"Since I haven't been running, I haven't been fencing for two months, so I've lost distance, timing and a lot of skills," said Allen, 25, a 2000 graduate of West Point from Star City, Ind., who secured a spot in the 2003 Pan American Games, scheduled for Aug. 1 to 17 at Santa Dominto, Dominican Republic.

Nevertheless, in the run, Allen let it all hang out to finish third in 11:38. "I could've gone harder, and if I was in better conditioning I maybe could've run up to second, but I'll take third nationally," she said. "That's what I needed."

Allen credited the Army World Class Athlete Program for prolonging her Olympic dream.

"Without the support of WCAP, it would be impossible to do this sport," she said. "It's so financially expensive. Nothing but encouraging words comes out of the WCAP office. They're always willing to put you where you need to be, get you where you need to go, and give you the things that you need in order to be competitive."

Those same sentiments were shared by Colorado Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Lara Hammerick, who finished sixth overall and fifth among Americans, despite a perfect 1,200-point ride.

"The World Class Athlete Program actually brought me into the Army and I think I'm a good fit for the Army," Hammerick said. "It really has allowed me to compete at a different level than before. I was always working full-



Tim Hipps, USACFSC Public Affairs

Spc. Michelle "Mickey" Kelly, a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., splashes through a creek en route to winning the 3-kilometer cross-country portion of the 2003 U.S. Modern Pentathlon Championships at Colorado Springs. Kelly, 25, of Chatham, N.Y., won the women's championships of the five-sport event.

time, trying to train, and trying to learn, and it's just next to impossible to do that with this sport. The Army has really allowed me to focus on just doing that. It's a great program."

Kelly joined the Army in November 2001 and the World Class Athlete Program after completing Advanced Individual Training. Now she trains full-time at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Earlier this year, she won the women's 2003 Armed Forces Cross Country Championship at San Antonio, Texas.

"This is a big step up for me," she said. "I've been working really hard. Pentathlon is five sports and the hardest thing is to put it together all in one day. This was a pretty good 'putting it together all at one time.'"

## Marne Scoreboard

### Aerobics

#### Newman Fitness Center Aerobics schedule

**Mondays**  
Latino Rhythm 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Busy Feet Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays**  
Butts and Guts 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Basic Training Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
Cardio-Stepping 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays**  
Calliente 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Cardio Kick-boxing 9 to 10 a.m.

Step-kicking 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Thursdays**  
Basic Training Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Fridays**  
"Master C" Workout 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
"Killer Friday" 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Saturdays**  
"Pick Your Poison" 9 to 10 a.m.

#### 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

### Spring Schedule

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

Softball League Through June 26  
Softball Tournament July 7-10

Got Scores? Contact the Frontline staff at 767-3440 or e-mail [Frontline@stewart.army.mil](mailto:Frontline@stewart.army.mil).

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# Building Family Strengths

0Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy E. Sowers

Family Life Chaplain

The summer is upon us as we look forward to soldiers and families reuniting here at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Although this can be a stressful time, there are ways that our families can remain strong. Researchers know what makes families strong in the midst of stress. Read about each of these family strengths and decide where your family is already strong. Second, identify one area of potential growth. Where do you want to continue to grow to build a stronger family? Work on one area at a time to avoid the stress of being overwhelmed. Remember celebrate your strengths and allow room for growth.

### Family Strength 1:

#### Caring and Appreciation

Families are strengthened by expressions of care and appreciation. Strong families notice and share positive aspects of each other. For example, they notice the talents, skills, achievements, special qualities and characteristics that make the other person unique. They pay attention to the good things a person does for the family and then show appreciation. Even when a family member makes many mistakes, members of strong families find ways to encourage and support each person. Physical expressions are good ways of showing affection, love and appreciation. Small children often like to snuggle with their parents. A quick hug, kiss or handclasp can say a lot to people of all ages.

### Family Strength 2:

#### Commitment

Members of strong families are committed to the family. They value the things that make their family special. A strong family finds opportunities for quality time. Eating meals together, sharing joys and defeats, working together, making treats together, and watching movies or playing games are examples of shared activities. Even when times are hard, they work on problems together.

Family traditions are another way to build family commitment. Any activity that occurs regularly can hold special meaning and build strength in the families. Story time, prayers at night, Saturday morning pancakes are but a few examples. Because these traditions have meanings, they create feelings of warmth, and closeness.

Loyalty and commitment can also be demonstrated in the family history. Ask older relatives to talk about their lives. What are the family "war stories" and how did the family solve problems in the past. Their stories contain a glimpse of their personalities and strengths. Learn about your family's heritage.

### Family Strength 3:

#### Communication

Strong families communicate. They talk and share their feelings, hopes, dreams, fears, joys, sorrows,

experiences, growth and needs. They take time to listen and respond to others. There are a number of things that can improve family communication. Encourage family members to share by saying, "Tell me more." "What was the best part of your day?" "Wow. That must have been exciting ... frightening ... etc." When your family has a problem, make suggestions that are kind and helpful. Try to suggest actions that you or others could take to improve the situation or solve the problem. Above all be a good listener. Listening to what others say and feel is one of the most powerful ways of showing love.

### Family Strength 4:

#### Community and Family Ties

Strong families tend to be closely involved with the schools, churches and local organizations that promote the well-being of the community and the individual. Additionally, the family ties we maintain and nurture, with relatives, neighbors and friends are especially important. Helping people in need — in our own extended families, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities — can be very rewarding. Parents teach their children to become involved citizens.

### Family Strength 5:

#### Working Together

Strong families make decisions, solve family problems and do family work together. Everyone participates. Parents are the leaders, but the children's opinions and efforts are invited, encouraged and appreciated. For example, a child can be involved with grocery shopping and learn how to make healthy decisions. Making real decisions is good practice and can help children grow up to be responsible adults. Children need opportunities to make decisions, to participate in family decisions, and to observe the parents' decision-making process and results. Children and teenagers are more apt to carry out their responsibilities if they have some choice as to what those responsibilities are and can see how these particular tasks help the family.

### Family Strength 6:

#### Flexibility and Openness to Change

All families develop habits, routines, and a set of rules. These patterns are ways to deal with day-to-day life. Some of the more obvious patterns are who cooks, washes dishes, does the laundry or fixes the car. Other less obvious patterns include: Who has the right to make what decisions? How are differences of opinion handled? How are anger, affection, or other emotions expressed? Many families find it helpful to have a chart of household tasks and to rotate the assignments. The development of a stable family pattern is necessary to deal with all the things a family must face, decide, and accomplish in daily life.

### Summary

Spend some time together identifying and celebrating your family's strengths. Choose an area to develop additional strengths and become involved in activities that build those qualities and strengths.

## Worship Opportunities

### Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Victory	7 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.

### Protestant

Sunday "Protestant Worship"	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.

### American Samoan

Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
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### Jewish

Friday Shabbos Service	Marne	6 p.m.
Weekday Kaddish	Marne	1 p.m.

### Muslim

Friday Jum'ah	Bldg. 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Bldg. 9182	5:30 a.m.

### Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday Sabbath School	Vale	9:15 a.m.
Saturday Divine Worship	Vale	11 a.m.

### Lutheran

Sunday Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
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### Contemporary Service

Sunday Worship	Marne	6 p.m.
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### Hunter Army Airfield

### Protestant

Sunday Service	Post Chapel	11 a.m.
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## Pet of the Week

Trisha, a 6 to 8 week old female Calico is very sweet. She has two brothers and one sister. They are loving and friendly. All of these baby kittens need a home. A photo does not do justice to the adorable nature of Trisha.

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.