

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

Inside The Frontline

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3ID troops welcomed home ... Keane thanks soldiers, families

Sgt. Sam Hoffman
Staff Writer

Gen. John M. Keane, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, greeted soldiers and congratulated family members at a Cottrell field redeployment ceremony Saturday.

The temperature that day, which surpassed 90 degrees, did not stop Keane who made his way to the nearly 1,500 family members of the 600 returning soldiers, including Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, wrapped around the field. He thanked them for their courage and dedication to the war effort and presented them with coins to give to their loved ones.

The vice chief was very approachable,

"The 3rd ID is the first division coming home ..."

Gen. John M. Keane
Army Vice Chief of Staff

despite what some called an intimidating presence; he took his time talking with just about anyone with a question or handshake, or even an autograph book, making sure that concerns were addressed.

He didn't just walk through shaking hands, said Keane's Aide-de-Camp Maj. Paul Michael Paolozzi.

"He really wants to spend time with the families," he said.

Keane praised the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), saying that it single-handedly won the war.

"The 3rd ID is the first division coming home ... the division made a daring dash to Baghdad that will go down in the Army's history," he remarked.

Keane also presented veterans with pins, venerating their former service to the country and continuing dedication to today's soldiers.

Butch Hemingway, Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 789 vice president, said he was honored to have the general stop to talk for

See KEANE, Page 6A



Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Day, 123rd Sig. Co., hugs his wife Jan at a return ceremony Saturday. For story and photos, see pages 10 and 11A.

Support during, after deployment keeps family strong

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.
Staff Writer

After a long flight from Kuwait, soldiers go through sensitive items check at the airport, and then are filed onto buses in preparation for the ride back to Fort Stewart. As the buses pull up, soldiers unload and fall into a formation. As they march up the field, the crowd is in a whirlwind of emotion, some crying, others cheering.

The soldiers and some veterans in the crowd stand at attention and sing "The Dog Face Soldier" and "The Army Song." The general salutes the company commander of the returning soldiers, and the commander does an about-face. He yells at the top of his lungs "dismissed!"

The crowd rushes the field, each person in search of their soldier. The field is aflow with tears, shouts, kisses and hugs. Anyone who has had a family member deployed knows the drill. But what happens to family life in the weeks after a soldier returns from war?

"We talk a lot, which is nothing new. We have always had a good marriage. There are certain things I know he can't discuss, but that's okay, I know he had a sensitive job in Iraq. He'll tell you that I don't want him out of my eyesight," said Rebecca Burns, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Ralph P. Burns, an operations sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery.

"When I found out I was getting deployed, it wasn't a real concern. I have been in the Army for 22 years and I have never been deployed. I almost got sent to Desert Storm, but I was withheld to support my unit here. There is so much going on around the world nowadays, young soldiers are always getting deployed. I guess I just joined at a time when there wasn't much going on," said Ralph.

"I wasn't surprised at all when I found out Ralph was getting deployed," said Rebecca.

Rebecca's daughters, Tarshima, 25, Tashawn, 17, and Talisha, 13 were very supportive while their father was gone, said Rebecca. They kept her busy with different activities such as cheerleading, band, chorus and dance classes. They wouldn't let her watch television to keep her from worrying about Ralph. Rebecca tried not to show how depressed she was while her husband was gone.

She wanted to stay strong in front of her children so they wouldn't get down about the situation, she said.

See FAMILY, Page 12A

Bush: It will take more than 100 days to undo Saddam's legacy

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush praised the progress coalition military and civilian personnel have been able to make in Iraq, but said that 100 days is not enough time to undo the legacy of Saddam Hussein.

In his weekly radio address Saturday, Bush noted that it is but 100 days since the end of major combat operations in Iraq. He said the time has been marked by

steady progress.

"Every day we are working to make Iraq more secure," Bush said. "Coalition forces remain on the offensive against the Baath Party loyalists and foreign terrorists who are trying to prevent order and stability." He said the progress is evident to the Iraqi people as more and more are cooperating with coalition forces and tipping them to the regime remnants still threatening peace.

Iraqis themselves are helping with security. Coalition officials

said there are about 30,000 Iraqi police back on the beat, and coalition officials have begun to recruit a new army and a civil defense force.

"Every day, Iraq is making progress in rebuilding its economy," he said. "In Baghdad, the banks have opened, and other banks will open across the country in the coming months. This fall, new bank notes will be issued, replacing the old ones bearing the

See BUSH, Page 6A

Weather Forecast

FRI
High 91° Low 71°

SAT
High 89° Low 70°

SUN
High 90° Low 70°

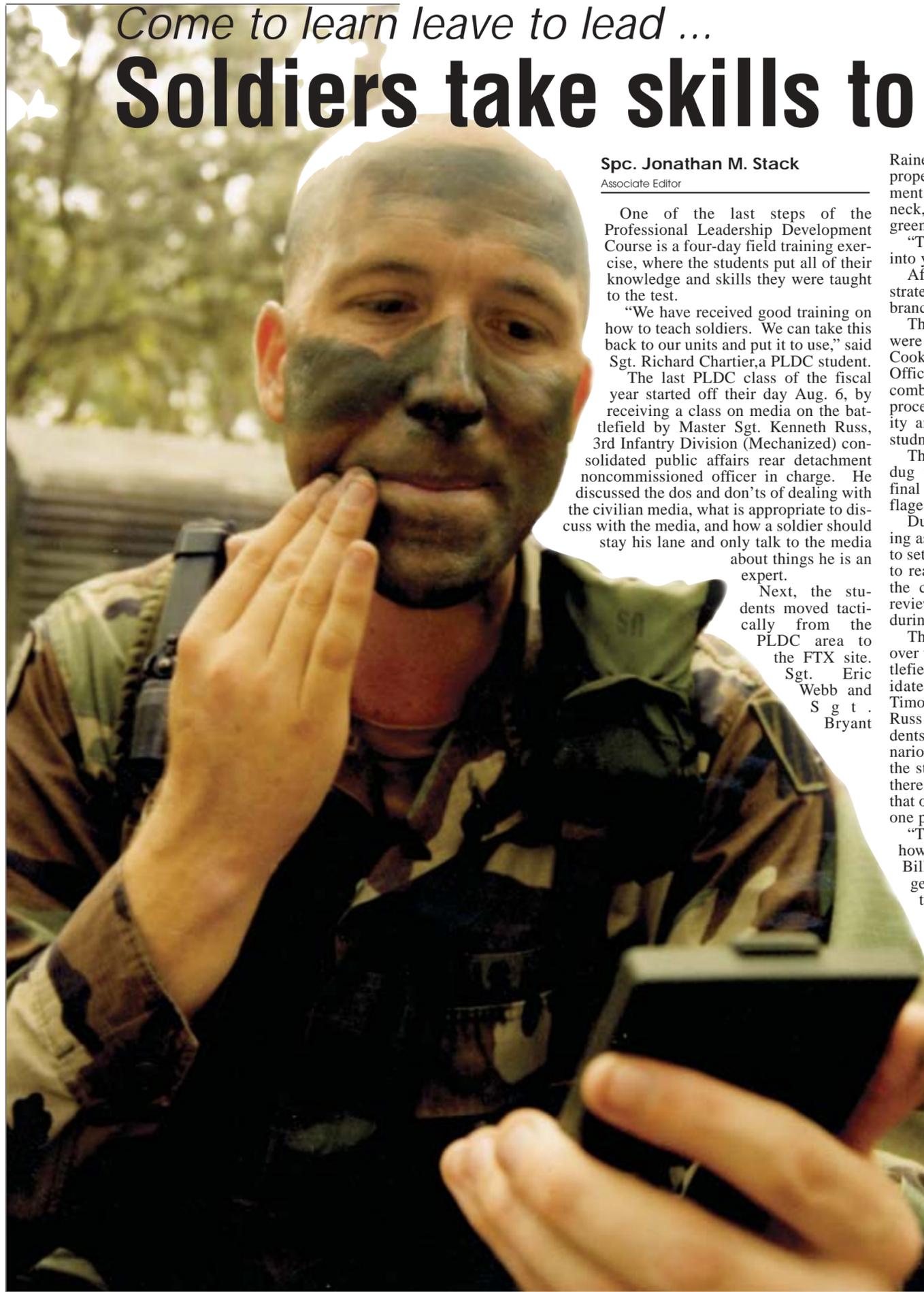


Staff Sgt. Craig Pickett

A horse-riding Saddam Hussein is engulfed in flames as it is blown from its perch outside Hussein's palatial grounds in Tikrit, Iraq on July 18.

Come to learn leave to lead ...

Soldiers take skills to the field



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

One of the last steps of the Professional Leadership Development Course is a four-day field training exercise, where the students put all of their knowledge and skills they were taught to the test.

"We have received good training on how to teach soldiers. We can take this back to our units and put it to use," said Sgt. Richard Chartier, a PLDC student.

The last PLDC class of the fiscal year started off their day Aug. 6, by receiving a class on media on the battlefield by Master Sgt. Kenneth Russ, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) consolidated public affairs rear detachment noncommissioned officer in charge. He discussed the dos and don'ts of dealing with the civilian media, what is appropriate to discuss with the media, and how a soldier should stay his lane and only talk to the media about things he is an expert.

Next, the students moved tactically from the PLDC area to the FTX site. Sgt. Eric Webb and Sgt. Bryant

Raines, both PLDC students, gave a class on how to properly camouflage their faces, bodies and equipment. Students then proceeded to paint their faces, neck, hands and ears with black, dark green and light green camouflage paints.

"The object of learning to camouflage is to blend into your environment," Webb said

Afterwards, a demonstrator went up and demonstrated how to camouflage their helmet using leaves, branches and shrubbery.

The FTX brings together everything the student were taught during PLDC, said Staff Sgt. Thomas Cook, a small group leader at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy. The students teach classes, go over combat drills, patrolling, ability to use troop-leading procedures, pre-combat checks, maintain accountability and land navigation all during the FTX. Each student is evaluated on his performance.

The students then moved to the area where they had dug their fighting positions and finished whatever final touches they had to do and then began to camouflage them.

During this, soldiers dressed in civilian clothes posing as local civilians, came into the soldiers perimeter to set up a scenario. The soldiers were given a chance to react using the skills they were taught throughout the course. Afterwards there was an after action review to go over good and bad points that occurred during the scenario.

The students finished off the morning by going over what they learned earlier in the media on the battlefield. Spc. John M. Wagnon, 3rd Inf. Div., consolidated PAO broadcast journalist for Marne TV, Timothy Hale, program manager of Marne TV and Russ posed as civilian media and had three PLDC students give an interview in reference to a given scenario. The civilian media asked questions and gave the students a chance to answer. After each student, there was a critique on his interview. Each interview that occurred after the critique went smoother than the one prior.

"The cadre here is pretty amazing. I'm shocked at how much I've learned in a couple weeks," said Sgt. Billy Pate, a PLDC student. "I'm really excited to get back to my unit and put to use the things I was taught."



Spc. John Wagnon, Consolidated Public Affairs Office Marne TV, interviews Sgt. Yuma Barnett, a student at PLDC. Students at PLDC were taught how to deal with the civilian media in the field.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Cook, a small group leader at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, camouflages his face at the beginning of day three of the field training exercise.

Illustration by Timothy L. Hale



Photos by Jonathan M. Stack

Sgt. Bryant Raines, a student at the Professional Leadership Development Course, camouflages fellow student Sgt. Billy Pate's kevlar.



Pate digs his fighting position before he finishes camouflaging it.



Barnett lays in his fighting position when he finishes camouflaging it. He is in position to look for enemies that might be approaching.

Goble: Safety, quality of life top priority

1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Hunter Deputy PAO

There's a new sheriff in town and his name is Goble, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Goble, and safety and quality of life are top priorities for him.

"I've been looking forward to this since taking command a month ago!" said Goble during his first Hunter Community Meeting July 22. He started off by stating that he and his staff are in the customer service business and are ready to see how they can help make life better for the residents.

Some key issues Goble and staff addressed included upcoming gate access changes and improving living conditions for on-post residents.

"It's all about safety," said Goble when he mentioned how the construction of the new gates might seem like an eye sore.

Since the 9/11 attacks, military posts around the nation have had to retrofit their gates in order to meet new safety standards. And rest assured, the safety of all soldiers, employees and residents of Hunter is the number one concern for Goble.

New safety measures will be in place in the near future before the completion of the two new gates. Goble and the post Provost Marshall think that commercial traffic onto the post pose the most threat and will mandate that all commercial vehicles (trucks) use the Montgomery Gate. Having these vehicles use Montgomery Gate will also alleviate traffic jams at the busy intersections of Wilson Gate. Other gate changes will follow when the two new gates are completed.

Montgomery Gate will trade roles with Wilson Gate and be open 24 hours daily, and Wilson Gate might only be open only during the day pending soldier availability.

Rio Gate hours will probably remain the same being open during peak commuting hours in the morning and evening, and during the weekends for public access to

Lotts Island facilities.

Another safety issue mentioned was the closing of North Perimeter Road between the 117th Tactical Control Squadron to the Stephen Douglas Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6 to 7:30 am, Monday through Friday to support unit physical fitness programs.

Individuals and formations must run on authorized running routes and adhere to post safety regulations. Ask your unit first sergeant of the Hunter Safety Office at 352-5814 for Hunter's physical training safety policy.

The second key issue Goble addressed was improving life for residents on post. The Community Development Master Plan developed by the Garrison Command and the Residential Community Initiative has recently been approved by the Department of Army and is scheduled for further review by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Congress. The final rounds of reviews should be by November.

According to Lt. Col. Kenneth Heller of the Directorate of Public Works, the plan calls for the transfer of all Fort Stewart/Hunter family housing to a private developer, GMH Associates, the demolishing of old and substandard quarters and the development of new ones.

"It's finally going to provide better housing for our soldiers and their families, but getting housing to standard is not going to happen overnight. The initial development period will be eight years but residence will see immediate results with the improved maintenance of the existing housing areas," said Heller.

Representatives from RCI will be at the next Community Meeting to provide more information on the plan.

About a dozen residents showed up for the Community Meeting and their main concerns were vehicles speeding in the residential areas, unleashed dogs attacking children, and children violating curfew.

"It's (speeding cars and unleashed dogs) gotten so bad that I am afraid to let my 2-year-old child out the house," said one resident. Another said "We get into arguments on the streets over it! I'm ready to put my car in the middle of the road as a barricade to stop them from speeding!"

Goble and the provost marshal said that they would look into putting speed bumps into the residential areas and increasing police patrols. A resident suggested changing the curfew for children under 12 from 10 to 9 p.m. and the garrison commander said he would look into the issue.

Hunter post policy mandates that all dogs must be on leashes or in a contained area from which it cannot escape.

The recently developed Hunter-specific webpages under the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield website www.stewart.army.mil will have installation policies posted for all residents to reference.

"If we all do the right thing, we wouldn't need policies," Goble said.

Other topics discussed by Hunter representatives include the need for recently redeployed soldiers to renew vehicle registration and insurance policies to avoid citations, more barriers to be placed around key access points to reduce threat in and around post, the introduction of the new Hunter ACS Director, Mary James, the closing of Hunter Club until October, the Chapel renovation to be completed by August, the Fall PX catalog available at store, sales at the Commissary, and School Health Screenings available at Tuttle Health Clinic.

Goble ended by stating that the upcoming mayoral elections and return of soldiers who oftentimes serve as key neighborhood representatives, will help put things back in order. He encouraged the residents in attendance to get their neighbors to attend the next meeting scheduled for Sept. 23.

He added, "We can only help if you tell us you need help."

NCO Academy awarded highest dining facility honor

Phillip A. Connelly Award



Courtesy Photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith, garrison command sergeant major, James L. Johnson, Noncommissioned Officer Academy dining facility manager, and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert D. Newton, NCOA commandant, pose with the recently earned Phillip A. Connelly Award. The award is presented to the Army's top dining facilities. The NCO Academy placed first in the Southeast competition and will vie for the national award later this year.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Looking back ... First day of school memories

Spc. Casandra Bolton
Staff Writer, 372nd MPAD

Commentary

The first day of school. A day that is filled with anxiety as well as curiosity. Do you remember your first day of school? Well, many people don't. It's okay. All I remember is going to sleep early the night before with so much energy I could have started my own nuclear power plant.

I remember waking up extra early and wondering if any of my friends would be in my class. Talk about butterflies in my stomach. My mom was probably anxious, but in a different sense. I was geared to learn and have fun, while my mom was probably nervous that her baby was getting older and actually stepping out, just a little bit.

I think all parents miss their kids when they go to school for the first time, but there is that sign of relief that lets you know that your child is getting older and becoming more independent.

Waiting at the bus stop, with your new bookbag and looking at all of the other kids, some nervous and some just as excited as you, waiting to adventure out on their own.

Everyone arrived on the first day with brand new clothes and shoes that made them feel special in their own way.

Some things that are unavoidable in school are teachers mispronouncing your name, your teachers going over the rules over and over again and then you break the rules the first day, because hey, it's the first day back.

I do have to admit that school has changed, like anything in this world,

over the past years. The students in my school weren't really in any kind of cliques, as they seem to be today. Maybe because I went to Department of Defense schools my whole life, we were all in the same boat. We all moved every couple of years, so everyone was well accustomed to making friends in a short period of time.

Going to school was like going to my own little job with pay that was equal to a diploma. Talk about a payday!

But you do realize the older you get, the less joy there is in the first day. Teachers give you homework, you realize that you no longer have a naptime and the inevitable: the dress code gets stricter.

There are so many things that I miss about school, that didn't really affect me until I moved out. First of all, I didn't realize how expensive it is on the outside. Of course in high school, you may have had that legal guardian who was picking up your tab so you never see the expense side. Those were the happy days. No bills, no worries just go to school and make good grades. Your biggest worries were probably what time is the test and whom you are going to the prom with.

One of my friends told me that the thing that she misses the most is the simplicity of school. She is currently

attending college in Tallahassee, Fla. "I miss going to school for free and nobody bugs you about getting a job," said Michelle Jackson, senior at Florida A & M University.

That is true. When you graduate from high school, you are pressured to get a job or go to college. In high school, you just have the pressure of graduating. Not so hard looking back.

But there is that sense of accomplishment, when you walk across the stage to receive your diploma that you worked 12 years to achieve.

Don't you miss naptime, recess, fieldtrips, show and tell, dodge ball and snack time? I know I do.

Wouldn't it be awesome if the Army were as simple as participating in school? Can you imagine what it would be like if a deployment was as simple as a field trip? You would at least know who your were riding with. You would have lots of fun with just the signature of your parents. And the most important one: at least you knew you would be departing around 2 p.m. to make it back to your job in time and be off no later than 2:45.

People would have no reason to complain. And if they did complain, you could just send them to detention or take away their recess.

Lunch would cost you approximately a dollar a day. Rank would be a thing of the past. The person with the most smiley faces would be in charge.

All I have to say is treasure school while you are in it, because you will look at it totally different when you have to pay for it. A doctors note will not excuse an unpaid bill!



side Naples, Italy. Sept. 1, 1944, about a dozen or so were told "go over to supply and draw GI short, pants, and have your Italian money exchanged for American money, you are leaving to return to the states tomorrow." That was one order we were glad to hear and no questions asked. So off we went and did what we were told. We returned back to the large tent with our "goodies."

About an hour passed when someone from the hospital staff came out and we were told "Take the equipment you had just received back over to supply and exchange your American money back into Italian lira. You are not leaving here tomorrow." To say the least our morale went through the dirt floor. We were told nothing, not when or if we were going to leave.

On our way back to return our "goodies" we were talking like we had just been punch in the gut. I did say, "Well, fellows, I told you it sounded too good to be true!"

It was some days later when we were told to go through the same routine again. I for one held my breath until we boarded that hospital ship in Naples Harbor.

Twenty-one days later we landed in Charleston, S.C. The following morning those of us that were walking wounded were told to report over to the Post Theater. When we got settled some enlisted hospital person strode out on the stage and began his tirade. He started, sounding off with, "OK guys you think you are back home in the States, but some of you will get better and will be sent back to duty in the Pacific to fight the Japanese."

Morale went through the floor. Of course, at this time, September 1944, World War II still had almost a year to go before it ended. At this time nobody had any idea when it was going to end. As it turned out there was plenty of bloody fighting ahead in Europe and the Pacific.

So I know how it feels to be knocked down and stomped on, but remember you are members of the best infantry division in the U.S. Army.

There is a long and very proud history that you must live up to. Being "Dog Face Soldiers" of the 3rd Inf. Div. I am sure you will. Remember you will pass your history to the next group that are to follow you.

Just remember one thing, we all are behind you and think you are doing one fine job, and as former members of the 3rd Inf. Div, we are very, very proud to say "Look at the fine job those men and women are doing!" And with a lot of pride we former members of the 3rd Inf. Div. say "I used to be a member of that fine division."

God bless you soldiers and with God's help you will be joining your loved ones and family soon.

(Just a note: I personally got my first thank you about World War II in Sept. 1984, coming home from The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division that was held in St. Louis, Mo. It took forty years but finally I did get a thank you. That took all the bad taste out of my mouth that I had since 1946 of being called many bad things just because I had been in the Army.)

**Sincerely,
Stanley R. Smith, (aka Smitty)
Former member of I Co., 30th Inf. Regt. WWII and proud of it!**

Letter to the Editor

SOLDIER

**I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go,
And did what others failed to do.
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing,
And reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal
loneliness ... should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold
and fear;
And enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.
I have cried, pained and hoped ... But most of all,
I have lived times others would say were best
forgotten.
At least some day I will be able to say that
I was proud of what I was ... **A SOLDIER.****

(Submitted by Stanley R. Smith)

Dear Sir,

I know this will no doubt raise a lot of flak in my direction, but as a former member of the 3rd Infantry Division (World War II) I watched and listened with special interest to "Operation Iraqi Freedom." I was one proud "Dog Face Soldier" the way the 3rd inf. Div. performed in the fighting phase. I know what it is like, been there - done that. I also have thought of home and of myself and thousands of others would ever see it again. Far too many (soldiers) never did.

I know only too well that the 3rd Inf. Div. has been in Iraq almost a year and the upper most thought of these solders is - 'when do I get to go home'.

They were told that they would be leaving to return home at a certain time, then "the word" came down saying that they were not leaving, the date for leaving was extended. Sure the regular soldiers do complain, which they have done for millions of years. When they start writing e-mail and sound off in the media, to me that is carrying things a bit too far.

I will always remember this: We had a section sergeant in our machine gun squad in basic who would tell us - "Do the detail, and don't complain about it, you can complain about it after you do it! In other words: once it's done there was no need to complain about it, because you had completed the task.

When I had received my second wound at the Anzio Beachhead May 1944 I was sent to a General Hospital out-

Correction

Last week on page 1B in the story titled "New PX offers big variety" stated the new post exchange would open Sept. 12. The new exchange will not be able to open due to construction delays. The new date for the opening has not been announced yet.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What are your expectations of your students in the upcoming year?

"To grow academical-ly, emotionally, social-ly and become inde-pendantly life long learners."

**Barbara Kirschner
Special Education
teacher**



"I expect we'll grow academically while discovering and having lots of fun."

**Linda Flora
5th grade Math and
Science teacher**



"Come in inquiring and eager to explore the world of the arts. At the end of the year to be the best artistes they can be."

**Julie Smith
Art Teacher**



"As a teacher for school wide enrichment and gifted students I want all Brittin Knights to experience lessons that extend the curriculum, build problem solving skills and inspire creativity."

**Vicki Byrne
Gifted Education
teacher**



"They will grow into good citizens and mold them into good students."

**Noel Tillman
Brittin Elementary
principal**



"To enjoy school, learn to play with others and build a reading foundation."

**Tammy Summers
Kindergarten Teacher**

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

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Soldier, guitar bring hope, peace in Baghdad

Sofia Sanchez

operational Test Command PAO

An angel in disguise descended upon Baghdad in the form of a guitar-playing soldier last November.

Sgt. Christopher Hamre, 30, from Killeen, Texas, of A Company 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, part of Task Force 4-64, was deployed to Iraq from November 2002 to July 2003.

Two years ago at 1st Cavalry in Fort Hood, Hamre was just your typical, average soldier, anonymous to the world. Since last November however, Hamre has been featured in television stations such as BBC and TV Italia, and major newspapers such as *The Washington Post*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *The L.A. Times*.

What had made Hamre instantly popular? His heart and his guitar. A month prior to deployment, the soldiers of 3rd Infantry were permitted one comfort item to take to the desert. Many chose to bring folding chairs, CD players, and propane stoves. Hamre chose his guitar. His initial motive was to be photographed playing the guitar in front of a "Welcome to Baghdad" sign. Little did Hamre know that the guitar would come to mean so much more than a simple photograph.

"My guitar was actually kind of bigger than what they allowed to carry, but we — the soldiers and I — we sort of snuck it in," Hamre chuckled. "My XO first saw the guitar and told us to set it off to the side because it was too big. Then the soldiers snuck it back in when the XO left. My XO was so upset when he saw the guitar in Iraq, we had to calm him down."

A month after deployment when morale slightly waned, Hamre decided to brighten things up and started playing. "The PX wasn't up, electricity was out, and in the beginning we only received one hot meal a day." Hamre said that the guitar also helped the soldiers and himself pass the time.

Evidently, Hamre's music had a tremendous effect on soldiers' morale. "After three weeks in Baghdad, my XO was urging me to play all the time. It's kind of ironic that the XO, who was the strongest advocate against the guitar, became

the strongest advocate for it," Hamre laughed.

When Hamre's platoon was charged of taking Baghdad, the guitar rode with him, and aided to calm much of the tension and unease. "Everybody was kind of tense. We had sniper attacks. So I just played my guitar which got everybody kind of relaxed." It was simply Hamre's way of telling the soldiers that everybody was going to be all right.

Hamre's guitar not only became symbolic of hope among the soldiers, it also became symbolic of peace within the local community. Hamre explained that when he started playing his guitar, the locals discovered that they were not so different from each other. "We were seen as human beings," Hamre explained. Hamre continued that the music helped to shed the myth of American soldiers simply being fighting machines.

"It kind of became a symbol. People always saw it with me," Hamre reminisced. "When we switched from combat to peacekeeping, and when people saw me pull out the guitar, they would smile," Hamre enthused. "For the last 35 years, they hadn't been able to do anything, and suddenly, they can hear music from the streets."

Hamre's platoon would rotate in shifts, but the local Iraqis automatically thought that where the soldiers were, there lies the guitar. Hamre remembered other platoons being hassled by Iraqi kids because they would automatically think he was there.

Being so far away from home also drew Hamre closer to something he didn't have at the moment and never expected, which included having an overseas family. "There was this 8-year-old kid named Amad. I call him my adopted son," Hamre said.

"Amad would just come by and hang out with me and the crew after school everyday. His Mom cooked for the soldiers as a sort of 'thank you' for watching her child," Hamre fondly recollected.

News of Hamre's guitar playing reached the ears of several TV stations and newspapers that were gathered in Baghdad. BBC TV, in fact, ran a two-hour segment on the



Eric Seals

Sgt. Christopher Hamre plays guitar and sings for Iraqi kids in the back of his Bradley fighting vehicle April 30.

war in the eyes of a child. Amad became one of the main subjects of the BBC piece, and naturally, Hamre had a chance to be on BBC TV as well.

"They also interviewed me a little bit. When they saw me playing guitar for Amad, they asked if I knew him," Hamre explained.

"Amad has two brothers and a sister and his Mom. His Dad was actually killed in the war, but he (Amad) didn't hold it against us at all."

Hamre didn't imagine how attached he would become to Amad and his family. "I gave him a picture of my children and gave him my address. Hopefully one day, he'll try to get a hold of me," Hamre sadly stated. "It was like having another family over there. I miss him now. His whole family cried when we left,"

"I was very proud," Hamre's mother said. "I feel it was very

humanitarian what he did ... because it focused the outlook away from what was really happening. Finding the good, no matter what the situation is," Kelley concluded.

Transition became a little difficult and caused some friction between the local Iraqis and the 1st Armored Division that succeeded 3rd Infantry. Hamre's soldiers had developed a Standard Operating Procedure on Baghdad, which they shared with 1st Armored Division. The standard operating procedure included names and addresses of local civic leaders, maps of local areas, recommendations on where to eat, where to shop, and whom to trust. Hamre explained that though the SOP will act as a guide to incoming soldiers, it will take time to redevelop the trust his company established with the local people.

"You have to earn their trust," Hamre explained. "When 1st Armored Division arrived, they had-

n't seen combat. So they came with their guards up. The Iraqis were used to us in a more laid back atmosphere, but you can't blame 1st Armor. It was the right mentality to arrive in. But they have to re-establish that rapport all over again."

Hamre's musical experience made a lasting impression that struck deeper chords than any of the songs he played in Baghdad. "I'm appreciative of what I have and the people close to me. There's a bond that was created with the guys — that my family wouldn't be able to understand. My wife understands that there's a place in my life for my soldiers. I got to give her all the props in the world for understanding that."

Hamre is nostalgic at the thought of going back. "They've already set up a Burger King and a PX, so I guess we're staying," he said very

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BUSH

from page 1A

former dictator's image. And Iraq's energy industry is once again serving the interests of the Iraqi people. More than a million barrels of crude oil and over 2 million gallons of gasoline are being produced daily."

The coalition is paying civil servants with funds recovered from the former regime, and life is returning to normal for the Iraqi people. Bush said hospitals and universities have opened, and in many places, water and other utility services are reaching pre-war levels.

"Across Iraq, nearly all schoolchildren have completed their exams," he said. "And for the first time in many years, a free press is at work in Iraq. Across that country today, more than 150 newspapers are publishing regularly."

But most important, the Iraqi people are taking daily steps toward democratic government, the president noted. "The Iraqi Governing Council, whose 25 members represent all of that diverse country, is meeting regularly, naming ministers and drawing up a budget for the country," he said.

These men and women will soon set the conditions to allow a representative group to begin drafting a new constitution and free elections will follow.

Bush pointed out that all major cities and most towns now have representative councils. "Freedom is taking hold in that country, as people gain confidence that the former regime is never coming back," he said.

But much remains to be done, Bush emphasized. "There is difficult and dangerous work ahead that requires time and patience," he said. "Our country and the nations of the Middle East are now safer. We're keeping our word to the Iraqi people by helping them to make their country an example of democracy and prosperity throughout the region. This long-term undertaking is vital to peace in that region and to the security of the United States. Our coalition and the people of Iraq have made remarkable progress in a short time, and we will complete the great work we have begun."

GUITAR

from page 5A

hopefully. "I can see myself getting sent back there one more time. The Middle East is going to be one of our regular rotations now."

"This is probably one of the best decisions I've ever made," Hamre said in retrospect of bringing his guitar. "Here we have kids seeing soldiers wounded, a lot of looting, kidnapping, murders and just general chaos. And in the middle of it all, you've got this guy playing a guitar."

Not unlike many in the military, Hamre stated this tour greatly enhanced his outlook in life.

"I've developed a greater appreciation for the little things: running water, electricity, family, getting up everyday, watching the sunrise," he mused. "It's really only the little things that make a big difference," Hamre added.

"Don't let a few rotten apples spoil the basket," Hamre continued, referring to the Iraqis' bad press. "Many are civilized, hospitable, and good people. They're very tolerant of people, and they understand that we're different. I really haven't seen a more hospitable group of people," Hamre

added. "Give these people a chance. Get to know their culture. Many still live in fear. After the Gulf War, they're justified in those fears. They're not a liberated people yet."

"Don't do for them, but help them stand on their feet," Hamre continued. There are a lot of things people there did for us that didn't make the news. Unfortunately, conflict sells."

"I tell myself, you've been given a second chance. We got a lot of close calls over there," Hamre said. "I got lucky. A lot of people didn't make it ... I couldn't ask for anything more than being alive."

Hamre also added that people should never forget what many soldiers did in Iraq. "There were really a lot of selfless acts ... and divine intervention. We're lucky to get out in one piece."

When probed about his response for being the only one to have brought his guitar to Iraq, Hamre replied, "It doesn't make me more special than anyone else. I consider them all heroes," Hamre said about his soldiers. "Everybody deserves recognition and respect."



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Samantha Sebera, 10, shakes hands with Gen. John M. Keane, vice chief of staff of the Army, after giving him a U.S. flag at a return ceremony Saturday at Cottrell Field.

KEANE

from page 1A

a few minutes and thank VVA members present at the ceremony.

His granddaughter Samantha was so proud she ran over to Keane and gave him an American flag, then immediately called her mother to share her excitement, Hemingway said.

"She couldn't wait to tell her mother!" he exclaimed. Hemingway decided to give Samantha his pin and told her that

because it had come from a four-star general, Samantha now outranked her mother.

Because of his busy schedule, Keane, a New York City native, had to depart Fort Stewart shortly after greeting the returning soldiers, said Paolozzi.

Keane stated, "They just couldn't have done a better job. Just to shake a few of their hands ... it's an honor and privilege."

Actions of three fallen soldiers celebrated at memorial

Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) planted three more trees on Warriors Walk Aug. 7, to honor the three fallen soldiers.

Sgt. Michael T. Crockett, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Spc. Joel L. Bertoldie, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 4th Bn., 64th Armor, and Sgt. Nathaniel Hart Jr., 416th Transportation Co., 260th Quartermaster Bn., were killed in Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The ceremony began at 4:30 p.m. with the national anthem and was followed with an invocation by Chaplain (Lt. Col) Gary P. Mauck, deputy post chaplain.

Following that, Col. Thomas J. Torrance, Division Artillery commander, made remarks, thanked the fallen soldiers for their service and called them heroes.

"These soldiers loved the ideals and values upon which this nation was founded," he said.

"May the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country live forever in our memories. And may we honor them by doing everything we can to protect freedom for future generations,

whenever, and wherever, it is threatened."

To the families, Torrance said "On behalf of a grateful Army and Nation our heartfelt gratitude goes out to you for the sacrifice Michael Crockett, Joel Bertoldie, and Nathaniel Hart made for the Marne Division, their fellow soldiers and this great Country — the United States of America."

Once the speech was concluded, there was a moment of silence and the singing of America the Beautiful.

Command Sgt. Maj. James McLaurin, DIVARTY command sergeant major, called out the names of the departed soldiers.

Afterward, teary-eyed gatherers sang Amazing Grace. Then Mauck gave the benediction and a bugler played "Taps."

The ceremony ended with retreat of the colors at 5 p.m. when those present walked down Warriors Walk where the families in attendance were escorted by Brig. Gen. Jose Riojas, assistant division commander (support), and Col. Robert Caslen, assistant division commander (maneuver), and given their soldier's "veil of courage," the piece of desert camouflage with the Marne patch that covered the soldiers' plaques before they were unveiled.



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

(Above) Col. Robert Caslen, assistant division commander (maneuver), and Brig. Gen. Jose Riojas, assistant division commander (support), try to console the family of deceased Sgt. Nathaniel Hart Jr.

(Right) Three soldiers guard the newly planted trees as the procession led by Sgt. Nathaniel Hart's family approaches the tree in his memory.

Votel: Exhilarating to jump with Ranger Regiment

Pfc. Jennifer J. Edison

Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — More than 1,500 Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and its three battalions kicked off Ranger Rendezvous 2003 by jumping onto Fort Benning's Fryar Drop Zone Aug. 3.

Ranger Rendezvous is a weeklong regimental gathering that celebrates the unit's heritage and unites current and veteran Rangers for intramural competitions, memorial ceremonies and a regimental change of command.

The regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalions flew here from Fort Lewis, Wash., Hunter Army Airfield, to Fort Benning, Ga., prior to conducting the rare mass jump.

"They will do a jump like this every two years in concert with Ranger Rendezvous," said Brig. Gen. Howard Yellen, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and also the event's first jumper. "There is nothing more exhilarating than going out the door with the 75th Ranger Regiment." Col. Joe Votel, commander of the 75th Ranger Regt., said the jump is significant because it brings the entire regiment together.

"It is special to have all the battalions here, coming from outlying locations," said Votel. "Everyone participates in the jump. It is kind of a traditional activity for us."

Another thing that made this jump special, Votel said, was the fact that the Rangers had been to war together.

"We had the opportunity to go to combat with all of them over the past couple of years," said Votel. "It is a great opportunity to finish out with everybody on the drop zone."

Maj. David Morrison from the regiment's headquarters said the paratroopers jumped from 1,200 feet and had a soft, smooth landing because of low winds.

"After all the rain we had, it was a nice and soft out there (on the drop zone)," Morrison said.

Airborne assaults like this are the standard at the regiment, said Morrison.

"This is our meat and potatoes right here — jumping out and seizing the objective," he said.

Even though a storm was approaching the drop zone, veteran rangers and family members showed up for the jump, said Staff Sgt. Jacob Cogins, a Ranger with the 75th Ranger Regt.

"It is great to see such a turn out and this much support for the regiment as a whole," said Cogins. "It is great to meet a bunch of the old Rangers and for them to meet some of the new guys."

Although the rangers were happy to gather on the drop zone, Yellen said he knew they hadn't forgotten about the rangers who would not be able to rendezvous with them this year.

"We are all jumping here, but we still have rangers that are in harm's way," Yellen said. "And I know all their ranger buddies will be thinking of them throughout the week as they continue to do our nation's business in support of the Global War on Terrorism."



Pfc. Jennifer J. Edison

A pair of Rangers make their way to a rally point after a mass tactical airborne assault onto Fryar Drop Zone Aug. 3 during the opening hours of Ranger Rendezvous 2003.

**Good Deal?
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THE
FRONTLINE
Classifieds



Thousands of 3ID soldiers return

Staff report

More than 1,000 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers came home Aug. 7 to Aug. 12, on several different flights and were welcomed by families and friends at Cottrell Field.

Among some of the units that returned were Headquarters Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, HHC, 3rd Inf. Div., 3/7 Cavalry, and A Co., 3-15 Infantry.

As the soldiers marched across the field cries of "there he is" and "I see him" preceded the clapping and cheers of families in joy at the sight of their loved ones.

When the soldiers stood on the field in formation Friday and Saturday, Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (support) greeted the heroes.

"To the family and friends that are here we appreciated the support that you have given to your soldier," Riojas said. "To the Dog Face soldiers, the world watched you all ... and marveled at your sacrifice and victory. 'Other armies respect you. Your enemies fear you. Job well done! Welcome home.'"

Riojas knew he couldn't hold back the crowd of people behind him, but there was one more thing the soldiers had to do - join him in singing the "Dog Faced Soldier" and the "Army Song" before the soldiers were released to their eager families.

The troop commander was given the command to release the soldiers

and quicker than you could say fall out, families came rushing from the stand to meet their soldier.

Riojas shook hands with a lot of the soldiers on the field and also welcomed them home.

"Every time I see soldiers come back, my heart fills (up) and I get a tear in my eye," said Col. Robert Caslen, assistant division commander (maneuver).

Daniel Blas-Tajeron, father of Pfc. Daniel Blas-Tajeron, soldier in HHC 1/64 Armor, and his brother Mike flew from Guam to see the ceremony.

"It feels great to have him home," Daniel said.

"I missed you man, I'm glad you are back," Mike said, as he cried and hugged his brother.

Daniel Goggin traveled with his family from Naples, Fla. to welcome home his son Pfc. Christopher Goggin, assistant gunner in 1/64 Armor.

"Chris was wounded while in Baghdad, Iraq. While on top of a roof a bullet went through his helmet and grazed the back of his head," Daniel said. "He had to have the wound stitched and stapled."

"We are very proud of him. He is now a part of history."

The father of 1st Lt. Christopher Wagner, Headquarters Troop 3/7 Cav., said, "I'm absolutely thrilled. I spent a year in Vietnam and the one week of him in Iraq was harder to deal with than my year there."

Bill added, "Today's soldiers are true professional, and I'm proud of all of them. We were good but couldn't compare to today's soldiers."



The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band provides music for a return ceremony Sunday.

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.



Daniel Goggin greets his son, Pfc. Christopher Goggin, assistant gunner 1/64 Armor Friday. Christopher was wounded while on a roof top in Baghdad, Iraq. A bullet grazed the back of his head.

Spc. Jonathan Stack

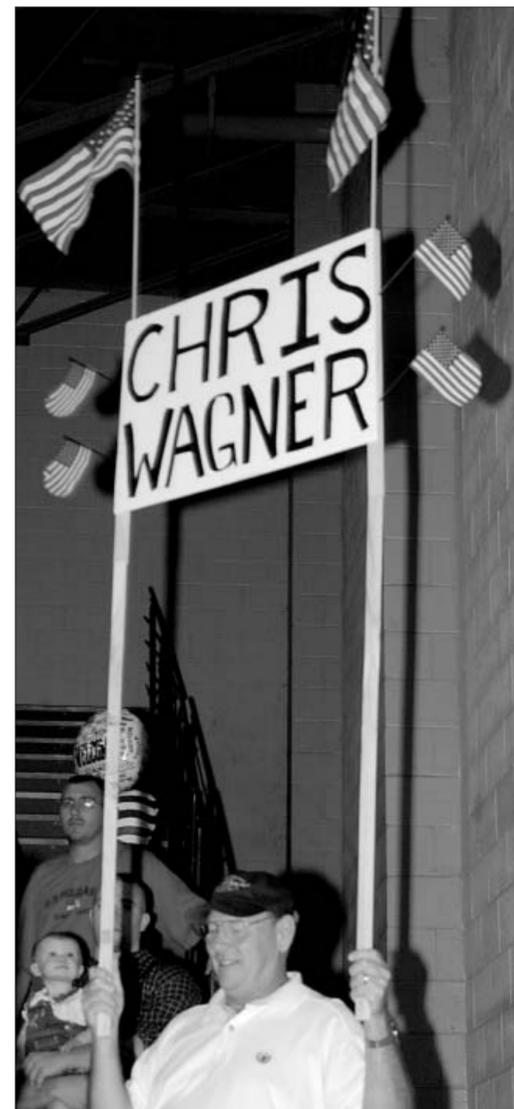


(Above) Pfc. Daniel Blas-Tajeron from HHC 1/64 Armor stands with his father Daniel and his brother Mike as they wave the Guam and U.S. flags. Blas-Tajeron father and brother flew from Guam for his return ceremony.

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

(Left) Families and friends of returning soldiers crowd the side walk as buses pass by. The crowd was filled with happy people which was evident from the amount of tears running down people's face.

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack



Bill Wagner, father of 1st Lt. Christopher Wagner from Hq. Troop, 3rd Bn., 7th Cav., holds a sign high to catch his son's eye during a return ceremony early Tuesday morning.

Sgt. Raymond Piper



Photos by Spc. Jonathan Stack

(Above) A crowd of family members and friends await the return of their 3rd Inf. Div. soldiers Friday.

(Right) A group of returning soldiers march toward an awaiting crowd Friday. The soldiers sang the "Dog Face Soldier" and the "Army Song" before reuniting with their families and friends.



Reserve soldiers help with Iraqi food distribution

Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi food distribution system started in the early 1990s after the first Gulf War ended. With the help of the World Food Program in 1996 to help monitor the process, the system proved effective, feeding nearly 60 percent of Iraq's population. The rest of the population had no need to participate with the program—the wealthy could buy their own food, and the farmers grew their own.

Recent combat operations, however, nearly derailed the food distribution system. Conflicts disrupted the flow of food, money, and imports, and suddenly more people were depending on the food distribution system. The system needed immediate action, or a lot of people were going to be hungry.

With nearly an entire country depending on an effective food distribution system, the soldiers of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., stepped in to strengthen the process. Now, only three months later, roughly 95 percent of the Iraqi people are receiving food through this system.

The civil affairs brigade's involvement with the food distribution system has changed over the months. When the civil affairs soldiers first entered Baghdad, they made certain that everyone who needed food did receive food.

"What we have done in the last three months is make sure the system is functioning correctly," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Jones, a civil affairs officer with the 354th. "We monitor in a similar way that the World Food Program monitors, but with a

military point-of-view. We make sure every single person gets fed."

"We wanted to avoid a major food crisis," said 1st Lt. A. Heather Coyne, a civil affairs officer with the 354th.

Once the food became properly distributed, they turned their attention toward refining the system. Problems involving lack of pay and civil concerns became the priority.

"We are no longer worried about starving people. We are worried about the accountability of the Ministry of Trade to the Iraqi citizens," said Coyne.

According to Coyne, the former Iraqi regime limited its involvement with the food distribution during the past years, narrowing its scope to a small part of the process. The citizens could not voice their complaints. Now, with the fall of Saddam Hussein's

regime, the citizens desire a part in the process.

"The citizens have complaints, such as costs, transportation of food, and lack of salaries," said Coyne. "Those complaints need to have a channel open to the government. Right now, we are creating an advisory council so that people can get their concerns to the Ministry of Trade."

According to Jones, the soldiers with the 354th hope to turn the food distribution system over to the Ministry of Trade and the World Food Program within the next few months, giving the responsibility back to the Iraqi Ministry of Trade.

"That's where it belongs," said Jones. "This is an Iraqi function and the Iraqi people need to take responsibility for themselves and their own food distribution."

Hunter soldiers pay tribute to fallen NCO

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Family, friends and fellow soldiers of Sgt. Nathaniel Hart Jr. paid tribute to his life Aug. 5 at the Hunter Army Airfield post theater.

Hart, who died July 28 in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, was a motor sergeant in Hunter's 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 416th Transportation Company, but according to his comrades, he was also much more than that.

"Sgt. Hart was a dedicated soldier, a hard worker ... and truly a friend," said Sgt. 1st Class Odell Caine, Hart's former platoon sergeant.

Hart, who had served more than 10 years in the Army at the time of his death, listed among his accomplishments six Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals.

Still, as almost everyone who spoke affirmed, Hart's most outstanding characteristics were his faith in God and devotion to his family, wife Erika and young sons Gabriel and Nathaniel III.

Erika Hart said her husband was "a man of God ... he loved God very much ... and he would do anything for his family."

"His life is a testimony to his faithfulness to his family," said Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Faichney, who was Hart's chaplain until his deployment.

Hart said anyone who met her husband would remember his friendly smile.

"He liked to encourage people," she said. "He always tried to tell them to do the right thing."

According to his fellow soldiers, Hart led by example — not complaining about the jobs he was given and completing those jobs to the best of his ability.

"I want to thank Sgt. Hart and his family for their dedication and sacrifice for their country," said Lt. Col. Shawn Morrissey, commander of the 559th Quartermaster Battalion.

Although the Harts are grieving the loss of a husband, son and father, they all share the knowledge that he has gone to a better place.

"I'm going to miss him," said Hart's mother, Betty, "but we thank God for the time we had with him, and because we know where he is now."

FAMILY

from page 1A

"I took it a day at a time. I did a lot of praying," said Ralph. He communicated with his family through e-mails, letters and a few phone calls.

Since Ralph has been back, his unit has been very good to him and the soldiers in his unit, he said. His unit has been giving him a lot of free time to help him adjust back into family life.

"We'll stay married for a long time," Rebecca said. "We believe in our vows, and we respect each other. We have always been like that. We are looking forward to retirement together."

"So many young soldiers have been through a lot and will live with those experiences for the rest of their lives," Ralph said in a concerned manner. "For me, I just came home and started off where I left. The type of life I have, with a good family I love and a lot of faith in god has helped me get back into the swing of things. It was like not being gone at all."



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Ralph P. Burns, an operations sergeant with HHB 1/3 ADA, and his wife Rebecca on their wedding day.

CENTCOM News

4ID soldier killed

TIKRIT, Iraq — One 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed and one wounded when the M-113 armored personnel carrier they were riding in struck an explosive device near the town of Ad Dwar at approximately 6:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital. One soldier died of wounds received.

The soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

Soldier killed in convoy attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed and two were wounded at approximately 6:15 p.m. Tuesday when their convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device in the vicinity of Al Taji.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a nearby medical facility.

The soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Third Tripartite Commission meets at Bagram

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The Tripartite Commission, composed of senior diplomatic and military representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States held its third meeting at Coalition Headquarters at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Tuesday to discuss mutual concerns.

The Commission reviewed developments in the border regions. The parties agreed to further coordinate their efforts for combating acts of terrorism.

The Commission noted with regrets the incident of August 11.

Investigations of the incident are under way. The parties stressed the need for greater coordination to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The Commission decided to establish a three-way hotline between senior representatives of the three countries.

The Commission heard the report of the subcommittee established at the previous meeting to carry out ground verification to address each other's concerns about incidents discussed at that meeting.

Members of the subcommittee visited the area in question July 29 to establish the position on the ground. The commission directed the subcommittee to continue its function, of recommending measures during the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission will meet again in September in Pakistan.

The Afghan delegation was led by National Security Adviser Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, assisted by Deputy Minister of the Interior Hilalludin Hilal, General Sher Mohammad Karimi of the Ministry of Defense, Foreign Ministry

Spokesperson Omar Samad, and Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Nanguyalai Tarzi. The Pakistani Delegation was led by the Director General of Military operations, Major General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, assisted by Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rashed Saleem Khan and Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan Rustam Shah Mohmand.

Major General John Vines led the U.S. delegation, which also included representatives from the U.S. Embassies in Kabul and Islamabad

Traffic accident kills, injures one

MOSUL, Iraq — A soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was killed and a civilian interpreter was injured Tuesday when their vehicle was hit by a taxi.

The soldier was evacuated to a nearby medical facility. The interpreter was evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital.

The soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.



Coalition, Iraqi people work to make Iraq secure

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A local community voluntarily organized a weapons turn-in day Monday to help create a safe and secure Iraq as Coalition forces continue the mission for peace.

A local village, Tal Alseer, coordinated a weapons turn-in recently with the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The turn-in collected an 82mm mortar tube, hundreds of mortar rounds and one 14.5 mm anti-aircraft gun with 16 cases of ammunition.

Due to the success of the event, the battalion is working to reward the Tal Alseer village to encourage this type of activity in other areas.

In a 1st Armored Division raid, soldiers detained a suspected weapons dealer and confiscated more than 1,440 rounds of small arms ammunition, 17 AK-47s, 19 20mm flares, four grenades, one 9mm pistol and one rifle.

In a separate incident, acting on a tip from a local source, 1st AD found a weapons cache of eight mortars and one rocket-propelled grenade. An explosive ordnance team will dispose of the weapons.

Meanwhile, Task Force Iron Horse soldiers working in

support of the 4th Infantry Division conducted an operation, which resulted in one individual detained and confiscation of 178 rounds of 155mm ammunition, five 90mm tank rounds and three 120 mm mortar rounds.

In the last 24 hours, Coalition forces conducted 32 raids, 824 day patrols and 638 night patrols. The units also conducted 122 day patrols and 83 night patrols with Iraqi police.

Operation Ivy Lightning

TIKRIT, Iraq — The 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse has launched two precision raids which are the fifth in a series of operations focused on neutralizing paramilitary, former regime loyalists and other subversive elements within Iraq.

Operation Ivy Lightning is a surgical strike in the remote towns of Ain Lalin and Quara Tapa, located along the Jabal Hamrin Ridge, to isolate and capture non-compliant forces and former regime loyalists who are planning attacks against Coalition forces.

The lightning raids were conducted with the combined-arms power of attack aviation, armor, mechanized infantry and air assault operations to rapidly deploy dismounted infantry to secure their objectives. This is the first time Coalition forces have deployed a sizable presence in the isolated area, and operations will not cease until these hostiles are located and destroyed.

Intelligence reports gathered from a variety of sources indicate former regime leaders may have fled to the remote area after aggressive operations surrounding Tikrit, Ba'quba and Balad have disrupted their capability to plan attacks against Coalition targets. Coalition members encourage local Iraqi leadership to take initiative and aid in the capture of subversive elements attempting to hinder the rebuilding of Iraq.

Ivy Lightning, like previous operations Peninsula Strike, Desert Scorpion, Sidewinder, and Ivy Serpent, will sweep the task force's area of operations to remove elements attempting to undermine Coalition efforts to restore stability in the region.

One killed, two wounded in IED attack

TIKRIT, Iraq — One 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed and two were wounded in an improvised explosive attack near the Ba'qubah police station Sunday at approximately 9:45 p.m.

The soldiers were evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital for treatment where one soldier subsequently died of wounds received.

The soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

Editor's note: Information for CENTCOM News is taken from CENTCOM press releases.

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'Cultural antiquities'



Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

Capt. David Hanselman, military history specialist, and Master Sgt. Marc Sammis, artifact team member, inspect an Iraqi Type 59 130 mm artillery piece. The piece was captured in Iraq and was transported to Camp Arifjan in Iraq, where it was abandoned.

Army historians preserve Iraqi Freedom legacy

Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A unit with the coalition forces recently called a military history specialist, Capt. David Hanselman, after they found an abandoned Iraqi troop carrier in the desert just outside Tollil, Iraq. They wanted the captain's opinion on its worth.

Hanselman had seen plenty of these. It is his job, after all, to check out military equipment, to assess its historical value and then decide whether the U.S. forces should haul the equipment back home.

Hanselman agreed to come. He drove out to the site. By the looks of it, the armored personnel carrier had been sitting there for a while, with its steel treads splayed out next to it. Hanselman walked over, turned the latch and pulled. The hatch groaned open.

He stuck his head in for a moment, then suddenly staggered back when the smell hit him. The thing had the odor of a refrigerator gone bad, where all the meat inside spoils. As flies buzzed by, he turned to the others and said, "I don't think we need this one."

The Coalition Forces Land Component Command — Military History Group has spent the last four months collecting and surveying war memorabilia in order to preserve the history of the war.

The history group consists of only a handful of workers and they are based out of Camp Doha in Kuwait. They arrived in Baghdad toward the end of April. The intent of the Military History Group is to collect items that possess historical value. These items are not 4,000-year-old Sumerian pots or scrolls, but rather actual weapons systems and other military equipment used in the war.

Hanselman, a historical property specialist with the Military History Group, catalogs all types of military items that he calls "cultural antiquities." From Toyota trucks with dual rocket launchers mounted on the cab, to Iraqi Army uniforms, it is Hanselman's job to consider what items will be desirable museum treasures, as well as what items are not needed back in the states.

"It's interesting to see how the Iraqi soldiers adapted and overcame for the war," said Hanselman. "Although they didn't actually

overcome, it's still interesting."

The museum history group has cataloged over 1,500 items within the last three or four months, said Hanselman. Hanselman will escort the memorabilia back to Camp Doha, where he and his team will review and catalog the items into a database.

From there, they will ship the keepsakes to Washington, D.C., where they will wait to be displayed in the forthcoming Army National Museum.

Battalion-level units can also claim "trophies of war" and bring these back to a specified museum. Each unit is allotted one weapons system or 12 non-weapon systems. The reason for these small numbers is to reduce the amount of weaponry that comes back to the states.

According to Hanselman, the process is time-consuming and causes some conflicts. For a unit to acquire a war relic, the unit must first contact the Military History Group. After the team approves and catalogs the item, the MHG then investigates the legitimacy of the museum in question. In short, a lot of paperwork and stringent guidelines are involved

with the process.

In past operations, units had few restrictions on what they could take home as war relics. This time, it's not that simple.

"The deal now is that we are not 'conquering heroes;' we are 'liberators,'" said Hanselman.

So far, the Museum History Group has turned up some interesting artifacts. Hanselman said that he has collected three handguns of interest — Oday Hussein's personal collection. Two of the revolvers are flashy, nickel-plated showpieces. The third, however, is a cheap, Czech 9 mm pistol — the gun which Oday used to kill.

Though the job is not always a glamorous Indiana Jones flick, the group's mission is vital to the future. When the dust settles, and the world turns its eyes on other things, history will be preserved.

"We formulate history," said Hanselman. "There are two ways to formulate history. You can read it in a book or you can go to the museum and see it firsthand. Our success here will determine how successful the story is told back in the U.S."

Did You Know?
One pint of oil can
contaminate one
million gallons of
water.



Fla. Guardsman lights up Baghdad

Spc. Mark S. Rickert

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Sgt. Richard J. Pearce is not wired like other infantrymen.

When he and other National Guardsmen of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, based in Orlando, Fla., came into Baghdad, they guarded various enemy prisoner-of-war camps around the city.

At one site, soldiers attempted to wire a building. However, they had little experience with electrical work, and Pearce saw how he would do it himself.

Electrical engineering is nothing new for this infantryman. In fact, electricity runs like current in his family. Pearce's father worked as an electrician for more than 40 years. Pearce spent most of his childhood learning his father's trade. While other 9-year-old children were jabbing their fingers into light sockets, Pearce was learning how to route the flow of energy.

Pearce has worked with electricity for more than 25 years now. When he's not fighting wars, he works with Contemporary Machines, a company that specializes with robotic systems and automation of factories.

Knowledge like this is handy when try-

ing to rebuild a city after a war.

Military officials soon caught wind of Pearce's high-wattage expertise and gave him a new job. Today, Pearce is serving as a full-time electrician at the Iraqi Forum building/Coalition Press Information Center, which was formerly known as the Baghdad Convention Center. Since he began working there, he has set up generators, sound systems and air-conditioning units. Because of his skill and know-how, the Iraqi Forum building is again fully operational.

Now that fluorescent light bulbs buzz in the corridors and cool air blows through the lobby, Pearce wants to move the building's technology into the 21st century. Pearce intends to automate the Iraqi Forum building with the newest systems available.

Right now, he is negotiating a deal that will automate the entire building with a fiber-optic network, a system that will control fire systems, temperature, and computer systems.

With an upgrade like this, Iraqis will have the opportunity to learn from this new technology and spread the knowledge throughout Baghdad and, hopefully this knowledge will filter out to other parts of the country.

"I want to bring Iraqi electricians here

and show them how the system works," said Pearce. "They have to start somewhere. They might as well start at the top."

Pearce also trains his workers on the latest technology. He has a team of roughly 25 Iraqi electricians and technicians that work with him at the CPIC. His objective is to bring these men into the 21st century.

"The men train well," said Pearce. "They already have the basic skills, and they're eager to learn more. They want to catch up to the rest of the world. They absorb everything."

Iraqis are not the only ones learning from Pearce. During a workday, electricians from all over town approach Pearce for advice, including private contractors such as Kellogg, Brown and Root and even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"People come from all over town to meet with Pearce," said Capt. Blake J. Glass, C Co. commander, 2/124th. "Most times, he suggests that they rethink their methods, and then he shows them another way. They're all very impressed."

Pearce is modest about his ability, saying that "You've either got it or you don't. I just got lucky, and do."

Modest or not, Pearce exemplifies the versatility of the National Guard. After all, he's an infantryman with an upgraded processor.



Spc. Ryan Smith

Sgt. Richard J. Pearce, infantryman, C Co., 2/124th Inf., Fla. NG, checks the meters on the control panel for the generators at the Iraqi Forum/Coalition Press Information Center Aug. 4.



Air Force Master Sgt. T. Collins

A U.S. military search team discovers a Cold War-era MiG-25 Foxbat interceptor, the fastest combat aircraft today, buried beneath the sands in Iraq. Several MiG-25s and Su-25 ground attack jets have been found buried at al-Taqqadum air field west of Baghdad.

MiGs found in Iraq

Questions about possible WMD program arise

Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — American forces have found Russian fighter jets buried in the Iraqi desert, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in an Aug. 5 press briefing.

"We'd heard a great many things had been buried, but we had not known where they were, and we'd been operating in that immediate vicinity for weeks and weeks and weeks ... 12, 13 weeks, and didn't know they were (there)," Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said he wasn't sure how many such aircraft had been found, but noted, "It wasn't one or two."

He said it's a "classic example" of the

challenges the Iraqi Survey Group is facing in finding weapons of mass destruction in the country.

"Something as big as an airplane that's within ... a stone's throw of where you're functioning, and you don't know it's there because you don't run around digging into everything on a discovery process," Rumsfeld explained.

"So until you find somebody who tells you where to look, or until nature clears some sand away and exposes something over time, we're simply not going to know."

"But, as we all know," he added, "the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

**JOB WELL DONE!
3RD INFANTRY DIVISION**

Hinesville MAC seeks contributions for memorial, picnic

Jim Jeffcoat
Managing Editor

The Hinesville Military Affairs Committee is prepping in anticipation of the full return of the brave men and women of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), according to Hinesville Mayor Thomas J. Ratcliffe.

Presently the committee is hosting the construction of a memorial in Marne Garden on Fort Stewart, which will honor those soldiers whose lives were lost and all who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition, the committee is planning a picnic for the Division soldiers and their families with intentions to feed more than 20,000 people.

"We are striving to make this 'Welcome Home' and the memorial of a quality equal to the quality of the Division's performance on our behalf," Ratcliffe said in a letter to the community. "The committee has established a budget of \$100,000, about one half of which will be used for the memorial. We ask you (surrounding community/businesses) to join in helping to underwrite this celebration by making a monetary contribu-

tion."

The mayor is also inviting members of the community and businesses to consider other forms of donations such as providing tents and volunteers to see through the success of the "Welcome Home" projects.

The Hinesville Military Affairs committee is a group of volunteer citizens, led by Mayor Pro Tem David Anderson, which includes organizations and residents from throughout Liberty County.

Anyone who wants to contribute to the Military Affairs Committee efforts should address their gift to:

Hinesville Military Affairs Committee
at the City of Hinesville
115 East M.L. King, Jr. Dr
Hinesville, Ga 31313

Levels of contributions are: Platinum — \$5,000 and over; Gold — \$3,000-\$4,999; Silver — \$1,000-\$2,999; Bronze — \$100-\$999; and Patron — up to \$99.

Contributors should include their name or name of business, point of contact, address, phone number, email and fax number with their contribution folders.



Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Monument Fund



Name _____ Amount _____

Organization/unit _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I give the OIF Memorial Monument Committee and the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee permission to publish my name in any print, broadcast or online publication.

Make your tax deductible donation check or money order payable to:
City of Hinesville
Military Affairs Coordinating Committee
Mail to:
115 East M.L. King Drive
Hinesville, GA 31313

MARNE GARDEN, FORT STEWART, GEORGIA



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION

Support your local servicemember ...



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

George Stagmeier, chief of Hinesville Police Department, receives an award for supporting the National Guard and Reserves from Chief Warrant Officer 2 Leroy Lott, executive officer of B Co., 148th Ga. NG.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

School absences conditional
Fort Stewart Schools (Diamond and Brittin) will support recently deployed soldiers, within reason and within available resources, when requesting a student absence. Students will be considered excused during block leave. Parents are encouraged to coordinate with the student's teacher on missed homework/class assignments. Time away from school should be kept at a minimal.

Liberty County Schools will grant up to 5 days of unexcused absence during block leave for students of deployed soldiers. Soldiers are required to provide a written request to the school principal which states the reason for the absence and projected dates that the student will be out of school. Students will be allowed to make up missed homework/assignments. Teachers will work with students to ensure that they do not fall behind in the classroom. Since Liberty County schools are required to follow the N-Child-Left-Behind mandate and are grade by attendance, students will be required to be re-enrolled in school if an absence exceeds 5 days.

Frank Cochran and Wilson

The traffic signal at the above intersection was re-activated Tuesday.

Motorists are urged to exercise caution when approaching the intersection and be alert for the other driver.

Main Gate

Gate 1 has only one accessible inbound lane and one accessible out bound lane. All inbound traffic entering through Main Gate is routed to a new four-way stop located where General Stewart Way intersects with Memorial Drive and proceeds to General Screven Way.

Construction will be on-going during this period. To alleviate the traffic flow 4th Street Gate (Gate 2/Troupe Gate) is open.

Army Family Action Plan

Training for facilitators, recorders and issue support staff Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to noon at Club Stewart. Youth AFAP conference Sept. 6 at 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Club Stewart.

Delegate training Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Stewart. AFAP conference Sept. 9, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fort Stewart. Contact Vicki Wiginton or Stacy Thompson at 767-5058 for more info.

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.

Latest technologies

An invitation to visit the annual information technology show at Fort Stewart's Stewart Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 20. Visit www.atc-expo.com/shows or call 888-282-2262.

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 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 service. 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.

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 very 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.

To make reservations call 269-0277.

Continuing education

Family members, mobilized Army Reservists and Army 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 will 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.

Morning road closure

North Perimeter Road from the 117th Tactical Control Squadron to the Stephen Douglas Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6-7:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri. to support unit physical fitness programs.

Ask your unit first sergeant or contact the Hunter Safety Office for Hunter's physical training policies, by calling 352-5814.

Bible study

A weekly Bible study will be held in the building adjacent to the post chapel Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Burger King

Burger King at Hunter PX will be closed for renovations and will re-open Sept. 20.

During this time Burger King will continue to operate from a portable grill in front of the PX.

Skeet Range

The skeet range is open 4-9 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Hunting and Fishing Permits, Georgia State Hunting and Fishing licenses are also sold in Bldg. 8250.

An Education course is required for an on-post hunting permit. For more information, call 352-5916

Safety Classes

The safety classes will be held at Holbrook Pond at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 16 and 30. To register for class go to www.georgiawildlife.com

Latest technologies

An invitation to visit the exciting annual information technology show at Fort Stewart's Stewart Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Visit www.atc-expo.com/shows or call 888-282-2262.

Winn Army Community Hospital

TRICARE class

Retirees and retiree dependants age 64 can attend the TRICARE Prime to TRICARE for Life class 9-11 a.m., Aug. 20. at Hunter's Army Community Services building. TRICARE for Life begins on a retiree's 65th birthday. For more information, call 692-8724.

3rd Thursday training

Services at Winn and Tuttle will be limited today for staff training. Winn will be closed 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will offer emergency care only during that time. Tuttle will be closed 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Expectant Mothers Group

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. Aug. 19 at Club Stewart. The group is open to all expectant mothers whose significant other is deployed. For more information, call 370-6779.

Exceptional family member

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m. Aug. 28 in Patriot Auditorium.

Meet other families and learn about other community support services. For more information, call 370-6505.

"Take Care of Yourself" class

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes will be 10-11 a.m. Aug. 27 at Tuttle. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register for the Tuttle class, call 368-3048.

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.

Preventive Medicine

The Department of Preventive Medicine has relocated to buildings PB473 and PB474, across from Army Community Service. 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.

Physical Exam Clinic

The clinic has been relocated to Soldier Family Health Clinic #2, Building 612, 767-7750.

Winn Seeks Volunteers

Winn is looking for adult volunteers to help out in a wide range of areas from administrative specialists to chaperones to certified or licensed nurses. For more information, call 370-6903.

Winn and Tuttle Champions

The Winn and Tuttle Champions program matches representatives with Family Readiness Groups to answer questions about what healthcare services are available to you - from transferring your TRICARE enrollment to refilling prescriptions to schedule appointments.

For more information, call Winn's representatives, Linda King or Darla Vaught, at 370-6225/6143 or Tuttle's representative, Marilyn O'Mallon, at 352-6015.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 40-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 74/55, no license, obstruction of law enforcement officer
- **Location:** Liberty County
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 24-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Failure to obey lawful order, driving without a license
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Failure to obey lawful regulation and/or order
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, laying drag
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, 24th Corps

- Support Group
- **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Improper backing, hit and run
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Violation of probation
- **Location:** Soperton
- **Subject:** Private 2, 18-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, no driver's license, minor in possession of alcohol
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, unlawful transfer of license plate, operation of unregistered vehicle, operating vehicle without insurance
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, Division

- Artillery
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Corporal, 25-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old female, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful distribution of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Simple battery
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 32-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, no tags displayed, no valid insurance, possession of cocaine
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old female, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** License not exhibited on demand, excessive noise, disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 2, male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Failure to exercise due care
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Failure to use headlight after sunset, license not exhibited on demand, failure to appear
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 43-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Failure to exercise due care, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Duty upon striking unattended vehicle, improper backing
- **Location:** Hunter

DRINKING & DRIVING DON'T MIX

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