

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

Inside The Frontline News



Hinesville, 3ID dedicate monument for OIF 3A

Stewart, Hunter to get face-lift 7A

Sports



GSU honors 3ID at game.... 1B

Youth punt, pass, kick competition at Stewart.... 1B

Life & Times

Soldier show to bring down house 1C



Kids reel in fun at Stewart fishing rodeo.... 2C

Guide

- Voices and Viewpoints 4A
- VA News 12A
- 3ID In Brief..... 13A
- Police Blotters..... 14A
- Marne Scoreboard 3B
- Worship schedule 4C
- Pet of the Week..... 4C
- Volunteer Spotlight 5C
- Movie listing 5C
- Birth announcements 5C



Gen. Larry Ellis, FORSCOM commander (right), passes the 3rd Inf. Div. colors to Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield commanding general, during Webster's change of command ceremony on Cottrell Field Friday.

To lead dogface soldiers

Webster takes reins of Marne Division

Spc. Mason T. Lowery
Staff Writer

Third Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers and community members paid tribute to their departing commander and welcomed their new commander in a change of command ceremony on Cottrell Field Friday.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr. assumed command of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.), and Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, who commanded Marne soldiers to a historical victory in Operation Iraqi

Freedom, left Fort Stewart to report to the Pentagon Monday morning for duty as the assistant deputy chief of staff of operations for the United States Army.

"It's been the most satisfying time of my career. Since I must leave, and Gen. Ellis told me I have to, there's no better team to leave the division to than the Websters," Blount said at the ceremony.

Webster has a long history with the 3rd Inf. Div., and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Most recently, he was deployed to Iraq from September 2002 to June 2003

as the deputy commanding general for operations of Third U.S. Army, the Combined Forces Land Component Command. In that position, he witnessed 3rd Inf. Div. soldiers' actions in the war. "It was a distinction and honor to serve with you in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the honor continues today," he said.

From 1997 to 1998, Webster was the 3rd Inf. Div. assistant division commander. He participated in Operation Desert Thunder while in



Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III

See CHANGE, Page 8A

New gate to ease traffic flow, enhance security

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich
Staff Writer

Ask around, and many soldiers at Fort Stewart will gripe about the traffic flow entering the garrison area when arriving to work early in the morning.

It will be more than a year before the situation improves.

Major construction at the main gate of the installation, which got underway in July, has brought traffic to a standstill. According to James Thomas, Directorate of Public Works engineer project manager, the project is a necessity.

The reason for the construction is two-fold, Thomas said. "This is

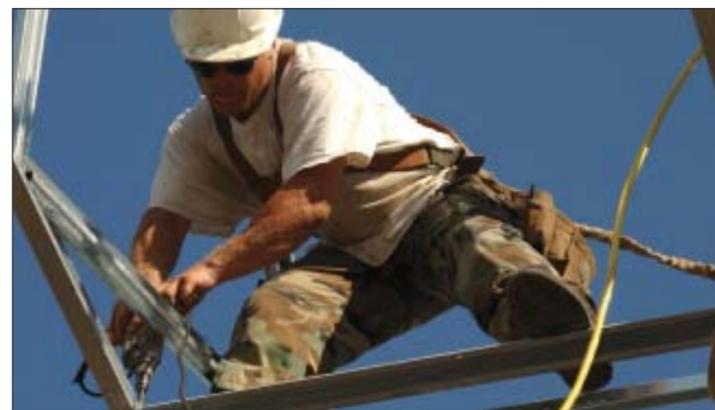
going to ease traffic flow considerably and, more importantly, enhance force protection."

Currently, General Screven Way and General Stewart Way have been rerouted to the Memorial Drive entrance.

The Fort Stewart provost marshal's office has coordinated with officials in Hinesville to ease the traffic burden where the three roads merge by providing a military police officer to direct traffic.

By project's end, Feb. 2005, Memorial Drive and General Stewart way will be once again rerouted to the yet unfinished

See TRAFFIC, Page 8A



Construction continues at Fort Stewart's main gate.

Third suspect eyed in Guantanamo Bay case

Linguist apprehended with classified material

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A third person possibly tied to espionage at the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — this one a civilian contractor who worked as a translator — was charged today with making false, fictitious or fraudulent statements regarding computer disks he carried during a flight from Egypt.

Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, a naturalized citizen of Egyptian decent, was arrested Monday after arriving at Boston's Logan Airport Monday afternoon aboard a flight from Cairo that stopped at Milan, Italy, on the way to Boston from Egypt.

According to Brian Doyle, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials conducting a routine examination at the airport

noted a military identification card identifying Mehalba as a contract linguist at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay. While searching Mehalba's baggage, the inspectors found 132 CD-ROMs, at least one of which contained information that appeared to be classified, Doyle said.

The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force responded and arrested Mehalba. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts authorized the arrest.

The complaint filed today with the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts reports that Mehalba had a close relationship with a former student at the Army Counter-Intelligence School at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., who was discharged in September 2001 under less than honorable conditions.

The complaint cites a Dec. 21, 2001, FBI report about former U.S. Army Spc. Deborah Gephardt, who was arrested May 20, 2001, for vehicle theft.

A search of her quarters revealed a stolen laptop computer and classified counter-intelligence training material. After Gephardt's arrest, the FBI report says Mehalba made several unsuccessful attempts to gain information about her arrest, without success. The FBI report also revealed that Mehalba told Gephardt his uncle was an intelligence officer for the Egyptian army.

U.S. Southern Command officials said Mehalba had been employed at the facility as a contractor for The Titan Corporation, but did not yet have specifics about his employment at Guantanamo Bay.

The Titan Corporation is a U.S. contractor in San Diego that supports homeland security and counterterrorism.

Air Force Senior Airman Ahmad I. Al Halabi, who worked at the facility as a translator, was arrested July 23. He is assigned to the 60th Logistical Readiness Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and has been charged

See SUSPECT, Page 8A

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 78°	Low 54°
SAT	High 82°	Low 60°
SUN	High 83°	Low 54°



File photos

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commander, briefs the division command group and brigade commanders March 31 on future operations.

Blount reflects on time with 3ID



A 4/64 Armor tank rolls through the Fort Stewart terrain during a training exercise. Blount's guidance from then Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Erik K. Shinseki, was to prepare the division for the possibility of going to war.

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Editor

The division colors changed hands Friday and a new commander has taken charge of the Marne Division, but Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, the former 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, won't forget his time as the commander.

"The war (in Iraq) is a high point in my time with the division," Blount said. "We spent nine months in deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, and that is something that will impact the rest of my life."

He added, "I'll never forget the great soldiers of the division and what they have accomplished in that short time."

The division earned the nickname of the "tip of the spear" from the media during the war as the soldiers moved toward Baghdad.

"We had a plan and I knew the division was ready and knew that we could execute the plan," Blount said. "So as we went through, my focus was to keep the division on the plan and the fight."

He said it was very important to keep the momentum and always to keep moving forward.

"My main focus was to get to Baghdad as quickly as we could with as few casualties we could," the former commander said. "(I knew) by quickly getting there and seizing Baghdad, we would bring the war to a quick closure."

After Baghdad was captured, Blount said there was a lot running through his mind.

"I was very pleased when we got to that point with a minimal loss of our soldiers' lives," Blount said. "Looking back with the 21 days behind us and all we had accomplished, I was tremendously proud of the division and that we been able to get there as quickly as we did and inflict the loss on the enemy that we did."

He said that he carries a real sense of pride of being the commander of the division.

"War is something we all train for, and it's something we hope we won't have to do but it was something our nation called us up to do."

"I feel very honored to have been the commander of the 3rd Infantry Division and of these great soldiers as we went off to war," Blount said. "I couldn't be prouder of the soldiers, NCOs and officers that were in the division."

It took the division a little longer to get home as the troops moved from fighting to aiding in peacekeeping and the reconstruction efforts, Blount said.

The division began returning in July and now nearly all the units assigned to Fort Stewart have returned.

"I know for me it was a tremendous feeling stepping off the airplane and returning home," Blount said. "I'm very happy to have all of the soldiers home and get them back with their family members. It's a great feeling of closure to have the families reunited."

The local community and the garrison staff worked hard to make the return ceremonies memorable.

"I was very, very pleased with the welcome that the communities gave to the division and the (ceremonies) the

See BLOUNT, Page 8A



(Above) Blount enters an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank to fire the first round during the opening of Red Cloud Alpha Multipurpose Tank Range Nov. 12.

(Right) Sgt. Oscar Martinez, a C Co., 3/15 squad leader, practices dismounting from his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Blount said that he was honored to command the 3rd Inf. Div. and he couldn't be prouder of the soldiers, NCOs and officers of the division.



(Above) Families and friends rush onto Cottrell Field as their soldiers return from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Blount said he was glad the division is back and can show its appreciation to the community and families for their great support.

(Left) Spartan Scorpion was just one of the additional missions that the division received after the war was over.

Hinesville, 3ID dedicate OIF monument

Spc. Katherine Robinson

Staff Writer

All over Fort Stewart, different monuments memorialize hard-fought wars and brave soldiers, living and dead. Each one silently speaks of a hundred heroic acts, half-forgotten bits of history that make up the legend that is the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Rock of the Marne. Now a new monument to a new war stands in Marne Garden.

Hinesville Mayor Tom Ratcliffe and Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div. former commanding general, unveiled the monument in a ceremony at Marne Garden Sept. 25.

Ratcliffe presented the monument to the 3rd Inf. Div. on behalf of Hinesville and surrounding communities.

Standing in a paved circle near the Marne mascot, Rocky the Bulldog, the monument is a rock, bearing maps of Iraq, where the division spearheaded the attack during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ratcliffe said the monument would serve as a reminder, so that in the future, children will see it and ask their parents and grandpar-

ents about the war it memorializes.

"We will tell them about a war to protect and free other human beings from tyranny and injustice," he said. "We'll tell them about the leadership of this division, a brave campaign and historic military achievements.

"On one hand valor, on the other benevolence," Ratcliffe continued. "Both of these qualities (exist) in the same group of individuals."

The monument will stand as a testament to the division's lost soldiers, he added. "We will remind them of the names of those who lost their lives ... whose ultimate sacrifice has been placed on the altar of freedom."

Ratcliffe also thanked the friends and families of the division. "We'll tell them about ... the mothers and fathers who gave us their children, the husbands and wives who gave us their life's mate, the children who gave us their parents and those who gave us their friends and comrades in arms," he said. "We'll tell them how proud we are. Most of all, the rock means neither we, nor those who come after will forget what we've done."

Blount thanked Ratcliffe, and Hinesville, saying the division is honored to accept the

token of thanks from the public.

The effort put forth by the community to welcome the division home, is indicative of the good relationship between Fort Stewart and its neighbors, he said.

"(Stewart) is without question, the best place, with the best neighbors, for soldiers to be stationed," he said. "The soldiers have added a proud chapter to the Marne history."

Blount pointed out the other monuments for heroic actions, that stand as a reminder of the division's extensive history.

"Since its formation ... the Rock of the Marne has paid a heavy price," he said. The division has suffered more than 35,000 casualties in five wars and countless battles. "Through it all, 49 members of the division were awarded the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor."

When the call came for OIF, Marne soldiers were prepared, he added. "Along our route the Marne Division encountered tens of thousands of enemy soldiers and left thousands dead and thousands more injured or captured. Throughout the fight the values of

See DEDICATION, Page 8A



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Hinesville Mayor Tom Ratcliffe and Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, unveil the OIF monument in Marne Garden Sept. 25.

Cavalry troops awarded OIF honors

Spc. Katherine Robinson

Staff Writer

Eighty two soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment received awards for their performance Sept. 23 in Operation Iraqi Freedom at Club Stewart.

Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) assistant division commander (support) presented four Silver Stars, 41 Bronze Star Medals (with valor device), nine Purple Hearts and 28 Air Medals (with valor device) to the soldiers.

Though new to the division, Riojas said he could tell 3/7 Cav. was a great unit before he even entered the ballroom where the ceremony took place. "(I) could feel the energy," he said.

"All the troopers here, I salute you for a job well done," he added. "You embody the very best quality America expects in our leaders and in our warriors."

The 4th Brigade commander, Col. Curtis D. Potts, said he was elated to see the soldiers get home safe and receiving the awards they deserved.

"The soldiers did an absolutely great job," he said.

Potts said if he had to describe the squadron's performance in one word, it would be "dynamic."

"They seized the moment, the saw what had to be done," he



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (support), pins an award on 1st Lt. Justin McCormick during the 3/7 Cav. awards ceremony at Club Stewart Sept 23.

said. "They kept the battle moving."

Though the squadron had several injuries during the war,

there were no deaths in the unit.

"For what the cavalry did, all its missions, it's a Godsend none were lost in battle, and I attribute that to great leadership and great training."

"I'm very happy we brought everybody home and proud of the way the soldiers performed," said Lt. Col. Andrew Fowler, the squadron commander. "Without their courage, without the training they went through and the execution of missions based on that training, I don't know that we would have brought everyone home."

Sgt. 1st Class John P. Wheatley, a Silver Star recipient, also attributed the squadron performance to training and courage.

"I wouldn't have got (the medal) without the soldiers behind me working to do the things they were trained to do," he said.

Now that the troops are back and safe, they do not intend to lose their cutting edge skills, according to Wheatley. "We will continue to train the way we did prior to the war," he said.

Riojas commended the soldiers after the ceremony.

"Your relentless pursuit and destruction of the enemy was something to be marveled at, something to behold, and something to strike fear in the hearts of Iraqi soldiers," he told them.

"All of you are true battlefield heroes, and you made our nation proud."

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Don't be a cheater

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
Staff Writer

Commentary

Anyone who has experienced infidelity in past or present relationships, or has at least thought about it, cannot honestly say that their reaction to such a situation would be very positive. How many stories of cheating spouses have you personally heard? How many of your battle buddies have fallen victim to it? If you haven't experienced infidelity, how would you react to a spouse who has cheated on you?

Unfortunately, more than a few soldiers have reacted very violently to infidelity.

Soldiers begin their career by going to basic combat training. They are taught combat survival skills that involve deadly weapons and proficiency in hand-to-hand fighting techniques. The object of basic training is to prepare men and women to become a human weapon with the ability to fight and win wars. As my drill sergeant told me too often in BCT, "Soldiers, this is a business of killing. Welcome to the Army."

Is there discernment between the battlefield and home life?

Anyone involved in an intimate relationship with a member of the opposite sex knows that arguments and disagreements are part of every adult couple's life. Resolving inevitable conflict in a healthy manner is vital to growth in a relationship. Unfortunately, healthy conflict resolution was not a part of everyone's upbringing.

Thousands of soldiers are returning home from lengthy deployments. More than a few marriages were not so rosy when the soldier left. Soldiers are coming home, women as well as men, to find that their loved ones were doing as they pleased while they were away fighting a war. Some soldiers' significant others spent money more than irresponsibly. Others divorced their spouses while they were away and moved far away with their

children.

While I was at the Tri-Counties Shelter here in Liberty County I heard more than my share of horror stories. According to the women who worked there, not all family members were faithful during the war. Some soldiers came back to find that their spouses had moved someone into their home while they were overseas.

Imagine how you would feel to come home to a scenario like that. Coming home after being in the hot, uncomfortable desert with the threat of the enemy attempting to take your life daily, because it is your job, because you have orders, and because you are trying to provide sustenance for your family.

After all you have gone through, you find a man or a woman living in your house, wearing your clothes, driving your car and sleeping in your bed with your spouse.

We as soldiers are trained to be "hard-core", to "charge" and "kill or be killed." We don't die for our country; we make the enemy die for theirs.

After coming back from a combat situation to find your life in shambles, how do you make the transition from desert warrior to reasonable spouse or parent willing to deal with a highly emotional situation in a calm, positive and constructive manner?

Military personnel are also guilty of infidelity. Anyone who has been on an unaccompanied tour knows that there is no lack of female companionship in just about any location. TDY has a new meaning around some soldier's campfire; temporary divorce for a year.



There are programs and classes available for anger and stress management, conflict resolution, and other types of counseling through mental health and the Army Community Service. Yet these programs are scheduled for certain times of the week and only on certain days. There are hotlines designed to aid people who are feeling out of control and give them an outlet.

How could these programs help in an immediate situation? When infidelity is discovered, one is angry and hurt, trust has been destroyed and all that someone was building has been changed and more or less destroyed in that moment?

I realize it may seem impossible to trust the advice of a stranger when you have been failed by the most intimate person in your life, but try outside sources; it only takes a second to make a mistake and do something you will regret for the rest of your life.

There are outlets for couples experiencing marital strife. Education is available to help you become a better spouse or parent. Inexperienced parents and newlyweds are famous for having trouble adjusting to the new situation and the responsibilities involved. These outlets only work if there is a desire to have a good marriage and be a good parent.

Those who are not interested in self-dignity and preservation of their marital relationship will find no comfort in these outlets.

When a person makes vows concerning their future as a husband or wife, there is no hope for their future if they don't hold sacred these vows. Infidelity is not a lover's spat that one can bounce back from. It will destroy a relationship.

To avoid losing all that has been built together over the years, one has only to maintain self-respect and exercise self control.

The solution is simple: don't be a cheater.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

How can people prevent domestic violence?

"Open your lines of communication and spend more quality time together."

Sgt. 1st Class Clyde E. Layton
HHC, DISCOM



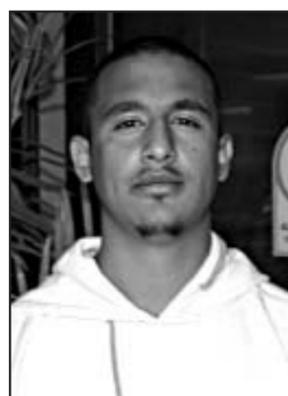
"If you notice a difference in your relationship, go to marriage counseling."

Amber Kelly
Spouse



"You should talk over all of your issues with your partner."

Jay O. Martinez
Family Member



"Compromise is important to reduce stress in a relationship."

Nancy Hardy
Spouse

"Walk away from the situation until you have calmed down."

Staff Sgt. Lashaun Y. Foster
HHC, 3rd Inf. Div.



"People should be proactive on getting education about the subject."

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Harmon
4/87 TSB

3/7 Cav. to honor Pulaski

A ceremony commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Founding of the U.S. Cavalry in 1778 by the Continental Congress under the Command of Brig. Gen. Count Casimir Pulaski is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Oct. 10 in Savannah's Monterey Square.

The Nation's preeminent monument to Pulaski (built in 1854) is located in Monterey Square. Pulaski's purported remains were discovered entombed at the base of the monument in 1996 during restoration work.

Pulaski, and hundreds of others, died from wounds sustained during the Franco-American Siege of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

At 2 p.m., a procession of veterans, soldiers from the Marne Division's 3-7 Cavalry, ambassadors, historic associ-

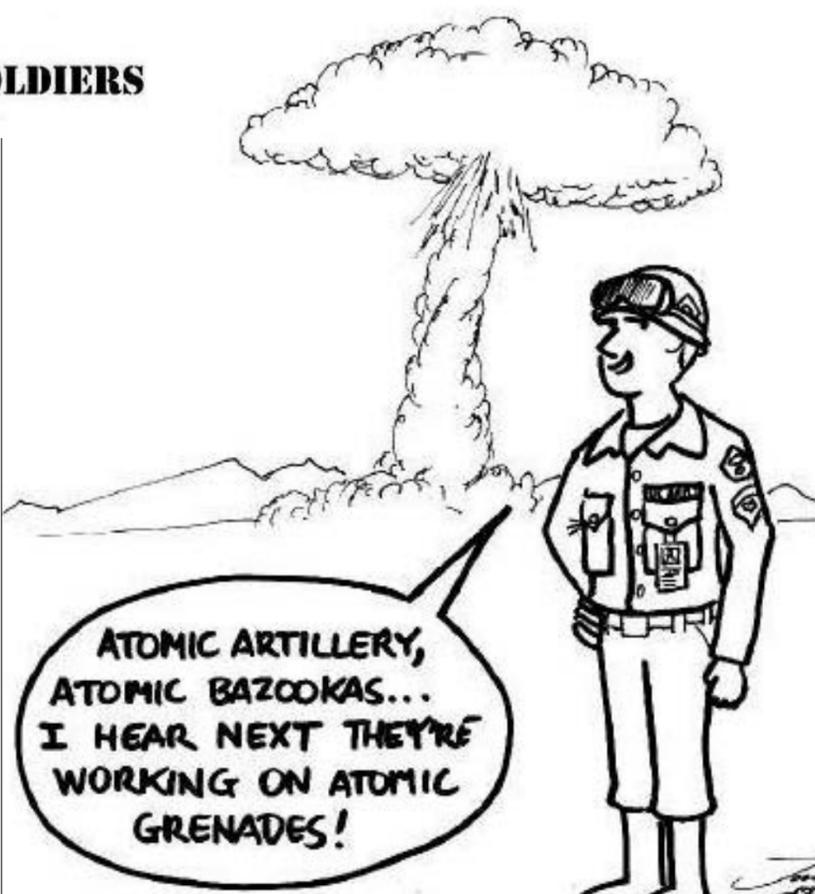
ations and governmental bodies will march from Martin Luther King Boulevard at Louisville Road to Monterey Square.

An interfaith Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 10 at Savannah's Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in remembrance of Pulaski and 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their Nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bishop Francis X. Rogue of the Worldwide Military Archdiocese for Catholics will preside along with clergy of the major faiths, hosted by Savannah's Bishop J. Kevin Boland and Cathedral Rector Monsignor William O'Neill.

For additional information on these events, contact (912) 353-7646.

ATOMIC  SOLDIERS

In the 40s and 50s, the U.S. Army conducted exercises with real nuclear weapons. Soldiers trained both to use nuclear weapons tactically and to survive the effects of enemy and friendly atomic blasts. Soldiers routinely crossed "ground zero" in simulated assaults in what was then considered the future of warfare.



Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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Public Affairs Office
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
101 W. Bultman Ave.
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Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941

THE FRONTLINE

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
Volume 19, Number 12
Publisher
3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Commander — Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
Consolidated Public Affairs Office
Director — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly using offset printing by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

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31314-5000. Phone number: 912-767-3440 or 767-8072
Printed circulation up to 22,000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc. a private firm

Staff Writer — Spc. Adam Nuelken
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Advertising Manager — Maryann Wilson
Frontline Production Manager — Juanita Vandenbosch

in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$9 for three months, \$16 for six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are for third class mail, inside the continental U.S.

24th CSG Units still deployed

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

The colors have returned to Fort Stewart, the President has visited to commend the troops on a job well done, and a formal welcome home ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 4. But not everyone is ready to celebrate. Four units from the 24th Corps Support Group are still in Iraq carrying out missions that could last another six months, said Maj. Kim Daub, executive officer of the 87th Corps Support Battalion, which two of the deployed units, the 396th Transportation Company and the 240th Forward Surgical Team, fall under.

"Many of the deployed soldiers' families feel like no one knows that there are units from Fort Stewart that are still deployed," said Daub. "It's demoralizing for the families to hear people saying 'Everyone's home!' while their soldier is still in Iraq."

The 396th Transportation Co., a Palletized Loading System truck unit, is moving supplies in support of V Corps units north of Baghdad. The 240th FST, an operating room-capable medical unit that primarily tends to wounded soldiers, is providing support to the 4th Inf. Div. The 260th Quartermaster Battalion Headquarters and the 416th Transportation Company, both from Hunter Army Airfield, are responsible for petroleum transportation, which is in great demand, said Col. Roberta Woods, 24th Corps Support Group commander.

"All of the heavy transportation units are up," said Woods. "Although we've been hiring local nationals to drive some of the trucks, our soldiers still must augment the convoys for security."

According to Woods, the 24th CSG is aligned under 1st Corps Support Command for deployment, but regularly supports 3rd Inf. Div. The 1st COSCOM patch, which has a diagonal arrow pointing to 1030 hours

as a reminder that the mission is always accomplished before the 11th hour, is often seen at Stewart and Hunter.

Twenty-nine soldiers who are new to Stewart were sent to the 396th Sept. 24 as replacements for normal attrition for emergency leave or the end of soldiers' terms of service, according to Daub.

Many of the families of deployed soldiers are exasperated from being repeatedly given inaccurate and speculative information about when their soldiers are returning, Daub said. Estimates have ranged from next month to six months for the 260th Quartermaster Bn. Hqs. and the 416th Transportation Co. The families of the 396th have been told to prepare for a one-year rotation, which will be up in early March, Daub added.

During the war, many local businesses offered special discounts for families of deployed servicemembers, but with the much-publicized return of the 3rd Inf. Div., these discounts have been discontinued.

"Families from the 24th CSG were depending on the local discounts on basic services, like getting their car maintained, because their soldier ordinarily would have taken care of those things," said 87th CSB Command Sgt. Maj. Athena Velez. "Now that those discounts are gone, families are facing real hardships."

The deployed soldiers are facing hardships of their own in Iraq, the most pressing of which is their safety, said Velez. Near-daily ambushes by paramilitary extremists and Saddam loyalists are inflicting mounting casualties among U.S. troops. Most recently, Spc. Ryan G. Carlock, 25, a soldier with the 416th, was killed in an ambush on the fuel truck he was driving Sept. 9.

Soldiers are increasingly concerned about the stability of their families during their extended absence, according to Velez.

"Some families, upon hearing that their soldier may be deployed for an additional six months, are considering moving back to their hometowns for the duration of the deployment," said Velez. "We are trying to support families from this end, because the soldiers shouldn't have to take care of difficulties at home by themselves while they have an important mission to accomplish."

One helpful resource for families of deployed soldiers is the Family Readiness Group, which schedules meetings for families periodically in order to distribute the most current information on the status of the



A soldier from the 396th Transportation Company pulls guard duty. The 396th regularly provides security for convoys and buildings.



Courtesy photos

Soldiers from the 396th Transportation Company and Iraqi school children at an elementary school in Baghdad that the soldiers have 'adopted' and helped to renovate. The reopening of the school has helped revitalize the local economy.

First 'Freedom Chapel' opens

Spc. Petersi Lui

CFLCC Public Affairs

CAMP CEDAR II, Iraq - Chaplains from four different battalions joined pastoral forces for a dedication Sept. 14 of the first 'Freedom Chapel' built at Camp Cedar II in Iraq.

Before the consolidation, the chaplains had performed their services separately in four different battalion Morale, Welfare and Recreation tents.

"Those MWR tents confused many soldiers who sought chaplain assistance.

Sometimes they discovered it was not a place dedicated for worship due to scheduling conflicts," said Maj. Susan Addams, chaplain of the 171st Area Support Group who visits Camp Cedar regularly from

a neighboring camp in Tallil, Iraq.

"Now, all servicemembers and civilian contractors have access to a wider variety of religious programs in a dedicated chapel," she said.

The chaplains had a number of programs that were not available to the other battalions' servicemembers. For example, services were conducted in Spanish by Chaplain (Capt.) Abimael Rodriguez, 394th Quartermaster Battalion.

"Kellogg, Brown and Root, the company contracted to build the chapel, started construction in June. The original floor plan called for nothing more than the erection of a general-purpose empty tent. However, the chaplains gathered together their needs and wishes and asked KBR to include additional specifications," Sterling said.

The happy outcome includes seating for 200 worshippers, two private offices, three decorative tables, a waiting room, a lectern, an altar, columns, light fixtures, ventilation frames and a colored 'Freedom Chapel' sign in front of the chapel, he said.

"We appreciate KBR's consideration. They really went all the way to make servicemembers feel that this comfortable chapel is a place of peace for worship," Sterling said. "That is especially important when we counsel hundreds of traumatized soldiers who have lost comrades."

On Sept. 15, the day after the dedication ceremony, the Freedom Chapel was put to use for one of its sadder purposes. A memorial service was held for Spc. Ryan Carlock, a driver with the 416th Transportation Company who was killed Sept. 9 while driving with a convoy.

More than 250 people showed up at the new chapel to pay their respects.

"In the past, we held memorials outside on sand and dust. Now we have a chapel. It is a more peaceful place," said Spc.

Wesley Blachard, a friend of

Carlock and a 416th driver, too.

Balancing soldiers' spiritual needs and mission demands, the chaplains have split the chapel schedule so that servicemembers have full access to all chaplain services, Addams said.

On Sundays, each of the four Cedar II chaplains holds a service in the Freedom Chapel. On Mondays, Rodriguez conducts Spanish Bible study and gospel choir practice. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Bible studies are led by Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Sterling, 260th Quartermaster Battalion; Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mark Minner, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion and Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Searle, 346th Transportation Battalion. On Wednesdays, a Roman Catholic chaplain from a neighboring camp performs Mass. On Saturdays, a visiting Jewish, Catholic or Protestant chaplain holds religious services.

The chapel is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, but a chaplain is always on call 24 hours to offer the comfort of faith at the Freedom Chapel.

"In the past, we held memorials outside on sand and dust. Now we have a chapel. It is a more peaceful place"

Spc. Wesley Blachard
416th Transportation Co.



Army Photo

A soldier at the Freedom Chapel pays his respects to the memory of Spc. Ryan Carlock, who was killed in an ambush on the fuel truck he was driving.

Stewart, Hunter to get face-lift from GMH

Plans for immediate spruce-up of homes and communities

Special to the Frontline

Once GMH Military Housing assumes the full operations at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, residents will begin to see immediate improvements made to the existing homes and communities. These plans are to take place as the major building and renovations begin.

The exterior of designated homes will be pressure washed, windows and doors caulked, paint scraped, loose siding re-nailed, gutter and downspout cleaned and repaired. Designated homes will be painted according to a color scheme presently being created, with matching attractive address numbers

installed on the homes. Specific exterior walkways and driveways will also be pressure washed. Streets and curbs will be swept and blown of debris, maintaining a neat, orderly appearance.

Landscaping will be upgraded with shrubbery planted, trees trimmed and shrubbery pruned, flowerbeds created at designated common areas, planted surfaces edged, refuse and organic debris cleaned up and ground cover species planted and seeded. Lawn cutting and associated landscaping projects will be completed on all areas except for fenced in areas and personal flower gardens and shrubs of the residents. Mowing will be performed to ensure all grass surfaces are maintained to reflect a clean, consistent contour throughout the community.

“We are looking to give the residents an immediate boost, give their communities and homes an immediate facelift and let them know that we want to get down to the business of which we were hired to do, and begin building a new life for the families at Fort

Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield,” said Chris Williams, Vice President of Operations, GMH Military Housing.

Recreation areas maintained by GMH will be cleaned and equipment painted. Damaged benches will be replaced, or repaired. Missing or deteriorated common area trash receptacles and inadequate or inoperative lighting equipment will be replaced. Playground and associated fixtures will be repaired or replaced and areas around equipment will either have the existing soft surface cleaned or replaced.

Public transportation kiosks located in the housing areas in need of improvements will be painted and repaired or replaced. The mail stations will either be replaced with a more attractive kiosk or relocated to a more desirable postal service approved location. Crosswalks and fire lane safety symbols will be painted to create a clean, crisp community appearance. Fire hydrants will be painted. Faded or damaged street signs will be replaced.

“These types of improvements will create a clean, crisp community appearance for the residents and their families and to those who visit the Army’s Southern Living Station of Choice,” Williams said.

With all residents’ current assignments to government quarters terminating Oct. 31, signing of new Resident Responsibility Agreements is under way. Signing at Hunter began Oct. 1. Signing at Fort Stewart will be held Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Each neighborhood has been assigned a specific date. Reminders in the form of door hangers are being distributed prior to the assigned day. Anyone who would like to review the RRA, the Resident Guide or obtain answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions may do so by visiting the communities’ website at: www.southernchoiceliving.com. Any resident with a question or problem with their signing date is encouraged to contact the GMH Community Management Office at 912-238-9438.

Marne TV September 2003 Schedule

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

5:00am	Army Newswatch	1:30pm-4:00pm	Georgia’s 3rd Infantry Division (UPN special)
5:30am	MARNE REPORT		Army Newswatch
6:00am	Navy News	4:30pm	MARNE REPORT
6:30am-7:30am	Georgia’s 3rd Infantry Division (UPN special)	5:00pm	Navy News
7:30am	Army Newswatch	5:30pm	MARNE REPORT
8:00am	MARNE REPORT	6:00pm	Army Newswatch
8:30am	Navy News	6:30pm	MARNE REPORT
9:00am	Air Force News	7:00pm	Georgia’s 3rd Infantry Division (UPN special)
9:30am-11:30am	Georgia’s 3rd Infantry Division (UPN special)	7:30pm-10:00pm	MARNE REPORT
11:30am	Army Newswatch	10:00pm	Navy News
Noon	MARNE REPORT	10:30pm	Army Newswatch
12:30pm	Navy News	11:00pm	Georgia’s 3rd Infantry Division (UPN special)
1:30pm	Air Force News	Midnight-5:00am	

CHANGE

from page 1A

that position.

From 1984 to 1987, when Fort Stewart was the home of the 24th Infantry Division, Webster served as a brigade operations officer. In 1982, when the 3rd Inf. Div. was in Germany, Webster served as operations officer of 3rd Battalion, 64th Armor.

Webster and his wife Kimberly's history with the "Low Country" isn't just professional; two of their daughters recently graduated from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

Webster outlined three points he will focus on as commander of the Marne Division — mission, soldier and teamwork. "We'll remain ready to fight ... We'll focus on our soldiers ... and we will continue to be a team," he said.

Webster holds the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, four awards of the Legion of Merit, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He ended the ceremony by telling his troops, "I look forward to seeing all of you on the job and in the field."

BLOUNT

from page 2A

garrison has put on for the soldiers," Blount said.

While the 3rd Inf. Div. was deployed, there was a tremendous support apparatus that functioned at Stewart and Hunter, according to Blount.

"The FRGs, garrison command and local communities worked together to support the families so that the soldiers could focus on their job over their and that was a very important thing," he said.

"I understand ... what they went through here," Blount said. "I'm glad the division is back, and we can show our appreciation to the communities, FRGs and families for the great support they gave."

When Blount took command of the division more than two years ago, it was returning from peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo.

He said that he was very focused on getting the division ready for war because of the guidance given to him by the then chief of staff of the Army, Gen. Erik K. Shinseki.

"The expectation was that we would one day, during my command tour, possibly have to go fight," Blount said. "My expectation was to get the division ready."

He said there was a pretty good schedule laid out with the warfighters and National Training Center rotations when he arrived so the focus was

TRAFFIC

from page 1A

General Screven Way to create a single, three-lane entrance onto the installation and a two-lane exit.

According to Thomas, the refurbished gate will also be compatible with the education center and welcome center, which are currently under construction, and a visitor center, for which construction has not yet begun.

A gatehouse and canopy, complete with video cameras, are also being constructed.

"It all ties together," Thomas said. "MPs will be able to direct visitors to the visitor center without stalling the traffic."

Planning for the project began in early 2000, with two local contractors being awarded the multimillion-dollar contracts. Thomas said this was a great opportunity to offer work to the local contractors and their employees.

"I have been here since 1977, and I've never seen so much construction," he said. "(The projects) will improve the quality of life for soldiers and families."

"When all is said and done, (Fort Stewart) will be a world-class installation."

on making those quality-training events by ensuring the units had the proper resources, time, funding and facilities to make that happen.

"All of that happened, and everything fell into place," Blount said. "I felt very comfortable as we began the war that the division was ready."

The 3rd Inf. Div.'s focus is supporting Central Command as the Iron Fist of the 18th Airborne Corps, according to Blount.

"Our exercises have always been focused on the Middle East," he added.

Certain assignments prior to Blount's command of the division stand out in his mind and helped prepare him for this command tour.

"I spent most of my career with troops and five years at Fort Stewart with 2nd Brigade and the 64th Armors," Blount said. "That time definitely prepared me for my brigade commands at Fort Carson."

He said while at Fort Carson as a brigade commander, the unit went on an intrinsic exercise in Kuwait so he was familiar with that part of the world.

"That deployment paid a lot of dividends here during this past deployment and war in Iraq," Blount said.

DEDICATION

from page 3A

our soldiers and our nation shone brightly."

Blount ended his speech by thanking the community again. "You are always there for our soldiers and families."

The project was organized by the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee, and paid for largely by donations from members of the community, Ratcliffe said.

"It was a joint effort," Blount said. "(Hinesville) wanted to know what they could do to show their appreciation. The Hinesville Military Affairs Committee did a great job pulling it all together."

"I think this is a community-wide effort," Ratcliffe added. "We solicited contributions and support from all over the state."

Blount said it's great to have the division's latest piece of history documented on Fort Stewart. "History is still being written," he said. "I am very, very proud of what the division has accomplished. Between the stone and Warrior's Walk, there's a very great niche here now for 3ID."



Spc. Jonathan M. Slack

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, former 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter commanding general, salutes during the National Anthem at the dedication Sept. 25 at Marne Gardens

SUSPECT

from page 8A

with espionage.

Capt. Yousef Yee, a Muslim chaplain at the detention facility, was arrested at Jacksonville Naval Air Station on Sept. 10.

No formal charges have been filed against Yee, who is being held pending charges at the Naval Consolidated Brig at Charleston, S.C.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice gives the military up to 120 days to formally charge an accused service member and begin a trial.

Unlike Mehalba, who as a civilian is subject to civilian laws, both Halabi and Yee are servicemembers subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

When it comes to domestic violence....

Army has no tolerance for spouse abuse

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Staff Writer

Physical and sexual violence toward a spouse can often be the end result of a long period of psychological abuse. When intimidation and fear are no longer an effective way of controlling an intimate partner, an abuser will most likely turn to physical and sexual abuse.

Command Policy Letter number 15-10 implements a mandatory evaluation of physical safety issues for soldiers involved in domestic violence on and off the Fort Stewart

and Hunter Army Airfield installations.

When the military or civilian law enforcement officials respond to a domestic violence call involving physical assault and results in an arrest or apprehension of an active duty soldier, commanders will ensure upon notification of the incident that the soldier is placed in the barracks until the commander can evaluate whether or not the violence will continue. If not, the involved parties are allowed to reunify, according to the policy letter.

If the abuser is a civilian with a

military spouse or intimate partner, they may be barred from the installation for any reason except to go to work, to attend scheduled counseling or to receive emergency medical services, according to the policy letter. The aggressor must check in with the military police upon entering the installation and before leaving.

An evaluation will depend on many factors, including the severity of the abuse that resulted in the intervention of law enforcement, if the victim is fearful that the violence will continue due to the fact

that the soldier's chain of command has been notified, and a safety assessment has been obtained from Social Work Services.

"Our main concern is to temporarily separate the victim from the person who abuses them," said Paula Foerstel, manager of the Tri-Counties Women's Shelter. "Most of the time when someone comes to us for help, they end up returning home after cooling off."

The evaluation will determine if the parties involved can reunite after a minimal separation, according to the policy letter. If the evaluation

determines that physical violence will most likely continue if the aggressor returns, a separation order may be issued to legally prevent the perpetrator from having verbal or physical contact with the victim.

"Some people come here eight or nine times for help before they decide to end the abuse. In the end, especially in cases where abuse is reoccurring, we try to provide all the tools necessary for victims to remove themselves from a dangerous situation," Foerstel said.

See VIOLENCE, Page 12A

Public Notice Concerning Drinking Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of coliform bacteria is a possible health concern. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful. The presence of coliform bacteria in drinking water, however, is generally the result of a problem with water treatment or the pipes that distribute the water. The bacteria indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease.

Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

On Sept. 24, results from the Sept. 23 routine sampling of Fort Stewart's Main Drinking Water System, Identification Number 1790024, indicated the apparent presence of total coliform bacteria at building 14259.

The system was resampled at three locations Sept. 24. One of the three samples indicated the presence of total coliform (specifically building 14259).

However, both sampling events confirmed that a good chlorine residual was present throughout the system (ranging from 0.4 to 1.04 parts per million versus the minimum disin-

fection level of 0.2 parts per million). These three samples were collected at exterior hose bibs.

Consequently, given the minimal usage of building 14259's exterior hose bib during this time of deployment and the recent flushing of water lines in the area via fire hydrants, it was concluded that the problem was associated with the exterior fixtures and sampling technique instead of the water treatment. Subsequent swabbing with disinfectant and flushing of the fixtures, and a third round of sampling was performed. A sample was also taken from the interior of the building. The EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for coliform bacteria to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects.

Under this standard, no more than five percent of the samples collected during a month can contain coliform bacteria, except that systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month that have one coliform-positive sample per month are not violating the standard. Drinking water, which meets this standard, is usually not associated with a health risk from disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

The DPW takes seriously its responsibility to provide safe drinking water to installation personnel and its patrons, and considers it essential for carrying out the installation's mission. The DPW feels certain that this is an isolated incident

and that your water supply meets the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Standards.

Typically, water distribution systems 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 too can help improve the quality of your water by incorporating these measures into your normal routines.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Jackie DuBose with DPW's Environmental Branch at 767-2010.

Editor's Note: The above is publicized in compliance with Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water; and to keep the reader informed of one of the many ways the Directorate of Public Works and the Medical Department Activity's Environmental Health personnel ensure the safety of the Installation's drinking water.

Corps of Engineer employee inspired by challenges

Casondra Brewster

USACE Detroit District, Public Affairs Specialist

Sometimes it's the small things that have the largest impact on life. For Frank Polich, that small thing was actually a little Iraqi girl.

"We were crossing the border into Iraq and there was this little girl all alone on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere," the Corps of Engineer security officer and civil structural engineer said. "I've never seen anything like I saw over there - and lots of it! There was dust and dirt everywhere in that area of Iraq where we entered the country - like I've never seen before. This little girl was covered in sand dust, but she ran out to the convoy, smiled at us, waved and gave the thumbs up."

That moment on April 26, 2003, still gives chills to Polich, who volunteered to go to Iraq after just a few months of working for the Corps of Engineers at the Detroit District's Soo Area Office in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

"When our convoy got to Um Qasar, everyone was just quiet," Polich recalls. "You could just tell that everyone was thinking, 'Who was that little girl?' And the whole time I was there, if I ever needed anything to remind me why I - we - were there, I just think of that Iraqi child."

Polich, still showing signs on his face of the relentless Iraqi sun, said his time performing structural engineering assessments in Iraq, with one of the first teams of civilians deployed as part of the Iraqi reconstruction effort, had many moments of frustration, doubt and wonderment.

He said his tour in Iraq challenged him professionally, physically and spiritually.

But he said he faced those obstacles and problems motivated and inspired by that nameless Iraqi girl.

"In a way, I thanked that little girl every night," he said. "I'll be indebted to her as long as I live. It was like, here you are in Iraq - this girl is the reason you are here. It's like someone put that little girl there. You want a reason? Try to get the things running so that child can hopefully have a more comfortable life."

Professionally, Polich said he saw things there in four months that many were saying it would take him 10 years of working with the Corps to encounter.

"I thought I had a good handle on solving logistical problems," the 49-year-old son of an Army engineer officer said. "I thought I was pretty good, but I was humbled by some of the challenges I was handed there."

Polich explained that many times his team, which was mainly in charge of engineering challenges in the south central region of Iraq, would overcome one hurdle and then have another thrown right back at them.

"For instance," he said, taking a deep breath, "Here's a water treatment plant that needs to get up and running. I think, 'Well, turn the pumps on.' But, we can't turn the pumps on. Why? There's no electricity. OK. There's a back-up generator, turn that on. You can't. It's been cannibalized because the Baath party member on the other side of the town wanted his villa air-conditioned. OK. Well, where's the electricity off the grid? There's no power going through it. Why not? Well, they're shooting at the convoys carrying fuel out of Kuwait."

"And at this point I'm just thinking, why can't we just turn the switch? Click! Click! Click! Instead I get all these chal-

lenges."

Polich said that's when he would think of that little girl just inside Iraq's borders.

"I thought I had hardships," the Michigan Tech grad said. "I thought I was frustrated. Then I would just think about that little girl, along with thousands of other Iraqi children. You ask yourself, for them, are you going to do this or not?"

Persevering through all the hurdles, Polich and his team finally got the go-ahead to get an element from U.S. Marines Corps' 3rd Marine Division to help secure the fuel out of Kuwait to power the water treatment plant, Polich said.

"Some of them get shot up - which challenges you spiritually," he said. "Some of the fuel tankers were destroyed, but eventually we got the power and water flowing."

But then enemy forces start "dropping the transmission towers," Polich said.

"This presents a larger logistical problem because of the terrain," he said, adding that because of the vastness and difficulty of the terrain, there's no possible way to protect each and every transmission tower.

At this point in their mission's road of challenges, Polich reached into the memory banks of this youth in Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Let's get the 249th (Engineer Battalion) in here out of Fort Belvoir," he said. "Let's get the Prime Power."

Polich said at that point things finally started to move in a positive direction. He said about the time Prime Power got there, they also had Internet capability, so they started to be able to establish more communications as well as order needed supplies.

"You have to understand, when we arrived, we were some of the first ones," he said. "Just to do our job in a secure environment was a hurdle unto itself. When we got there just setting up shop, before any structural integrity processes were in place, getting things like tables, chairs, communication established, relationships formed - all those things had to be accomplished."

From that point, Polich and his other special field engineer support team members really got moving on their structural infrastructure assessments. Besides the water and sewer treatment plants, they worked on schools, factories, grain silos and even historical sites.

"Iraq contains the cradle of modern civilization - the Tigris and Euphrates rivers," Polich said. "I did a structural assessment on the prophet Ezekiel's Tomb. We went to church every Sunday in Babylon where the book of David was written. Here in the U.S.

we have about 200 years of history. Over there, it's more like 5,000 years. It's fascinating. It really touched the spiritual side of many of us there."

Polich points out that even with the small battles won, the daily physical battle over there never ends. He said just trying to stay hydrated in heat that topped 140 degrees during his last days there, was a significant struggle for not only the Corps FEST personnel, but also the military and Iraqi civilians.

In addition to the heat, Polich said the 12-hour days, seven days a week schedule adds yet another challenging element to the work in Iraq.

"I think the fatigue factor is the hardest part of it," he said. "It's affecting everyone around you."

To combat the fatigue, he said everyone would go to sleep as early as possible.

"We had a saying that two hours of sleep before midnight was worth four hours after midnight. You went to bed early because you always - always - got up early. Chow started at 0600 and you were in line no later than 10 after."

Aside from coming home safe, Polich says his biggest accomplishment was being part of the team, which included Marine Corps elements that helped get a cement plant up and running again. The plant employed about 1,500 Iraqis and was key to helping get infrastructure rebuilding and repair on the road to success.

"If you want to rebuild a country, you need cement - roads, bridges, even grain silos."

Polich said he would like the American people to know how much has been accomplished already, but realizes there's more to do. Regardless, he's absolutely convinced this is a healthy experience for anyone willing to do the same.

"You'll be challenged physically, professionally," he said. "You're going to learn processes that will build faith in yourself and your skills and abilities. Then, spiritually, if there's that side of the equation that appeals to you, you'll see the lands of the Old Testament and you'll see people over there with religious faiths that drive their day-to-day activities. But the biggest opportunity is the opportunity to help - to make a difference."

"It was the dirtiest, dustiest, toughest thing I've ever done," he said. "But that little girl I saw on my first day in Iraq, I really believe that her new country will just amaze her and her children."



Courtesy photo

A little Iraqi girl by the side of the road in Iraq gives the thumbs-up to a convoy of soldiers passing by.



Practice Safe Biking...
Always Wear a Helmet!

Looking for a really Good Deal?
Shop

THE FRONTLINE Classifieds



Awarding veterans easier

U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center-Natick

Special to The Frontline

PHILADELPHIA — Army veterans and their families will now have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate here.

The new Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has new capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address changes online. These types of inquiries that used to be handled telephonically or by letter now can be entered online at <http://veteran-medals.army.mil>. Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Web site.

Requests for medals are initiated through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

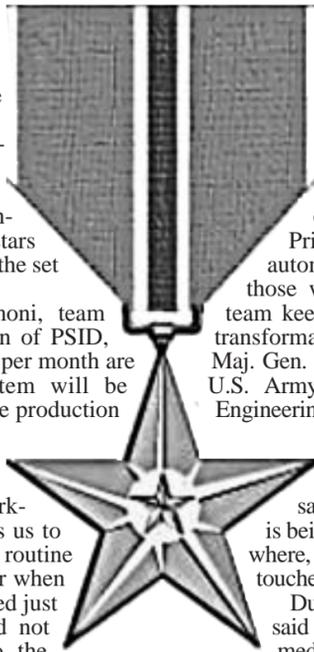
Once NPRC finalizes their research, a notification letter is sent to the veterans and their next of kin listing the veteran's authorized

medals, decorations and awards. The request is also then routed through the Web-enabled database directly to PSID's Medals Team in Philadelphia for processing and shipment of the awards.

The team engraves decorations with the veteran's name, a process that is now also automated, assembles attachments (such as bronze/silver stars or oak leaf clusters) and mails the set to the veteran or next-of-kin.

According to Vickie Ramoni, team leader of the Heraldry Section of PSID, 4,000 to 5,000 award requests per month are prepared and this new system will be invaluable since it will increase production and lower costs.

"It will reduce backlog and assist in order processing time by predicting incoming workload," she said. "It also allows us to the capability to expedite a routine request when a veteran is ill or when an award ceremony is scheduled just by clicking a button. We did not have this capability prior to the automation."



A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new system took place Aug. 19. During the ceremony, Greg Schech, the senior team leader of the Clothing and Heraldry PSID spoke about the history of the organization and the many changes it has faced since its inception in 1957. He said that the motto of the team is "We Deliver Pride" and that having the new automated system lets them honor those who serve and also helps the team keep up with the intense pace of transformation.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (Provisional), also spoke during the ceremony. He thanked those who participated in the medals process, and said that, "everyday, some veteran is being recognized or honored somewhere, and you have reached out and touched that veteran or that family."

During a previous visit, Doesburg said he had the chance to visit the medals section where the work is done. What touched him the most was that the

folks who were working on the medals really cared. They didn't know whom they were making the medals for but they understood the importance of what was being done.

At the ceremony, Doesburg closed his comments with a personal story. He mentioned how after an old veteran friend of his father's passed away, no one was there to take care of the arrangements to make sure everything was done correctly, including making sure he got the correct medals recognizing his service to his country.

Doesburg said he contacted the Clothing and Heraldry PSID and they made sure the correct medals were delivered in time. Three months later he got a package, but he said it really should have gone to the team. In the package were 53 letters from Jefferson City, Mo., the veteran's hometown, thanking him for making sure the deceased was recognized for his military service.

Robert Henry Jr., medals foreman, said that he is proud of the team and its accomplishments in the past year as they made the transformation to the paperless environment. He stated that every request they process is a way of honoring those who have served our country and the Medals Team takes great pride in being able to provide this service to veterans and their families.

Violence

from page 10A

Regardless of the result of the evaluation, the prime directive is to ensure the safety of the victim. Any inconvenience experienced by the abuser because of actions taken is not a factor considered in preparing the evaluation.

"Imagine how people feel when their partner first begins to abuse them," said Deborah Vila, a counselor at the Tri-Counties Women's Shelter. "Everything is really great and all of a sudden something drastic happens."

People feel angry, ashamed and confused at first. No one expects the violence to happen, added Vila.

The evaluation works to ensure that safety is provided for the victim through the cooling-off period and proper professional services are provided to the victim, according to the policy letter.

Victims who are married or have an intimate partner in the military are often reluctant to make the abuse public because it can damage a servicemember's career. They have also been subjected to long periods of threats and abuse that can discourage them from coming forward, said Foerstel.

"Domestic violence loves to live in secrecy. Its breeding ground is anywhere away from the public eye," said Richard J. Wazeter, victim advocacy coordinator from the Army Community Service. "When domestic violence is brought out in the open, our first objective is the safety of the people involved."

Safety means different things to different people. Some people feel like the abuse will not continue, he said.

Advice is given and victims are made aware of their options, but ultimately it is their choice how they want to handle the problem, because they feel they know what's

best for them, Wazeter said.

"When someone comes to us with a complaint of violence in the home, we try to counsel them on services available to keep the couple together and make their relationship work," Wazeter said. "We discourage victims from leaving their partner in the beginning, because that creates a dangerous situation for the abused. We have all heard it a thousand times, 'If I can't have you, no one will.'"

In many cases where domestic violence is discovered early in the relationship and the couple is counseled, the incidence of recurring violence is very low, said Maj. Joseph Bird, chief of Social Work Services.

"All couples argue, all couples have disagreements, because the responsibilities of married life create a stressful environment," said Johnny Cusimano, the Family Advocacy program manager from Army Community Services. "There is so much good information available to prevent and treat the problems that lead to violence and abuse. Compromise is a key to avoiding high levels of stress. The bottom line is that no one has a right to put their hands on anyone."

Domestic violence is against the law and punishable under Article 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The command staff at Fort Stewart has done its best to implement policies to inform soldiers that violence against a spouse or domestic partner is contrary to the values and standards of personal excellence of the United States Army, according to the policy letter. Spouse or partner abuse is a community issue that requires a consistent and coordinated community response, and must be met with early intervention.

PX to open Friday

Fort Stewart Press Release

The Grand Opening ceremony for the new Fort Stewart Shopping Center is set for Friday at 8:30 a.m., with doors opening at 8:50 a.m. Military retirees from all services are encouraged to come to the new AAFES Shopping Center and take advantage of fantastic door buster items and enter-to-win door prizes. Department of Defense civilians are welcome to dine at the new Food Court and taste the latest from Cinnabon-Seattle's Best Coffee, Charley's Steakery, Taco Johns, Robin Hood and Anthony's Pizza.

The following services and businesses are in the new shopping center:

Petals and Blooms (Flower Shop), Simply Perfect (Nail Salon), Beauty Salon, Pharmacy, The Cleaners and Stripes (Laundry-Alteration Shop), My Force T-Shirt Shop, Urban Wear, Gift's Galore Shop, Optical Center, and a host of roving vendors. Special offers: All Ft Stewart Shoppettes will offer \$1.89 Pepsi 12-pack on Friday in celebration of the new shopping center until Oct. 9th.

Stewart's Burger King will offer \$.93 Whoppers also in celebration of the new shopping center Oct. 3-9.

Stewart's Popeyes is offering three pieces of chicken with a biscuit for \$2.99 Oct. 3-9.

Events for Friday at the new shopping center include:

- Firestone tire sale with Indy racing cars.
- A static display of military equipment.
- Amy J. McCabe (country singer) will be signing autographs from 1-3 p.m. and a concert will be held at 9 a.m.-9 p.m..
- AAFES Driver of the Year will be on site with his new rig and trailer.
- Carl Smith will be signing his book.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Welcome home soldiers

There will be a welcome home celebration Saturday. It will include three different events.

A free picnic will be held at Donovan Field, 1 to 5 p.m. sponsored by the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee and MWR.

Free fair rides for military ID cardholders will be at Walker Field, 1 to 5 p.m. Trolley cars will provide free transportation between Donovan and Walker Field.

A free MWR Concert will be held at Donovan Field at 7 p.m.

Child and Youth Services

The Central Registration office located in Bldg. 443 has changed operational hours. The new hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday.

The office will not be closed from 1 to 2 p.m. as previously scheduled.

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 and class assignments. Time away from school should be kept at a minimum.

Liberty County Schools will grant up to five days of unexcused absence during block leave for children 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 and 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 No-Child-Left-Behind mandate and are graded by attendance, students will be required to

be re-enrolled in school if an absence exceeds five days.

Main Gate

Gate 1 has only one accessible inbound lane and one accessible outbound lane.

All inbound traffic entering through the 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 ongoing during this period. To alleviate the traffic flow, 4th Street Gate (Gate 2/Troupe Gate) is open.

Main Education Center

The Main Education Center, Building 130, is discontinuing its Saturday hours as of Oct. 4. Computer usage is available at the Marne Multimedia Center Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There are also other learning centers in buildings 1237, 729, 506 and 208 where computers may be accessed as well.

If you have any questions or need more information please call 767-8331.

Community Fair

This last day to enjoy the fair is Oct. 5 at Walker Field. Admission is free and rides are priced individually. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday, 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, noon to midnight, and Sunday 1 p.m. to midnight.

Tickets will be sold at the gates.

Hunter

USO Welcome Home

The USO, in conjunction with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and other corporate donors will honor local troops Oct. 9 on Savannah's Historic Waterfront.

There will be a cook-out starting at 3:30 p.m. on Rosackis Plaza, a recognition ceremony at 5:30 p.m. and a concert at 6 p.m. For more information, please call 303-9119.

Middle School and teens

Registration is now underway for a free after school program for 6th through 8th graders. Hours will be 2:30 to 6 p.m.

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 to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday 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.

American Red Cross

The Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross has FREE toiletry items, such as soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, for soldiers and family members. For more information call 651-5300.

Skeet Range

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

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

An education course is required for an on-post hunting permit.

For more information, call 352-5916.

Bible study

A weekly Bible study will be held in the building adjacent to the post

chapel Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Youth Services

School Age Services (SAS) opens 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. during school. There are before and after school programs for 1st through 5th graders. Enjoy fun and leisure activities, educational, tutoring, computer lab, sports, fitness and more.

Join the 4-H community club, photography and technology groups. Check with your school for transportation. For more information call 352-5708 or 352-6705.

Boaters Safety Course

A free course is held at 10 a.m. Saturdays. Call 352-5722.

Keystone Club

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. This club offers Character Counts activities as well as other activities that meet the physical, emotional and social needs and interests of girls and boys through diversified program activities in six areas:

- Personal and Educational Development
- Cultural Enrichment
- Social Recreation
- Citizenship and Leadership Development
- Outdoor and Environmental Education.

Auto Craft

Enroll your teen in a Beginner's Maintenance Class to build their confidence and skill. Enroll with them and learn to change you car's oil, belts, and tires together. Classes are available for groups of at least three participants. For more information, call 352-6244.

Hunter Club

Renovation is ongoing until early October, however Hunter Club is open Fridays for NCO and O Call 5 to 9 p.m. except training holidays

There is no cover charge, free snacks, great music, play karaoke, X-Box, foosball and more.

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 or 370-6111.

TRICARE Authorization

Soldiers or family members who receive emergency or urgent medical care outside the area must have TRICARE authorization within 24 hours of receiving care.

Winn

Active-duty soldiers should call daytime at 767-7035 and evening at 370-6965. Family members can call 1-800-333-4040 24 hours a day, seven days a week or 370-6965.

Tuttle

Active-duty soldiers should call daytime 1-800-652-9221 and evening at 370-6965. Family members can call 1-800-333-4040 24 hours a day, seven days a week or 370-6965.

Exceptional Program

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m., Oct. 23 at Winn. Meet other families and learn about other community support services.

For more information, call 370-6505.

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.

Intervention Services

Families with children up to three 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.

Expectant Parenting Class

The next Expectant Parenting Class will begin 6 p.m. Oct. 7. The four-week class helps parents understand labor, delivery and newborn care. To register, call 767-6633.

Tuttle TRICARE enrollment

TRICARE enrollment briefings for Tuttle are held by appointment from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday.

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

Family Health Clinics reopen

Soldier Family Health Clinic #2 will be open for sick call beginning Sept. 15. SFHC #1 and #3 are currently open for sick call.

Additional Parking

An additional parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex, is open for patient parking.

Pharmacy Hours

The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday. Hours on training holidays are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The refill pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Tobacco Cessation classes

Classes are held one day a week for four consecutive weeks. To find out next class date and to register, call 370-5071 at Winn, and for Tuttle call 1-800-652-9221.



POLICE REPORTS

• **Subject:** Captain, 35-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Improper backing
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 • **Location:** Tybee Island

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Jackson, Miss.

• **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Improper left turn, improper parking
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Family member, 30-year-old female
 • **Charges:** Communicating a threat
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old male
 • **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to maintain lane
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Engineer Brigade
 • **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female
 • **Charges:** Child neglect, child abuse-daughter
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 • **Charges:** Simple assault
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** DUI, following too closely
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Theft by taking
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** DUI, speeding
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of open container while operating vehicle, no drivers license on person, weaving over the roadway
 • **Location:** Walthourville

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Fighting in public place, affray
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Corporal, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 64/55
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female
 • **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 • **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, possession of alcohol by a minor
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Simple assault
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old female, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Sergeant, 21-year-old male, 24th Support Group
 • **Charges:** Loud music, fleeing or attempting to elude
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old male
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 • **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane, too fast for conditions, improper left turn
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 • **Charges:** Driving while license revoked

• **Location:** Fort Stewart
 • **Subject:** Private 2, female, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Weapons violation, carrying concealed pistol/revolver, failure to obey general order
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of alcohol by a minor
 • **Location:** Savannah

• **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 37-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Reckless driving, eluding police
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, Headquarters Command
 • **Charges:** No drivers license, violating of instruction permit requirements, no proof of insurance
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Fraud, larceny of government funds, impersonating a noncommissioned officer
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Forgery, conspiracy, theft
 • **Location:** Hunter

• **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
 • **Charges:** Failure to obey a general order, larceny of government weapons, looting, smuggling war trophies into the United States
 • **Location:** Baghdad

• **Subject:** Private 2, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
 • **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of a weapon
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, Division Artillery
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, loud music
 • **Location:** Hinesville

• **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female
 • **Charges:** Simple assault, consummated with a battery
 • **Location:** Fort Stewart

• **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 24th Support Group
 • **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 53/35
 • **Location:** Rincon

Ask the judge "Buying a Car"

Q: "I would like to buy a used car. How can I make sure that I am being treated fairly?"

A: First, beware of the advertising that dealerships use. The most notorious of these is known as "bait and switch." The dealer places an ad highlighting a specific automobile at a specific price. When a potential buyer arrives at the dealership, the dealer will inform the soldier that the vehicle in the advertisement is no longer available or there was an editing error on the part of the newspaper. Just when it seems that all hope is lost, the sales agent will inform the buyer that there is another car just like it available and it will only cost "a little more money." The advertised vehicle was the bait and the substituted vehicle was the switch. The law prohibits bait and switch tactics. Beware the dealer who uses this technique. If they are being dishonest in their advertising, how can you be sure that they are being honest in the sale?

Q: "How do I avoid buying a lemon?"

A: The short answer is preparation and research. Many used vehicles on lots today were flooded, in serious accidents, or even totaled. A good way to double check is to take the car to an independent mechanic. For a reasonable fee, the mechanic will subject the car to a series of tests that will reveal some of the more serious defects.

Like anything else, a person needs to do their homework. There are a number of online sites that a soldier should visit in order to check the facts. These services charge a fee of about \$20 and provide a fairly detailed vehicle history. The service you choose will ask for the vehicle identification number (VIN), make, model and other relevant information. At the very least, the service will tell the buyer what the car's last reported mileage is and that will go a long way to protect the soldier from a favorite trick of some local car dealers — the odometer roll back, which is the intentional altering of a car's odometer to reflect a lower mileage than is actually the case.

Q: "What other research tools are available?"

A: Equally critical is a visit to sources such as Kelly's Blue Book (www.kbb.com) to see what your prospective automobile's actual worth is. Haggle. Use the information that you learn to haggle with the salesperson. Or if you aren't up to it, let a reputable bank do it for you. They will haggle with the dealer at no extra charge. This point leads to another tip. Try going to your own bank instead of using the dealership's financing company. Try the banks downtown, online, or one that deals exclusively with military personnel.

Q: "What other tactics should I expect?"

A: A technique used to force buyers into a car that the dealer can't get rid of, is the "spot delivery." The buyer and salesperson will execute a sales agreement. The buyer, however, does not have the cash or financing available to pay for the car. Despite this, the dealer allows the buyer to driver off the lot with the car. The sales agreement will have a clause that says, "if the bank comes back and refuses to finance the car, the deal is off." Sometimes the bank will contact the buyer and say that they cannot get the car financed.

Q: "What happens if the dealer is not able to find financing?"

A: One of several outcomes may occur. The dealer may try to keep the deal alive by raising the price or interest rate of the car, or the dealer may simply cancel the deal and ask the buyer to return the car. Alternatively, the dealer may cancel the sale but charge the buyer a rental fee of \$30 or \$40 for each day the buyer had the car. If you have not signed a rental agreement, any rental or use fee is inappropriate. The risk is on the dealer if they let a buyer leave without finalizing the deal. To avoid this, carefully review all of the documents before you sign them, one may be a rental agreement! A third situation buyers see is a variation on the "bait and switch." Here, the dealer cancels the contract, but now offers the buyer an older (or less valuable) vehicle. Buyers often feel pressured into accepting the substitute vehicle since they may not even have a ride home!

If you have questions about your used car purchase, come to the Legal Assistance Office and we can assist you. The Fort Stewart office is located at 88 Carrington Road, to the right of the main Headquarters building. The Fort Stewart LAO can be reached by phone at 767-8809, or 767-8819. The Hunter AAF Office is located at 638 Horace Emmit Wilson Blvd. That office can be reached at (912) 352-5115.

MPs get Iraqi canine unit underway



Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

An Iraqi canine trainer coaches Hawon, a German shepherd police dog, as they search for TNT hidden in the wheel well of a new Iraqi police car during a training exercise at a police station in Baghdad Sept. 16.

Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Army Military Police soldiers renovated an abandoned torture chamber, and the cells are now air conditioned, clean and filled with dogs.

Reservist Sgt. Emily Frasca, a police academy instructor with the 382nd Military Police Battalion, from San Diego, Calif., helped kick start the new Iraqi canine unit. Along with other soldiers in her unit, Frasca teaches classes at the police academy in Baghdad. When someone asked her to help with the canine unit, she jumped at the opportunity.

"I love working with dogs," said Frasca. "And when they offered me the opportunity to be the liaison for the trainers and coordinate with the 18th MP Brigade to get equipment for these guys, I saw an opportunity to share what I know and what I've learned."

The canine unit is quickly progressing. The Iraqi trainers are learning new methods of training, and the dogs are multiplying — one German shepherd has already given birth to five pups.

But the Baghdad canine unit has not always received this kind of support. Before the war, the canine unit was moved to a facility outside of Baghdad. Here, the trainers received very little support. They lacked the money to buy training equipment, vaccinations and training manuals. Frasca said that the unit became so out of touch with the other police officers that they eventually became ineffective.

"The trainers were cut off from money and other dogs to breed theirs with," said Frasca. "They ended up inbreeding the dogs and working with the older training styles. They started training dogs that weren't fully capable of being police dogs."

After the coalition forces became involved with the Baghdad police force, they decided to bring the canine unit back into Baghdad. They cleaned out one of the old prison facilities and transformed it into a kennel for the dogs.

"When I saw the old torture camp, I looked into the cells and saw the potential for a kennel," said Frasca. "We turned the prison into a 13-room kennel, with an office in the back and a room for trainers to stay in overnight, so they could protect the dogs."

Aside from coaching the trainers on new methods of training, Frasca also helps assess the animals for strong and weak points. The dogs are then chosen for specific job training, such as bomb detection, attack or narcotics. If, for example, a dog has a favorite toy as a puppy, it is easier to train that dog for bomb detection.

"We look for the love of a toy," said Frasca. "This makes it easier for us to instill sniffing behaviors. We can test the dog to find the ball in a bush or in rubble. If they have a good sniffing behavior, it is easier for us to carry that behavior into searching patterns later on."

Frasca says the dogs are also learning a new language. Because Frasca teaches in English, the Iraqi trainers bark English commands to their canines. In a way, this provides the trainers and their dogs with a coded language.

"This allows police officers to communicate with their dogs without the (Iraqi) locals understanding," said Frasca. "And in some situations, this can give us the upper hand."

10 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment



1. Use water-based paints.
2. Recycle your household trash.
3. Compost yardwaste.
4. Plant trees.
5. Conserve energy.
6. Buy non-aerosol products.
7. Carpool.
8. Keep your car engine tuned.
9. Recycle used motor oil.
10. Choose less packaging.

CENTCOM News

41D soldiers assist clinics during immunization day

TIKRIT, Iraq — Fourth Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade's soldiers along with local Iraqi healthcare workers provided immunizations for Iraqi children during the monthly Immunization Day in Ba'qubah on Sep. 22.

Immunization Day, which happens each month on the 22nd, allows children to receive vaccines for such health problems as diarrhea-induced illnesses and upper respiratory infections.

Mobile inoculation teams, working with the five clinics in Ba'qubah, provide immunizations to more than 750 children a month on Immunization Day.

Iraqis assume facilities protection responsibilities

MOSUL, Iraq — Coalition forces turned over responsibility for the Facility Protection Security Forces to the Iraqis during a formal change of responsibility ceremony held Sept. 23 in Mosul.

On hand were one platoon of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and two platoons of the FPSF.

82nd Airborne works with ICDC recruits

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Volunteers for the new Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) received a medical screening and their first payment of \$50 Sept. 18 and are ready to train.

Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division stood up the first company of 120 ICDC soldiers. The ICDC is organized into two 47-man platoons and a 26-man support platoon.

Over the course of three days, a team of five Iraqi physicians gave recruits a basic medical screening to ensure they were ready for training. The doctors reviewed each man's medical history, checked his motor skills, hearing, eyesight and recorded height, weight and vital signs.

The first two weeks of training will focus on physical fitness, drill and cremony, basic rifle marksmanship and basic individual soldier skills. The second half of training will focus on basic squad tactics, applying to cordon and search operations and traffic control points.

Once the ICDC training is complete each battalion of the 2nd brigade will be assigned a platoon to help the battalions in their daily operations.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers from the 4th

41D soldiers capture abduction suspects

Infantry Division captured three individuals who are suspected in the abduction of two US servicemembers in June.

A fourth suspect was killed in a gun battle that ensued when the red Capri sedan the four were riding in attempted to run a Coalition traffic control point near Ad Dujayl.

The vehicle is believed to be the same car that had fled the scene of an explosion aimed at coalition forces two hours earlier.

During the subsequent search of the vehicle, two M16 assault rifles were found which were subsequently identified as the weapons assigned to Sgt. 1st Class Gladimir Philippe, 37, of Linden, N.J., and Pfc. Kevin Ott, 27, of Columbus, Ohio, members of the 3/18th FA, Fort Sill, Okla.

The two soldiers are believed to have been abducted while guarding a cache of captured explosives near Halabsa, a village located in an area where Saddam Hussein's Fedayeen loyal-

ists once were headquartered. The soldiers' remains were located on June 28 in Taji, Iraq.

An AK-47 automatic assault weapon, an Iraqi military uniform, and other equipment were also found in the vehicle. The suspects are currently in custody of the 4th ID.

TF Ironhorse, Iraqi police net weapons caches

TIKRIT, Iraq — Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion 66th Armor, 4th Infantry Division, discovered a weapons cache Sept. 21 consisting of 19 - 82mm mortar systems southeast of Bayji.

Information obtained from the site assisted the Iraqi Police and A Company, 3/66 AR in the discovery of a second cache site. Ammunition seized at the second site included 97 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, 14 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition and one anti-tank mine.

Coalition forces and Iraqi Police continue to work together to seize illegal weapons and ammunition, as well as dangerous contraband, ensuring that the streets of Iraq become safer.

The joint effort provides the citizens and children of Iraq a more stable and secure environment, facilitating the reconstruction efforts.