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<b>Saturday</b> High:47 Low:34	<b>Sunday</b> High:47 Low:22

**FRIDAY**

# Fort Riley Post



January 9, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 1

## Guess who's coming to dinner? Army Chief of Staff has meal with 1st Brigade soldiers

By J. H. French  
82nd Airborne Div.

AR RAMADI, Iraq - The war in Iraq started with shock and awe and that is the situation that two soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division found themselves in when the Army Chief of Staff came to Camp Junction City for dinner.

As Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army Chief of Staff, and Gen. Charles H. Swannack Jr., the 82nd Airborne Division commander, walked into the dining facility they were noticed by Soldiers having dinner.

"I turned around and there he was," said Sgt. Kael L. Brady, supply NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade.

"There were no prearranged seats and no one came to let us know he was coming, said Sgt. Manuel Ortiz III, 1st BCT para-legal NCO. "He just came and sat down.

He didn't have an air of superiority about him either," said Ortiz.

He sat down and talked to us like he was one of the guys and had known us all his life, Brady explained.

"We were getting ready to leave. We were already done eating when he sat down," said Ortiz.

"We decided to stay and shoot the bull with him for a while," he said.

Because he is a four-star general, we were kind of obligated to stay, but explained Ortiz, "he made us want to stay and talk to him.

"The conversation was cool. It wasn't contrived. He didn't

have to force it," he continued. A lot of the people at our table had been stationed in Korea, noted Brady.

The conversation started there. He talked about how much Korea has developed.

Family was a big topic during the conversation, Brady said. "He is a quasi-celebrity," noted Ortiz. "After I ate dinner, I went to check my AKO account and saw his picture on the home page. I was like hey I

just ate dinner with that guy," said Ortiz. "It's nice to know that while dealing with everything going on in this country, someone will take the time to come down and have dinner with you," Ortiz.



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker eats dinner with Sgt. Kael L. Brady, supply NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, and other members of the 1st BCT while visiting soldiers in Iraq.



Sgt. Dennis A. Corral

## Fort Riley's 21st Soldier dies in Iraq

The Department of Defense announced that Sgt. Dennis A. Corral, 33, of Kearney, Neb., died on Jan. 1 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Corral was assigned to Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He joined the Army in January 1997 and has been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2003. He was assigned to the unit as supply sergeant and deployed to Iraq in December 2003.

Corral was in a convoy going to the Baghdad International Airport when his vehicle went out of control and rolled over. The incident is under investigation.

He is the 21st Fort Riley Soldier who has died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is the first soldier from Fort Riley to die in the new year.

Fort Riley commanders, Soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of Soldiers supporting the war effort and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.

## 1st BCT Soldiers save lives by discovering hidden munitions

By J. H. French  
82nd Airborne Div.

AR RAMADI, Iraq - While on patrol outside Ar Ramadi in mid-December, members of the 1st Infantry Division's, 1st Brigade Combat Team noticed something that just didn't look right.

"We were on a combat patrol clearing the river bank and I saw a vehicle that didn't look like it belonged there," said Staff Sgt. Robert Koehler, a mounted sec-

tion leader with the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment.

The 30-man patrol from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Reg., turned their vehicles around to investigate the situation.

"It turns out they were just out bird hunting and were okay," he continued.

"Following platoon standard operating procedures, I got out and walked around the vehicle while I was waiting on the rest of the patrol to regroup before we

moved out again," Koehler explained.

"I was just following SOP and noticed something that didn't look right, so I had one of my Soldiers check it with a metal detector." When the metal detector picked something up, Soldiers uncovered the first of four sites found, he continued.

"We started setting up security for the first site and also started to expand the search area," said Staff Sgt. William M. Howard, dismount squad leader.

"Cpl. Joshua Handeran and I started searching the riverbank for possible dug in munition spots," said Spec. Jason J. Yausti, rifleman.

"We went to scan pump houses located along the riverbank and that is where we found the next site," he said.

As the search element moved forward, four sites in all were uncovered, explained Howard. "All I could think was that is one less American Soldier was not killed over here," said Koehler.

"It really makes our hard work, our job, worth it when we find something like this," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bell, platoon sergeant.

"There were 30 soldiers out there who had a job to do and all of them executed."

The caches contained more than 150 artillery rounds, more than 100 tank rounds, more than 30 rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft missiles and 10 RPG launchers, more than 25 mortar shells, 14 warheads with 130

pounds of plastic explosives each, 140 pounds of plastic explosives and five land mines.

The sites also contained six improvised explosive devices ready to be placed, 230 blasting caps, and a large assortment of grenades, fuses, RPG boosters, primers, fuel rods for warheads, remote detonators, rifles, shotguns and weapons manuals.

"We were just following SOP," said Howard.

"Because of that, one more guy is going home," he said.

## Memorial conducted Dec. 18 for Black

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

Family, friends and members of the Fort Riley community gathered to remember another fallen Soldier at Morris Hill Chapel Dec. 18.

Sgt. William Black, 26, tank gunner, Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor,



Sgt. William Black

is the 20th Fort Riley Soldier to die in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Black was killed in action Dec. 12 while conducting a convoy escort mission.

"Today, we gather to pay tribute to the life of a Soldier," said

Lt. Col. Jeffery Shafer, acting commander, 1st Brigade. "He is one who has given his all in the war on terror. He is one who has contributed to the bill that is paid repeatedly so we can maintain the freedoms we enjoy. His sacrifice will be remembered as a testimony to this nation's resolve that we as a nation, that we as a people, will not succumb to terror or stand by and watch another nation and its people be held in bondage by a dictator and his regime."

Sgt. Justin Carter, tank gunner, Co. B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, read a letter by Black's platoon sergeant in Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Walker, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor.

"Even though he was never a gunner before, he viewed it as a challenge," read Walker's letter. "Not only did he not complain about his situation, he just jumped right in and did the best he could. His resolve to be the best started to show up early in

See Black Page 6

## Civil Defense Corps company presented guidon

By Conrad College  
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The commander of the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, presented a unique guidon to a company of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers during a transfer-of-authority ceremony Dec. 1, in Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Leopoldo A. Quintas, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor commander, in presenting the guidon, said, "Today, we officially recognize the establishment of one of the first companies of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps," and he then transferred authority to command the company to its Iraqi captain.

The battalion's forward operating base is located between the Abu Ghraib and Ameria neighborhoods of western Baghdad. The guidon was designed by the members of the ICDC company and was made by a tailor in Baghdad.

The ICDC company is presently made up of three platoons of about 30 men each. Two of the three platoons were in uniform,

while the third platoon has not received uniforms yet. The ICDC soldiers are armed with AK-47 rifles.

"Their new guidon is a symbol of their unit and is something they can focus on," Quintas said.

The ICDC company commander is Capt. Falah Hassan Hussein, and the company's first sergeant is 1st Sgt. Youssif Habbab Thahir.

Quintas spoke to the ICDC soldiers, who stood in company formation. He was followed by Falah, the ICDC company commander.

"With the passing of the guidon, Capt. Falah formally accepts responsibility for command of the Soldiers who stand before you today."

Lt. Col. Leopoldo A. Quintas  
2nd Bn., 70th Armor commander

sioned officer for the company."

Quintas noted that, even before the ceremony, the company had achieved many distinctions. He said the first and second platoons were some of the first original platoons of the ICDC. And, after their basic training, beginning in August, portions of this company were the first to conduct tactical operations in Iraq.

"Severally members of this company have fought against our enemies," Quintas said, "engaging them from guard positions just outside this compound while defending the municipal area of Abu Ghraib."

"Most recently," Quintas continued, "This unit (of ICDC) was the first in Iraq to conduct operations at the company level. Truly, the fine Soldiers, commissioned and noncommissioned officers

before you have proven themselves ready."

Speaking to the Iraqi soldiers, Quintas then said, "Soldiers of the ICDC, you should be very proud of yourselves. I am proud of you. You are the brave sons of Iraq, ready to fight for the freedoms and liberties that you, your families and your fellow citizens enjoy today.

"You, more than anyone else, understand that freedom does not come freely. A price must be paid, courage must be shown, and steel must be ready to meet steel in combat.

"Together we will continue our victories over our enemies, and bring peace and prosperity to this great country. I am proud to officially welcome you to the Thunderbolt Task Force. I know you will bring honor to yourselves, this task force and the Iraqi people."

The ICDC company commander, Falah, then said, in part, "We will be ready at anytime. If necessary, we will sacrifice ourselves for our country. We will be willing to shed our blood for our country."





# Commentary

## Kindness for Soldiers alive and well In America Overnight in airport reveals travelers, country's true feelings for soldiers

By John S. Wollaston  
3rd BCT PAO

Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport - Just hours after the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon two years ago, President Bush told the world that in response to the attacks on our country, we had "responded with the best that America has to offer." All it took was a 24 hour layover in one of the world's busiest airports for me to realize that the human spirit of kindness and goodness that seemed so re-invigorated after 9/11 continues to burn bright in the travelers at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. And it's reflected in their warmth and kindness shown by complete strangers to those of us who are coming home or returning from leave in Iraq.

It's not just the cheers and applause from the employees of the airport that are so touching. It's the random travelers, people of all ages, nationalities and back-

grounds, taking time in the hustle and bustle of catching their flight to thank us for what we're doing, that made me realize just how much support for our efforts in Iraq there is back in the United States and elsewhere.

"Thank you for what you're doing over there," a woman passing by our gate told us on the way to her flight. "God bless you and keep your heads down," said a man who'd served in the Marines during Vietnam. Sometimes there were the unspoken smiles and knowing glances from people that told you just by their look they were proud of us.

Sometimes the appreciation for what we're doing comes from the most surprising of places. The day Saddam was captured, I heard the reports on the news channels from the Arab "street" about what a "dark day" it was for Arabs that Hussein had been captured with nary a whimper. Five days later, standing in line at McDonalds inside the airport waiting

for my order, a man behind the counter whose name badge read Khalid looked at my uniform, then looked at me with a broad grin and said "No more Saddam!" A woman operating the cash register next to him nodded her agreement and added that "bin-Laden is next."

The one random act of kindness that took the cake for all of us waiting to finally board our flight after such a long delay due to maintenance problems was a gentleman named Art Richardson of LaFox, Ill. Richardson, seeing all of us on the wrong side of the security gates and unable to access anything more than vending machines for food, took it upon himself to buy lunch for 126 soldiers he'd never met nor probably would see again in his life. Sitting in our designated waiting area, we watched in amazement as boxes of cheeseburgers, fries and cokes were brought out to us after having been purchased by Richardson. "I've always wanted to be able to play Santa

Claus." Richardson said. "This is my opportunity."

Before departing for his flight, Richardson gave a first sergeant from the 17th Field Artillery Brigade, who was in charge of our flight, a Christmas card and his business card. "In case you want to personally thank the gentleman who provided us this lunch, here's his address," the first sergeant said to all of us. As the first sergeant read off the pertinent information, I looked around and everyone had stopped eating and pulled out a pen and paper to take down this stranger's address. I have a sneaking suspicion the amount of Christmas cards he receives every year is about to increase greatly this year.

I could go on with anecdotes of how people stopped me or one of the Soldiers in the group I was with to tell us they were proud of us, to thank us or to simply say, "God bless you."

I was never tired of thanking these strangers, people I'm not likely to ever meet again for their kind words and deeds, and neither did the Soldiers around me.

During my two weeks back in the states, there were many more instances of strangers performing acts of kindness that caught me off guard. What little news we do get in Iraq bombards us with the "mainstream" media's opinion that most of the people in our country and the world don't support our efforts to free Iraq and allow them to live as free as we do in the U.S.

Over the last 24 hours, stuck in the B terminal of the Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport, I saw the "mainstream" media's impression of how this country and it's people feel about us completely blown to pieces.

And to those people, anonymous to me and my fellow soldiers except for their kind words and deeds, let me simply say a humble thank you.

## Candle fires more common during winter season, safety tips offered

The number of home fires caused by candles has been soaring in recent years, and jumped a startling 20 percent from 1998 to 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available, according to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

Indeed, 1999 marked a 20-year peak; there were an estimated 15,040 home candle fires that caused 102 deaths, 1,473 injuries (a 33 percent increase over the previous year), and \$278 million in damage. In contrast, in 1990,

there were 5,460 home fires attributed to candles.

Home candle fires are more common in the winter months; in 1999, there were almost twice as many home candle fires in December as in an average month.

How does a little flame become so dangerous? Four out of 10 times, the candles were left unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled. One in four times, something that catches fire easily was left too close to the flame.

Sometimes children play with the candle. Sometimes someone falls asleep with one or more candles lit.

Four out of 10 home candle fires start in the bedroom, and two out of 10 in common rooms, living rooms, family rooms or dens. The most common item first ignited by a candle is a mattress or bedding.

### Candle safety tips:

\* Use candles only in rooms where there is a responsible adult

awake to control and oversee the flame.

\* Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, papers, Christmas trees, decorations, window blinds and curtains.

\* Keep candles away from high-traffic locations where they can be easily knocked over, including any area accessible to children or pets.

\* Place candles on stable surfaces in sturdy holders that grip the candle securely and won't tip

over.

\* Place candles in candle holders that can't burn and are big enough to collect dripping wax.

\* Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder, and wobble and container candles before the last half-inch of wax begins to melt.

\* Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.

\* Use extreme caution if you carry a lit candle, holding it well away from clothing and any com-

bustibles that may be near the path along which you walk, and avoid loose, flowing clothing that is not flame-resistant. **Fort Riley Safety Office**

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# Al Mansour Council surprises Americans with special kindness

By Christopher Stanis  
1st AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The American West and the Arab East: two worlds 10,000 miles apart. Its people have met under the terms of war, and now under terms of celebration.

U.S. Soldiers are taught to respect the customs and traditions of foreign lands.

The Al Mansour District Advisory Council members returned the respect by serving Christmas dinner Dec. 24 to the soldiers who work day in and day out with the DAC.

"Soldiers are far away from their families working day and night for Iraq in harsh and dangerous circumstances," said Dr. Jaafar Al Ali, DAC president. "We want to let them know they are among friends."

But Col. Russ Gold, 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander, said it is the Iraqis who are displaying valor in the rebuilding of Iraq, despite extremist opposition.

"It's a true team effort how we will win this war. I commend your personal strength and courage for doing this," he said to the DAC members.

The "Bulldog Brigade" works with the DAC in resolving issues

and working toward stability.

The dinner replaced the usual weekly DAC meeting that discusses community issues affecting the Al Mansour district.

"DACs were formed as advisory

*"If I would have told the world a year ago that we, the United States Army, would be in Iraq celebrating Christmas, put on by the Iraqis, they would have locked me up in a funny farm."*

Col. Russ Gold,  
3rd Brigade commander

sory councils to assist the residents of the area to bring community issues to the attention of the city government, ministries and the CPA," said Maj. Clark Taylor, 3rd BCT civilian relations officer. "The DACs, along with the Neighborhood Advisory Councils are the catalysts to teaching Iraqis the basic fundamentals of democracy and how democratic governments function for the people."

The gathering showed that regardless of religion or nationality people are all the same.

"I've always celebrated Christmas because my best friend is Christian," said Sound Al Khafaji, Al Adil representative at the DAC. "I judge people as people, not by what religion they worship."

A common understanding of the two cultures truly showed a step of progress in the relationship of Iraq and America.

"If I would have told the world a year ago that we, the United States Army, would be in Iraq celebrating Christmas, put on by the Iraqis, they would have locked me up in a funny farm," Gold said.

"I believe this is the first step toward peace in Iraq," he added of the building friendships between Americans and Iraqis.

Ali agreed that the personal relationship is as important as the political relationship in determining the future between Iraq and America.

"We have begun to strengthen our relationship as human beings," Ali said. "We hope the good relationship continues with the American people."

But in the meantime, "To all of the coalition and the American forces," he added, "we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year."

## Talk Around Town

### "What is your New Year's Resolution?"



*"Communicate better with my wife."*

Sgt. Christopher Batchman  
Manhattan Recruiting,  
Recruiter  
Great Bend Kan.



*"Come home safe from wherever we're going and return with everybody we left with."*

Sgt. Justin Rollins,  
443rd Transportation Co.,  
Heavy Wheel Mechanic,  
Vienna, Mo.



*"Take better care of my health and make better money decisions."*

Master Sgt. (Ret.)  
Anthony Williams,  
Milford, Kan.



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# Briefs

# Soldiers entertained at Camp Junction City

## PAC Meeting

Child and Youth Services, Parent Advisory Council meets the first Friday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m., in the training room of building 6620. All parents are encouraged to attend. The agenda includes program updates, activities, and parent information on pertinent subjects. Parents can earn a 10 percent discount on child care services for a month after attending three meetings. Call Outreach Services at 239-9850 for additional information.

## Flu Shots Available

Flu shots for Department of the Army civilians are available at the Occupational Health Clinic in Irwin Army Community Hospital. Flu shots will be given Mondays - Fridays from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m., on a walk-in basis. The Occupational Health Clinic is located in the basement level inside of the Preventive Medicine Service. You can access the clinic through the Preventive Medicine front door or from the hallway across from the dining facility offices.

## PWOC Fellowship

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to join them at Morris Hill Chapel for fun fellowship and spiritual healing. The theme for the year 2004 year is "Come to the Living Water." There will be multiple Bible studies to choose from, as well as, outreach opportunities, programs and activities. The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Childcare is available. For more information, call Juli Kelly at 784-8333.

## Refuse Collection

Martin Luther King holiday refuse collection schedule change will be in effect Jan. 19-23, in observance of Martin Luther King day. The schedule is:  
 Jan. 19, No pickup, Martin Luther King holiday.  
 Jan. 20, Colby Manor, Main Post, and Marshall Field.  
 Jan. 21, Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, and Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue). Dumpsters at buildings 27, 28, 45, 470, 471, 540, 541, 620, 510, and 5309.  
 Jan. 22, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights. (No change from regular schedule.)  
 Jan. 23, Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, and Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue). (No change from regular schedule.)

## Mailroom Classes

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" classes will be offered on Jan. 21, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in building 319. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 for enrollment.  
 DOD 4525-6-M, Vol II, DOD Postal Manual, requires each commander who has a unit mailroom to appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer.

Each mailroom must also have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates.

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (30 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers (if not involved in mail handling duties) only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. If unit postal officer is involved in mail handling duties, then they must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

Prior to rotations, commanders should ensure they have sufficient personnel appointed to perform necessary mail handling duties.

## M.L. King remembered

Marin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be celebrated Jan. 15, throughout the nation. This year's celebration theme is, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day on, Not A Day Off." The Equal Opportunity office will sponsor Fort Riley's celebration at Barlow Theater from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support this annual celebration that highlights and honors the struggles, accomplishments and ongoing essential contributions he made to our country. The celebration is free and open to all Soldiers, their families, civilian employees and the surrounding communities. For more information, please contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 239-8433. Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Boyd, Equal Opportunity Advisor said retired service member Donald Houston from Lawrence, Kan., and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin R. Stuart will be present during the celebration.

By J. H. French  
 82nd Airborne Div.

AR RAMADI, Iraq - Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and other members of Task Force 82 packed into the dining facility at Camp Junction City Dec. 26, but it wasn't for Christmas dinner leftovers.

Country music stars Craig Morgan and Jolie Edwards gave the soldiers a belated Christmas present, a performance during dinner.

Most of the big name entertainers were leaving country for home on or before Dec. 23. "We wanted to bring big entertainment to the troops through the holidays," said Judy Seale, president and CEO of Stars for Stripes.

The tour runs from Dec. 21 until Jan. 3, said Jolie Edwards, an up and coming artist whose next CD comes out in May on Warner Brothers Records.

"It was a big decision at my house to come here," said Edwards. "We watch the news and my two boys said 'Mom you're going where?'"

"I want to teach them by example. The stories I get to tell them really helps them get a picture of what you do here," she continued. "I might have a little soldier on my hands."

"My wife and five children were 100 percent behind the trip," said Jimmy D. Weber, who plays the drums and mandolin along with an assortment of other instruments. "It is a very small way to say thank you."

Weber is a master sergeant in the Air Force band stationed in Omaha, Neb., and took leave to

perform for the troops in the Middle East. "I came over last year and played with Wayne Newton," he continued. "Whenever someone needs a utility guy, they call me."

"Guitar players run in the same circles," explained Storm L. Rhode IV, a guitarist in Edwards' band and also in Morgan's. "Everyone knows each other."

The musicians have their own reasons for wanting to be here during the holidays.

"It isn't for money, it is for the soldiers," Weber continued.

"I consider myself fortunate. I lost sleep I was so excited about coming to play. I wouldn't have missed this for the world," Rhode noted. "There is never enough we can do for you guys."

"We need more entertainment for the troops, especially now with the war," said Seale.

"I started doing tours with the USO in 1991 and gradually wanted to do things better and more often," she added. "We don't want to compete with the USO we want to enhance it."

"We want to bring quality entertainment. We want quality entertainers who have a passion for the troops," Seale continued.

Craig Morgan knows all too well the situation deployed soldiers are in. He spent almost 11 years active duty in the Army and is still in the Reserves. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and 5th Special Forces Group.

"I wouldn't have left if not for the music. I love the music but I love the Army as well," said Morgan.

One of the coolest things to see

is the band, he continued. "They have never experienced this. To see them in this environment is great for me because I know they go home with a different attitude and they help spread the word."

"The experience has been just surreal," said Rhode. "This was a once in a lifetime chance to go

and see real hero's."

"I hope that while I am here moral is picked up," Morgan continued.

"I hope soldiers forget about what is going on for a few minutes and remember what it is like to be an American again," Morgan said.



Country music star Craig Morgan, sings his hit single, "Almost Home," for Task Force 82 Soldiers at Camp Junction City.

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 Publisher-Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy  
 Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski  
 Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore  
 Printer-John G. Montgomery  
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# 3rd Brigade nominates Strong for MacArthur Leadership Award



Capt. Eric Strong

**By Sgt. Christopher Stanis**  
1st AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be ... they build your basic character. They mold you for your future roles as the custodians of the Nation's defense. They make you strong enough to know when you are

weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid," said Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur in his 1962 Sylvanus Thayer Award acceptance speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

First Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team deputy operations officer, Capt. Eric Strong will represent the division as one of U.S. Army Europe's two officers and one warrant officer nominated for the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

The annual award was established in 1987 by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation and the Department of the Army to recognize company-grade officers and warrant officers who demonstrate the ideals for which MacArthur stood: duty, honor and country.

"Selecting Capt. Eric Strong to represent the brigade was no easy task," said Col. Russ Gold, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander. "As with so many others, Capt. Strong represents all that is good, and he epitomizes the true meaning of what the MacArthur Leadership Award is supposed to symbolize."

Thirteen awards are given for

the Army's active duty component and seven each for the Army Reserves and National Guard.

Winners will receive a bronze bust of MacArthur during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Military leadership was almost instinctive for Strong. Hailing from Syracuse, N.Y., Strong described himself as a typical boy, growing up "playing Army."

"Making guns out of wood in your dad's work shed, playing with miniature Army men ... running around in the woods, playing hide and go seek, camping; I did all of that outdoor stuff (associated with the military)," Strong said.

But it wasn't until his college years at Notre Dame that Strong was revisited from his childhood thoughts of the military.

"A friend from college invited me to check out (the Reserve Officer's Training Corps)," Strong said.

"I didn't grow up wanting to join the Army all of my life."

His reason for joining: "It just felt right." Almost every man in Strong's family served in the military. Though most did not choose to make the military a career, they nurtured a patriotic environment.

"I was brought up to love the values that America holds dear," Strong said, "an environment that embraced and had pride and respect (for the military)."

Strong attended the basic airborne course and air assault course as a cadet. And it was at the air assault course that he received his first — and possibly most impacting — leadership experience.

If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade, or "no-go," on a tested event in the air assault course he is allowed a retake.

Strong was the class leader. He was receiving all gos on the tested events during a portion of the course, and then received a no-go.

At the next test station an instructor asked how he was doing. With a bitter attitude, Strong said not well.

"The instructor pulled me aside and said, 'If you're going to be an officer you have to know your job and you have to know your soldiers' job. You can't afford to show a lack of confidence. You have to portray confidence to guide them,'" Strong said.

"That was my first true taste as a leader about what good trainers and leaders do. He took time to talk to me for 15 or 20 minutes."

After receiving his commission

as an armor officer in 1997, Strong attended the Scout Platoon Leaders Course at Fort Knox, Ky., and then he was off to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo. - a good fist assignment, he said, because he received a lot of field training to practice his skills.

Strong served as a tank platoon leader and scout platoon leader at Fort Carson.

After attending the Aviation Captain's Career Course at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 2001, Strong arrived to Fort Riley to serve as the S-3 (operations) air officer for 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment.

In February 2002, Strong took command of Hawk Troop, the brigade reconnaissance troop.

People who know Strong said his personal style and leadership techniques provided the needed direction, motivation and purpose for his unit to thrive in an uncertain and challenging environment.

Because of this, his unit received laudatory comments from numerous general officers for their tactics during a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Then, as the heat was rising in Southwest Asia, soldiers across

the Army knew deployment was inevitable.

Soon, Strong found his troop in Baghdad, delivering and distributing over 250,000 cylinders of propane gas - the primary cooking and heating oil in Iraq - to thousands of Iraqis.

Strong said deploying to combat was the most important thing he has done in the military.

"You can train and you can prepare for it, but until you do it, you don't know how you will be, you don't know how you will do," he said. "It is an experience of a lifetime and I am thankful for the opportunity."

It was Strong's actions with Hawk Troop in combat and leading up to it that received him the recognition and nomination for the MacArthur Leadership Award.

"I have seen Eric perform his duties in peace and in times of war. He has seen the best and worst of humanity, and never wavered in times of hardship," Gold said.

"He always leads from the front and defines the true meaning of selfless service. He is what we want in front of our formations, he is what we want to represent us as soldiers, leaders and Americans."

## Dining facility named for 1st Lt. Jon Rozier

**By John S. Wollaston**  
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Bob Hope and 1st Lt. Jonathan Rozier are two people whom you wouldn't normally think would have anything in common, but in Iraq, sometimes even the unlikely sometimes becomes reality. What Hope and Rozier now have in common is that they both been honored with their name on an Army chow hall in Baghdad.

In a ceremony, Dec. 26, at Camp Payne, the Brigade Support Area for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, a recently constructed dining facility was named in honor of Rozier.

The Katy, Texas, native was a platoon leader with the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor when, on July 19, he was killed by a

rocket-propelled grenade at a traffic control point in the dangerous Abu-Gharib market section of Baghdad.

"If Jon were still with us, he'd be eating his meals here with his soldiers, with his fellow Thunderbolts and with the rest of 3rd Brigade," said Lt. Col. Lee Quintas, commander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

"We continue to miss him and

our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family," Quintas stated.

The recently opened dining facility can seat 2,500 soldiers and serve more than 15,000 meals a day.

The dining facility also supports outlying units of the 3rd Brigade by providing their chow halls with food cooked in its kitchens.

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# Field Artillery battalion fires rounds for training

By Christopher Stanis,  
1st Armored Div.

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The King of Battle is back on his throne and in the skies of Baghdad. The 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, of Task Force 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team began its semiannual Table VIII gunnery Dec. 6 and continued the certification through Dec. 20.

This is the first time guns of this caliber - Paladin Howitzers firing 155 mm artillery rounds - have been fired in Baghdad since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations in May.

A unique feature of this training is that while all other TF 1AD assets are conducting gunnery at Butler Range - approximately 50 kilometers away from the 3rd Brigade area of operation - The 4th Bn., 1st FA is firing within the city's borders.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski, 4th Bn., 1st FA command sergeant major, said the advantage of within-city-limits certification is two fold.

In addition to qualifying, it is a "show of force," he said.

Following the successful Operation Iron Hammer, the big guns are keeping the division on the offensive and the enemy confused by showing that the TF 1AD is capable of reacting with counter-fire to anybody who decides to shoot mortars or rockets at coalition-controlled areas, he said.

Savitski added that the gunnery location took a lot of mission-oriented stress off the unit's soldiers.

"Because of the mission we were already doing we had to figure out how to maximize our time and personnel," he continued.

"This plan allows us to support the division's efforts and still get our teams qualified."

But it is not as simple as going out and lobbing rounds in a city.

An open field was quarantined

to serve as the impact zone, with signs posted around the perimeter warning residents stay away. Psychological operations teams were also used to inform residents of the incoming steel.

Additionally, the air space in the approximate six-mile distance between the firing site and impact zone was cleared of all aircraft. This is done through 4th Brigade - TF 1AD's aviation brigade - and the division and brigade fire support elements.

Coordination is also made with air operations of neighboring divisions, such as 4th Infantry Division, whose aircraft might be flying through TF 1AD's area.

Calling in artillery is a three-step process, Savitski said.

The forward observers, located within sight of the target, are known as the eyes of the artillery.

"We go deep (sometimes 20 kilometers) in to enemy territory to kill the enemy before they get to the brigade, or before the brigade goes to enemy territory,"

said Staff Sgt. Shannon Williams, platoon sergeant for 4th Bn., 1st FA's Mustang Platoon, better known as COLT, or combat observationazing team.

The COLT waits at the impact zone to call in the fire and any adjustments that need to be made.

The COLT pinpoints targets using a ground vehicular laser locator designator, or G/VLLD (pronounced "glid").

That information is sent to the Fire Direction Center, sometimes called the platoon operation center.

The FDC is often referred to as the brains of the artillery.

"The (FDC) computes all of the data (sent by the forward observers) and controls where the guns shoot," said Capt. Steve Tautkus, Battery A, 4th Bn., 1st FA, commander. He said the FDC sends the mission to the guns with information such as what type of propellant, fuse and round to use.

Now the information has reached the howitzer - the muscle

of the artillery.

"It puts the steel down," Savitski said.

A Howitzer is operated by a four-man crew - the driver, the computer operator, the "number one man," who loads the round in to the chamber and the section chief, who supervises to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Ten missions are conducted during the gunnery:

Low angle adjustment fires are the standard for every fire mission.

"At my command" missions hold artillery fire until the forward observers give word that the enemy is gathered in the target zone. This allows for massed fire with maximum effectiveness.

In an "immediate suppression mission," the howitzer crew fires to break enemy contact if a friendly force is pinned down.

"Time on target" missions give the howitzers a specific time to hit a single target; all rounds hit the target at exactly the same time.

If artillery is firing at an objective and friendly forces start receiving fire from a previously established target, a priority target mission will be called in to redirect artillery to that target.

Schedule of fires gives a list of targets in sequential order of when they are to be hit.

Immediate smoke is the same as immediate suppression, but with smoke rounds; quick smoke lays rapid smoke rounds to block the enemy's vision. After the sun goes down, illumination and coordinated illumination missions are conducted.

An illumination mission fires an illumination round to light up the sky, giving visibility of the target at night. Coordinated illumination mission fires an illumination followed by a high explosive round.

"I didn't think I would get to fire in Iraq," said Spc. Joe Wilridge, howitzer crewmember with Battery A, 4th Bn., 1st FA. "I love shooting rounds. I'm doing what I get paid to do."

## Black continued from page 1

his deployment. He was a positive role model from the beginning. He had a 'No mission is too great' attitude. He gave his all in everything he did."

Capt. Jeffery Jurand, rear detachment commander, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, spoke about Black's commitment and dedication to his job as a Soldier.

"Black touched each of our lives whether we realize it or not," said Jurand. In his own words, Sgt. Black described himself as a scrapper. Those words invoke images in our minds of a lively,

committed and dedicated individual who strived to win at everything. He was a competitor. A Soldier who understood that in our profession those who come in second sometimes lose. He was a type of Soldier who attacked any task at hand whether tank gunnery, playing spades or leading Soldiers.

As a leader, I can think of few qualities in Soldier that are more important. As a leader those qualities stay at the top the list."

Black was born on Jan. 21, 1977 in Peru, Ind.

He enlisted in the United States Army as an Armor Crewman on Sept. 29, 1999, and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment in December 1999.

He was first assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor at Schweinfurt, Germany, where he served in a variety of positions from February 2000 until September 2001.

In September 2001, Black was assigned to Troop E, 1st Squadron, 16th Cavalry as a tank commander and instructor.

Black was next assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, Fort Riley in December 2002.

Black deployed with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in September 2003.

Black's awards include the Army Achievement medal (2nd award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Black is survived by his wife, two sons, his parents and his brother.

### The Shoppe located in building 259

The Shoppe is a quaint gift shop located in building 259, Stuart Ave., next to CTF. It offers antiques, hand-made items and collectibles for every occasion.

### SJA employees recognized

Kathleen Nemeth and Debra Sexton were recently recognized as Employees of the Quarter at the Office Of the Staff Judge Advocate. They received a time off award.

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# Fort Riley Community

January 9, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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## Playing games

### America's Army game drawing players from around the world

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

The squad leader barks the order, "Give us suppressive fire! Grenadier, cover us while we advance!" The Soldiers leap to action - the Squad Automatic Weapon sends a hail of lead toward the objective, as the unmistakable mechanical "thunk" of an M203 sends 40mm of streaking death at the enemy. The squad advances, firing their M16's and throwing M67 Frag Grenades. Suddenly a shout rings out as the squad approaches the building that holds their objective, "Release grenade!" The spoon pops, there is a deafening explosion, and a scream, "I'm hit! Medic!" The wounded Soldier limps to cover as the combat medic performs his duty. The rest of the team pushes forward, getting as good as they gave. The last standing member of the squad sees the objective, a computer. On the computer are necessary files needed, he starts typing to upload the coveted files to command. As he types he hears the rush of footsteps, he whirls around to see the muzzle flash on an AK47. His body goes limp and he slumps to the floor, his left finger twitches and he sees himself in the third-person as a voice says, "Your squad has been eliminated."

However as the scene fades to black the whole team sits back in their chairs to ponder another strategy and then they are reconstituted to try again. This is not an actual battlefield, it is a virtual one. It is a game produced by the Army called America's Army Operations.

The game is more than just another first-person shooter game (FPS). It is a portal where people are able to get a first-hand look at what it is like to be a Soldier.

"The Army's game is an entertaining way for young Americans to explore the Army and Army adventures as a virtual Soldier," said Col. Casey Wardynski, project originator and director of the Army Game Project, United States Military Academy. "As such, it is part of the Army's communications strategy designed to leverage the power of the Internet as a portal through which young people can get a first hand look at what it is like to be a Soldier. The game introduces young people to different Army schools, Army training, and life in the Army," he said.

"As in the past, the Army's success in attracting high-potential young adults is essential to building the world's premier land force," said Wardynski. "Therefore, the game is designed to substitute virtual experiences for vicarious insights. Recruiters report that the game is a valuable communications tool in connecting with young Americans. They are using the popularity and exploratory value of the game to create their own local recruiting events. Some recent recruits report that the game was a factor in shaping their interest in the Army as a part of their information gathering process on

the Army," commented Wardynski. More than just a tool for the Army, it is based around a Soldier's lifecycle and the values they live by.

"The America's Army game is unique due to the fact that it is built around the Soldier lifecycle model and Army Values. The game is designed to mirror the progression of a Soldier through training and into units," Wardynski stated. "It is also designed to convey an understanding of the role values play in the Army."

If those values are followed, the Soldier is rewarded. If they break those values or the rules of engagement, they pay a price as they would in real life.

"We are entrusted by America to employ force. That action is based upon the fact that Values bound our nations. In the game this concept is put across in the way we structure criteria for success and mission objectives," said Wardynski. "Players gain standing within the game by achieving mission objectives while adhering to Army values, rules of war and rules of engagement. We also make considerable effort to link player choices and actions to outcomes. For example, we let players run off the road in terms of the behaviors they can exhibit in the game," he said. "They can act up in training classes to see what a drill instructor will do. When they really go off the reservation they end up in a virtual cell at Fort Leavenworth. We have made the game this way so that players can see what happens when you succeed in the Army and what happens when you foul up," Wardynski said.

Since its public release on July 4, 2002, more than 1.5 million players completed their virtual exploration of the basic training portion of the game and progressed to complete more than 400 million missions logging over 40 million hours of game play. America's Army and America's Army: Special Forces are rated T for Teen and are available as free CDs at local Army Recruiting stations, ROTC Detachments and Army events, and can also be downloaded from various partners listed on the [www.america'sarmy.com](http://www.america'sarmy.com) site.

"The game has surpassed even our highest expectations in terms of acceptance by America. Young adults have really seized upon the game as an engaging way to explore the Army and Soldiering," Wardynski said. "The game has experienced outstanding success in its first year. More than 1.5 million players have successfully completed the four missions that explore key events in basic train-

ing. They have progressed beyond basic training to complete more than 400 million missions logging over 40 million hours of game play," he said.

Within the AA community are teams known as clans. The clans consist of people from around the world who do battle against each other in league matches. The developers of the game support league play of the game.

"The Game has been embraced as one of the premier games at tournaments and competitive. Success in placing the game with events such as the Cyber Athlete Professional League tournament series is a key part of our strategy," said Wardynski. "Competition is a big part of America's Army so we are very supportive of leagues and organizations that use America's Army in a competitive setting. Toward this end, we do our best to promote game events on our Website and support their organizers with promotional and instructional materials," he said.

Members of the clans join for various reasons, but a common thread is that they simply love the game.

"I play AA as it is the Best FPS around, I have always played FPS online since early 90's, but this game leaves the rest far behind," said Dean Wallace, 28, Melbourne, Australia.

"The reason I joined a clan was because a group of us all played the same maps were the same players were always around, so a clan was formed based around us always playing together, and from there it evolved into an international team," Wallace said.

While Sean Lewis, 14, Ohio, said, "My step grandpa showed it to me once, and I fell in love with the way it was designed - all the maps, the amazing amount of teamwork you need - pretty much every little detail about this game. I also like the fact that from playing a game like this I can learn a little bit about other peoples country's, and their language sometimes," said Lewis.

Other people started playing the game and joined a clan because it hit home on a personal note, as well as for the teamwork needed to succeed in the game.

"I play AA because it is an awesome free game. I'm a military brat, so it kind of hits home as far as the training sequences, and because it is the only game I've played, so far, where it pushes teamwork over individualism," said Jim Huber, 27, Decatur, Illinois. "The purpose in a clan should be the same as the purpose of a military unit. To complete their objectives together as a team, and above all else to kick some opposing force butt."

Even though the game is for free it doesn't take

away from the graphics or the play of the game, in fact the game is on par with top-shelf computer games in the gaming market.

"In order to be an effective communications tool, the game had to offer a first rate entertaining experience that was informative. The game needed to take advantage of cutting edge technology to showcase great game play and stellar graphics," Wardynski said. "Our target market expects a top-quality game and if we wanted to achieve our mission of communicating with them and having the game be embraced as part of popular culture we needed to ensure that our game was on par with, or exceeded the quality of leading games on the market."

For the game to be as real as possible the developers went to various posts, and through their visits rendered the actual settings that are seen in the game.

"In order to make the America's Army: Operations game as realistic as possible, the game's developers visited nineteen Army posts, including Ft. Benning (for the rifle range), Ft. Lewis (weapons), and Ft. Polk (urban combat operations)," Wardynski said. "Besides photographing structures, training venues and texture referents, the Game development team shot motion-capture video for animations, and recorded thousands of sound effects. The team also jumped from towers at Airborne School, submitted to dog attacks, and participated in air assault operations with Soldiers of the 101st Air Assault Division at the crack of dawn," he said. "The Game developers then translated their documentation and experiences into the game play so that the missions, and Army environment, were as true to life as possible. For example, when shooting an M-16 the weapon rises and falls slightly with the avatar's breathing, the M249 climbs high and right, and all weapons jam based upon firing rate, environmental conditions, requiring the proper immediate action to clear the stoppage," Wardynski commented.

Game players agree that the realism is top-notch, and hope that the Army expands on it.

"I personally think it is a good idea (realism), as I would anyone who would play the game I think. It has unmatched realism and team play," said Luc Dussault, Quebec City, Canada. "I hope they take the realism so far as to make people see what the battlefield really looks like, that way some people might learn more about the job before engaging in it, or might get more respect for Soldiers before coming at war," Dussault stated.

Another aspect of America's Army: Operations is the communication clans have with each other through a program called Team Speak (TS). The program lets teammates communicate to each other through a microphone while playing the game. It also gives the people within the clan to get to know their teammates' cultures.

*"The reason I joined a clan was because a group of us all played the same maps were the same players were always around, so a clan was formed based around us always playing together, and from there it evolved into an international team,"*

**Dean Wallace, 28, Melbourne, Australia**



## Game continued from page 7

"I'm happy that I can speak and learn from people from all over the world," said Florian Poehl, Vienna, Austria.

"It wouldn't be the same if they were all from the same country. It is fun to see how different all the people from all the different countries are."

Others agree with Poehl's sentiment of learning about other

peoples' cultures.

"It's fun to interact with players from across the globe. And sometimes it's a learning experience, learning different things about other countries," said Huber.

Other than learning about other cultures, some like being in a clan and talking to their team because it adds to their sense of

pride they have for their fellow teammates.

"The purpose (being in a clan and talking on TS) for me is that its social, you meet other people that you get along with and you can learn about the whole world, at least in our clan, Allies of the World, you can," said Lewis.

"And being in a clan makes you feel like when you are wear-

ing that tag you are representing 20 other people in the clan, and I like having that honor with some of the best people in the game."

According to Wardynski the game will be around for a while, and will expand further.

"We have had broad support from all facets of the Army from the Army Secretariat to the Commander of Forces Command to

division commanders, Recruiting Command, all major commands of the U.S. Army, and the National Guard. Funding to continue development and operations of the Game extends well into the future," he said.

"We plan to continue to expand the depiction of the Army over a wide variety of Soldiering skills in future versions of the

game.

"We will spend the next six months completing our modeling of the Special Forces, and their occupations such as Medics, Engineer, Communications, and Intelligence.

"We will then expand coverage to Stryker and other types of Army units," concluded Wardynski.

## Cold weather freeze ups costly for post residents

Fort Riley has suffered its first freeze up in government quarters this winter.

The soldier deployed and the spouse left the quarters for an extended period of time.

The soldier and spouse failed to follow the procedures put in place by the Housing Office for when residents choose to leave quarters uninhabited.

They failed to: Leave the heat on. Arrange for someone to watch the house. Let Housing know of their

absence and who their house wether was.

They are now financially responsible for the damage to the quarters.

Since the heat was off, the water line under the sink froze and broke. When the temperature in the quarters rose above freezing, the water line thawed and water began to flood the first floor.

A neighbor noticed water coming from the house and notified Housing. Housing entered the quarters and found the damage.

The resident's furniture was soaked along with the carpet and the floor below. The water had not only filled the crawl space of the apartment, but had seeped into the crawl space of the adjoining apartment.

Maintenance personnel spent hours pumping the water from both quarters. The estimated total cost of the damage is \$5,589.12.

Housing is requesting your help in identifying quarters that may be vacant and without a house wether at this time.

Some residents made arrange-

ments with people to watch their quarters during their absence, but we are finding out that many failed to do so. Many left before the heating season so their heat may not be turned on.

Please call the Housing Office at 239-3265 to report any quarters where occupants have been gone for an extended period and there has been no indication that someone is checking on the house.

Your help may prevent damages and grief when freezing temperatures resume.

## Commissary officials sensitive to beef concerns

By Bonnie Powell  
DeCa

FORT LEE, Va. - Officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are closely monitoring the ever-changing situation involving a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as "mad cow" disease, identified Dec. 23 in a single cow in Washington state.

Since Dec. 23 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted a limited recall of 10,000 pounds of beef that may originate from the infected cow and from cows slaughtered at the same time and location.

"No beef in any of our 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in a USDA recall," said Col. Mark Wolken, chief of public

health, safety and security for DeCA. "The USDA has stated that the U.S. beef supply is safe and that the beef recall resulted from an abundance of caution, not fear that the meat is infected. Should the USDA make a determination that there is a danger, DeCA would be first to react to protect the health of our customers," he said.

Since the first U.S. case of BSE was identified Dec. 23, commissary customers have raised questions about the safety of beef purchased at their local commissary. Questions range from "should I return the ground beef I bought last week?" to "has my commissary received meat from the infected cow?"

The answer to both questions is "no," said Wolken, an Army veterinarian. "As is always the case,

customers who wish to return commissary products for a full refund may do so without question. The brain, spinal cord, and lower intestine - where the protein or 'prion' that is believed to cause BSE is found - is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply."

USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam as well as Washington state, Oregon, California and Nevada. "No commissaries received any of those shipments," Wolken emphasized. "But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions.

We're all affected by this - we're

all concerned."

Mad cow is a fatal disease that destroys the brains of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions and is thought to be spread from animal to animal through contaminated feed.

A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products.

The approximately 140 deaths linked to "mad cow" since the mid-90s have mainly been in Britain.

For the latest developments on the current situation as well as for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, commissary customers should check the food safety link at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

### Christian concert, seminar series offered

The Fort Riley Installation Chaplain is pleased to announce a special series of concerts and seminars beginning February and extending through June 2004.

The Christian music concerts are in celebration of active and reserve soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and will also be accompanied the following day by seminars for marriage, family and single soldier dwellers.

This is a series of four concerts led by nationally and regionally known music artists and speakers. Although designed for soldiers and their families, the concerts are open to the public.

Each concert will be held Friday evening at 7 p.m. at Morris Hill Chapel followed the next day by a variety of seminar speakers.

### Christian concert, seminar schedule

**Feb. 20, 7 p.m.,** Morris Hill Chapel

Susie and Paul Luchsinger (Country, Cowboy, Western Christian Music)

**Feb. 21, 9 a.m.,** Morris Hill Chapel

Susie and Paul Luchsinger, Marriage Enrichment Seminar  
Susie Luchsinger, is married and has 3 children and lives on a ranch in Oklahoma with her husband Paul. They founded Psalm Ministries to minister at rodeos.

Susie holds 6 Dove awards, has been voted female artist several times, favorite female Christian Country vocalist several times, Christian Country artist of the year several times, entertainer of the year for Country Gospel Music Association. She has appeared on TVN's "Crook and Chase", Johnny Carson, the Liza Gibbons Show, and "700 Club" and has been featured in Billboard Magazine, USA Today, and People Magazine. She and Paul do family seminars, youth seminars as well as concerts.

**March 20, 9 a.m.,** Morris Hill Chapel

Wives of Warriors, Marriage Enrichment Seminar  
Wives of Warriors (WOW) is a blend of four ladies Paula Halvorson, wife of an active Coast Guard sailor, Judy Rossi, wife of a retired Army soldier, Ileen Stubbs, wife of a retired Army soldier, and Doris Waldrop an Air Force widow.

Doris is a counselor for the Officer's Christian Fellowship and Mission America. Ileen is a counselor for a church-counseling center, Judy is a PWOC speaker focusing on marriage and parenting and Paula is a Bible study leader and speaker.

With their combined skills and experience they present seminars to military personnel designed to strengthen relationships and families.

They provide a ministry of encouragement to military wives of all ranks through scriptural teaching and fellowship, particularly to those who struggle with lengthy separations and deployments.

**April 16, 7 p.m.,** Morris Hill Chapel

Tim Kaufman (Conservative Contemporary Music)

**April 17, 7 p.m.,** Morris Hill Chapel

Tim Kaufman, Man's Seminar

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# Fort Riley Sports



Post/Viewer

Wildcat Quarterback Eli Roberson dives over the goal line at the Fiesta Bowl, making a 14-yard touchdown. It was his 39th rushing touchdown of his career and the 14th of the season.

## Buckeyes take party out of Fiesta Bowl

By Christie Vanover  
Community Relations Officer

In addition to ham, cranberries and pumpkin pie, many enjoyed pigskin and turf this holiday season.

Thousands tuned into the 2003 football season's Bowl Championship Series to watch the Orange Bowl, Rose Bowl, Fiesta Bowl and Sugar Bowl Jan. 1-4.

Of those thousands, approximately 37,000 K-State fans attended the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., as the No. 8 K-State Wildcats battled the defending champions, No. 7 Ohio State Buckeyes, Jan. 2.

The Cats earned their place in the bowl after defeating No. 1 Oklahoma (35-7) and winning the Big 12 Conference Title for the first time in conference history.

Prior to kickoff, opposing fans united, chanting "U-S-A, U-S-A" as the Air Force's Wings of Blue parachute team jumped into Sun Devil Stadium, carrying the U.S. and team flags; and as families of the Columbia Space Shuttle tragedy polished the field.

To enhance the patriotic unity, a 100-yard U.S. flag engulfed the field as pictures of soldiers killed in action from Kansas, Ohio and Arizona gleamed from the big screen. Fort Riley's Sgt. Jacob Butler and Joseph Lister were among those honored.

When the flag left the field and fight songs began to play, unity was quickly divided as fans' chants changed from "U-S-A" to "O-H-I-O" and "K-S-U."

The coin was tossed, OSU deferred and K-State began its first BCS bowl game in school history.

With a mixture of boos and cheers, Wildcat Quarterback Eli Roberson and his offensive line took to the field.

Despite an interception by Wildcat Cedrick Williams, it took nearly ten minutes for either team to score during the first quarter.

The first points on the board were by OSU's defensive line, as Buckeye John Hollins recovered Jared Brite's blocked fourth down punt and ran it in seven yards for a touchdown.

The Buckeye Defense didn't stop there. During the first quarter, they held K-State's offense to 8 yards. OSU led at the end of the quarter 14-0.

Chants from KSU fans began to dwindle as OSU brought the score to 21-0 in the second quarter.

The Buckeyes attempted to keep Wildcat Receiver Darren Sproles out of the game by punting short at kickoff, but Sproles got his hands on

the ball with three minutes left in the half and scored the Wildcat's first touchdown. The Cats entered the locker room with a score of 21-7.

It appeared that the tables were going to turn at the start of the second half, as Roberson flew over the goal line tightening the gap against OSU (21-14), but OSU responded with two unanswered touchdowns.

Something sparked the Wildcat offense in the fourth quarter as Ayo Saba and Roberson collected two more touchdowns for the Cats, bringing the score to 35-28.

Although Roberson threw for 294 yards on the day with a career-high 51 passing attempts, the Cats couldn't complete a final pass, and the Buckeyes clinched their second Fiesta Bowl victory.

The Cats end the season 11-4 with a bowl record of 6-6.

## 'Eagle Day' offers viewing at Milford Lake Jan. 17-18

American symbol making comeback since being spotted in Kansas in 1989

Aaron Starr  
K-State Student

The return of the bald eagle has begun. One man who anticipates their return, not for pleasure but for business, is K-State graduate Dan Mulhern, a wildlife biologist working with U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Since 1989 when we found the first bald eagle nest near Clinton Reservoir, there has been a steady growth of Kansas' bald eagle nesting population," said

Mulhern.

Greg Wurst, a natural resource specialist, and K-State graduate working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Tuttle Creek Project office also keeps an eye out for our national birds at the onset of every winter.

"Each winter we can expect to get between 10 and 40 bald eagles below the tubes in the Tuttle Creek River Pond area, but there are usually over 100 in the area right around the reservoir," said Wurst. "The eagles aren't like swallows. They don't come back

on the same day every year, when they come down really depends on the weather."

"We have an active nest up in the Shannon Creek arm of the lake that has fledged two eaglets in each of the last two winters," said Steve Prockish a park ranger with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the past 20 years.

These birds are slowly but surely making a comeback according to Mulhern.

They were placed on the endangered species list from its

creation in 1973 when the total number was believed to have been below 2,000 bald eagles nationwide," he said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims that at the time the bald eagle was adopted as our national symbol in 1782, there were approximately 75,000 living in the contiguous states.

"Bald eagles faced their most difficult time following World War II due to widespread use of DDT as a pesticide," said Prockish.

"There were several things that lead to the decline of the eagle

population including the destruction of their habitat and reproduction failure due to poisoning from DDT through what is known as bio-accumulation. Bio-accumulation is when a small animal that is low on the food chain ate something with the DDT poison on it, but before the small animal died it was eaten by an eagle. The more sick animals an eagle eats, the more poison builds up in its system until, in this case, the shells of the eggs were not produced as

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## K-State tops Bethune-Cookman College with shots from under the board

By Sam Robinson  
Staff Writer

The Kansas State University men's basketball team pulled out a victory, at Bramlage Coliseum, Dec. 22, against Bethune-Cookman College. The teams started slow but momentum began to build with Kansas State's Tim Ellis sinking a three pointer, two minutes in.

Ellis, 6'4" senior guard, led the first half in points scored. He finished the game with 16 points, just behind fellow Wildcat, Jere-

miah Massey, who had 17 total points.

Both teams struggled from the field and made several turnovers. Most of the points were scored from under the board. Kansas State shot 42.6 percent, which was only slightly better than Bethune's 39.3 percent.

"We had a game plan and wanted to execute it. We did execute for the most part, but slipped up a little during the game," said Ellis. "I was surprised a little bit. We played down to their level, but gave them credit. They were a good team."

Bethune was not only plagued by 14 turnovers, but nine personal fouls in the first half. BCC ended the game with 19 turnovers and a tax-ing amount of personal fouls, 22.

The Wildcats went into the locker room at half

and frustrated with Bethune. "The first half we came out slow and sluggish," said Massey.

*"Their trapping and back court pressure caused some of the problems. Once we got it in the front court, we played tentative and without confidence."*

Jim Woodridge,  
K-State head coach

but we got it done and that's tied and frustrated with Bethune.

"The second half definitely went a little better, but we got it done and that's tied and frustrated with Bethune.

"We couldn't get guys to cut and move. Our ball movement was stagnant," added Woodridge. "It's hard to play if you don't move the ball and move bodies and make them defend you."

Kansas State forward, Marques Hayden, led both teams in rebounds, nabbing 12 overall. Hayden scored 11 points in the game and shot 100 percent in the second half.

The Wildcats were finally able to break away from Bethune deep in the second half. The Cats had a six-minute run which brought them from behind, netting 14 points, while barring Bethune from scoring.

Kansas State managed to hold on to the lead over Bethune, finishing 66-52. This was the seventh win of the season for the





# Commentary

## Big XII wasn't so big during bowl season

By Kevin Doheny  
19th PAD

As Santa made his rounds and millions of people made their New Year's resolutions, college football teams from around the country competed and tried to add to the holiday spirit with 28 bowl games.

Even with all that holiday cheer in the air, the usually tough Big XII teams this holiday season must have had one too many helpings of grandma's stuffing, as many of them stumbled and looked sluggish.

These battle-tested schools, which have been known to dominate lesser opponents, lost six of the eight games they played.

Even the hottest team in the country, Kansas State, and the former number one team in the nation, Oklahoma, couldn't

win their bowl games.

So why was there such a terrible representation of the conference this year? I really have no logical answer, except the Big XII conference has become too much of a finesse conference and when the tough teams from the Big Ten and SEC come calling, they have too much physical toughness for them to handle.

For example, look at the way the three best teams in the conference fared in their respected bowl games.

Start off with Oklahoma and their 21-14 loss to LSU in the Nokia Sugar Bowl. The "fun and gun" offense that terrorized Big XII defenses all year, looked beat up as LSU pounded Sooner quarterback Jason White. The Sooner offense, which was tops in the country, looked average as a tough, physical LSU defense put an old fashioned lickin' on them.

Another example of a high-powered Big XII offense that was corralled was Kansas State. The Wildcats had come into the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl against Ohio State on a high note as they had won seven games in a row and fresh off a 35-7 win over then undefeated Oklahoma. The 'Cats usual devastating running game was held in check as All-American Darren Sproles ran for a season-low 38 yards on 13 carries. The quick, physical Buckeye defense snuffed out K-State's running game.

At the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, then fifth ranked Texas was blitzed, literally, as they couldn't handle the defensive pressure Washington State threw at them. The Longhorns, who had scored 40-plus points in nine of their 12 games this season, couldn't handle the blitz packages the Washington State coaching staff

devised for them and looked over-matched most of the game. Although they had several chances to finish with a win, Washington State blitzed time and time again, something the usually reliable Texas offensive line couldn't handle.

Also, Oklahoma State, Missouri and Kansas looked soft as they lost their respective bowl games.

What does this mean for the Big XII? First off, the coaching staffs in the conference have to begin to get their players to play "tough."

There are many physical players in the conference, but as a whole, these schools get run on and at times can't run the ball. The conference has guys who can flat out fly, but really what it needs is more guys who can 'split heads'. They need more guys who are as opposing as they are skilled.

Oklahoma, Kansas State and Texas all have good, tough defenses, but at times this season they looked very mediocre.

Overall the Big XII has taken a step back and could, honestly, be looked at as only the third or fourth toughest conference this year. I'm sure Bob Stoops, Bill Snyder, Mack Brown, Les Miles and other coaches will reload this off-season, but it is the style they play and not so much the players.

Look for next season to be another dominant year for the Big XII as Oklahoma, Texas, Oklahoma State, Kansas State, Missouri, and Nebraska look to get back into the top 25 and beyond.

The big guns in the Big XII will have a lot to prove next season, as they will try to once again try to claim their title of the toughest and best conference in the nation.

### Eagle continued from page 9

thick as they should be," said Mulhern.

"The eagles weren't dying from the poison. They were just unable to reproduce," he said.

"The Corps of Engineers keeps a close eye on the private activities in and around the park to make sure that the eagles aren't harmed or put into any sort of unnecessary danger." Wurst continued, "We have to close our campgrounds during the winter months to keep people out of the area where the eagles typically go to hunt. There can be pressure from hunters on the federally owned land around the lake that can start to get too close to where the eagles both nest and roost," he said.

"Last year, we had to post signs

around the Shannon Creek nesting site because hunters were getting too close, but the year before that we had no problems with it," said Prockish.

"Currently, the greatest threat to the well being of the bald eagles, in our area at least, seems to be power lines. Many of the newer power lines are built with a large enough gap that an eagle with a 6 1/2 foot to an 8 foot wingspan will not accidentally electrocute itself when trying to perch on the cable, but there are still a lot of old lines around," said Mulhern.

Since the first nest was spotted in 1989, the numbers have steadily grown in the area and as of summer 2003 there were 18 active nests in Kansas, said Mulhern.

"Eagles mate for life and typically build their nests within 100 miles of where the male was hatched, said Mulhern. "Most of the eaglets fledged in the last two years were male. This indicates that in the next four to five years when they reach maturity and find mates, the number of eagle nests in the area will multiply."

According to Craig Chamberlin, civil engineer technician at the Milford Lake, an "Eagle Day" will be held at Milford Lake on Jan. 17 and 18. The trip should allow visitors to see eagles in their native habitat. Those who plan to attend are advised to dress properly and bring their cameras and binoculars.

For more information on this event, call 238-5714.

### Servicemembers can win RV vacations

Army News Service

Each grand-prize winner will receive a two-week vacation in a Class A (bus style) motor home.

Everyone who enters the contest will be provided with a voucher for \$50 to be used toward RV travel.

The RV Reunion Tour contest is sponsored by the military services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices and GovArm.com.

MWR provides quality support and recreational services

that contribute to the retention, readiness, and mental, physical and emotional well being of its servicemembers and women.

GovArm.com is a travel cooperative of MWR that provides leisure travel discounts for government and military personnel.

To enter the essay contest, military personnel can visit either [elmonterv.com](http://elmonterv.com) or [govarm.com](http://govarm.com).

Winners will be announced in early 2004.

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