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Weather Forecast	Today		High:25 Low:2
	Saturday		High:23 Low:2
	Sunday		High:30 Low:23

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Learning about Kansas
Ware Elementary School students saw this ornate inhabitant of the Sunflower state and more.
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February 6, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 5

Families hear good news

3rd Brigade commander talks success; troops to return

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Soldiers and Family Readiness Group leaders gathered on a blustery afternoon Feb. 1 to watch a much-anticipated broadcast. No, it wasn't the Super Bowl. It was a video teleconference from Iraq, and in that conference the redeployment plans for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team were discussed.

Col. Russ Gold, commander, 3rd BCT, opened the conference with thanks to the spouses of all the Soldiers currently deployed in Iraq and asked for just a few weeks more understanding as they begin the process of redeployment. Gold said the Soldiers of the brigade are excited about getting home to their loved ones. "They are more focused now. They are not complaining. They are thinking, 'Let's do what we have to do and get out of here,'" said Gold.

After initial introductions, Gold gave a rundown of what the brigade had accomplished while working in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I can't put in words how proud I am of the Soldiers and what they have done here. It's absolutely tremendous what they have done, what we have put them through, what we have asked of them and under the most austere conditions that I can even think

about," Gold said. "We have detained over 11,000 personnel, 800 criminals and weapons violators, 53 terrorist bomb makers and foreign fighters, 127 former regime elements and 15 blacklist personnel from the deck of 52 cards, and these numbers will continue to grow," he said.

"We have conducted over 25,000 patrols, 1,000 traffic con-

See 3rd Brigade Page 3



Spouses of 3rd Brigade Combat Team get news from their loved ones during a video teleconference with Brigade Commander Col. Russ Gold in Iraq. Soldiers are scheduled to return from late February through April.

It's s-no holiday

Post crews sand, scrape Mom Nature off roadways

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info Officer

By the time Fort Riley had received enough snow to cause the post to close Feb. 2 to everyone except mission-essential personnel, Public Works crews had already been at work nearly 48 hours battling the storm.

"Public Works personnel began working the roads around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, when the freezing rain began," said Lt. Col. Wes Anderson, director of Fort Riley Public Works.

"We had people working around the clock," said Larry McGee, deputy director for Public Works.

According to Anderson, crews finished plowing Fort Riley's primary streets that Monday morning and moved into clearing secondary roadways that afternoon.

Crews began clearing side streets and residential streets in the morning Feb. 3, McGee said. "Priority is to the snow emergency routes, the ones that are necessary for emergency response and to keep the post minimally functional," Anderson said. Priority routes include Huebner Road and Trooper, 1st Infantry Division, Normandy and Appenines avenues.

The next priority for clearing are emergency routes into the housing areas, which include Jackson, Tuttle, Thomas, Holbrook and Godfrey streets.

Secondary roads and critical parking lots, such as ones at the commissary, post exchange and

See Snow crews Page 2



The post may have been closed to all but mission essential personnel, but primary roads coming in and leaving Fort Riley were clear Monday afternoon because Public Works road crews worked round-the-clock since Saturday scraping snow and spreading 1,800 tons of gravel and salt.

To check status at Fort Riley:

For post road conditions, traffic delays and status of post operations visit the Fort Riley Web site at www.riley.army.mil and go to "Advisories."

Call the Fort Riley Operations Center's automated advisory line at 239-2793, 239-2795, 239-2798 or toll-free at (866) 562-7319.

Status of post operations will also be announced on the following radio/television stations:

- KJCK Junction City (1420 AM 94.5 FM);
- KMAN Manhattan (1350AM, 101.7 FM, 104.7 FM);
- KBLS (102.5 FM);
- KHCA Manhattan (95.0 FM);
- Wildcat Manhattan (91.9 FM)
- KSAJ Abilene/Salina (98.5 FM)
- KSAL, Salina (1150 AM);
- WIBW Topeka (580 AM & 97.3 FM)

Television: WIBW (CBS Topeka); KSNT (NBC Topeka) and KTKA (ABC Topeka)

On Post, watch Fort Riley Channel 2 and the electronic signs.

For state road conditions:

Call 511 for: Road condition and weather information for Kansas highway system

Updated every 15 minutes
Callers can request specific routes of interest

Accessible from all Kansas phones except for Verizon cellular in Kansas City metropolitan area and for Cingular cellular

Callers unable to access 511 directly or outside Kansas can call 1-866-511-KDOT

Visit www.kanroad.org

Up-to-the-minute road condition information is reported by KDOT crews in the field around the state.

Attacks kill five Fort Riley Soldiers

By Post staff reports

Three Fort Riley Soldiers were killed Jan. 27 in an improvised explosive device attack in Khaliyah, east of Ar Ramadi.

The soldiers, assigned to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, were:

Cpt. Matthew J. August, 28, of Rhode Island. He commanded of Company B.

He joined the Army in May 1997 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since June 2002.

Sgt. 1st Class James T. Hoffman, 41, of Whitesburg, Ky., Company B's first sergeant.

He joined the Army in November 1984 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since November 2001.

Sgt. Travis A. Moothart, 23, of Brownsville, Ore. Moothart was assigned to the engineer battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company as a light wheeled



Capt. Matthew August



Sgt. 1st Class James Hoffman



Sgt. Travis Moothart



Pvt. Luis Moreno

See Killed Page 3

Post, Soldiers honor engineers who died in Iraq

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info Officer

Fort Riley remembered four Soldiers Feb. 5 in a filled-to-capacity Morris Hill Chapel.

Friends and family mourned the loss of Capt. Matthew Joseph August, 1st Sgt. (Sgt. 1st Class) James Thomas Hoffman, Staff Sgt. Gregory Landrus and Sgt. Travis Moothart, all from 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, during a memorial

service honoring them. During the memorial, a single theme kept rising to the surface; all four men loved their families, their jobs and their country.

"Capt. Matthew August was a great man with many admirable qualities," said Capt. Austin Morris, of 1st Eng. Bn. "He was a soldier, proud to serve his country. He was an engineer, eager to accomplish his missions. He was a leader and commander, instilling confidence and inspiration in his troops. He was a husband who

loved his wife dearly and thought the world of her, and he was a friend to anyone."

Capt. Ryan Smith, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, described Hoffman as a great noncommissioned officer and friend. "First Sgt. Hoffman was many things to me," Smith said. "He was my platoon sergeant, mentor, confidant, but most of all, a close friend."

"Sergeant Hoffman truly lived the NCO Creed. He was the quiet professional who put his Soldiers

and his unit above himself at all times," Smith said.

"He taught me what it meant to care for Soldiers," Smith said during his heartfelt tribute to his friend. "He showed me that by ensuring our men were always trained and prepared for almost any mission, that when a mission came up, we would execute it with ease. That is caring for the Soldier," Smith said, "training them to go into combat confident and ready."

Sgt. Warren Gould, 1st Eng. Bn., paid tribute to his friend and fellow soldier, Landrus, with the words "loving husband," "great man," "respect" and "family."

Staff Sgt. Sean Landrus was a loving husband to his wife, Chris, a loving father to his three children, Krista, Kenneth and the new addition to the Landrus' family, Kennedy," Gould said.

"Sean was a confident man who always took charge of a situation from day one and never left a job undone. If he said it would be done, then you could take him

at his word."

Spe. Michael Mazingo, 1st Eng. Bn., took a few minutes to speak of his friend and fellow soldier, Sgt. Travis Moothart.

"He wasn't the tallest or the biggest person, but he always stood up first," Mazingo said. "If he believed in something, he was sure to fight for it to the bitter end. He could always make you laugh, even if it was at his own expense. I never met anyone who could

See Soldiers honored Page 3



Snow crews continued from page 1

Soldier housing areas, are third in priority for clean-up crews.

Anderson said 18 employees were working roads by nightfall Feb. 1. On Feb. 2, 30 workers were clearing roads with plows and spreading 1,800 tons of a sand and salt mixture on Fort Riley's roadways. "Six hundred tons of the mixture was salt," Anderson said.

In the event of snowfall, post residents can help crews clear roadways quickly by using their driveways more.

"When snow or icy weather is predicted, I will implement the snow emergency parking plan," Anderson said. "Housing area residents will then be restricted to parking on only one side of the street."

Anderson said all vehicles should be parked on the even-numbered building side of streets on even calendar dates and on the odd-numbered building side of streets on odd calendar days.

"The only exception is where there is no parking on one side of the street. No parking signs are still in force and are not to be violated," Anderson said.

Anderson said residents of Schofield Circle should park on the house side on even-numbered days and the parade field side on odd-numbered days.

Streets with residents parking in violation of these procedures will not be cleared because it is unsafe for residents and snow clearing equipment, Anderson said.

"I ask the residents of Meade, McClellan and Burnside communities to open as much area in the parking courts as possible if there is a major snowfall during workdays. Residents should park as many cars in their driveways to reduce the number of vehicles on the street during the snow removal process," he said.

"I encourage (everyone) to keep driving to a minimum until the roads have been cleared. This will allow us to clear the roads quicker and eliminate the need to remove cars that have become stuck in the snow," Anderson said.

Anderson suggested that whenever housing residents must drive they be careful when meeting or following sand spreading trucks



Post/Skismore

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dianna Batchelor clears the sidewalk outside her brother's home. Batchelor was visiting Fort Riley and watching her nieces and nephews while her brother David was TDY.

or snow plows.

"When approaching oncoming sand or plow trucks, drive to the extreme right of your traffic lane, as conditions allow.

"If you are coming up behind sanding trucks, stay a minimum of 100 feet back, and do not attempt to pass. Sand, salt and small stones thrown by the spreaders can and have broken windshields and side windows," Anderson said.

Anderson said crews expected it to be a long week, as forecasters predicted more snow.

The National Weather Center predicted more snow beginning Feb. 4. However, the Fort Riley area only received 2 additional inches which was cleared away.

Commanders decide when it's too cold for PT outdoors during winter months

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

It's February in Kansas, and that means cold weather and some challenging PT sessions for local Soldiers.

It also means that commanders will need to make the call as to whether to hold PT indoors or out.

Over the past few weeks it has been unseasonably cold. Along with temperatures in the single digits and a wind chill taking the temperature well below 0, snow and ice have caused havoc on the roads and normal physical training areas.

As temperatures drop, chances for cold weather injuries increase.

To combat the increasing risk of cold weather injuries associated with falling temperatures, the command at Fort Riley has written a policy to assist the chain of command in making decisions on when to hold PT outdoors.

The policy is in Fort Riley Regulation 350-1, Chapter 9,

and explains to commanders when on the installation, what they can and cannot do when inclement weather strikes.

According to the regulation, the decision to conduct PT outside rests upon the battalion or separate company commanders.

It also states that good judgment is essential in ensuring adequate protective clothing worn and proper supervision is maintained.

Throughout the winter months, the Fort Riley Operations Center disseminates temperature readings with the equivalent wind chill every morning at 6 a.m.

Based on this information, the commanders can make their decisions about whether to conduct PT outside or find alternate locations to conduct the training.

The regulation also reminds commanders that soldiers who have had previous cold weather injuries can re-injure themselves in weather below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

It also states that all soldiers are at risk for cold weather

injuries in temperatures between 10 and 25 degrees Fahrenheit.

More information is available concerning this regulation and other applicable guidelines in Appendix C, FR Pam 385-1.

In this appendix, it states that during cold weather months, physical training will not be conducted outside if the temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

If training does occur, adequate protective clothing must be worn.

Protective clothing should include, but is not limited to, a hat, gloves, liners, cold weather PT pants and jacket and face mask.

Since the immediate weather forecast for the Fort Riley area suggests more cold days ahead, commanders should continue to stay in contact with the staff duty officer or contact the FROC at 239-2222 if there are doubts concerning where or when PT will be held.

This information can also be located on the Internet on the Fort Riley Web site at www.rileyarmy.mil.

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Soldiers honored continued from page 1



A memorial for Capt. Matthew August, 1st Sgt. Sean Landrus and Sgt. Travis Moothart, 1st Engineer Battalion, was held Feb. 4 in the Morris Hill Chapel. The chapel was filled to capacity as friends and family paid tribute to the fallen.

3rd Brigade continued from page 1

troop points, over 400 cordons and searches, over 200 raids and we have neutralized over 100 improvised explosive (devices) and two vehicle-borne IED suicide bombers in cars. It was our task force that did that. We have confiscated over 60,000 pieces of ordnance and we established the first mayoral advisory councils and district advisory councils, which started the self-governance of this country. We restored over 187 schools, and we have brought water, power and sewer to areas that never had it even pre-war."

Small gasps and cheers swept through the assembled spouses as Gold went on to announce the dates that the 3rd BCT would begin redeployment and the dates that the Soldiers could be expected home.

Gold said initial transfer of authority for units will begin Feb. 10. As the transfer is completed, units will move to Kuwait and will stay there for about two weeks cleaning and preparing to depart.

The first units to depart Kuwait should leave the end of February. During the next two months, more units will begin the redeployment process.

The final flight from Kuwait is scheduled to end the 3rd BCT's

stay in Iraq in mid-April.

"When the Soldiers get back home they will have 48 hours off," Gold said. "Then, they will go through about a five and a half day reintegration training, and once that is completed, they will take 30 days block leave."

For the remainder of the conference, individual element commanders expanded on dates for their units to return and took time to answer questions the family resource group leaders had submitted earlier.

After the conference, spouses gathered in the halls to coordinate with family resource group leaders and get the information out to the wives who were unable to attend. April Clark, group leader for 3rd BCT headquarters company, was ecstatic about the news and excited to get the word out to the spouses in her care.

For more information on specific units and return dates, spouses should contact their family resource group leaders or the 3rd BCT rear detachments at the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

stay mad at him or didn't love him," Mazingo said.

"These four men represent the best of their company," said Capt. Terrance Alvarez, 1st Eng. Bn.

When Alvarez spoke about his friend and mentor, August, he spoke with passion and pride as he explained how August had guided him on the path to becoming a better officer.

"When I met Matt, I fancied myself as a good lieutenant. He was not impressed by that," Alvarez said. "He wanted me to be a better soldier, a good captain, a fine officer. Frankly, there was no better example for me to follow. He was truly an outstanding officer."

Alvarez knew Hoffman as well and said he respected the first sergeant's judgment on many matters.

"He radiated wisdom and soon became the man I would go to with all my projects to read and get feedback," Alvarez said.

"Whether it was completely off the mark or something that just needed a little tinkering, he always critiqued everything the same way. He would read what I wrote, put it on his desk, lean back in his chair, cross his legs and begin with, 'Well, your problem is...'. And whether it was the most complicated concept or really something I should have known to begin with, he would articulate it to me in a way that I and any other soldier could grasp," Alvarez said. "He was teaching, and First Sergeant Hoffman was a wonderful teacher."

Alvarez also complimented

Fort Riley's fallen

Post units have lost 26 Soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, they are:

- Capt. Matthew J. August, 28, commander, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, Jan. 27, 2004
- Sgt. 1st Class James T. Hoffman, 41, first sergeant, Co. B, 1st Eng. Bn., Jan. 27, 2004
- Sgt. Travis A. Moothart, 23, light wheeled vehicle repairman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Eng. Bn., Jan. 27, 2004
- Sgt. Sean G. Landrus, 31, combat engineer, Co. B, 1st Eng. Bn., Jan. 29 of wounds received Jan. 27, 2004
- Sgt. Thomas J. Sweet II, 23, cannon crewman, Service Battery, 1st Bn., 5th Field Artillery, Nov. 27, 2003
- Sgt. Uday Singh, 21, cannon crewman, Co. C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Dec. 1, 2003
- Sgt. Ryan Young, 21, infantryman, Company A, 1st Bn., 16th Infantry, Dec. 2, 2003
- Sgt. Joseph L. Lister, Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Nov. 20, 2003
- 2nd Lt. Todd J. Bryant, 23, tank platoon leader, Co. C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Oct. 31, 2003
- Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Collins, 26, squad and section leader, Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., Nov. 8, 2003
- Staff Sgt. Mark D. Vasquez, 35, squad leader, Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., Nov. 8, 2003
- Sgt. Dennis A. Corral, 33, supply sergeant, Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., Jan. 1, 2004
- Sgt. William Black, 26, tank gunner, Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Dec. 12, 2003
- Staff Sgt. Eric Cutchall, 30, scout, Troop D, 4th Cavalry, Sept. 29, 2003

From the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, they are:

- Pvt. Luis Moreno, 19, cannon crewman, Battery A, 4th Bn., 1st Field Artillery, Jan. 29, 2004
- Capt. James Shall, 32, field artillery officer, Hqs. and Hqs. Btry., 4th Bn., 1st Field Arty., Nov. 17, 2003
- Sgt. Jacob L. Butler, 24, scout, Hqs. and Hqs. Co., 1st Bn., 41st Inf., April 1, 2003
- Sgt. Larry K. Brown, 22, infantryman, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., April 5, 2003
- 1st Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier, 25, platoon leader, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, July 19, 2003
- Pvt. Jonathan I. Fallaniko, 20, engineer bridge crewman, Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn., Oct. 27, 2003
- Pvt. Jason M. Ward, Co. A, 25, loader, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, Oct. 22, 2003
- Sgt. Irving Medina, 22, cannon crewman, Service Btry., 4th Bn., 1st Field Arty., Nov. 17, 2003
- Master Sgt. William L. Payne, 46, first sergeant, Hqs. and Hqs. Co., 3rd Bde., May 16, 2003
- Sgt. Simeon Hunt, 23, tank, Co. A, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, Oct. 1, 2003

From the 937th Engineer Group, they are:

- Pvt. David Evans Jr., 18, military policeman, 977th Military Police Co., May 25, 2003

usually held by a more senior NCO."

Alvarez said he met Landrus four years ago as a "very young, very green" second lieutenant in Company B.

"He was a man you could never be in a bad mood around," Alvarez said. "His outgoing nature always put me at ease and a smile on my face."

Alvarez called Moothart the youngest of the fallen Soldiers, but in the same breath called him one of the finest mechanics in the battalion.

"That is why he was chosen to be the company commander's driver," Alvarez said.

"Matt could always trust that his vehicle would be maintained, and as Matt traveled the battlefield, Travis was always there to diagnosis any problems other vehicles were having. Travis worked hard at his job and took pride in his performance."

1st Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, 1st Brigade Combat Team Provisional commander, said, "The faith and the challenges faced by these four men would be difficult to surpass. For not only did they have to individually contend and overcome the perils and hazards of armed conflict, but as leaders, they were entrusted to train, lead, coach, teach, mentor and protect the lives of this nation's most precious resource, that being the sons and daughters in uniform. Their bond was further strengthened by their belief in their mission, to eradicate terrorists and to free and protect a people."

Killed continued from page 1

vehicle repairman.

He joined the Army in April 2000 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2001.

Staff Sgt. Sean G. Landrus, 31, of Thompson, Ohio, died Jan. 29, at the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq, of wounds he received in the Jan. 27 attack.

Landrus was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, as a combat engineer. He joined the Army in January 1996 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 1999.

On the Web

You can find photos and stories about each Fort Riley soldier killed in Iraq on the Fort Riley Web page, www.riley.army.mil.

All four Soldiers deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Pvt. Luis Moreno, 19, of Bronx, N.Y., also died Jan. 29, at Lakenheath Medical Treatment Facility in the United Kingdom of

wounds he received Jan. 23, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Moreno was assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

He joined the Army in January 2003 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2003.

He was a cannon crewmember and deployed to Iraq in September 2003. Moreno was shot while on dismounted guard at a gas station. He died of his injuries.

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Post, community plan Black History Month observances

By Christopher Selmeck
19th PAD

Fort Riley will mark Black History Month this month with an observance Feb. 12 at 11:45 a.m. at Barlow Theater.

Black History Month is also being celebrated from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feb. 19 with a luncheon tribute to the Buffalo Soldier at a restaurant on North Washington Street in Junction City.

The Fort Riley observance will include live entertainment and a food sampling. There will also be an art display and exhibits from the museum in Nicodemus, renowned for its black cowboy history, and the U.S. Cavalry Museum.

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Wilson, deputy commanding general for the United States Reserve Command, will speak about Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kan., a landmark court case in segregation.



Sgt. Maj. Ulysses Mays (right) and retired Master Sgt. Albert Curley stand by the Buffalo soldier statue in Junction City.

"It's important that people other than African Americans can learn something about the history and struggles of Black Ameri-

Buffalo soldiers
Buffalo soldiers were the first black soldiers allowed in the military, starting from the congressional order creating two cavalry and four infantry divisions in 1866 until President Truman ended segregation in the military on July 26, 1948.

The 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st infantry regiments were consolidated on Nov. 1, 1869, to create the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions.

It was during the Indian Wars that the Cheyenne Indians called the Black cavalrymen "Buffalo Soldiers," because the fight and spirit of the soldiers reminded them of the fight and unyielding spirit of the buffalo.

cans," said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Boyd, installation equal opportunity representative.

Sgt. Maj. Ulysses Mays, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), G-6 sergeant major and founder of the Buffalo Soldiers Historical Society, is organizing the Feb. 19 luncheon and believes in the importance of black history for many of the same reasons.

"Black history is important

because many of the achievements and contributions that African Americans have made to America are missing from our history books," Mays said.

"Black History Month is a time set aside to showcase, highlight and reflect on the many outstanding contributions African Americans have made and are still making to this great nation," he said.

Guest speakers at the luncheon

will be retired Capt Edwin Schoenbeck, Master Sgt. (Ret.) Albert Curley and Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) James P. Meigs Jr., all former Buffalo Soldiers.

"Celebrating Black History month is important because there is nothing in the history books for it, and I think younger folks should realize what the negroes have accomplished throughout history until today," Curley said.

Both events are open to anyone who wishes to participate.

"Attendance has been growing," Mays said.

"We had 45 Soldiers and civilians last luncheon in December. We are looking for an even better turnout for this one," Mays said.

While the post's U.S. Cavalry Museum hosts many ongoing exhibits related to the Buffalo soldiers and the role of black soldiers in history, Mays believes that Sol-

diers and civilians should take advantage of the first-person resources scheduled to speak.

"These men are original Buffalo Soldiers, and they can tell their stories better than anybody else," Mays said.

"In fact, Mr. Meigs served under Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the first African American general in the U.S. Armed Forces, here at Fort Riley in the late 1930s.

"After these Buffalo Soldiers are gone, there's no replacing them, and that's why it is so important to do things like this, to learn all we can from history."

"The more we learn about our history, the more we learn about ourselves," Mays said.

Fort Riley chaplain remembers Dr. King

Roommate's concern leads to brief acquaintance with civil rights leader

Cassidy Hill
Staff Writer

When Chap. (Lt. Col.) Dan McClure was about 19 years old he had a roommate whose relative was a pastor of a church in Macon, Ga., a town not far from Atlanta.

His roommate was concerned about McClure's spiritual self and wanted him to be a Christian, so he introduced McClure to Martin Luther King Jr.

McClure said he had never seen any radical events at that time, and he did not know who King was. He said he met him around 1962. Nor did McClure know King was the person behind many civil rights movements.

"The one thing I remember about Dr. King when I first met him was how young he was, he wasn't even 40 years old," said McClure, officer in charge at Normandy Chapel.

"What struck me was that he was so educated and young. I expected an old man since his name was Doc, not a young man."

While sipping from a cup of coffee, McClure said he didn't know King personally and that they were just acquaintances.

"I never called him my friend, and he never called me his friend, but I would call him Dr. King, and he would shake my hand and say, 'hello Dan,'" McClure said.

McClure said he and King spoke a few times throughout a four-year span, often talking about various subjects.

As McClure thought for a moment about some of the issues he and King talked about, he chuckled.

McClure said he and King often spoke about McClure's soul because King was concerned whether McClure would spend the rest of his life in heaven.

McClure had no contact with King after 1966, about a year and half before his assassination April

4, 1968.

After hearing the news of his death, McClure said he just wanted to know why it had happened.

"He hadn't done anything wrong to deserve being assassinated. He never hurt anyone, so it wasn't revenge," McClure said. "I asked, 'what did he do to make people so mad at him to kill him?'"

It has been 35 years since King was assassinated.

As McClure touched his moustache and thought about what he remembered most about King, he said there was one statement that stood out from the rest: "Don't be colorblind. See people for their character and not their color."

McClure said that went along

with his desire for his children to be judged not on the color of their skin but on the character of their person.

McClure said King was serious about his cause, work and family but not as serious with himself.

He said the King he saw in the rallies and in the marches did not seem approachable, but the King he met was very approachable.

"One thing that I have respected over the years is that he is a consistent person," McClure said. "I wish I would have known him personally and that I would have met his children," he said.

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Goldberg & Cobb./2-3, 2-4 & 2-6

FAITH FURNITURE
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3X12 FAITH 3RD RUN JUN. 04



Commentary

This feels like I'm home again

By Mike Heronemus
Editor



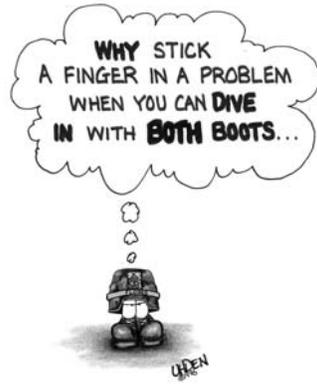
Mike Heronemus

This feels like home. Not like grandmother's home, over the prairie and through the fields to Dodge City. Not like mom's and dad's home, over the prairie and through the Rockies to Delta, Colo. This feels like home because I lived here for more than 24 years. Oh, not at Fort Riley, but in many places like it ... although maybe not as nice. This past week I returned to Army journalism—after 13 years with two civilian daily newspapers—and, in particular, to a job as the Fort Riley Post editor. And, I have to say, it feels like home. My wife, Bev, and I came to

Junction City just a few years ago, me in January 1999, she in November of that year. Army families know what I mean when I say that during all those years we spent traveling around the United States, to Japan and to Germany, home was wherever the Army sent us. We made it our home no matter how briefly, because longing to be somewhere else would have made us miserable; and, consumed with being miserable, we would have missed the great opportunities Army life offers families.

Yes, Army families face lots of hardships; but, the hardships are softened by great opportunities many families in other communities and other professions miss, such as travel, being part of something that affects the whole world and the personal growth that comes with varied experiences. We quickly learned to love Junction City. One reason was the great people living here already, many of them with military backgrounds like us. Another reason was Fort Riley. We had never been stationed at Fort Riley and had ignorantly considered ourselves fortunate. We know differently now. Fort Riley and the people who serve, live and work on post are opportunities we missed during our 24-plus years in the Army. It's one we are taking advantage of now and

hopefully will for many years in the future. I'm glad to be back with Army newspapers. I worked with Army newspapers at Fort Carson, Colo.; Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colo.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Wuerzburg and Kaiserslautern, Germany; Sattahip, Thailand; and Stars and Stripes in Japan and Europe. All those newspapers and the Fort Riley Post exist to tell their command's and installation's story. That's what makes this job so rewarding—all the great stories to learn about and to tell others. If you think you have a story others would like to know about, call me at 239-8851. Let's talk. I want to get to know you all and Fort Riley better.



Briefs

The Shoppe closes indefinitely
The Shoppe will be closed until further notice. It will reopen as soon as possible in a new location in the Fort Riley U.S. Cavalry Museum. The grand celebration will be on Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited to the grand celebration to share refreshments and see the variety of

antiques, handmade items, collectibles and new lines The Shoppe offers.
Club Beyond sponsors Valentine's Day dinner
Fort Riley's Club Beyond is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner at Morris Hill Chapel from 6-8 p.m., on Feb. 14. Watchcare will be provided. Tickets are available in

advance from any club member or at the door.
Please contact Jason Grogan at (785) 537-2606 or Andy Boston at (785) 717-3174 for more information or a reservation.
B.O.S.S. offers sweetheart treats
For those seeking more than simple lace and ribbons for their sweethearts this Valentine's Day,

Feb. 14, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is offering its services to help make this Valentine's Day a memorable one a spouse or loved one.
Costumed volunteers armed with balloons and candy will visit and serenade sing-a-gram recipients Feb. 11 and 12. Song selections vary and volunteers will choose their own costume. Soldiers wishing to purchase a

sing-a-gram for themselves or a friend may visit the ITR office across from the Main Post exchange or call 239-5614.
Sing-a-grams cost \$10 for just the song, \$15 for a balloon and candy and \$20 for a song, balloon and candy.
Army recruits warrant officers
The U.S. Army wants highly

motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for those who qualify. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.
For more information and all forms and documents required to apply, visit the Internet site at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN 536-0484.

HOUSE ADS
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Bill McKale, director of the U.S. Cavalry Museum, pulls out artifacts from the educational trunk. The trunk offers hands-on education about the Civil War.

Trunks loaded with history

Students glimpse items such as Lewis, Clark may have used

Cassidy Hill
Staff Writer

Instead of reading history textbooks, Fort Riley students can see and touch the past.

Two educational trunks kept by the museum on post offer a glimpse of what life was like for a Soldier in the 19th century.

The Lewis and Clark Traveling Trunk contains artifacts of what Capt. Meriwether Lewis and his associate William Clark may have used during their 1804 expedition. The Army Corps of Engineers prepared and sent several trunks to various museums to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and Fort Riley received one.

William McKale, director of the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley, said the museum received the trunk about a year ago and has since used it to educate several students and adults. The trunk

Want to see the trunks?

Call the U.S. Cavalry Museum on Fort Riley, 239-8230.

contains about three dozen artifacts, including examples of animal fur like that of a grizzly bear, a sextant used to measure latitude and longitude, lesson plans from teachers, examples of the uniforms members of the Lewis and Clark party would have worn, peace medals that were tokens of friendship and peace and a plant-pressing device the explorers would have used to collect unfamiliar specimens along their journey.

Fort Riley Middle School teacher Brian Stoddard used the Lewis and Clark Traveling Trunk in his eighth-grade social studies class. He said the students really

enjoyed the trunk, and he has plans to use it again next year.

"The best thing about the trunk is that it provides hands-on activities for the students," Stoddard said. "The students got to touch some of the artifacts that Lewis and Clark would have used."

Another trunk is used to educate people about what life was like for a Soldier fighting during the Civil War. McKale said that trunk is part of the Educational Outreach Program of Museums and Fort Riley University. The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley provided financial support to purchase the artifacts in the trunk.

Inside the blue Civil War trunk, students and adults will find a canvas watering bucket, haversack, pocket watch, sewing kits to repair uniforms, a thin black poncho Soldiers used to sleep on, letters, a backpack used to carry equipment, extra shoes, clothing

and rounds of ammunition.

Garfield Elementary School teacher Ruth Ann Johnson used the Civil War trunk during the school's Kansas Heritage Day observance this past week.

"The students were able to touch and see the items, which gave them a better idea of what the Civil War was all about," said Johnson, who teaches fourth. "It's one thing to tell them and another for them to see and feel something."

McKale said both trunks offer a real variety of information for students and adults to learn about American history and the exploration of the continent. He added that the trunks are available to local school groups and Army units on and off Fort Riley who want to learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition or the Civil War.

"I think the students really like the trunk," McKale said. "Instead of reading a textbook, they can see it, smell it and even touch it."

Team Lioness fills special need when dealing with Iraqi culture

By Jamie Bender
1st BCT PAO

AR RAMADI, Iraq — Coalition forces operating in Iraq must consider many differences between their cultures and those of the people in Iraq, and that's when they may need to call on Team Lioness.

It is not acceptable for a man to touch a woman who is not his wife. To solve this potential obstacle and still accomplish the mis-

sion, female Soldiers are present during operations to conduct personal searches on local women.

Team Lioness is a group of female Soldiers from 568th Combat Support Equipment, 1st Engineer Battalion, who support the combat arms units that do not have females assigned.

"When (1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, or 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry) go out on raids, they are not allowed to search female civilians," explained Staff Sergeant Chuck Kelly of the

568th CSE. "(Team Lioness) has gone on about 95 percent of the missions, whether it's a raid or a (traffic control point)."

The heavy equipment operators who make up Team Lioness volunteer for the duty to add variety to their work.

"It's a change from the ordinary, from pushing dirt or rubble," Pfc. Cynthia "Simba" Espinoza said. "I have volunteered for every single one."

"The best part is getting out of camp," agreed Spc. Margarete

"Smurf" Smerdon. "It's different than the same stuff every day."

The Soldiers also say they enjoy the feeling of doing something important to the mission.

"When you join the Army, they tell you that you won't be involved in (combat operations) because you are female," Spc. Brandi "Two Socks" Burns said. "Here we are doing this, and it's a chance to make a difference. I'm proud to be doing stuff that the males in my platoon don't get to do instead of it being the other

way around."

"It's a good feeling," Espinoza said. "You know you are going out to do something. When we go out on a raid to capture someone who is setting up (improvised explosive devices), if we can snag them and stop them from doing it, we have accomplished something."

Team Lioness prepares for missions the same way male soldiers prepare, with rehearsals and equipment checks.

"I make sure my weapon is

clean, my rounds are good and my (Monocular Night Vision Device) works and ... I have everything I need to go," Espinoza said. "I think about what might happen and what I would do depending on the situation. We always go out there with the idea we might be shot at and prepare for the worst."

"It's no different than any other mission," Burns said. "You check your weapon and your rounds; you recheck your weapon and your rounds. We leave prepared when we go."

JUST BECAUSE I CARE BASKETS
2 x 2'
Black Only
2x2, JUST BECAUSE I CARE

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2'
Black Only
Post./2-6, 13, 20 & 27

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2'
Black Only
Health Im./2-3, 2-4 & 2-6

SUNFLOWER BANK- JC
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3x10, sunflower, february

GEICO- ARMED FORCES COMM
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Fort Riley Community

February 6, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Page 7

Families cream 82nd Med leaders with pies

By Aaron J. Orr
82nd Medical Co.

Pfc. Matt Young, a fueler with 82nd Medical Company, threw a pie into the face of 1st Sgt. Michael Mears Jan. 29, and he didn't get into trouble. Several other Soldiers and offi-

cers, including Maj. James F. Schwartz, company commander, and Sgt. 1st Class David Dennis, platoon sergeant, also tasted whipped cream from pies tossed in their faces.

Amid all the mess, everyone seemed to have a good time. The 82nd Medical Company Family Readiness Group hosted

the pie-in-the-face auction recently during a hamburger and chili lunch in hangar 853 for Soldiers and family members.

The \$400 raised by the auction will be used to host other family. Stephanie Alexander, 14, tossed a pie into her father's face and said she did it, "because it

was fun!"

She is the daughter of UH-60 pilot Chief Warrant Officer John Alexander.

Alexander said he and his daughter have a long-standing history of playing practical jokes on one another.

He added that this event was not just about having a good laugh

at the expense of others. He said the money would also be used to send care packages to the unit while it serves in Iraq this coming year.

Lisa Alexander, family resource group treasurer, said most of the money and supplies for the event came from donations from local businesses.

She said some businesses gave money and others donated food and soda.

"Everybody who donated was very thankful for what we (the military) do," Lisa said.

"They were so warm and friendly, and they love us. It was very humbling to see how much they look up to us right now."

AAFES earns spirit award

By Judd Anstey
AAFES

DALLAS — The National Retail Federation awarded the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) the American Spirit Award Jan. 13 during the federation's annual convention in New York City. The federation's board of directors selected AAFES to receive the award based on its legendary support to U.S. military troops wherever they go.

Major General Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander, accepted the award, saying AAFES was honored that such a respected trade association would recognize the commitment, skill, hard work and courage it takes to fulfill AAFES' pledge: "We Go Where You Go."

AAFES' greatest achievement in its efforts to support the troops came when it set up operation in Iraq almost as quickly as the military. AAFES began providing merchandise to soldiers April 7, 2003, from the back of a Toyota Land Cruiser. The build-up began in earnest in November 2002. AAFES made its first sale at Tallil AFB in Iraq on April 7, 2003.

AAFES employees carried merchandise in backpacks to set up the first store April 9. AAFES was in Iraq before the mail, showers, latrines or dining facilities.

Frost said the American Spirit Award honors so many store associates who served in harsh, dangerous and demanding operations as well as those who provided behind-the-scenes support to the AAFES contingency of workforce and those who picked up the slack at home stations while key personnel deployed to serve the "best customers in the world."

"This is an award AAFES truly deserves, she said. "No one else does what we can do."

Today, AAFES has nine stores in Kuwait and 30 in Iraq, with about 450 associates deployed at any given time.

AAFES also supports 88 unit-run Imprest Funds that serve forward operating bases where it is too remote or dangerous to set up a store.

AAFES runs phone centers throughout the deployment area so deployed troops can call loved ones at home.

AAFES is:

A joint command of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Directed by a board of individuals responsible to the secretaries of the Army and Air Force through their chiefs of staff.

Provides authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generates non-appropriated funds to supplement funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

On the Web:

To find out more about AAFES' history and mission, visit www.aafes.com/pa/default

It's s-no holiday?



Hitting the slopes Monday afternoon were Lt. Col. Jim Gray, his wife, Karol, and daughter, Kathryn. The Grays took advantage of the post closure and took the opportunity to spend the day together.



Garrett Boller, (left) uses an inner tube designed for snow to slide down the hills on Main Post. Boller took advantage of the day's school closings and spent the afternoon speeding down the hills.

D.J. Batchelor and his sister Rebekah take advantage of the day off to build a snow fort on Main Post. According to reports from the National Weather Service, 8 inches of snow fell over the weekend.

Photos by Gary Skidmore

Hospital planning to move OB/GYN

18-month shift begins in March

By Gary Skidmore
CI Officer

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Labor and Delivery and Postpartum wards are moving in March.

According to Maj. Cassandra Blakley, OB/GYN, the current Labor and Delivery and postpartum suites, located on the third floor of the hospital, will be demolished. Blakley said, in its place, a new obstetrics unit with eight labor-delivery-recovery-postpartum rooms will be built.

"Women and their families will labor in these rooms and get to remain in the same room until they are discharged home," Blakley said. "This concept in birthing is called labor and delivery, recovery, postpartum."

Blakley cautioned that although the moves are planned to begin sometime in March, construction will take more than a year to complete.

"The construction will take approximately 18 months to complete," Blakley said. "During this time, the current L&D and postpartum ward will be moved to the 5th floor."

"A very nice perk for our patients is that the 5th floor will offer LDRPs," Blakley said. "There will be extra rooms to accommodate women and babies who need to stay longer than usual."

Blakley said the clinic, which is housed on the lower level of the hospital, will remain there for now and move to the newly renovated third floor when work is completed.

Blakley said the benefits of the renovation are many, but the obvi-

See Move Page 8

Military wives to receive first 'veterans' awards

Spouses picked as epitome of 'unsung heroes on the local homefront'

By Bonnie Powell
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — Four unsung heroes on the homefront receive the inaugural Military Spouse Awards Feb. 8 during the "American Veteran Awards: A Tribute to Freedom" televised on the History Channel. The awards presentation was taped Nov. 21 in Los Angeles.

The awards will air later on American Forces Network.

This year's awards presentations feature Cliff Robertson, Madeleine Stowe, Sam Elliott, James Woods, David James Elliott, Crystal Gayle and many others.

Watch it on TV

What: 9th annual "American Veteran Awards: A Tribute to Freedom"

When: Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.

Where: The History Channel, Channel 32 on Fort Riley Cablevision and Channel 69 on Cox Cablevision.

spouse Dianna Trussel of Panama City, Fla.

This year's awards presentations feature Cliff Robertson, Madeleine Stowe, Sam Elliott, James Woods, David James Elliott, Crystal Gayle and many others. Trussel's husband, Tracy, a

retired Navy petty officer first class, was shopping at the Tyndall Air Force Base commissary in Florida when he was handed a nomination form.

"When I saw what they were looking for on the nomination form, I knew that was Dianna," he said.

"DeCA recognizes the enormous sacrifices that servicemembers and their families make for the United States of America," said Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer, director of the Defense Commissary Agency, while presenting the awards.

"We also recognize the hardships our armed services family members endure during frequent and lengthy deployments overseas. They, too, deserve respect

and admiration," he said.

Procter & Gamble Military Markets sponsored the first American Veteran Awards' Military Spouse Awards. The nomination process stemmed from a worldwide commissary promotion in early November. More than 1,000 nominations were received in just 10 days.

"Entries came from all over the world by e-mail, fax and mail for this inaugural award," said Paula Parsons, marketing manager for P&G Military Markets.

A board selected honorees based on how nominees exemplified support to the community, volunteerism, selflessness and strength. Each entry required a 500-word essay to support it. The veteran spouse honoree

might as well have "veteran" as her middle name. Solaris, spouse of retired Air Force Capt. Dennis Solaris, is president of the ladies auxiliary of the Warner Robins VFW Post 6605, and goes above and beyond the call for veterans at the nearby VA hospital and the war veterans home.

Palmer, spouse of Army Reserve Capt. Noel Palmer, exemplifies the experience of Guard and Reserve spouses all over America in 2003 as their husbands or wives were activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Juggling work and family on the home front became a fine art, but Palmer still found time to help her husband's entire battalion endure

See Spouse awards Page 8





Move continued from page 7

ous ones include patient convenient, continuity of care and having a baby in a state-of-the-art facility.

"Patients will be able to receive their care in one centralized location," Blakley said. "Our current arrangement is nice because women get their prenatal care in the same building where they have their babies. With the new third-floor renovation, women will be able to receive all of this on the same floor."

Blakley said women will likely have more interaction with all of the nursing staff on the third floor throughout their pregnancy and by virtue of being on the floor for all of their services, will become more familiar and comfortable with the staff and other women having babies when their time for delivery approaches.

"Women always prefer to have their babies in a state of the art facility," Blakley said. "While the abilities of our team — doctors, nurses and medics — is in step with current nationwide practices and guidelines, it is time to give our facility a facelift."



Courtesy IACH

Irwin Army Community Hospital's OB/GYN department offer a variety of services. Beginning in March, the department will begin receiving a \$6.6 million facelift.

"The elevators to the 3rd floor will be blocked during the renovation and women will not get lost trying to find Labor and Delivery."

Blakley said signs announcing the move will be posted all over the OB/GYN clinic, emergency room and the rest of the hospital. The move will not affect the

outpatient side of the clinic located on the lower level of the hospital, according to Blakley. She said the staff at OB/GYN will ensure that prior to disconnecting the central monitoring system on the current 3rd floor Labor and Delivery, the central monitoring system on the 5th floor Labor and Delivery will be fully functional.

Blakley said women needing an appointment with OB/GYN can call (785) 239-7794 or 239-7069 and ask appointment clerks to schedule an interview with Connie Dixon, the OB nurse.

"Women do not need to have a pregnancy test repeated in the clinic or hospital to confirm their pregnancy in order for the clerks to book their OB appointments," Blakley said. After the interview and an OB education class with Dixon, patients will be scheduled to see one of the four board certified doctors, two board certified nurse midwives, or the clinic's nurse practitioner for their OB physical and follow-up care, Blakley said.

"We strive for continuity of care for our patients," Blakley said. "Women have the option of selecting the provider of choice and staying with that provider for the majority of their prenatal care."

Blakley said if anyone has concerns or additional questions, they should call Labor and Delivery at (785) 239-7164 or the OB/GYN clinic at 239-7419.

SUTLER'S STORE AT THE CAVALRY

2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Moving Ad

LITTLE APPLE BARBERSHOP CHORUS

2 x 3"
Black Only
2X3 SINGING VALENTINE AD

H&R BLOCK

2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 HR pt 1/18 strtn military

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,

1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 FEBRUARY TF

COTTONWOOD THEATERS

1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3, Cottonwood / Post

USA DISCOUNTERS

3 x 10.5"
RED/February 04

Spouse awards continued from page 7

120-degree heat in Iraq — by making 600 neck coolers.

Conlin gave up her commission in the Navy to support her spouse, Marine Col. Christopher C. Conlin, when he first took command of a battalion at Twentynine Palms, Calif. She quickly assumed the role of key volunteer advisor, and when a battalion wife died suddenly, leaving two children and a deployed husband behind, Conlin stepped in to take care of the family — paying for hotel rooms herself.

Trussel has made a career of helping military families. Whether it is volunteering for Navy and Marine Corps relief, opening her home to battered families, serving as a one-woman welcome wagon, collecting coupons to send overseas, or working for the Bay County Council of Aging, her longtime motto of "making a positive change wherever we go" has stood the test of time.

"I don't think I will ever stop

helping people," she said. "To borrow from a Shirley Chisholm quote, that's how we pay our rent for the privilege of living here on earth!"

Other prestigious awards given on the American Veteran Awards

DeCa

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 280 commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

Shoppers save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices — savings worth more than \$2,700 annually for a family of four.

broadcast include the Service Member Defense of Freedom awards honoring five military service members from each branch of service for their achievements during their deployment in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

American Veteran Awards

America's pre-eminent tribute, uniting arts and entertainment with the patriotic fabric of the nation — its past, present and future military members and their families

An annual project of Veterans Foundation Incorporated, a 23-year-old nationally recognized nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonmembership 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit <http://www.avashow.com>.

SUNFLOWER BANK- JC
3 x 10"
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3x10, switch to Sunflower





Fort Riley Sports

February 6, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Commentary

'Super' bowl not just ballgame

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

So there I was, watching this Superbowl, one that could possibly go down as one of the best in recent memory, if not of all time.

The score was 22-21 Carolina after a long touchdown pass from Jake Delhomme to Mushin Muhammad.

Then something happened that had me thinking.

My sister, who has been watching the game from afar, came running into the room because the commercials were back on. She made it known that she wasn't going to miss one commercial on this Sunday.

I, being a huge sports fan, watched the Superbowl for the game; but it hit me that even though there is this meaningful football game, it wasn't what actually attracted most of the audience.

I asked myself: "What is it that makes the Superbowl such a marvelous event? Is it the game, pitting the two best teams in football against each other for all the marbles? Maybe it is the billions of dollars spent on the advertisements? Or maybe it is the fact that even the non-sports fan can find an excuse to have a party?"

Whatever the answer might be, I finally realized that the Superbowl extravaganza is more than just a football game.

For example, there I was again glued to the television, watching the final minutes wind down in this wonderful football game. My sister, sitting right beside me, walks away from the television as the game comes back on after a commercial. I was dumbfounded! How could anyone walk away from this game when there is so much excitement on the field?

Then I realized she hadn't planned her Sunday to watch football, but rather to watch the commercials which are intended to draw even the non-sports fan viewer, such as my sister.

Since the Superbowl can only have two contestants, everyone must root for someone, right? However, another un-normal thing happens during the Superbowl. People who don't normally cheer for teams halfway across the United States will cheer one or the other.

Take my step-mom and sister for example. Since they live in Denver, they normally root for the hometown Broncos. When other teams play during the regular season, they normally wouldn't care. Well, they couldn't watch a game and not root for a team, so how did they pick their team?

They do something most people in households across America do when they need to find a team to root for, find something in common with them. Since the Panthers have a quarterback from Louisiana, and they hail from the Cajun State, their choice was made.

The Superbowl even has something for kids to enjoy. As a sports fan, I would hope that my nephews would watch this Superbowl because they like football and enjoy the actual game. But, like their mother, they had their eyes laser-beamed to the television as soon as the CBS crew kicked it to commercial break. They laughed as the sponsors of this year's Superbowl made fun of bodily gasses and donkeys

See Superbowl Page 10

Infantry scores 2 for 1



Curtis Braxdale goes up for a lay-up during the game with HHC, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Mansfield's 16 sparks Highlanders; Braxdale leads Task Force offense

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Demetrius Mansfield dropped 16 points, including two key three-pointers, to spark a second-half spurt which led the Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, Highlanders to a 61-30 victory against Task Force Dependable Jan. 28 at King Field House.

Mansfield also grabbed five rebounds and had four blocked shots. Nahre Summers added 10 points to ensure the Highlander victory.

Curtis Braxdale paced Dependable with 14 points and four rebounds.

"We won because of our defense," Mansfield said. "We basically just look for the man with the wide open shot, and everyone was able to contribute to the win."

The victory gives the Highlanders four straight wins and solidifies their hold on second place in the Company Level Basketball League behind Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and Touch of Grey.

The Highlanders jumped out early in the first half, leading by as many as 15 because of some spectacular plays by Summers and a couple of steals by point guard Ronald Williams.

Dependable fought back with Braxdale making 10 straight points, but at the half, his team was trailing 24-18.

"We were playing very aggressively and made smart plays," Braxdale said. "They were committing sloppy fouls, and we were getting to the line for some easy points."

But after some halftime adjustments, the Highlanders went on a 28-7 run to put the game out of reach. Mansfield sank two wide-

Standings

Company Level Basketball

Team	W	L
HHC 24 ID	7	0
GREY	6	0
HHC 1-41 INF	8	1
6025th GSU	7	1
HHC 2/34 AR	5	4
101st (REAR D)	4	4
3/382 LSB	4	4
10th ASOS	3	3
USA MEDDAC	2	6
82nd MED	2	5
B 1-41 INF	2	6
C 1-41 INF	2	6
4th FINANCE	2	7
D DET 15th PSB	0	7

open threes and a couple of uncontested lay ups.

Down by 26, Dependable took a time out to stop the bleeding with 5:44 in the second half, but couldn't get any closer.

"We need to work on controlling the defense," Braxdale said after the game. "We have to slow things down and play our game. Once we got down, we were throwing up some desperation shots. We have to play to our strengths which is using the body and scoring from inside."

Dependable fell to 4-4 in the league and hopes to rebound Feb. 10 against the 7-1 6025th Garrison Support Unit.

The Highlanders look ahead to a showdown of titans when they square up against the 7-0 HHC, 24th ID Ghost Riders Feb. 18.

Before they meet the Ghost Riders, Mansfield said his team needed to not on turning the ball over. "We're going to have to handle the ball better and play better help defense."

Troopers lose OT nail-biter

Red Raiders hand Fort Riley Middle School fourth loss

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

The Troopers of Fort Riley Middle School dropped to 0-4 for the season Jan. 27 after losing a 29-25 nail biter in overtime to the Wamego Middle School Red Raiders.

Despite 10 points and a determined defensive effort by Trooper center/forward Jackie Carmichael, who seemed to have a hand on every shot the Red Raiders took, Wamego's trio of three-point shooters assaulted the Troopers late in the game.

Both teams seemed tentative during the first half while they looked for weakness neither was able to exploit.

The Red Raiders failed to counter the Troopers' twin towers of Carmichael and fellow center/forward Donald Sankey.

With each block or bobble pass, the Troopers pushed the ball down the court, forcing the Red Raiders to try to keep up with Fort Riley Middle School's fast break game.

The Troopers were never able to take advantage of their speed though, repeatedly throwing the ball away.

Neither team could do much of anything early on and the score was 7-7 when the second quarter ended.

The Troopers worried Wamego

early in the third quarter when the Fort Riley team went on a 10-0 run and jumped to a 17-7 lead.

Wamego began pressing the Troopers, trying to force turnovers and slow down Fort Riley's running game.

It took a spark from Red Raider Grant Shaw, who hit a 25-foot jumper and then tacked on a deep three-pointer, to close the score to 17-12.

Timothy White then tossed in another deep three to put Wamego within striking distance of the Troopers at 17-15.

Momentum favored Wamego as they started the fourth quarter. The Troopers were knocked back on their heels when the Red Raiders answered a quick bucket with two more three-pointers, one of them coming from Grant's red-hot hands.

Within a matter of seconds, the Troopers were down 23-19.

Wamego and the Troopers traded buckets during the next two minutes, bringing the score to 25-21 in favor of Wamego.

The Troopers started to trap Wamego players on every pass, trying to force a turnover.

The pressure paid off with two buckets off turnovers. With 58 seconds left, the Troopers had crept to within 2 points.

The two teams battled back and forth in the waning seconds. The

See Troopers Page 10



Fort Riley Middle School Trooper Deandre Simmons elevates over the Wamego defense for two of his four points in the second half.

Heppner walks into track spotlight

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Spec. Al Heppner has been on quite a Race Walk roll this month.

Heppner, 29, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program from Columbia, Md., won a silver medal in the USA Track and Field 30-kilometer Race Walk Championships Jan. 11 at Chula Vista, Calif.

Heppner's personal-best time of 2 hours, 16 minutes, 52 seconds, was his first personal record at any distance since 2001.

Spec. John Nunn, another Army WCAP member, finished fourth in a personal-best 2:19:39.

One week later, Heppner won the Rose Bowl 10-Miler with a time of 1:13:42 at Pasadena, Calif.

Heppner continued his pace in winning the Caltech Track 5,000-meter Race Walk Jan. 24 with a 21:40:51 clocking at Pasadena, where he qualified for the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 27-29.





Mallards common in North America **Troopers** continued from page 9

By **Carla Hurlbert**
DES, Conservation Division

News About Nature On the Wildside:



Courtesy photo

Drake mallards such as this one are common in the Fort Riley area.

The mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) is the most common duck in North America. Usually they are seen flying in V-shaped formation or casually searching for food in a small pond or marsh.

The duck hunter has made the mallard the most important game species of waterfowl.

The mallard breeding range extends across the northern one-third of the United States and up to the Bering Sea. During migration, mallards can be surveyed from the Midwest to the Mississippi Alluvia Valley.

Mallard's winter throughout the United States, with the highest densities typically recorded during winter surveys along the Mississippi Flyway from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to the Gulf of Mexico.

The males are called drakes and females are called hens.

Mallards are easy to recognize because of their distinctive coloring. They are the ancestors of most domestic (tame) ducks. During the breeding season, they look very different, but in the fall the males change color to look more like the hens.

The drakes are the colorful ones with a distinctive green head and chestnut-brown chest separated by a white neck-ring, contrasted by gray sides, a brown back, and a black rump. The hens are a mottled brownish color with a white tail and a dark brown stripe running through the eye. The bill is orange spotted with brown and the legs and feet are orange.

The drake and hen have a purplish-blue speculum bordered by black and white. The sounds from the drake and hen are different, if you listen closely. The drake utters soft, reedy notes whereas

the hen is the loud quack one normally hears.

Mallards are omnivores, meaning they eat plants and animals, but their diet is 90 percent vegetarian. They eat various seeds, including corn, wheat, barley, bulrushes, wild rice, primrose, willow, oak, hackberry and pondweeds. They will sometimes eat mollusks, insects, small fish, tadpoles, freshwater snails, fish eggs and frogs. They are known as "dabbling ducks" because they don't dive all the way under the water, but just tip their bodies into water, bill first, tail in the air, to forage for food.

Mallard courtship starts in the fall and by midwinter pairs have formed. In late winter, the male attracts the female by ruffling his bright feathers to mate. In the spring, the mated pair will return to the female's nesting territories where she will build a down-lined nest on the ground in grassy hollows or marshes. It is important that the nests be placed in dense vegetation to avoid detection from predators. The downy young leave the nest soon after hatching. The hen leads them to the water,

where the ducklings find food for themselves. The mother watches for predators and guides her young to safe places to feed. The young depend on the mother for another month and a half (49 to 60 days).

Although mallard ducks have been known to live as long as 16 years, most of them only live for one or two years. They fall victim to a variety of predators.

Populations of mallards are drastically down from their numbers in the mid-1970s, mostly because of habitat loss, especially in the prairie pothole region in north-central United States and southern Canada, where wetlands produce the most waterfowl.

Superbowl continued from page 9

wanting to become Clydesdales, among others.

It just amazed me that a game intended to please the diehard football fan has become something even the late night MTV and soap opera watchers could enjoy. The Superbowl for all its gal-

lantry has become something most people mark their calendar for.

The Superbowl might crown professional football's champion, but the game has become more than just a game. It has become a national event.

Red Raider Coach Jerry Johnson attributed his team's turn around to a simple change of focus by one player.

"I told our point guard (Shaw) that he needed to take over," Johnson said.

"He wasn't willing to shoot, and he's our best scorer. I told him that the way that (the Troopers) are playing defense, the only shots we're going to get are from the outside, so we might as well start taking them. He hits a couple of threes and all of the sudden we are right back in the game."

"How do we start winning?" Garcia repeated the questions with a fair amount of visible frustration with a team he knows is better than they played against Wamego.

"That's the \$64,000 question. We go back to the drawing board. We have to go back to the basics. We need to learn how to catch, how to pass, how to dribble."

"They know what to do. I can ask them and they can tell me, but they can't seem to put that on the floor," Garcia said.



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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY





Ware students learn about Kansas

Many now know state animal, state bird as well as state nickname

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Many people around the Fort Riley area didn't grow up in sunny Kansas. Most people know that Kansas is the Sunflower State, but what is the state animal or the state insect?

Hundreds of students at Ware Elementary School were able to learn the answers to these questions and many more during a visit Jan. 28 by a representative of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks during a two-day celebration the school held to honor the state's birthday.

Students were able to see buffalo skins, a honeybee, an ornate box turtle and a barred tiger salamander during the visit. Diane DeDario, a 5th grade teacher at Ware and co-chairperson behind Kansas Day, said it was important that students learn about these Kansas symbols.

"I think the kids need to know about the history of the state they're living in," she said. "I realize most of us were not born here, so it's a good way for us to learn more about the state and what a great state it is."

KayCee Hurd, a 4th grader at Ware, especially liked the ornate box turtle. "Turtles are my



Post/Shepherd

Steven Wahle talks about the ornate box turtle during a presentation to fourth graders at Ware Elementary School Jan. 28.

favorite animals in the world, and I like how they look and how they feel," she said.

DeDario said each grade was assigned a certain Kansas symbol to create and display outside their classrooms. During the three weeks before Kansas Day, students made jayhawks, buffalos, honeybees, sunflowers and covered wagons and hung them for all to see.

"My favorite part is all the little

packages you get to do and the different activities you get to do," Hurd said. "One of our activities

was the jayhawk. We cut out his parts and hung him on the wall." Steven Wahle, a naturalist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at the Milford Nature center, was guest lecturer during the day. He said that teaching students about the wildlife of Kansas is something he does quite often.

Kansas facts:

Kansas became a state in 1861. Its capital is Topeka.

Charles Robinson was the first governor and James H. Lane, an active free-stater during the 1850s, was one of the U.S. senators.

In the Civil War, Kansas fought with the North and suffered the highest rate of fatal casualties of any state in the Union.

"We go out to schools and do wildlife conservation and environmental programs from preschool all the way to college," he said.

"I like coming to these schools like this and hitting the grade schools it really helps them out in the classroom with their science. Especially the students who aren't really from Kansas, it really helps them out," Wahle said.

"It's really neat to hear all the things that are here in Kansas," Hurd added. "This is my third year living here and I really like it."

Hurd, as well as most of the other students in Ware Elementary School, can now tell folks that the buffalo is the state animal and the honeybee is the state insect.

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Rascal Flats and special guest Brian McComas perform Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bi-Centennial Center in Salina. The World Famous Lipizzaner

Stallions are scheduled to appear Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for both shows are available through ITR across from the main post exchange. It is open

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