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Weather Forecast	Today	High:28 Low:13
	Saturday	High:40 Low:17
	Sunday	High:43 Low:22

Fort Riley Post



PTA Holds Sock Hop
Fort Riley Elementary School's students, teachers and parents danced the night away at a sock hop on Jan. 31.

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Friday

February 7, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 6



Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz (right) relinquishes command of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley at a departure ceremony yesterday at Marshall Army Air Field. Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, commanding general, First U.S. Army, took part in the ceremony. Col. (P) Frank Helmick became the acting commander of the 24th Inf. Div. (M) and Fort Riley.

Ceremony honors general's service, duty

By **Christie Vanover**
Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz relinquished command of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley yesterday at a departure ceremony.

On Jan. 30, the Senate confirmed Metz's appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General and assignment as Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood, Fort Hood, Texas, following the President's Dec. 16 nomination.

Metz has served at Fort Riley since November 2001, and he served as the Chief of Staff for U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., for the last three months. He resumed command at Fort Riley on Jan. 22, while also assuming the role of acting Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood.

The North Carolina native was commis-

sioned a Second Lieutenant and awarded a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy in 1971. He also holds a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College.

His commands range from platoon to division level, and he has held numerous staff positions, including Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Readiness Region VI, Fort Knox, Ky., and Chief of Staff for the 1st Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Riley.

Metz has also served in two joint assignments in Washington, D.C. as the Deputy Director for Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessment and as the Vice Director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment.

Metz's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal, the Expert Infantry Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Belgium Brevet "A" Commando.

Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, commanding general, First U.S. Army, took part in the passing of the post and division colors as the presiding official.

At this time, no replacement for Metz has been named. However, Col. (P) Frank Helmick has assumed the role as the acting commander in the interim.

Helmick has served at Fort Riley since August 2002 as the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver and filled in as the acting commander during Metz's CENTCOM assignment.

Guard, Reserve troops boost local economy

By **Michael Watson**
Staff Writer

Mobilization of training units to Fort Riley could mean an increase in consumer spending in surrounding communities.

Approximately 500 Army personnel relocated to Fort Riley in late January to support operations and train Army and National Guard reservists as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The additional troops are expected to be at Fort Riley for up to one year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS), said the approximately 300 reservists mobilized from his training unit could increase local spending. However, he said changes would be minimal.

"Orders say the training units will be here for up to one year and they will have some personal off-duty time," he said. "Eventually, they might start exploring food, retail and entertainment off post.

"Meals are available to them on post," he said, "but after a period of time, if you're used to a spouse's home cooking or mom's

home cooking, people are going to start discovering food in the community."

While the training support unit has time to explore the community, Elder said the reservists receiving the training would most likely not be leaving the installation. The number of soldiers to be trained will depend on President Bush's call-up orders.

"The fact is, there are a number of units coming to Fort Riley - most to train, certify and receive validation and to be sent to other destinations," Elder said. "The training is short term, and it is focused. There is no excess time, and there are no personal vehicles."

"The training is intense - soldiers do what they came to do and deploy to their next destination," he added.

Capt. Anne Brady, reservist in the 6025th Garrison Support Unit, currently active in the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office, will be stationed on the post for one year as part of approximately 200 soldiers in the 6025th Garrison Support Unit mobilized to Fort Riley to

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Thank servicemembers through new websites

By **Kim Levine**
Staff Writer

When troops are deployed all over the world, support from home can boost morale. However, with the threats of anthrax still looming, sending mail and packages to military men and women has changed.

While anyone, including school children, could once send mail to "any servicemember" to support U.S. troops, regulations today prohibit these types of programs.

In lieu of sending actual letters and packages, websites have been made available allowing anyone

to post messages to "any servicemember" to give greetings and show support to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"OperationDearAbby," one of these websites, hopes to bring joy to U.S. military personnel deployed away from and around the world.

To send messages, simply log on to <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil> or www.anyservicemember.org, click on send a message, choose a branch of the military, and type in your message. Your personal information is optional. Both websites arrange postings for sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen and coast guardsmen.

Joint Land Use Study to improve long-term compatibility in area

By **Summer Alford**
Staff Writer

Fort Riley and local communities are joining together to implement a Joint Land Use Study to preserve long-term land use compatibility within Fort Riley's proximity.

A JLUS is a proactive approach by Fort Riley, the Department of Defense and surrounding communities to ensure community growth and development in conjunction with future military training. It is a collaborative effort to establish a plan for implementing land use recommendations.

"The intent of the planning is to minimize future conflicts with Fort Riley activities and reduce unregulated development of the communities," said Dave Jones, Fort Riley's JLUS program manager with the Directorate of Environment and Safety.

A typical JLUS identifies actions that could and should be taken by the communities and the installation to solve existing problems and prevent future ones. The dual goals are to protect the installation mission and public health, safety and welfare.

This past summer, Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, nominated Fort Riley to the Department of Defense for the study. Public outreach efforts began in December 2002 to increase awareness of the study and its benefits to both Fort Riley and surrounding communities.

Fort Riley officers and local community leaders met Jan. 23 with the Office of Economic Adjustments Project Leader, John Leigh, to educate community leaders about the study and the need for their participation.

"The key to the success of JLUS is educating the community leaders about the study, and to seek their involvement," he said.

Fort Riley's Garrison Commander, Col. John A. Simpson, Jr. facilitated this meeting.

"The military, as a whole, is not going to gain any more land.

See Study Page 2

Fort Riley Fire Department fights two housing fires

Staff Reports

Last week Fort Riley had two fires in quarters on post. Both occurred for the same reason, according to Fire Chief John Boyd, Fort Riley Fire Department; children playing with matches, a cigarette lighter or other flame-producing devices.

In both incidents, a parent was in the house when the fire occurred; however, the children were playing in a different room, Boyd said. Neither of the families had renter's insurance.

"The family in the second quarters fire was lucky. The father smelled smoke and found the fire and decided to attempt to put it out," said Lt. Col. Wesley Anderson, director of Public Works. "It built so rapidly that by the time the father had returned to the room with the fire, the smoke was so thick that he could not get close to the fire. He then woke up his daughter, and evacuated the quarters."

"With all of the new, man-made materials that are found in furniture, clothes and appliances, as well as the building, a fire can rapidly expand and produce lots of thick toxic smoke," Boyd said. "This smoke can rapidly incapacitate an individual. That is why we tell everyone not to attempt to fight the fire, but to get out of the house and call 911."

Once a fire starts, you only have a short time to get out, Boyd

said. Therefore, you should use your time wisely and try not to panic.

"If possible, close the door of the room where the fire is and close all doors behind you as you leave. This will help delay the spread of fire and smoke," he said.

"If the smoke is thick, stay low to the floor and crawl out of the building. As soon as you are out, ensure everyone is accounted for and that someone has called 911," Boyd said. "When you call 911, clearly state the address of the fire, your name and let them know that everyone is out of the build-

ing. Do not try to pick up valuables or possessions. Make your way out as safely as you can and try not to panic. It will help if you have your escape route planned rather than waiting until there is a fire."

The effect of having a fire in a

See Fires Page 3



The Fort Riley Fire Department put out a blaze at a residence on post Saturday. The fire was caused by children playing with cigarettes and lighters.

Red Cross blood drive to benefit local area, boost military supplies

Red Cross Release

Many members of the military community are unable to give blood due to receiving the small-pox inoculation and because of restrictions related to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or vCJD (the human form of Mad Cow Disease). The vCJD restriction applies to those who have lived in the United Kingdom for more than three months and parts

of Europe more than six months. "Members of both the civilian and military community still eligible to donate blood are encouraged to donate blood at the upcoming drive Feb. 18 and 19 to support those who cannot give at this time," said Nancy Powell, American Red Cross donor resource development supervisor. "Blood donors are needed now more than ever as the blood banking community prepares to sup-

port the military's blood needs when and if it is called upon." The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be Feb. 18, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Feb. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at King Field House, building 202. Appointments can be made by calling 239-1887 or 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Walk-in blood donors are also welcome during the blood drive. "Blood is critical in all patient care," said Maj. Lori Hull, lab

officer, Department of Pathology, Irwin Army Community Hospital. "The military and civilian communities work together through the Red Cross to meet regional blood needs. Without civilian donors, the military would not be able to meet its needs." During the two-day blood drive, about 150 donors are needed. Employees of Fort Riley who give blood at the blood drive may

be excused from duty without charge to leave with advance notification (under Article 21, Other Leave, Section 1). Those that receive the small-pox inoculation, barring complications, can donate blood again after 60 days. For questions about vCJD restrictions, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Study continued from page 1

We're not going to increase the size of Fort Riley or Fort Hood, so we need to work with the surrounding communities to ensure that we have the ability to train for the future-work the relationships in agreement with surrounding communities, so we can look out strategically for the next 40 years," said Simpson. "Public outreach is a crucial part of the Joint Land Use Study," said Jones. "Communities are the driver of the study and Fort Riley is only a participant." The timing of the study is a result of Fort Riley's transformation to a warfighting center, which

occurred in March 2002. Since this designation, nearly 10,000 more Reserve and National Guard soldiers have trained through Fort Riley than in years past, therefore, increased artillery fire and off-post aircraft flights by the National Guard and Reserve units are anticipated. The study is expected to produce tangible benefits for both Fort Riley and the communities. Recently, Fort Bragg, N.C., successfully completed a JLUS, said Jones. A typical JLUS develops community zoning and development regulations to prevent incompati-

ble land uses near the post. In addition, the study may recommend building codes for sound reduction. The communities will be responsible for contributing 25 percent of the funding, and Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustments will finance the remaining 75 percent of the study. Contributions from the communities may also include personnel hours rather than monetary funds. Nine jurisdictions have been contacted about the study. They include the cities of Junction City, Milford, Manhattan, Wakefield,

Ogden and Riley, and Riley, Geary and Clay Counties, and the Manhattan Regional Airport. Junction City and Milford have taken the lead to facilitate the study. The communities are to determine whether they will participate by March 1. The next step the participating communities will take is to file a grant application to OEA. "Fort Riley has a great relationship with the local communities. We feel that this is a great program and part of the process here is wanting to educate the leaders of the community," said Simpson.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



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Government will store deployed soldiers' privately owned vehicles

By **Camille Malone**
Chief, Claims Division, SIA

A soldier is entitled to store one POV at government expense if he or she will be deployed for a period exceeding thirty days. When a soldier takes a vehicle to the storage lot, the soldier should expect a thorough inspection. He or she should walk around the vehicle with the inspector and open all the doors and the trunk. Soldiers will be provided with a Fort Riley Form 904, on which the condition of the vehicle will be documented.

When soldiers turn in their vehicle at the storage lot, it should be clean and in good working order. An inventory of the items in the vehicle should be noted. These items should be limited to things that are connected with vehicle operation, such as spare tires, jacks and perhaps a small quantity of tools. Soldiers should not leave items like TA-50, CDs,

money or clothes in the vehicle. Additionally, if the soldier has after market additions to their radio systems, such as amplifiers or speakers, these items should be removed from the vehicle before it is stored unless those items are bolted down.

The soldier must also maintain insurance on the vehicle. It is a good idea to maintain comprehensive as well as liability coverage. Lien holders usually require comprehensive insurance for the length of the loan. If insurance is terminated, the lien holder may acquire more expensive insurance for the soldier and add that cost to the loan.

In addition to insurance, state and post registrations should be current. Should the state registration expire while the vehicle will be in storage, the soldier should renew it before deploying. Post decals must also be displayed on the windshield of the vehicle.

When the soldier picks up the vehicle from the storage facility,

he should expect another thorough inspection. Again, the soldier should walk around with the inspector, open the doors and trunk, and make sure all items that were left in the vehicle are intact. If the vehicle is damaged or the soldier is missing an item, he should be sure it is noted on the inspection sheet.

If the vehicle has been damaged or items have been stolen from it, the soldier should first contact the Military Police.

The soldier may also file a claim. The soldier must understand, however, that these claims are not automatically paid based on the fact that the vehicle was stored in a storage lot provided by the government. Some damage, like the kind caused by normal weather conditions, may not be payable.

It is still a good idea to contact the claims office anyway.

For further information, the Claims Office is located in building 200, Patton Hall, 239-2633 or 239-3830.

Fires from page 1

home can be substantial. A fire can have a severe emotional and financial impact on the family, said Boyd. "Since the

families were at fault in these two cases, the Government will not reimburse them for any of their losses. Additionally, since they

did not have renter's insurance, they will have to replace their possessions out of their salaries or with donations from friends and co-workers."

"Additionally, if the investigation determines that the fire was the fault of the family, the family can be held liable for the cost of the repairs to the building, said Anderson. "This is true whether you live on or off post."

Everyone who occupies quarters or an apartment should have renters insurance.

"Besides replacing any possessions damaged by fire, renter's insurance will generally cover the cost of repairs to the rented apartment or house," Anderson said.

Tips concerning smoking materials

- * Never leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended. It may fall onto an armchair or carpet, which could soon catch fire.
- * Never smoke in a chair if you think you may fall asleep.
- * Always keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children.
- * Tell your children to bring any smoking materials they find to an adult.

Talk Around Town

"What do you plan to do for your sweetheart on Valentine's Day?"



"I will send her cards and two dozen roses. I will call her and tell her how much she means to me and how much I love her."

*Sgt. Robert Grimmert
129th Transportation Company*



"I will send her a card and will tell her I love her when I call her on the phone."

*Sgt. Ronnie Mesenbrink
129th Transportation Company*



"I sent her a card and will hopefully talk to her on the phone. If I'm lucky, I'll find someplace that I can get flowers for her."

*Sgt. Kris Emmons
129th Transportation Company*

Editor's note: These soldiers are reservists called to active duty recently.

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Briefs

Holiday Refuse Schedule

Due to the upcoming holiday on Feb. 17, refuse collection days will change as follows: On Feb. 17 there will be no collection. On Feb. 18, collection will be at Colyer Manor, Main Post housing and Marshall Army Air Field housing. On Feb. 19, pick-up will be at Ellis Heights, Montieth Heights, Peterson Heights and O'Donnell Heights. On Feb. 20, refuse will be at Barnside Heights and Warner Heights. Friday's pick-ups will be at South Peterson, South Warner, McClellan Heights and Meade Heights.

Taste of Leavenworth

Enjoy an evening filled with food, drinks, music and dancing at the Inaugural "Taste of Leavenworth," Feb. 28, 6 p.m. - midnight, at the Riverfront Community Center, 123 S. Esplanade, Leavenworth. The evening features a sampling of Leavenworth's finest foods and beverages, a silent auction, music and

dancing and door prizes. Tickets to the event are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information and ticket purchase, contact Melanie Meier at 784-4839.

Tax Center

The Fort Riley Tax Center is open. The center is located at the Army Community Service and Family and Soldier Support Center on Custer Hill, building 7264. The center's hours are: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 239-1040.

Armed Services YMCA

The Junction City/Fort Riley Armed Services YMCA is holding their annual fundraiser, "Ireland In Song," with Irish balladeer Tony Kelliber in concert. The event will be March 14, 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson, Junction City. Tickets are \$15 per person, and a traditional Irish dinner and beverages will be included.

Purchase tickets from the ASYMCA, 111 East 16th Street, Junction City or at Fort Riley National Bank Locations. For more information, call ASYMCA, 238-2972.

Boy Scouts

The Quivira District of the Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America will hold their annual Baden Powell Recognition dinner Feb. 9 at the Junction City American Legion Hall, 4th Street and Franklin. Social dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Russ Black at 238-5684.

Turkey Permits

The DES Conservation Division is currently accepting applications through March 24 for the 2003 Spring Turkey Lottery Drawing. Applications are available at the Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011 and the DES, Conservation Division, building 1020. Additionally, Fort

Riley will have a youth season, April 4-6.

For further information, contact the Conservation Division at 239-6211 or visit the website at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/Hunting>

Prayer Breakfast

Fort Riley will be having a National Prayer Breakfast at the King Field House Feb. 27 from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Tickets are available through command sergeants major. The suggested donation is \$6. For more information, call 239 - 2359.

Black History Month

Fort Riley is celebrating African-American and Black History Month in February. As part of the month-long celebration, the Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor a free program at Normandy Theater on Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The theme of

the program is "The Souls of Black Folk (100th Anniversary)." All are invited to attend. For more information about the event, contact the EO office at 239-2928 or 239-2277.

Thrift Shop

Happy Valentine's Day from the Thrift Shop! The Thrift Shop will stop taking winter clothes on Feb. 25 and will begin taking spring clothes on March 4. Bag Sales are every Wednesday and Thursday - get as much as you can in a bag for only \$1! If your organization is planning to solicit funding from the Fort Riley Thrift Shop for 2003 community projects, be aware that the deadline for submitting requests is Feb. 13.

For more information, visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

The Thrift Shop closes when you're looking for that one-of-a-kind gift for the sweetheart in your life! The Shoppe has many items that may be special-ordered or personalized to meet your needs. The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. Visa and MasterCard (minimum of \$25 purchase) are accepted. Gift certificates are also available.

The Shoppe

Don't forget The Shoppe when you're looking for that one-of-a-kind gift for the sweetheart in your life! The Shoppe has many items that may be special-ordered or personalized to meet your needs. The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. Visa and MasterCard (minimum of \$25 purchase) are accepted. Gift certificates are also available.

Advanced AFTB

Advanced AFTB class will be held Feb. 19, and will include Building Self-Esteem and Motivating Factors. Call 239-9435 for more information or to reserve a spot in any and all classes.

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Fort Riley Tax Center opens its doors

By Emily O'Connor
Staff Writer

With tax season upon us, Fort Riley's Tax Center is officially open for business and is ready to assist soldiers, retirees and their family members.

The Tax Center is located in the Army Community Service/Soldier and Family Support Center on Custer Hill, building 7264, rooms 29 and 30. Normal hours of operation for the center are: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Tax Center kicked off its first day of business with Col. John Simpson, Fort Riley garrison commander, cutting the red ribbon to open the center.

"This is a service that we offer here at Fort Riley, and what a place to have it - at the Soldier and Family Support Center," said Simpson. "Our goal this year is to save soldiers and family members up to \$400,000."

Capt. Alison Tulud, Fort Riley's tax attorney, expects the Tax Center to remain busy for quite some time. "Last week we did taxes for those soldiers that are preparing to depart the Fort Riley area," Tulud said. "It went extremely well and gave our staff the opportunity to work with the software without the pressure of appointments, which was worth its weight in gold."

"The operation of the Tax Center is going very well," said Lt. Troy Meadows, 331st Signal Company and officer in charge of the Tax Center. "We're expecting about 140 appointments a day, with about 30 walk-ins, especially because of deployments."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clarence Joubert and his family had first day appointments at the Tax Center. "I'm here to utilize a service and save some money," Joubert said. "This service, at no cost to me, means more money to me."

"I like my job here," said JoAnne Yarborough, Joubert's tax preparation assistant. "I am expecting that we're going to be very busy."

Spec. Humberto Reyes, 1st Engineer Battalion, Company A, found that he had saved \$110 by using Fort Riley's Tax Center, as opposed to an off-post tax preparation firm.

"I really didn't want to spend the money to have this done and made an appointment to come down here," Reyes said. "I just saved \$110!"

Tulud pointed out that the value of the services that the Tax Center provides is the real benefit to soldiers. "Last week, while servicing the soldiers preparing to depart the Fort Riley area, we saved soldiers \$16,396 in services fees," Tulud said. "During that time, we filed 137 tax returns, totaling \$209,675 in returns."

Tulud added that the tax preparation clerks are finding their jobs rewarding in that they are helping soldiers save large amounts of money in some cases. The pride that the workers feel is very rewarding, Tulud said.

"It's nice to be able to help soldiers out and to be an active part of the community," said Leigh Ann Smith, tax preparation clerk.

For further information or to schedule an appointment at the Tax Center, call 239-1040.



Photo © Connor

Spec. Travis Astromovich, 1st Engineer Battalion, looks on while Linda Jacobs, tax preparation clerk, examines his paperwork in order to file his taxes at the Fort Riley Tax Center.

Economy

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support post operations. She said the food is good at the dining facility, but soldiers will eventually want something different.

"The good thing about our unit being mobilized to Fort Riley from St. Louis is that most of us have our own vehicles," she said. "Knowing the people in my unit, they will get tired of the short-order meals and noodle dishes and start eating at other places."

Brady said people in her unit have already explored entertainment venues. She said a large group went to see a movie in Manhattan. While she did not go, she said she's sure the group will go out again.

"We have been told that we are

here for one year," she said, "so based on the mission requirements, there may be time to explore."

Larry McGee, deputy director of Public Works, said the mobilization housing situation at Fort Riley is tight. The mobilized soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 75th Division ranked sergeant first class and above will be housed off post, and ranks staff sergeant and below will be on post.

"The number expected to live off post could change. Soldiers' orders state they are to be here for a year, so we are expecting that 180 to 200 soldiers will be living off post," McGee said.

Collectively, the incoming soldiers could be beneficial to Junction

City and Manhattan, Elder said.

"The good news is that we have soldiers coming to Fort Riley, and we know that businesses look to the post as an income and another in their hometown.

flow," he said. But, he added, businesses should also keep in mind that most of these soldiers coming to Fort Riley will be running two households - one here and another in their hometown.

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Come In For A Quickie

Country mourns shuttle tragedy

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

The loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew of seven was a "tragic day" for the NASA family and America, said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe.

The orbiter broke apart above north-central Texas on Feb. 1 as it maneuvered for a planned landing at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., scheduled for about 15 minutes later.

Five of the seven astronauts aboard were U.S. military officers. Air Force Col. Rick D. Husband, Navy Cmdr. William C. McCool, Air Force Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, Navy Capt. David M. Brown and Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Laurel B. Clark were presumed lost in the accident. Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon also died. O'Keefe notified President Bush of the accident soon after it happened. The president assured O'Keefe of the full support of the government.

"The Department of Defense will do everything asked of us by the lead federal agency - the Federal Emergency Management Agency," said a DoD spokesman.

Bush spoke to the nation about the loss of the astronauts. "In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket, and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth," the president said. "These astronauts knew the dangers, and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more."

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Korea 50 years ago -- Operation Smack attacks T-bone Hill Complex

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

Operation Smack, a combined arms experiment falls short of capturing T-bone Hill Complex in Korea 50 years ago this week and sparks a congressional inquiry at home.

Jan. 23-29, 1953 — Acting Secretary of the Army Earl D. Johnson announces in Washington that Lt. Gen. Maxwell Taylor, Army deputy chief of staff for operations, will succeed Gen. James A. Van Fleet, who is retiring from active duty March 31, as commander of the Eighth Army in Korea.

Taylor was an airborne commander during World War II, participating in jumps during the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Then he commanded the 101st Airborne Division parachute assault in Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

He was on leave in the United States when Germans surrounded the 101st at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

Van Fleet, who will be 61 years old March 19, had been extended on active duty beyond the national elections to allow the Eisenhower Administration to decide on his future.

The news media speculated that the Truman Administration was reluctant to replace Van Fleet because it would look like retaliation due to a letter Van Fleet wrote to candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower, a classmate in the West Point Class of 1915. Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower made the letter public. In it Van Fleet complained about the lack of U.S. government support for expanding the South

Korean armed forces. Taylor meets with Eisenhower Jan. 24 before leaving for Tokyo. He arrives there on Jan. 29 and begins preparing to assume command of Eighth Army.

Jan. 23 — James Hagerty, White House press secretary, says that Eisenhower thinks Van Fleet is "probably the best qualified combat officer in the armed forces," and regrets that "passage of time and time alone" forces him to retire.

Two days later Van Fleet expresses regret at having to leave Korea without winning a decisive victory and "would like to be in command of such an offensive."

He thinks in a year South Koreans would be capable of replacing allies along the front, and the ROK government just needs financial and materiel support.

The Eighth Army is "in better shape now than it has been at any time since I took command."

Van Fleet says he plans to retire to his home in Florida.

Jan. 24 — Two platoons from the Ethiopian Battalion attached to the 7th Infantry Division seize

a hill south of Old Baldy in a 45-minute battle. They withstand a Chinese counterattack.

Jan. 25 — Both sides are reinforced. The Ethiopians bring up two more platoons to the frontlines. They fight back the Red attack until they're ordered to withdraw.

D-Day for Operation Smack takes place. It is an artillery-infantry experiment. But the 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th ID, has a mission to capture prisoners on Spud Hill, a high point of the T-bone hill complex.

Lt. Gen. Glenn O. Barcus, Fifth Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Wayne Smith, 7th ID commander, and Lt. Gen. Paul W. Kendall, I Corps commander, and their staffs are in position to watch the action. Several reporters are also drawn to the scene.

All receive a pamphlet prepared by the 7th ID with a color cover describing the experiment, giving a timetable of events and explaining a scenario.

During the morning, 40 F-84 Thunderjets hit the complex with bombs and napalm, with varying

degrees of accuracy. After the Air Force jets, eight Marine F4U Corsairs arrive to drop smoke to screen the tanks. They miss their target.

Then artillery, antiaircraft guns, tanks and automatic weapons from the main line of resistance pound Spud Hill.

A platoon from E. Company, 2nd Battalion, is 15 minutes late leaving the MLR in trucks to the foot of the hill. Half of the platoon takes a northern approach up the hill and the other half comes up the southern finger. When they rejoin near the crest of Spud, withering machine gun fire drives them into the hollow between the fingers.

Then the Chinese begin lobbing grenades into the hollow. The platoon begins taking casualties.

Then the 1st Platoon and later the 3rd Platoon are ordered in as reinforcements. Both end up in the same perilous situation.

The platoons are ordered to withdraw. They suffered 90 casualties.

The Air Force dropped 112 tons of bombs on Jan. 25. Tanks fired 2,000 90-mm. rounds and 75,000 smaller caliber rounds. Artillery fired 12,000 105-mm. and 155-mm. shells, and 100,000 rounds of smaller calibers. Heavy mortar crews dropped in 4,500

rounds. The infantry used 50,000 machine gun shells and 650 grenades.

The highest estimate of enemy casualties is 65.

Jan. 27 — Maj. Gen. George W. Smythe, 3rd ID commander, says the convicted men were combat-tested before the incidents and had served well before and after. He says the 65th IR has a record of distinction in nine major Korean campaigns and its soldiers have earned 1,007 individual decorations.

Jan. 28 — The Defense Depart-

ment reports that the total American casualties in Korea as of Jan. 23 were 129,153, which includes 22,769 dead.

Jan. 29 — Operation Smack becomes controversial at home. A reporter new to Korea writes that it was a show staged for the brass, with a color pamphlet and a "scenario" for them to follow. Representative Clare E. Hoffman, R-Mich., introduces a "resolution of inquiry" to the House.

Fort Riley continues to be a Korean War Commemorative Community through 2003.



Battalion Level Racquetball Tournament scheduled

The 2003 Fort Riley Battalion Level Racquetball Tournament will be held Feb. 21-23. Each battalion commander is authorized to enter a men's team consisting of a maximum of ten players. Each battalion is also authorized to enter a women's team of no more than six players. Entries are due to the sports office no later than Tuesday. For more information, call 239-3945.

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Fort Riley Sports



Shawn Cassar, 300th Military Police Company, denies Crispin Casiano, 977th Military Police Company, two points during an intramural basketball game.

Post MP companies duke it out -- again

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The 977th Military Police Company's basketball team increased their record to 7-1 with a 70-49 victory over the 300th Military Police Company Jan. 30 at King Field House.

This was the second time this year the 977th MP Co. has beaten the 300th MP Co. in a basketball game. The first time was during the Law Enforcement Command's Organizational Day.

"This is the second time beating them, and it feels... good to beat them again," said Ian King, 977th MP Co.

The 300th MPs started off in a bad way, trailing the 977th MPs 15-5 within the first five minutes of the game. At one point, the 300th found themselves down by 18, but rallied late in the first half to pull within six points of the 977th.

After the 300th MPs rally, the 977th MPs countered with a string of points that had went unanswered, and they finished the half on top by 17 points.

"They are good players, and we were lacking on hustling up and down the floor," said David Rodriguez, 300th MP Co. "They have a lot of height on their team and are quick for their size, and

you can tell those guys have played together for awhile."

The 977th MPs' quickness showed by the number of steals they received by errant passes from the 300th MPs. Their quick hands and alertness on the court caused them to have a lot of breakaways off of long passes.

"We were able to capitalize on our steals by turning them into points," said King.

Another dominating factor to the 977th MPs' win was the physical size difference between the teams, which added to their defense.

"It's strange to see an MP company team with all the players being that tall, our teams average height is about 5-foot-9," said Rodriguez. "They had a good defense, and we weren't able to penetrate their zone effectively."

There was more to this game than putting another check in the win column, both teams wanted the bragging rights that went along with the win.

"The other team is our rival MP Company. There is a kind of heated rivalry between us," said Rodriguez.

"This may be the second time they beat us this year, but when it comes to completing the Military Police Mission in the field, we're the ones to beat," he concluded.

Basketball Standings as of Jan. 31

Wins-Losses

Southern League

HHC, 24 ID	9-0
HHC, 2/70 AR	8-0
977 MP	7-1
HHC, 1-16 Inf.	7-1
HHC, 1st Bde	5-6
ECHO DET, 15th PSB	5-4
331 Signal	4-4
568 CSE	4-4
MEDDAC	3-4
USACG, 24 ID	3-6
82nd Medical Det.	2-8
300th MP	1-6
C, 4-3 ADA	1-7
1st Finance Battalion	0-8

Western League

HHC, 1-34 AR	8-0
D, TRP 4th Cav.	5-3
D, 1-5 FA	4-2
A, 1-34 AR	4-4
B, 1-5 FA	4-4
SVC, 1-5 FA	4-4
A, 2-34 AR	3-1
A, 1/161 FA	3-6
HHC, 1st EN	2-2
A, 1st EN	2-2
B, 1st EN	2-2
HHC, 1-5 FA	2-4
C, 2-34 AR	1-4
C, 1-34 AR	1-6

Eastern League

696 Signal	3-0
A, 70 EN	3-0
HHC, 1-13 AR	3-0
B, 4-1 FA	2-0
24th Transportation	2-1
SVC, 4-1 FA	1-1
HHC, 4-1 FA	1-1
1st Maint. Co.	1-2
A, 1-13 AR	1-2
C, 70 EN	1-3
C, 4-1 FA	0-2
172nd Chem.	0-3
C, 1-4 ADA	0-3

Sooners beat 'Cats

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The Kansas State Wildcats ended their nine-game winning streak at Bramlage Coliseum when they fell to the No. 6 ranked Oklahoma Sooners, 91-89, in overtime Saturday.

The Sooners' Ebi Ere scored 25 points and made three key free throws in the final seconds of the game, leading his team to the overtime victory.

Sooner guard, Hollis Price, the leading scorer in the Big 12 season, added 22 points of his own, while Quannas White scored 19 points and freshman Kevin Book out tacked on another 16 for the team.

The Wildcats' Matt Siebrandt scored his season high, 23 points, to lead the Kansas State Sooners, but fouled out of the game early in the extra period.

"It was a hard fought game, a physical defensive battle. And with the scoring in there, too, it made it a great college game," Siebrandt said.

The battle looked like it was over until Wildcats guard, Tim Ellis, sent the game into overtime with an off-balance, three-point field goal, to tie the game at 82 with one-tenth of a second left

until the end of regulation play. "A little bit of me fell like the game was over after we missed an easy two-pointer, but then the ball got in the right hands, at the right time, and Tim knocked it down... It's probably one of the best highlights we've had since I've been here," said Siebrandt.

After a string of fouls against the Wildcats, the Sooners found themselves up by a score of 91-87 from successful free throws made by Ere.

"A couple of calls by the referees were a little shaky, and most of those calls sent them to the free throw line, and that really hurt us," said Marques Hayden, Wildcat forward.

Wildcat guard, Frank Richard cut the lead by two when he drove the lane for a basket and was fouled by the Sooners' forward, Jozsef Szendrei.

The Wildcats fought hard to end a four-game slide versus Oklahoma and to extend their three-game home win streak against Big 12 competition, dating back to last season, but came up short in the heart-breaking loss to the Sooners.

"OU is a good team, but I don't think today, if you were watching both teams, you would know who was ranked sixth country and whose not," concluded Hayden.



Jarrett Hart, Wildcat guard, finds an open passing lane between Oklahoma Sooners, Quannas White (4), and Johnnie Gilbert, during a Big 12 Conference game Saturday at Bramlage Coliseum.

Athletes needed for All-Army Sports Programs

By Barry Sunstrom
Intramural Sports Director

The All-Army Sports Program is feeling the pains associated with soldier athletes having a hard time getting released to participate in the program due to the world situation. Currently, there is a real need for female basketball players.

The application deadline was Jan. 18, and only a handful of applications have been received.

Any active duty female with exceptional basketball skills that could be released from her unit should contact the Fort Riley Sports office immediately. The sports staff will assist soldiers with the application process.

Any athlete, male or female, having exceptional skills in any of the sports offered at the All-Army level should contact the sports office to see how he or she can get involved in the program.

For more information, call 239-3945.

Love-hate relationship ever-changing between urbanites, squirrels

By Alan Hynek
DES Biologist

Among urbanites, there seems to be a love-hate relationship with squirrels. Considered a pest by some and entertainment for others, squirrels tend to be equally at home in the city or in the country. A quick check of websites available on the Internet for squirrels verifies the common theme for the urban dwelling rodents. Either you love them or you hate them. There are just as many websites out there that are anti-squirrel as there are pro-squirrel.

The red or fox squirrel is by far the most common in Kansas and is found throughout the state. Gray squirrels are found only in the eastern third of Kansas, but are the most common in North America. Both squirrels spend most of their time on the ground

foraging for food. They cache nuts for later consumption in shallow holes in the ground. Urban squirrels tend to be much more bold than their wild counterparts. It is not uncommon to get within a few feet of these domestic squirrels, a feat that is nearly impossible in the wild.

Squirrels are members of the rodent family. There are eight species of "tree squirrels" in North America and two additional species, the southern and northern flying squirrels, which are also related. The eastern gray squirrel is usually gray or brownish-gray with a white or lighter gray belly. The red squirrel, also a tree squirrel, is smaller and has reddish brown fur with white underparts. Both are active during daylight hours and are primarily herbivores, feeding on roots, stems, bark, shoots, leaves, fruits, nuts,

seeds, fungi, flower bulbs and occasionally insects. Because they have rootless teeth that keep growing, they must gnaw continuously to wear them down. Otherwise they would be unable to

On the Wildside: News About Nature

close their mouths, and their teeth would continue to grow and eventually prevent them from feeding.

Squirrels have slender toes with sharp claws that make them excellent climbers. They keep busy collecting and hoarding seeds and other food. Red squirrels will store food where they live, whereas grays will store it elsewhere. They often store more than they need and sometimes forget where they stashed it. This contributes to reforestation by scattering seeds that will take root and grow in a new location.

Gray or red squirrels generally build their nests high up in trees, in hollow trunks or forks between thick branches, using moss, twigs and dry leaves. Sometimes squirrels will live in colonies with sev-

eral nests shared amongst them. Although they do not hibernate, they will spend long hours in their nests during winter. Red squirrels will stay in their nests for days, since they have food stored, whereas grays will go out of their nests every day.

Gray squirrels mate in January or February and again around July, reds mate in February or March and again in July or August. The gestation period is 38-44 days. One to seven hairless and blind pups are born in a litter. They do not venture out of the

nest until they are seven to eight weeks old, and they are not weaned until 10 to 12 weeks. Their average life span is five to eight years.

The ability of squirrels to adapt to a varied environment, combined with their intelligence and curiosity, has made them prolific urban dwellers. Squirrels have adapted a cunning approach to acquiring their food in the city. They are nearly impossible to keep out of a bird feeder and are just as at home running across a power line as they are a limb. Any entrance to an attic is fair game for acorn storage, causing damage to homes and utilities.

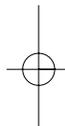
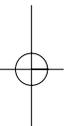
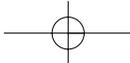
Squirrel season in Kansas is long, running from June 1 to Feb. 28 for both species. It is open statewide, with a liberal daily bag limit of five and possession limit of 20. Squirrel hunting is chal-

lenging and rewarding. On Fort Riley, the squirrel harvest has remained fairly steady for many years.

Black squirrels are not a separate species, but rather a melanistic phase of the fox squirrel. The nearby town of Marysville is known as the "Black Squirrel City." Legend has it that a circus that was in town in the early 1900's had several black squirrels escape from the show. Whether that is true or not is unknown, but genetics that produce black squirrels are certainly in the area. Throughout the Main Post area of Fort Riley, you can occasionally find black squirrels.

For more information on this or other wildlife subjects, call the Conservation Division at 239-6211 or visit the website at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/Fishing>

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Fort Riley Community



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6:30 a.m. In Step
8 a.m. In Step
Noon In Step
6 p.m. In Step
10 p.m. In Step

February 7, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Jessie Boldander and Brittney Ringler dance in poodle skirts during the Fort Riley Elementary School sock hop. The sock hop is one of the monthly activities the Parent Teacher Association sponsors for the students.

Sock hop fun for all

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Fort Riley Elementary School students, teachers and parents danced the night away at a sock hop on Jan. 31. The sock hop is one of the monthly activities the Parent Teacher Association sponsors for the students, said Michelle Ringler, PTA vice president. "It's for the kids to get together and dance and have fun," she said. Along with dancing to songs like "Shout" and "The Twist," students participated in a limbo competition and a Hula Hoop contest. There was also a best-dressed prize. Included in the party was a dinner of hot dogs and root beer floats, said Ringler.



Teachers get into the spirit and dance with students at the Fort Riley Elementary School sock hop.

African-American, Black History Month program planned by EO

By Emily O'Connor
Staff Writer

Fort Riley is celebrating African-American and Black History Month during February. As part of the month-long celebration, the Equal Opportunity Office is sponsoring a free program at Normandy Theater on Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The theme of this year's program is "The Souls of Black Folk (100th Anniversary)." The program will be presented by guest speaker Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan, deputy commanding general and chief of staff, Training and Doctrine Command. "The Souls of Black Folk," is a book written by W.E.B. Du Bois.

It is a personal document based on the idea that someone may know the soul of a race by knowing the soul of one of its members.

In Du Bois' "forethought" to his book, he said that he examines the rise of personal leadership, the struggles of the black peasantry and the relations between sons of master and man.

Local Buffalo Soldiers will appear as special guests at the celebration, according to Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Boyd, EO Advisor.

After the program, there will be an ethnic food sampling that includes catfish nuggets, collard greens, corn bread muffins and peach cobbler.

For more information about the event, please contact the EO office at 239-2928 or 239-2277.

West Point Founder's Day dinner planned for March

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The West Point Society of Fort Riley will be holding a Founder's Day Dinner in recognition of the 201st anniversary of the United States Military Academy at the Junction City Country Club March 8, 6 p.m.

Graduates and friends of West Point are invited to attend the commemoration of the founding of America's military academy in 1802, said Maj. John A. Nagl, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor.

Those in attendance will be treated to a choice of either Baron of Beef with twice-baked potatoes and baby dilled carrots or Chicken Florentine with new potatoes and green beans piquant, said Nagl. Meals will include salad, desert

and coffee, he added.

The evening will begin with Benny Havens Social Hour and will feature speeches by the oldest and youngest graduates present and special remarks from Col. Mike Phillips, chief of staff, United States Corps of Cadets and former chief of staff, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Nagl said.

The uniform of the evening is Dress Mess or Dress Blues, or civilian formal attire.

Seating is limited to 150 guests. Invitations are being mailed this week and reservations must be received by the society prior to Feb. 25. Those who would like to attend who do not receive an invitation, or who would like more information on the event, are invited to contact Nagl at 239-4828.

IACH provides more than everyday care

By Emilie L. Howe
MEDDAC PAO

Medical care has always been a component of soldier readiness, and Irwin Army Community Hospital's providers are busy focusing on reserve and active duty Soldier Readiness Processing while continuing to provide medical care to Fort Riley's military families.

Additionally, the hospital has the mission of assigning active duty medical personnel to tactical medical units to ensure they are prepared to deploy.

"The Professional Officer Filler System is a personnel system for active and USAR units, which fulfills their medical personnel requirements by assigning active duty medical professionals to train or deploy with the active and Army Reserve unit," said Capt. Timothy Bergeron, Chief of the Clinical Support Division, Irwin Army Community Hospital.

When active duty medical personnel leave IACH to join their tactical unit for training or deployment, their absence creates a void within IACH's staffing personnel system. This leads to fewer available appointments for beneficiaries and longer waiting times for other services within the facility, he said.

Elective procedures that can safely be deferred will be scheduled for later dates. The procedures delayed date will be determined by both the health care provider and the patient. Beneficiaries will also experience increased referrals to TRICARE Network providers, according to Bergeron.

The TRICARE Service Center's staff continues to make appointments for patients at IACH, but when there are no available appointments left which meet the specific medical needs of the patient, the TSC may refer the patient to a TRICARE Network

Provider. Emergency Medical Services at IACH are still open 24-hours a day and seven-days-a-week. This service is available for individuals who need emergency care due to life-threatening injuries or illnesses. TRICARE requires every beneficiary to go through the TRICARE Service Center prior to seeking medical care off post.

The fact is that most of the uniformed personnel at IACH, many of them physicians, are in the Professional Officer Filler System, according to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Peter G. Torok, chief, Department of Primary Care and Community Medicine. "Some are deploying and some have been at the National Training Center."

The hospital is also tasked with the medical aspects of Soldier Readiness Processing of National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers being mobilized through Fort Riley, Torok said.

"The hospital is taking steps to work even more efficiently and harder to optimize access," he said. At the same time, IACH is asking that patients be aware of the strain on the hospital's resources, and asks for their cooperation by making sure to keep their appointment or not to cancel it at the last minute, he said. "The hospital is taking advantage of medical support in the local civilian network and IACH will return to normal health care business as soon as possible," Torok said.

Before booking a patient appointment, beneficiaries are encouraged to call the TRICARE Line for Care, 1-888-887-4111, to ask about self-care for minor ailments. This is a medical advice line available to all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries 24-hours a day, 7-days-a-week. To book an appointment at IACH, call the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 and press option #2. The toll free number is 1-888-874-9378.

Valentine's Day approaching quickly

By Emily O'Connor
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching. Have you bought your sweetheart his or her gifts yet? If not, don't panic. There are several options available for you right here on post.

"One of the most sought after Valentine's Day gifts is one dozen red roses," said Kim McDaniel, owner of C and K Florists, the post flower shop. "This year we're bringing in about 7,000 roses."

The on post flower shop is offering different colors of roses, along with tulips, lilies, gerbera daisies and a variety of other fresh items. A large selection of balloons and stuffed animals are also available.

McDaniel said that, while men tend to send mostly flowers and teddy bears to their sweethearts, women tend to send men stuffed animals, candy and balloon bouquets.

"The women usually send balloons to their men, and the more, the better," McDaniel said. "They send them to work, too, so that everyone can see them."

With 24 to 48 hours notice, C and K Florists will also arrange gift baskets with items such as fruits, gourmet foods, candy and other gifts.

McDaniel advises everyone to shop early for the best selection and to avoid long lines. Orders are being taken now over the phone at 784-3355, or by walk-in.

The Fort Riley Post Exchange also has several gift options available for purchase. According to Novella Olson, sales and merchandise manager, candles are always a very popular Valentine's Day gift at the PX. "We have a large selection of candles, with the new spring scents available now," she said.

The PX also has a variety of candies

available, along with several novelty items, such as stuffed animals and Valentine's cards.

"We have a very nice selection of lingerie this year," Olson said. "That always seems to be a popular and much appreciated gift."

"You just can't go wrong with perfume," added Christine Esposito, sales area manager at the PX. "It's always a good gift, and

"We have lots of heart-shaped boxes of chocolates," said Wanda Dotson, store director. "We also have chocolate roses, European chocolates and tins of candy available."

The Commissary's Deli and Bakery section already has heart-shaped cookies for sale and will take orders for decorating Valentine's Day cakes and ice cream cakes.

"We would like to have 24 hours notice for a cake decoration order, but if we're not busy, I'll decorate it for you on the spot," said Kay White, deli and bakery manager.

Dotson also pointed out that Valentine's Day isn't just for adults. "We have lots of candy that would be absolutely wonderful for classroom or office parties," she said.

The Commissary will also have mums and miniature roses on hand for the holiday and can prepare gift baskets, if given notice.

For a unique gift-giving alternative, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program is offering their annual Sing-a-Gram.

"What we do is take orders for Sing-a-Grams, which can be a song by itself

for \$10, balloons and candy for \$15, or a song, balloons and candy for \$20," said Sp. Jason Dunlap, Fort Riley BOSS president. "Costumed singers will deliver the presents to recipients on Feb. 12 or 13, since Valentine's Day is on a four day weekend."

The candy will be delivered in handmade bags with a balloon arrangement consisting of one mylar and two pearlized latex balloons.

"Last year we had between 105 and 110 deliveries to make," Dunlap said. "We'll deliver to Manhattan, Junction City and Fort Riley."

To place your Sing-a-Gram order, please call BOSS at 239-5614 or stop by the Information, Ticketing and Reservations office, building 6918.



Second Lt. Michael Thomas and Pvt. Jeremy Brooks check out the Valentine candy selections at the Post Exchange.

"we're now carrying very popular lines" Olson said that the PX will be getting in a shipment of flowers on Feb. 12, which will be displayed at the front of the store, near the Valentine's Day candy display. And, there will be several sales throughout Valentine's week.

An opportunity to earn a \$25 gift certificate to the PX is available for someone who brings in the best original poem, written to their sweetheart, during Valentine's week, according to Olson. Simply bring your original poem to the ID desk at the front of the PX, complete with your name, address and daytime phone number, and you will be entered in the competition.

Fort Riley's Commissary has several options for Valentine's Day gift giving, too.



African-American contributions remembered

By William McKale
Museum Director

This month marks the observance of African-American contributions to our nation's history. The history of black soldiers at Fort Riley is connected with the military realities facing the United States after the Civil War. White blacks had served in every war to that date, the regular Army had never attempted to recruit blacks during peacetime. But, in 1866, the United States Congress authorized such a course of action. This is not surprising, when one considers that the Army was confronted by the monumental task of protecting far-flung frontiers and borders, while also being given the mission of reconstructing former states of the Confederacy.

Toward this end, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry Regiment's were constituted and organized in 1866. The

regiments were commanded by white officers and the ranks filled by many former slaves. Over the next three decades, and beyond, these regiments carved out records of achievement and came to be known as "Buffalo Soldiers."

The first black troops to be stationed at Fort Riley arrived in 1867, when the 10th Cavalry Regiment arrived after being organized at Fort Leavenworth. Under the command of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, soldiers received additional clothing, equipment and training before being ordered on to posts in the American southwest, where they took up stations at remote and lonely outposts.

In 1881, black troops would return to Fort Riley under the standard of the 9th Cavalry. They remained for four years and were dispatched on campaigns to Colorado during the summer and fall. This regiment returned to Fort

Riley in the first decade of the 20th century to support the Mounted Service School and again from 1923 through the 1930s as cadre support for the Cavalry School.

During World War I, Camp Funston was established as one of sixteen divisional sized training camps as the nation mobilized for troop deployment to Europe. The 92nd Division was organized at this camp and eventually trained over 2,000 black soldiers.

On the eve of the United States' entrance into World War II, the 9th and 10th Cavalry would become part of the 2nd Cavalry Division before being shipped to the North African theater of operations, where they provided vital logistical support. During World War II, the Cavalry Replacement Training Center at Camp Forsyth trained soldiers for service in Europe and the Pacific. Black soldiers trained at this camp, and two

of the more noted GI's to pass through Camp Forsyth were heavy-weight boxing champion, Joe Louis, and Jackie Robinson - who would go on to break baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948.

In that same year, President Harry Truman ordered the desegregation of the armed forces. A new era in racial equality was dawning across the United States.

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Normandy Theater

Tonight:

7 p.m.
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13)

Saturday:

2 p.m.
The Wild Thornberrys (PG)

7 p.m.
Two Weeks Notice (PG-13)

Sunday:

7 p.m.
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13)

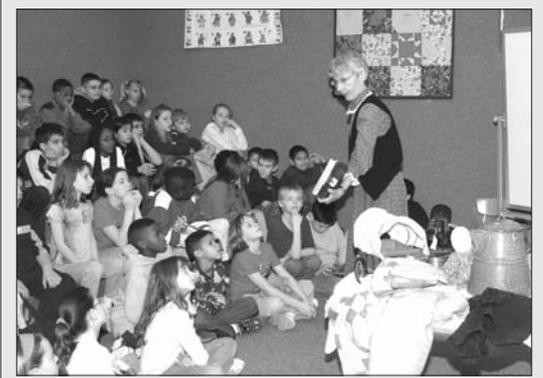
Thursday:

7 p.m.
Two Weeks Notice (PG-13)

Feb. 14:

7 p.m.
Antwone Fisher (PG-13)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50



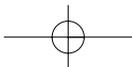
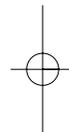
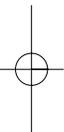
Photo/Reader

Nancy Sampson shows students at Jefferson Elementary School a photo album from early pioneers during a presentation by the Geary County Historical Society. The presentation was part of Kansas Day, which celebrated the 142nd birthday of the state. The trunk show from GCHS showed students what it was like for the pioneers who traveled in covered wagons to settle in Kansas.

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ITR

The Information Ticketing & Registration Office is located in building 6918, across from the PX. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. ITR is closed on weekends and holidays. For further information, call 239-5614 or 239-4415.

Also, check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel website at www.offdutytravel.com for more great deals on travel. ITR services and discount attractions tickets are available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, reservists, Department of Army civilians and family members.

Branson, Mo.

As one of the top vacation destinations in the country, and approximately a six hour drive from Fort Riley, Branson offers a wealth of diverse entertainment. Whether your idea of entertainment is being dazzled, spending a day with your family at one of the attractions or finding a great deal at one of the area retailers, Branson is second to none in its scope of exciting activities. Let ITR put together a spring break package.

Destination California

Want to turn your visit to Southern California into the most fun-filled vacation ever? At Universal Studios Hollywood, enjoy all the thrills, magic, stunts and special effects when you take part in your favorite blockbuster movies. It's all the glitz, glamour, action and entertainment of Hollywood, only at the World's largest movie studio and theme park. You can also experience Disney at it's most magical at Disneyland Resort. Meet memorable Disney characters, discover exclusive attractions and enjoy spectacular entertainment. Eight lands of fantasy and magic bring smiles to kids of all ages!

Florida Bound

Prepare to be awed...inspired...thrilled and enchanted at Walt Disney World! This is, without a doubt, the most magical and incredible time in your life, visiting the world's vacation kingdom. In addition, Universal Orlando is two amazing parks-one a working movie studio where the movies come alive and an unforgettable journey through unique

islands. Each park is filled with once in a lifetime adventures-plus non-stop nightlife that are all within easy walking distance of each other. It's an unbelievable universe of family fun and excitement in one incredible location.

Colorado Ski Packages

They've started out the New Year on the right foot with new snow at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Winter Park! Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays is over, it's time to plan a relaxing getaway to the mountains. Whether it's a day at the spa or a day on the slopes, you can be sure to find something at a Colorado resort to help your body unwind. Military discounts available for Colorado lift tickets. Let ITR put together a ski package for you.

Local spring break?

Kansas Cosmospere & Space Center is located in Hutchinson, and is quickly becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world. It is not what you'd expect to find on the open prairies of Kansas, and that's the point exactly. From the jaw-dropping Hall of Space Museum and incredible IMAX Dome Theatre to the million-dollar multimedia Planetarium, the Cosmospere is an all-day, all ages adventure. Hold on tight. You're re go for lift-off!

Science City at the Union Station in Kansas City is another option. Imagine a city like no other in the world. A thriving metropolis that combines adventure, entertainment, discovery and excitement. With four different parts of town containing over 50 interactive environments, you'll find there's something for everyone. Discounts tickets are available through ITR.

Learn to Ski Tour

If you ever wanted to try the sport of skiing or wanted a friend to learn...now is the time! On Feb. 10, ski in historical Weston, Mo., located 15 minutes from KCI airport. Snow Creek has 100 percent snowmaking capabilities. The cost is \$10 and includes a special rope tow ticket (valid for beginners area only), compete set of rental equipment, beginner lesson and transportation. Skiers wishing to use the chairlift can purchase a discount lift ticket through ITR. Snowboarding is also available. There is limited space, so make reservations early. The Tour is free to BOSS (Single Soldiers).

Sleep to the Slopes

Sleep to the Slopes is the theme of ITR's most popular trip package. Two, three and four-day trips are offered most weekends throughout the ski season. Trip includes transportation on a deluxe sleeper motor coach, hotel or condo lodging and lift tickets for each ski day. On the 40-passenger sleeper motor coach, two people face another two people, with a table in-between creating a booth. There are 10 booths on the coach. The seats on this coach convert into bunk beds, allowing passengers to lie down horizontally and catch some sleep while driving across Kansas at night. Riders wake up rested and ready to ski or snowboard the next morning. Call ITR for package prices.

Commercial Leisure Travel

ITR now assists you with leisure commercial travel. Make your plans early for better pricing and ticket availability. A computer KIOSK is available at ITR for customer use in booking airline

tickets through the Internet. Call ITR for assistance in booking your commercial travel.

KCI Roadrunner

Kansas City International Airport shuttle provides door-to-door service. Military discounts are available. Make your reservations at ITR and a commission will be paid back to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund.

Discount Movie Tickets

Passes may be used at Carmike Cinemas in Manhattan. The cost is \$5.50. This is a great savings for evening shows, a savings of up to \$2 per ticket.

Union Station

Union Station in Kansas City salutes the uniformed men and women who protect our country everyday, Feb 17-22. There will be special entertainment and discounted rates all week! Present your ID to take advantage of discounted rates at Science City, exhibits and extreme screen theatre shows. Visitors have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the original Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment in the American Originals exhibit, Feb. 14-17. The American Originals exhibit from the National Archives presents a selection of the countries most significant and compelling documents in United States history.

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