



Surprise! "Elvis" sings valentines greetings to a mother, a wife, others. See Page 9

Fort Riley Post



HHC win muddles league lead The Ghostriders beat Touch of Grey See Page 11

FRIDAY

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America's Warfighting Center

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Army wants all Soldiers to wear flag patch

By Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — All Soldiers can now wear the U.S. flag insignia on the right shoulder of

their utility uniform as a continued reminder that the Army is engaged in a war at home and abroad.

"The flag has been around for years to identify deploying troops. Now, based on the Army's joint

expeditionary mindset, the flag represents our commitment to fight the war on terror for the foreseeable future," said Sgt. Maj. Walter Morales, uniform policy chief for G1.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter

Schoemaker approved the uniform item Feb. 11, and all Soldiers have until Oct. 1, 2005, to sew the insignia on their uniforms.

A Feb. 14 message on the uniform policy announced "the cur-

rent policy of deployed Soldiers wearing the U.S. flag on utility uniforms is expanded to include all Soldiers throughout the force regardless of deployment status."

Because of insufficient numbers of the flag patches in the

inventory, Soldiers were given a substantial amount of time to obtain the flags and put them on their uniforms, Morales said. Deploying troops have priority for

See Flag patch, Page 3

1st Bde. builds patrol skills

Soldiers find success when hunting IEDs

Report from Iraq

From disabling Improvised Explosive Devices to rebuilding local Iraqi schools, the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, remain fully engaged in the campaign to create a democratic society in Iraq.

The capture of Saddam Hussein and several other former Baathist supporters resulted in the people of Al Anbar province being more acceptable and eager to discuss infrastructural needs in their community, said Lt. Col. Thomas Hollis, commander of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry.

Lt. Col. Richard Cabrey, commander of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, echoes that sentiment. "With the capture of Saddam, members of the local populace feel safer in talking with coalition forces and providing us with information on anti-coalition activities."

Despite these improvements, the Soldiers face multiple threats conducting daily patrols and searches, not the least of which are IEDs, which continue to be the most frequent threat, Cabrey said.

"IEDs remain the most serious and lethal threat my Soldiers face daily. (Even so) Our military operations have effectively wrestled the initiative from those who employ these weapons and our exploitation of their ammunition caches has put a severe dent in their access to the materials to

See 1st Brigade, Page 3

Mission change



3rd BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins and Brigade Commander Col. Russ Gold prepare to ease the colors of the 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Division, during the transfer of authority ceremony at the brigade headquarters in Baghdad.

Post/Wollaston

Bulldogs hand authority to Blackjacks

By John S. Wollaston
3rd BCT

BAGHDAD, IRAQ -- The Bulldog Brigade of the 1st Armored Division transferred authority of western Baghdad to the Blackjacks of 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, this month, officially closing a chapter on the 3rd Brigade's participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom and starting a new one as the brigade prepares to move some of its units north to Taji.

In front of Soldiers representing 10 battalions; several general officers, local religious leaders and tribal sheiks; and his fellow brigade commanders, Col. Russ Gold and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins cased the colors of the Bulldog Brigade and transferred authority for western Baghdad to Col. Michael Formica, Command Sgt. Maj.

Neil Ciotola and the 2nd Bde. "You and your brave soldiers conducted thousands of intelligence-based, precise offensive operations against the enemies of freedom in Baghdad," Brig. Gen. (P) Martin Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general, told Gold and his Soldiers. "The people of Kadama, Musair, Ghazalya and Abu-Gharib call you friends, brothers and sisters. You have given the people of western Baghdad the opportunity to be free and to determine their own future."

"Those of us that have walked this ground have our own unique memories and experiences that will affect us in different ways now and for the rest of our lives," Gold said. "Our Soldiers came here not by choice but rather by their sense of honor and duty. They came here to make a difference, not for self-serving reasons, but to selflessly liberate a nation from a tyrant who had con-

tributed nothing to Iraq but hatred, discontent and violence among his people." Commenting on the quality and character of the Soldiers within his brigade, Gold said, "History will show, that this generation X and Y will be equal to if not the best generation our nation has produced."

Calling it an "historic mantle of responsibility," Formica outlined his plan to continue where the Bulldogs left off with the people of Baghdad. "The Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., will continue to help you help yourselves to realize your dream of a sovereign and democratic Iraq." The handoff to 2nd Bde. was the conclusion of a week of transfers of authority between the battalions of the two brigades, beginning when 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, the longest serving of the

See New mission, Page 2

AAFES profits aid post projects

MWR uses money to buy tour bus, fix softball fields

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Advertisements claim shoppers can save up to 30 percent buying in Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores. Last year's shoppers at Fort Riley AAFES locations also bought a new softball complex, a laser engraver and a tour bus for the post.

A portion of every dollar AAFES makes goes to pay for some morale, welfare and recreation needs on post, such as improving on-post recreational facilities and equipment. Some of last year's store profits -- \$72,000 -- went to improve the softball complex. New fences, improved bleachers and an improved playing surface were all accomplished using MWR funds.

The Arts and Craft Center bought a \$28,000 laser engraver it uses for engraving wood, glass and plastic to make items such as plaques.

MWR gave the Information, Ticketing and Registration office \$48,000 to buy a 20-passenger tour bus. The bus is used for official command and unit functions, Family Readiness Group tours, church groups, retirees and other Fort Riley private organizations. The purchase cut costs by 75 percent of what a commercial bus rental would cost the post, said Teresa Mayes, ITR manager.

See Profits, Page 3

'Devil Siphon' fights fuel shortages

Operation targets black market dealers selling petroleum

By J.H. French
82nd Airborne Division

AR RAMADI, Iraq -- In oil-rich Iraq, Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team's Operation Devil Siphon are fighting to curb black marketeering that creates a short supply of fuel.

Black marketeers cause fuel shortages by buying up all available fuel and selling it at elevated prices.

Operation Devil Siphon fights to end the black market supply of fuel and reestablish Iraq's fuel infrastructure.

Operation Devil Siphon began Dec. 23, said to Capt. Gary M.

Belcher, 1st BCT's battle captain. In the month since, Siphon Soldiers confiscated nearly 50,000 liters of benzine and almost 300 cylinders of propane and turned over to the Iraqi police 50 people associated with illegal fuel dealings.

"This is the kind of operation that has to be done theater-wide, from one side to the other," said 1st Lt. Kevin E. Morgan, Paladin platoon leader, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. "It is like squeezing a water balloon. When you squeeze one side, it pops out the other. There is corruption from top to bottom."

Operation Devil Siphon works

to eliminate three types of black market.

The first type involves large fuel tankers. They set up like a gas station with hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel being sold, Morgan said.

For example, fuel tanker drivers will go to a gas station and strike a deal with the owner. The driver will then deliver half of what he is supposed to be free and turn around and sell the rest on the black market at a substantial profit.

"Most of those were shut down early on during the operation," Morgan said.

The second type of black mar-

ket fuel is being sold from the side of the road from 20- to 100-gallon containers, he said.

Someone will come along with a 1- or 3-liter can and fill up right there, he continued. Those operations are still fairly common but are steadily declining.

The last type of operation is the propane black market. Canisters of propane are being sold from the back of bongo trucks for three or four times the amount they would sell for legally, Morgan said.

"For the convenience of having it basically delivered to your door, it is a pretty fair price," Morgan explained. "It is illegal

See Siphon, Page 2



82nd Airborne Division/J.H. French
Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stop a truck loaded with propane as a part of Operation Devil Siphon in an effort to end black market fuel sales in the Ar Ramadi area.





New mission continued from page 1

brigade's units in Iraq, turned over control of the ever-dangerous Abu-Gharib area to 2nd Bn., 12th Cavalry Regiment.

"Your country has called and you have answered," Lt. Col. Lee Quintas, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, commander, told his soldiers.

"I live in awe and pride of what you have accomplished every day and every night, every week and every month," he said.

Incoming commander Lt. Col. John T. Ryan of 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., thanked the Thunderbolts for laying the groundwork for his battalion's continued success and told those gathered. "We will press forward into the future until the mission is complete."

The next transfer occurred at headquarters of the 1st Bn., 13th Armor, on the banks of the Tigris River.

During a cold winter rainstorm, Lt. Col. Frank Sherman and Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Ayers cased the Dakotas' colors and made way for Lt. Col. Myles Miyamasu and the Black Knights of the 1st Bn., 5th Cav.

"When I look back upon this last year, you, the soldiers of Task Force Dakota, have not complained at all about the sweat, blood nor focused on the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice," Sherman told his soldiers.

"But rather, (you) focused on security, providing basic human services and building the foundation upon which democracy will rest," he said.

With Saddam Hussein's former palace known to Soldiers as the "Four Heads" providing the backdrop, 4th Bn., 1st Field Artillery, handed control of the al-Mansour district to Lt. Col. Tim Vuono and 3rd Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

Lt. Col. Rick Bowyer praised

Report from Iraq

Greetings from Camp Hunte, Kadimiyah, Iraq.
(Feb. 11) marked yet another milestone for Task Force Dakota. We held our transfer of authority ceremony and the sectors that we have been patrolling for the past 10 months are now officially turned over to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood (Texas). The Soldiers, NCOs and officers of 1st Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment, have been putting in extra hours ... in order to make sure that 1st Bn., 5th Cav's, transition to the streets of Kadimiyah is not only easy for them, but for the civilians of the area.

Soldiers rehearsed for several (ceremony) contingencies as the weather proved to be quite unique. It went from calm and overcast to severe wind gusts with a torrential downpour and then to sunny, clear and warm.

With this ceremony, we bid Company A, 70th Engineer Battalion, good-bye. They have worked with the battalion to restore and provide electricity, water and sewage systems to our sector.

About 50 soldiers from the Ironhorse and Headhunter are in Kuwait executing portions of the vehicle turn-in. Those Soldiers should be completed within the next two weeks and will then rejoin the battalion. We will receive our orders on (Feb. 14) as to what we will be doing as we transition to become the division's reserve. Until then, Dakota Soldiers will get to breathe a sigh of relief for a job well-done.

**-- Lt. Col. F.V. Sherman
Commander, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor**

the soldiers of his battalion and listed a litany of accomplishments by his Soldiers.

He summed up their performance saying, "not bad for a bunch of antillermen from Kansas, a platoon of MPs from Connecticut and a Civil Affairs Team from Texas."

Bowyer noted that the accomplishments of his unit came, however, at a cost. "Today we also remember the soldiers of the task force who have been wounded and specifically Spc. (Irving) Medina, Cpt. (James) Shull and Pfc. (Luis) Moreno, who paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our success."

Thirty minutes before the start

of the transfer from 70th Engineer Battalion to 91st Eng. Bn., the Soldiers were reminded of just how dangerous Baghdad remains when several mortars were fired into the brigade support area near the ceremony site.

However, the transfer went smoothly with Lt. Col. Anthony Wright and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Dyson casing the colors of

the Kodiaks and making way for Lt. Col. Christopher Martin and Soldiers of the 91st Eng. Bn.

The brigade support area was also the site for the final battalion transfer ceremony, during which Lt. Col. Jack Hinkley of the 125th Forward Support Battalion handed control of support duties to Lt. Col. Ray McCarver and the 15th FSB.

"The Soldiers of the 125th are certainly different now than they were 11 months ago," Hinkley said.

"Most of the names are the same but the Soldiers themselves are vastly different. They are more mature, experienced, technically proficient and committed."

To his Gamblers, McCarver simply said, "It is our time."

Within hours after giving authority for operations in western Baghdad to the 2nd Bde. on Feb. 11, the 3rd Bde. Soldiers left to replace 4th Infantry Division Soldiers at the abandoned military complex in Taji just north of Baghdad.

Starting in mid-March, convoys will head south to Kuwait to begin cleaning vehicles and equipment for sea transport to the United States.

The Soldiers who deployed to Taji will secure the base until the arrival of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, to start its one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Post news in brief

IG team coming

Representatives from the Forces Command Inspector General Office will be available to 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley personnel from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 2 and 3 at Normandy Chapel to hear personnel issues and concerns.

Mailroom class set

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" class will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 25, in building 319, the Civilian Personnel Activities Center.

Pre-enrollment is required. To enroll, call 239-5411.

Each commander with a unit mailroom must appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer and each mailroom must have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates. Prospective mail clerks must attend the class and bring with

them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (20 days on-the-job training is required).

Unit postal officers not involved in mail handling duties only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. Unit postal officers who handle mail must have a minimum of 20 days on-the-job training and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

New phone system

Personal Property and Passenger Work Center customers will encounter a new phone system for contacting people at the center in building 210.

Since Feb. 12, customers dialing 239-MOVE (6683) have been connected to an auto-attendant providing the caller with options available for each section. Callers can select the correct option from those provided for the business they need to transact.

Siphon continued from page 1

now, but when the new government takes control in June, it will probably be legalized because it is beneficial."

Most of the confiscated fuel is given away to passersby, Morgan said.

Since Operation Devil Siphon began, the amount of fuel being sold on the black market has been reduced 50 to 75 percent,

and the number of authorized dealerships has increased, he continued.

Of course, people are still going to attempt to sell fuel on the black market, Belcher said.

But, "we have forced them to reevaluate whether it is really worth investing their money; because, if they are caught, we give most of their fuel away."

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Staff Writers-Spc. William Biles, Cassidy Hill, Sam Robinson
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Flag patch continued from page 1

obtaining the flags. Everyone else will have to wait until the Defense Logistics Agency has more in stock, he said.

An estimated 30 million flags need to be procured, he said.

Enlisted Soldiers will not have to buy the flags. They will be issued five flags from their assigned unit, and commanders will make arrangements for getting the insignia sewn on, Morales said.

If Soldiers buy the flags on their own, they will not be reimbursed, he said.

The only flag authorized for wear on the uniform is the reverse field flag in red, white and blue.

Subdued flags and those in other colors are in violation of U.S. code, Morales said. Individuals should comply with Army Regulation 670-1, Wear

and Appearance of the Army Uniform and Insignia.

The regulation still states that Soldiers are not authorized to wear the full-color cloth U.S. flag replica upon their return to home station.

However, the latest change will be added to the regulation when it is revised sometime this year, Morales said.

Nothing has changed regarding the placement of the flag, Morales said. It is sewn 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam.

If a combat patch is also placed on the right shoulder, the flag is sewn 1/8 inch below the combat patch.

"The flag is worn on the right shoulder to give the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward," Morales said. "This will serve as a vivid reminder that our nation is at war."

1st Brigade continued from page 1

make IEDs," said Lt. Col. David Brinkley, 1st Engineer Battalion commander.

To mitigate these dangers, the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade participated in more than a month of train-up events before deployment from Fort Riley. The training provided the Soldiers with a realistic portrayal of what they would encounter, Cabrey said.

"The training at Fort Riley provided an excellent foundation for our Soldiers. The terrain and overall environment caused us to adjust some of the tactics and techniques. Having a solid foundation gave us a common start point for learning and developing our procedures as we deployed. Once in theater, we adapted to the environment, and having that common base of training enabled a quicker adjustment by all Soldiers," Cabrey said.

"Our Soldiers are adaptive, and they learn on a daily basis. Because of the Soldiers' experience, we now find nearly two-thirds of the improvised explosive

devices emplaced by the enemy before they detonate," said Lt. Col. Jeff Swisher, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, commander.

"We have refined our techniques, and we are more effective," Swisher said. "We continue to modify our vehicles, base defense, etc., with measures to increase our force protection."

Cabrey agreed, saying, "They have learned to hide IEDs in the roads better, but our tactics and experience are actually allowing us to be more successful in finding them before they are detonated against us."

In addition to their regular patrols and weapons searches, the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team are involved in varied missions to rebuild Iraq's hospitals, schools and other infrastructure. Providing Iraqis with a safe, open environment is the key to creating a free democratic country, Swisher said.

"The Centurions have been successful in reducing the violence in the region. As a result,

children are attending renovated schools, doctors work in renovated health clinics and the local government is beginning to function independently of any oversight. As a result of the Soldiers' diligence and professionalism, democracy is taking hold from the grassroots level," Swisher said.

Swisher's Soldiers alone renovated more than 25 schools at a cost of \$300,000. They renovated five health clinics in four months and are helping train the Iraqi police force to take over some local security functions.

Members of the 1st Bn, 16th Inf., conducted similar missions, Hollis said. "Task Force 1-16 has built or restored over 34 schools, five health clinics, several water treatment and irrigation systems, as well as conducting repairs to mosques."

"We continue to work joint operations with the Iraqi police department and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. We also contribute to the resources and training of these security forces to

increase peace and stability in the region."

When not running missions or rebuilding local infrastructure, the Soldiers try to relax and unwind as much as possible, the commanders said.

All the units offer similar facilities for the Soldiers' use, including Morale, Welfare and Recreation libraries, gyms, laundry and AAFES exchange facilities. Soldiers also have access to computers, satellite TVs and various game systems.

With everything the Soldiers have to do, the commanders agreed that their No. 1 concern is safety.

"My biggest concern is the safety and security of my Soldiers and innocent civilians in the area," Swisher said.

"We have made great strides to reduce the violence in the area but we are still in a combat environment. We remind Soldiers each time they leave the gate that they are in a combat zone and on a combat mission," Swisher said.

Profits continued from page 1

The Fort Riley stores also send part of their profits to improve living conditions for Soldiers serving in Iraq and other areas where MWR services may be lacking, said Richard Talbot, general manager of the Fort Riley store.

"One of the many reasons that it is important for eligible customers to patronize AAFES is that dollars spent on post stay on post," said Director Joe Krasnican of Fort Riley's Directorate of Community Activities.

"A portion of the operating profits comes back to the installation MWR fund. Those dividends allow MWR programs to keep prices reasonable and to reinvest in MWR facilities, equipment and programs across the installation. AAFES is a great partner, and without the dividends they make available to the community, we would not have many of the wonderful programs that we are able to offer to our patrons."

AAFES contributes 100 percent of its profits from alcoholic beverages,

Contributions

Year	Amount
FY 00	\$1,053,953
FY 01	\$1,083,321
FY 02	\$918,346
FY 03	\$818,118
FY 04 est.	\$628,189

ages, 80 percent of telephone income and 4 percent of all AAFES revenue at the installation, according to AAFES data.

The contributed funds are used primarily for on-post projects and improvements and in forward operating locations. A small part goes to the Army Central Fund. Even dollars spent at AAFES locations in Iraq and around the world come back to help the post, Talbot said.

"Most of the dividend is generated by on-post sites; however, even those serving in Iraq, Kuwait and other isolated areas are generating dividends for this post when

Projects

- \$120,000 - Fitness equipment at all fitness centers
- \$14,000 - Auto Crafts vehicle skidlifts
- \$79,000 - Outdoor Recreation campers, canoes, etc.
- \$11,000 - Pool water slide
- \$12,000 - Child Development Center furniture
- \$65,999 - Bowling lanes refinished
- \$65,000 - Bowling lanes' Strike Zone food area
- \$197,000 - Bowling lanes' automatic scoring system

they purchase at AAFES," Talbot said.

Soldier deployments have hurt Fort Riley store profits and the resulting contribution to post MWR activities dropped by almost 50 percent last year compared to three years ago, Krasnican

said. The store paid more than \$1.083 million to Fort Riley in fiscal year 2001. That was the highest contribution during the past five years.

Krasnican estimated this year's contribution may only be \$628,189, the lowest amount in the past five years. With AAFES contributions likely to be way down, many planned improvements MWR wants for Fort Riley Soldiers and families may not happen, he said.

MWR and AAFES promote shopping in AAFES stores as much as possible in hopes of bringing more profits back to the local store and thereby increasing the profit portion AAFES pays back to Fort Riley.

"If people shop off post, that is revenue that is lost to us. Those businesses do not reinvest money into our post, and they are not interested in upgrading the quality of life for the soldier," said Dale Devore, chief, Financial Management Branch, DCA.

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Post/Bender

Iraqi police officers in Civil Camp wear similar uniforms to help identify themselves as the local law.

Mortar platoon patrols camps

Efforts aimed at establishing relationships with local police

By Jamie Bender

1st BCT

AR RAMADI, Iraq — The mortar platoon of Task Force 1-34 Armor Regiment patrols Civil Camp and Coolie Camp in their area of operations on a regular basis. The purpose of the patrols has been to establish a relationship with the local Iraqi Police.

"Our very first foot patrol was in that area," said 1st Lt. Tony V. Abbruscato, mortar platoon leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor. "Our mission was to find the police, talk to them through the interpreter and find out what they need."

Civil is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the area, Abbruscato said. "Their basic needs had to be met as police officers. They have to have a uniform. They have to have a badge to put on their shoulder. They have to have an identification card of

some kind. They have to have a weapon of some type, and they have to have some semblance of rank."

When the task force first arrived in the area, many of these needs had not been met in some time.

"When we first got there, they had like bluish clothes on," Abbruscato said. "One guy would have a uniform, and one guy had an armband, so they stuck together so people knew that both of them were cops. They maybe had a handful of weapons to go around, and they had no electricity, no patrol cars — which we are still working on — and they had no phones so they couldn't call the other police stations and request help."

The local police officers didn't ask for much, just basic needs.

"They asked for simple things like a jacket because it is cold when they walk around," Abbruscato said. "Can we have a similar uniform, like a light blue shirt

with dark blue pants and black shoes so everyone knows that we are police? Can we have armbands? Can we have some more weapons so our guys feel safe? Stuff like that."

Today, the police officers of Civil Camp and Coolie Camp wear matching uniforms and carry weapons. They patrol their areas and help the Soldiers of 1st Bn., 34th Armor, identify "Ali Babba," the local term used to describe anyone breaking the law.

"There are always guys in their jail that they stop while they are

patrolling," Abbruscato said.

"They actually walk around like they have a sense of authority, which is what we are trying to accomplish. Nobody messes with them when they walk around, because they are professional and they know what they are doing."

"These patrols with Civil and Coolie Camps were initially designed for us to help train the police officers to be police officers," Abbruscato said. "I think seeing us every other day helped them realize we aren't going away."

MILITARY OUTLET

2 x 5"

Black Only

Right on Target

DoD authorizes Korean defense medal

DoD News Service

The Defense Department announced Feb. 9 creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal.

The KDSM is a service medal giving special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who served or are serving in the Republic of Korea.

Public Law 107-314 authorized creation of a new medal to recognize military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters.

Members of the armed forces authorized to wear the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea.

The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea and the contiguous water for 12 nautical miles off shore and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

The KDSM period of eligibility begins July 28, 1954, and extends to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense.

Servicemembers must have

been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

— Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility.

— Wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

— While participating as a reg-

ularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

The KDSM may be awarded posthumously, and only one award is authorized per person.

Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for awarding and wearing the KDSM.

DAILY UNION

6 x 12"

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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Battalion works to open Iraqi girls' school

Report from Iraq

HABINNIYAH, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 101st Forward Support

Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, visited the Al Huddah Primary Girls School in Habinniyyah for the fifth time recently.

The battalion has adopted the school and provided items such as a new front gate, drain spouts on the roof and a water tank. Soldiers

also donated school supplies and personal hygiene items.

The school was closed the day the Soldiers visited, but local Iraqis offered plenty of help, making this visit a little different from others.

"The director, teachers, some parents and children still chose to open the school and help with the cleanup effort," said Maj. Bill Lukaskiewicz, the battalion's executive officer.

Local children and adults worked eagerly alongside the Soldiers, operating as partners to improve the school. "The effort is indicative of the relationship we are building here," Lukaskiewicz said.

The day began with the painting of seven podiums and one large bench, which the Soldiers built just days before. After the paint dried, they moved the items into the classrooms.

Meanwhile, Soldiers set up a decontamination apparatus to clean the school latrine, again using the help of the excited children.

The children helped lay out the hoses and cheered when the pump began working. Four hundred gallons of hot water later, the latrine cleanup was complete.

"Campus Cleanup," the final project of the day, also involved Soldiers and the children.

They all swarmed the school grounds with trash bags, rakes and shovels. As a result of the combined effort, one five-ton

truckload and one trailer full of trash were removed.

"We are very thankful for the sincere commitment of these soldiers," said Bushra Hamad Ishlag, director of the Al Huddah Primary Girls School, about the Soldiers' interest in the school.

"The unit is dedicated to improving the school," said Lt. Col. Jimmie Mister Jr., 101st FSB commander.

"We believe that improving the educational institutions in Iraq will strengthen communities and show the Iraqi people that the Coalition is committed to rebuilding Iraq."

After the day's hard work, the 101st FSB gave out a much-deserved reward to all the children who helped.

With the help of teachers and parents, the children formed a line and patiently waited for a handful of candy.

The visit ended with photos, handshakes, many smiles and an improved learning environment.

The community was personally involved in the school improvement effort and the relationship between the school and the battalion grew stronger.

"We took a large step forward today," Lukaskiewicz said.



101st FSB

Students help out by painting podiums during the clean up.

First sergeant tells of company efforts

Master Sgt. Randi R. Hamden, serves as first sergeant for Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion. Her company has been supporting the girls' school. In December, she sent an e-mail to her mother, Bonnie Palmer, at Fort Riley, describing conditions at the school:

"My U.S. Army unit is now sponsoring an Iraqi school and rebuilding it. They are all girls, 200 of them, very disciplined but very unfortunate. They have no paper or pens or pencils, if you can believe it. They have only a handful of chalk for the teachers to write on the chalk

boards, which are falling off the walls.

"My unit is working to repair the physical structure and repair the plumbing and electricity. I am asking for your support by sending any type of school supplies that a sixth-grader and below would need.

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Army offers COOL points

Junior Soldiers can get 50 promotion points for skill licenses

By Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Junior Soldiers in a handful of job specialties have another option to gain up to 50 promotion points.

As of Jan. 11, skill-based licenses and certifications from civilian sources are worth 10 points each. There are 10 career fields that are currently participating in the initiative: Adjutant General, Air Defense Artillery, Aviation, Engineer, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal, Transportation, Army Medical Department and Public Affairs.

Promotable specialists and sergeants can add up to 50 points in technical certificates, but the points will only remain valid as long as the certificate is valid, said Sgt. Maj. Louisa Scott, chief of Enlisted Promotions at U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

"The certificates can be added as a promotion action only when a Soldier has at least 20 points to add. Then the expiration date on the certificate will be recorded. If a Soldier needs to re-certify for his license to remain valid, and he fails to do so, the points will be deleted," Scott said.

"This is a work in progress," said Jeffrey Colimon, senior military analyst for the Training and Doctrine Command's Personnel

Propensity Directorate.

The initiative is new and will undergo a number of changes, Colimon said. However, soldiers can stay abreast of what military occupational specialties have jumped on board by visiting the Web site for Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line at www.cool.army.mil.

The different proponents have the latitude of analyzing the credentialing concept and determining if it adds value to their branch, Colimon said. Most combat arms proponents elected not to participate because of the lack of related certifications in the civilian arena, he added.

The promotion point incentive is the Army's way of encouraging Soldiers who are not interested in college but still want to pursue professional development, according to officials in the Promotions Branch at the Human Resources Command.

"Far too many Soldiers go out and purchase civilian education mainly for promotion points with no degree intent at all," said Sgt.

1st Class Cedric Thomas, chief of Junior Enlisted Promotions at HRC. "The certification incentive will give them the opportunity to use training in a progressive nature."

If Soldiers get hands-on training in their specific field, it can

improve their job performance and make them more marketable in the civilian market, Scott said.

"By offering promotion points, the Army is encouraging Soldiers to pursue professional development," Scott added.

Officials in the Ordnance Corps introduced using credentialing opportunities as a promotional tool. Sgt. Maj. James Herrell, chief enlisted career manager in the Ordnance Corps' Personnel Propensity Office, said that developing a more competent Soldier was the driving force of the initiative.

"We want a competent, enlisted force and self-development is key," Herrell said. "For a Soldier to earn industry credentials, he must study on his own time, get his own resources and demonstrate a level of competency that his peers have not."

"We're not trying to create a more marketable soldier. That is the last of our concerns. We were looking at ways to encourage our Soldiers to do self-study."

Herrell did note, however, that

one of the benefits to receiving civilian certification is gaining experience that will benefit the Soldier in the civilian work force.

The COOL Web site serves as the home station to get information on the credentialing for points initiative. Credentials that are valid can be found on the site by clicking on the links that read Technical Certification and Promotion Points Fact Sheet or Technical Certification Matrices.

In the future there will be a link to Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, to provide more information on promotion policy, said Louie Charter, COOL program manager.

The COOL Web site is a recruiting, retention and now a promotion tool, Charter said. COOL explains how Soldiers can meet civilian certification and license requirements related to their military occupational specialties. Since the site was launched in April 2002 there has been more than 400,000 hits, Charter added.

Army activates Alaskan space defense battalion

Army News Service

diers will man the battalion as part of their homeland defense mission.

FORT GREEELY, Alaska — A component of the nation's emerging missile defense system formally "stood up" Jan. 22 when the Missile Defense Space Battalion activated at Fort Greeley, Alaska.

The battalion will provide operational control and security over ground-based interceptors located in Alaska to protect the nation from limited ballistic missile attacks.

Alaska National Guard Sol-

The battalion is part of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The brigade operates the first part of the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System.

In concert with its sister services, the defense system is designed to protect the United States from accidental or intentional limited ballistic missile attacks.

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Commentary

Accident may qualify for claim

By Brian Underdahl
Chief, Claims Division

If a person has an automobile accident on Fort Riley, will the claims office reimburse that person for damages?

Maybe. A number of questions need to be answered before deciding whether a claim is payable under the Personnel Claims Act.

The Personnel Claims Act is a gratuitous payment statute designed to compensate a certain class of people for loss or damage to personal property that occurred incident to their service. It is not intended, however, to compensate for ordinary hazards of life or replace the requirement and need to have personal insurance.

The first issue is determining whether the person involved in the accident is a proper claimant: Soldiers on active duty; members of the U.S. Army Reserve or Army National Guard engaged in active service or inactive training; civilian employees of the Army or the Army National Guard; or

Department of Defense employees who are not employees of the Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps.

The claims officer must also determine whether the claim is payable under the act's provisions. Claims for hit and run collisions, for example, are not payable.

Everyone eligible to file claims should be aware of the many intricacies contained in the act before deciding whether to make a claim or not. For example, the act requires a person to have personal insurance, such as comprehensive coverage, and the claimant must first file with his or her insurer. Failure to do so could result in the claim being denied.

For claims resulting from theft or loss of a vehicle or the contents of the vehicle, the act requires that the vehicle be "properly located" on the installation. A vehicle is properly located on Fort Riley when it is registered on post and is properly registered and insured in accordance with state law. If these requirements are not met, the vehicle is not properly on the

installation and the claim could be denied.

Another important component is the claimant's behavior. That is, did the claimant contribute to his or her loss? For example, did the claimant leave his or her vehicle unlocked? The bottom line is: a claimant's negligent or reckless conduct could jeopardize the claim.

The act does not consider vehicles suitable for property storage. While many soldiers keep large numbers of CDs in their cars, the amount of claims payable is very limited in such areas: \$120 maximum for CDs.

If a vehicle is damaged or vandalized, the military police must be notified immediately. Owners should not move the vehicle before the MPs arrive unless the vehicle is causing a safety hazard. The MPs must investigate the incident to substantiate that it occurred on Fort Riley. If the owner moves the vehicle, he or she may lose that needed evidence.

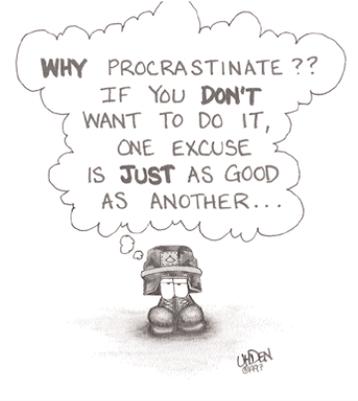
If a personal vehicle is dam-

aged by a government vehicle or a vehicle operated by a government employee in the scope of appointed duty, a person may be eligible to file a tort claim against the government. These types of claims are based on liability issues. Report the incident to the MPs or local police, depending upon the location of the accident, and contact the claims office for further instructions.

Soldiers, Department of the Army employees and others should understand that the Army claims system is not intended to be a universal government insurance policy. It is very limited to what it can pay. Therefore, it is vital that both military and civilian personnel take measures to protect their property against the ordinary hazards of daily life and work, whether on post or off.

For more information about the Army claims system, call the Claims Division at 239-2633 or 239-3830, or visit the office in Bldg. 200.

Grunt *By Wayne Udden*



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Fort Riley Community

February 20, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefs

Wives' club planning annual spring bazaar

The approaching Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club's Spring Bazaar will offer lots of crafts, food and fun for the kids.

The bazaar will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 3, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 4, in hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air Field.

All profits from the spring bazaar go toward community assistance, and the club seeks volunteers to make this year's bazaar a great success. Anyone interested in being a volunteer or any vendors interested in having a display area at the bazaar should contact Sherri Weber at (785) 537-7781.

Martial arts teacher sought

Child and Youth Services is looking for a martial arts instructor to teach children and youth ages 3 to 18. Employment will begin June 1. This is a year around contracted position.

Classes are held on Saturdays at the Teen Center, Bldg. 5800, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Successful applicants must pass a national agency background check and provide documented experiences working with youth and personal references.

Any martial arts style of instruction will be considered.

Interested applicants should contact Kay Forman, instructional programs manager, at Child and Youth Services, building 6620, 239-1558

Shoppe opens in Cavalry Museum

The Shoppe, now located in the U.S. Cavalry Museum, Bldg. 205, is becoming a one-stop shop for gifts. The Shoppe carries James Dietz prints, Polish pottery, deployment candles, military items and much, much more.

The Shoppe also stocks copies of the "History of Ft. Riley."

The Shoppe's grand opening is Feb. 28.

For more information, call 239-2743.

At the movies ...

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m.; shows begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 11 and younger. Children younger than 5 are admitted free except during children's matinees or expected sellouts.

Feb. 20 -- Chasing Liberty (PG-13)

Feb. 21 -- Disney's Teacher Pet (PG)

Feb. 22 -- Chasing Liberty (PG-13)

Feb. 26 -- Disney's Teacher Pet (PG)

Feb. 27 -- Along Came Polly (PG-13)

Feb. 28 -- Big Fish (PG-13)

Feb. 29 -- Along Came Polly (PG-13)

March 4 -- Big Fish (PG-13)

March 5 -- Cold Mountain (R)

March 6 -- My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

March 7 -- Cold Mountain (R)

March 11 -- My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Greetings ...



"Elvis," portrayed by Pfc. William Campbell, surprises commissary cashier Lee McDermott with a singing valentine from her 25-year-old son, Robert. The special valentines were delivered Feb. 11 and 12 by members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at Fort Riley.

BOSS delivers surprises

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

"And a hunka hunka burnin' love to you," sang Elvis to the valentines lucky enough to receive one of his original renditions of American classic love songs Feb. 11 and 12, courtesy of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

BOSS delivered almost 100 Sing-A-Grams this Valentine's Day season to loved ones on Fort Riley and in the surrounding areas of Junction City, Ogden and Manhattan.

"The program went great," said Spc. Jason Dunlap, BOSS president. "We were not expecting this many responses. With all the deployments, we were expecting half as many as we did. So it went great."

Other superstars delivering messages of love were Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Oscar the Grouch and a trio comprised of Dorothy, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion.

"I did it to make someone's day," said Pfc. William Campbell, who portrayed Elvis. "I don't have a valentine this year, so I figured I'd make someone else's day."

"I thought it would be fun to see someone smile," said Spc. Dyncia Everett, who portrayed Minnie Mouse.

The stars performed lover's favorites like, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Ain't No River Wide Enough," "My Girl," "My Guy," "I Swear" and "You Are My Sunshine."

The valentines seemed pleased to get the

Elvis deliveries.

"My little boy made me so happy," said Lee McDermott, a commissary cashier. Her 25-year-old son, Robert, sent her "You Are My Sunshine."

"He told me today or tomorrow I'd be really surprised," she said.

"I am very surprised," said Cheryl Lawrence, a secretary with the Civilian Personnel Operations Center.

"He doesn't usually do things like this. It's totally out of the ordinary. I love Elvis. Now I have to think of something for tonight," she said.

Lawrence's husband had Elvis sing "Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Ain't No River Wide Enough" to his wife.

Lawrence said the song didn't have any special significance before but it does now.

"It was fun, very surprising," said Ginny Davenport, a secretary in the G3 shop.

Davenport, a big Elvis fan, said her husband usually forgets Valentine's Day.

Ironically, Davenport said, she and her husband just came back from Key West, where they saw an Elvis impersonator singing in a bar.

Dunlap said the program raised almost \$1,600 for BOSS.

"The money will help offset the cost of future BOSS programs and trips," Dunlap said.

The Directorate of Community Activities did a great job with marketing, developing flyers and radio promotion and AAFES by donated candy, Dunlap said.

Event recalls Black history

Speaker emphasizes education's impact

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Fort Riley Soldiers and civilians gathered Feb. 12, to celebrate Black History month with a program highlighted by guest speaker Maj. Gen. Charles E. Wilson, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Maj. Michael Bell, equal opportunity program manager, began the program by citing improvements made and the long path that still lies ahead in the equality movement.

"Today we gather to recognize the achievements and contributions of all African Americans,"

Bell said. "From the literarians of the Harlem renaissance of the 1920s to the leaders of the civil rights movements of the 1960s, and now in the 21st century, we recognize the achievements and contributions that have been made in all areas of society to include government, military, professionals and educators. However, we are still not where we need to be and there is much to be done."

Wilson used his time to speak on what he considered a defining moment in the country's history, the Brown vs. Board of Education judicial decision on segregation in Topeka.

"The theme of this year's cele-

bration, Brown vs. the Board of Education celebrates what will soon be the decision's 50th anniversary," Wilson said. "It commemorates the landmark Supreme Court decision to desegregate our public schools. That decision led to nationwide desegregation and a breakdown of the separate but equal constitutional mandate that was legally codified many years before."

Wilson spent much of his civilian career in civil service as a police officer, eventually becoming a police chief in Detroit. He identified the education and opportunities the military provid-

See History, Page 10

Manhattan arts center plans two exhibits

By Penny Senfen
Manhattan Arts Center

Two gallery exhibits open soon at the Manhattan Arts Center: "The Art of Betty (Schwartz) Carroll" and "Small Town Vernacular," a collection of photographs from Vaughn Wascovich.

The shows open with a public reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 27 and remain open until April 10.

"The Art of Betty (Schwartz) Carroll" features many media, including drawings, paintings, textiles, metals and book bindings. Carroll's wide collection of art, including many depictions of nursery rhymes, is whimsical and colorful.

"Small Town Vernacular" is Wascovich's project showcasing Midwestern architecture. The collection of black and white photographs measuring 20 inches by 10 inches show classic environmental and architectural elements found throughout the region.

"The Art of Betty (Schwartz) Carroll" and "Small Town Vernacular" will be open to the public weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Manhattan Arts Center is located at 1520 Poyntz Avenue and is handicapped-accessible. Parking is free.

For more information on this and other events at the Manhattan Arts Center, visit the center's Web site at www.manhattanarts.org.

The Manhattan Arts Center is funded in part by the state's Kansas Arts Commission and the federal National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional funding comes from the City of Manhattan and Manhattan Arts Center members and friends.

About the artists

Betty (Schwartz) Carroll worked in the design department at the University of Kansas for nine years and later served as the staff artist for the Manhattan Public Library for more than 18 years.

Vaughn Wascovich has an M.F.A. in photography from Columbia College and is currently an assistant professor of photography at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

See more Kansas events, Page 14



Cookies arrive

Pfc. Martin Vandenoegaard (left), 125th Forward Support Battalion, and Sgt. Justin Pintner, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, help unload Girl Scout cookies Feb. 18 at the Scout Hut on post.

See related story, Page 14





History

continued from page 9

ed him as determining factors in who he was.

In his presentation, Wilson briefly recounted the Brown vs. the Board of Education decision and its effects on the people of that time but spent most of his time detailing the outcome in his life as it related to the education movement.

"What we are going to talk about is two institutions that have dealt with something that is fundamentally required for a country, for a civilization, to grow, and that is education," Wilson said. "I'd like to speak to Black History Month not so much for what it represents, but what it means to America and society. It speaks to diversity. It speaks to a homogeneous coming together of individuals from different walks of life to form the greatest land force the world has ever seen, the U.S. Army."

Wilson also talked about being drafted in 1966 after being raised by a single mother and growing up on welfare and subsidies. The difference made in his life, Wilson said, was the Army and an education provided to him through what he saw as one of the best groups in the country at adopting equality within its ranks.

"The institution that we represent here today led the nation in providing education to all Americans, including African Americans. At a very pivotal point in my life, both education and the Army became so fundamental to what I am today," Wilson said. "Over time, we have opened our arms in the Army to all human beings of merit, all who are capable and competent."

Wilson stressed that education is by far the most important aspect of success in America today for anyone - black or white.

"In these days it is doubtful that any child can reasonably be expected to succeed in life if denied the opportunity of an education," Wilson said.

Wilson challenged the audience with continuing the struggle for equality throughout all the different aspects of American life.

"Black History Week acknowledges the history, the culture, the contributions and the struggles, yes there are struggles. We have made much progress, but there is still much more to be done," Wilson said. "Your challenge is to make sure that those challenges do not become insurmountable."

Cavalry museum offers opportunity to learn Black history

Staff report

Uniforms, photographs, documents and artwork highlight Buffalo soldiers contributions

A U.S. Cavalry Museum exhibit presents artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments.

These two regiments formed after the Civil War and served through World War II as all-black units. Their history is one of inspiration to all Americans who

believe in selfless service and duty.

The museum's exhibit tells about the Buffalo Soldiers coming to the aid of Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" during the Spanish-American War and about the dusty Punitive Expedition campaign on the eve of World War I.

The exhibit includes a special case on the 9th Cavalry and "Edge of the Storm," a painting which features Sgt. Thomas K. Shaw, a Buffalo Soldier in K Troop who won the Medal of Honor. The painting is exhibited in the museum's art gallery.

Shaw was a seasoned campaigner. His career began during the Civil War, when he escaped from slavery to fight for the Union.

During his subsequent enlistment and long service in the 9th Cavalry, Shaw received the Medal of Honor for his bold actions in 1881 against the Apache warrior, Nana.

After a long career on the frontier, Shaw retired in 1894 while stationed at Fort Myer, Va. He died one year later and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Museum hours

The museum is located in Bldg. 205 on Custer Avenue.

It is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is free. For more information, call 239-2737.

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Fort Riley Sports & Rec

February 20, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Army team qualifies No. 01 car at Daytona

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Joe Nemechek began the NASCAR season driving the No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet by finishing seventh Feb. 12 in the second Gatorade 125-mile Qualifying Race and will start 14th Feb. 22 in the Daytona 500.

Nemechek battled Ricky Rudd, Elliott Sadler, Sterling Marlin and Kevin Harvick in the lead pack, hovering most of the race around fourth place, before getting passed in the waning laps by Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin and reigning Nextel Cup champion Matt Kenseth.

Nemechek was the only driver who kept getting out of line and yet remained among the lead pack.

"Yeah, we got hung by ourselves, but the old Army car is really good," said Nemechek, 40, of Lakeland, Fla.

"We just didn't have a lot of help. That pack that caught us, they were loyal to Jimmie Johnson for coming from behind to get up there."

"But the car is running good. It says a lot about the car if you can stay out there by yourself and hang with them."

The car's fast. Overall, I'm happy with our performance," Nemechek said.

Battling a gust of wind, Nemechek posted the eighth-fastest speed in Daytona 500 pole qualifying Feb. 8 at Daytona International Speedway. After drawing the third qualifying spot, he turned a fast lap of 47.936 seconds at 187.75 miles per hour.

"It's too bad we got caught up in the big gust of wind, especially coming off of Turn 2," said Nemechek, whose nickname has evolved from 'Front Row Joe' to 'GI Joe.'

"Overall I felt we did a good job," Nemechek said.

The front row for the 46th running of the Great American Race features Fords driven by pole-sitter Greg Biffle of Vancouver, Wash., and Elliott Sadler of Emporia, Va.

Nemechek continued his streak of posting top-10 qualifying positions in every event he has driven the Army of One car since joining the team with four races remaining in 2003.

"Judging from everything I've seen, I am confident the Army Chevrolet will run up front," said Nemechek.

On Feb. 7 he posted the fastest speed of 188.166 miles per hour in the first practice session for the Daytona 500.

"Being with the team at the end of last year was a huge bonus. I did learn that we are capable of achieving success," he said.

"If we stay focused, make the right calls, we're going to end up in victory lane. I truly feel this Army team has a bright future," he said.

Nemechek says emotional off-season visits to wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington have inspired him for this NASCAR Nextel Cup season.

"I saw both sides of our soldiers' schedules — going into action and coming home," he said.

"I was not only moved by the visits, but also impressed how positive everyone was. We support our troops and they support us."

"I want nothing more than to have success on the track and make our Soldiers proud of their 01 Army race team," Nemechek said.

4-way tie



Coleman Bender, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division Ghostriders, looks to pass the ball inside to Warren Williams during their 53-32 victory of Touch of Grey at King Field House Feb. 11. The Ghostriders are now tied for first place in the league with TOG, IHHC, 1st Bn, 41st Inf. and 6025th Garrison Support Unit.

HHC Ghostriders run past Touch of Grey

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

Before the game Feb. 11, everyone in the Fort Riley Company-Level Basketball League was looking up at Touch of Grey in the standings.

The morning after, four teams with one loss each found themselves staring each other in the face for first place.

The Ghostriders of Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division, caused the scrum for the league's lead by beating previously undefeated Touch of Grey 53-32.

Led by Warren Williams' 19 points, the Ghostriders used a full-court press to force turnover after turnover and out-rebounded TOG by a wide margin.

The rebounds resulted in extra attempts which propelled HHC to a huge first-half lead that TOG couldn't overcome.

"We wanted to out-hustle them," said Troy Moshier, Ghostriders shooting guard. "We wanted to play our style, which is fast-paced. We have a young team and a deep bench that we can utilize to keep fresh legs on the court."

Using their fast pace from the onset, the Ghostriders started the first half on a scoring frenzy and had a double digit lead within the

See Tied lead, Page 12

Eagles skim past Troopers, 40-37

Middle school A team suffers first loss after four straight wins

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

The Eisenhower Middle School Eagles ended Fort Riley Middle School A team's four-game winning streak Feb. 12 by beating the Troopers 40-37.

"We played pretty well defensively in the second half," said Troopers Head Coach Vic Garcia after the action-packed game that saw both teams playing hard to the last second.

Garcia said he was disappointed his team lost after riding a four-game winning streak.

"It's always hard to take any positives when you lose," Garcia said. "I'm hard. I have very high percentages when I have a team with as much talent as we do. You have to continue to raise the bar,

not lower it." Despite the loss, Garcia said he is confident about outcome the next time his Troopers play the Eagles.

"The good news is we get to play them again at their place," he said. "We have fewer distractions on the road."

For the Eagles, the win was a much-welcomed surprise.

"We played pretty well considering it's only the second game we've won [this season]," said Eisenhower's Head Coach Marvin Rupe. "We've been trying to put together a good team effort."

It looks like the team effort is finally paying off, he said.

"We had the highest shooting percentage of the year with this game," Rupe said. "We blocked

See Troopers, Page 12



A Fort Riley Middle School A team Trooper lays the ball in against the Eisenhower Middle School Eagles Feb. 12.

Wildcat women husk visitors

Revenge pushes KSU to victory against Neb.

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

Revenge is a powerful motive, according to the Kansas State women's basketball team.

The Wildcats' only Big 12 loss this season has been to the Cornhuskers in Lincoln, Neb.

The Cats redeemed themselves Feb. 14 with an 89-69 win over the visitors to Bramlage Coliseum.

"I think after we pretty much got our rears kicked up in Lincoln, we needed to come in really focused and defend the ball at a higher level than what we did up there," Wildcat forward Kendra Wecker said.

The 10,300 fans who turned out to watch the rematch were not disappointed.

The Wildcats froze the Cornhuskers' offense for most of the game. Nebraska hit only 36 percent from the field with an all time low of 12 percent from three-point range.

Meanwhile, five Wildcats scored in double digits. Wecker pushed her way up on the Kansas State top scorer's list by netting 18 points.

She was followed by teammates Twigg McIntyre and Claire Coggins, who scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Coggins was pleased to come off the bench and help her team.

"I needed to pick up my game a little bit. I haven't been producing a whole lot," Coggins said. "I just needed to come out and play hard."

Veterans Nicole Ohlde and Laurie Koehn had 11 points for the day. Ohlde spent most of the second half on the bench because of an injury.

"I'm good to go. There's nothing wrong. The rest of the team had it under control," Ohlde said. "I just sat there and cheered them on."

Kansas State hit nearly 65 percent from three-point field range and 54 percent overall.

"Obviously, anytime you can hold a Big 12 opponent at 35 percent from the floor, you feel pretty good about that," Wildcat Head Coach Deb Patterson said.

"I think that we've got to do a significantly better job on the defensive boards, and to me that's a big part of your defensive effort," she said.

The win gives the No. 9 Wildcats 30 straight wins at home.

Striped skunks frequently seen, smelled on post



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
DES, Conservation Division

There is one species of wildlife on Fort Riley that needs no introduction. The striped skunk is a member of the weasel family and is probably the most recognizable mammal in North America.

While most other weasels are known for their cunning and power,

On the Wildside: News About Nature

the skunk employs its own unique defense — aroma warfare.

The striped skunk can be found throughout the state, but is more abundant in the east. They can be found in a variety of habitats, preferring the forest edge and rocky hillsides.

Breeding occurs in late February and early March. Litters range from four to 11, with the kittens being

sparsely haired with their eyes and ears closed.

Skunks range over an area of about a mile if food is adequate. They also become highly mobile if habitat or food becomes scarce, often traveling several miles in search of a new home.

The color markings for striped skunks are quite variable. The stripes may be wide or narrow, with addi-

tional white coloration. Some are nearly all white, while others are nearly all black. Most on Fort Riley tend to have some white coloration on the hind feet and belly.

Skunks are truly omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything. In fact, they are quite beneficial in that a majority of their diet consists of insects. They are said to be particularly fond of grasshoppers.

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first few minutes.

After a timeout by team captain John Simpson, TOG began to settle down a little, but the frenzied pace set by the Ghostriders continued to cause mistakes by TOG's ball handlers.

The score at the half was 32-13, with Williams leading the way with 13 points.

Coleman Bender had eight for the Ghostriders by the half-way mark, and Andy Martin had six for TOG.

Both teams started the second half much like the first, and once again the Ghostriders used their bench to keep the pressure up.

Simpson called another timeout that settled TOG enough so they could make a small run at the Ghost rider lead.

It wasn't enough, however, as the Ghostriders finished strongly with Williams hitting from three-point range and "small big man" Jamal Allen grabbing more rebounds.

Other Ghostriders with big games were Allen with 11 points and 11 rebounds, Bender with 12 points and Moshier with seven. For TOG, Martin had 13 points, Jason Shepherd had 10 and Jeffrey Buczowski had five.

Moshier explained the

Ghostriders' advantage - a contrast from games played last year: "We have always been able to force turnovers, but rebounding was a problem. We recently acquired a few new guys with a little height who can crash the boards. This was the reason we rebounded so well this game."

The ineffectiveness to rebound and secure the ball took TOG out of their game, TOG's small forward, Shepherd, said. He said his team tries to play fundamental basketball and keep their games close to have a chance at the end. He also said with the deficit and the pace of the game, it was tough

to mount a comeback.

"We don't prefer to play a style of basketball that allows us to play from behind," Shepherd said. "We hammer home fundamentals, taking care of the basketball, rebounding and playing good defense. We did none against them."

Other TOG players felt a big reason they had difficulty against the full-court press was the absence of their starting point guard, Jadore Scovell. Mission requirements kept Scovell from play against the Ghostriders. His teammates feel Scovell's presence and familiarity with the press

could give them a better outcome if they meet the Ghostriders again in the post season.

"Anytime you get to play a team and learn about their players, it helps you in the long run," Shepherd said. "We hope we get to play them again because we did a poor job and hope that next time we can show them what we're really about."

"Sure, I think the outcome will be different. We know what to expect now," said Buczowski, TOG utility man. "They have a strong team but they are not unbeatable."

"Scovell is a good player but

he isn't Michael Jordan," Moshier said. "He wouldn't have been able to cover the spread. The outcome would have been the same."

Both teams have work still left to do. Each has games against the other one-loss teams in the league.

The Ghostriders have the momentum heading into the latter part of the season with this victory. According to Moshier, his team needs to finish strong heading into the post season.

"We plan on winning the next two games and then squeezing in a few practices before the tournament," he said.

Skunks continued from page 11

They are also known to eat mice, birds, frogs, crayfish, spiders, earthworms, wild fruits and berries.

Believe it or not, striped skunks do have enemies in the wild. Coyotes, badgers, bobcats and especially great horned owls are all natural predators of skunks.

Skunks are best known for their ability to spray when threatened. The musk is stored in glands and can be sprayed to a distance of four meters. The glands have enough musk for five to six sprays.

Skunks are generally not aggressive. Most will just try to escape rather than spray. One myth is that they spray frequently. In fact, some skunks may not even spray during their lifetime.

Want to know more about skunks?

Call the Conservation Division at 239-6211. Stop by the office in Bldg. 1020, or visit on the Web at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatureResources/>.

Fortunately, skunks usually give plenty of warning prior to spraying. Most will growl, hiss and stomp their feet or even stand on their back or front feet to appear larger than they are. Spray-

ing is usually their last line of defense. The skunk will turn in u-shaped fashion with both head and tail facing the enemy.

Although most people know what a skunk smells like, most do not realize that the liquid is also extremely noxious. It can cause nausea and temporary loss of vision. However, like porcupines, skunks appear to be overconfident of their defense mechanisms, resulting in a high mortality near roadways.

The spotted skunk is rare enough in Kansas that it is considered a state threatened species. The spotted skunk is about half the size of its striped cousin. It is also more slender with a shorter tail.

As the name implies, spotted

skunks do not have stripes. Rather, they have four to six broken lines from the back of the neck to the base of the tail. The pattern of spots varies enough that they can be used to identify certain individuals.

Like skunks, the other members of the weasel family (Mustelidae) are known for fascinating habits and include such member as badgers, otters, ferrets and weasels. The badger is, of course known, for its power, tenacity and irritable temperament. Weasels and ferrets are the most cunning of wildlife and are quite tenacious.

Skunks, on the other hand, are mostly phlegmatic animals. They seem to be aware that they have the most intimidating of weapons.

Troopers continued from page 11

and rebounded better than ever before."

"We're the smallest team at all the games," Rupe said. "So, to compete we need to continue working on blocking off and rebounding on bigger guys." The Troopers' B team also lost to the Eagles 40-32.

The C and D teams had better results, beating the Eagles 48-22 and 27-22, respectively.

The Troopers' C team beat Washburn Rural 41-35 on the road Feb. 17.

The Troopers' D team lost to Washburn Rural 21-12 the same day.

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Soldiers help Scouts unload cookies

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor; 1st Battalion, 13th Armor; 70th Engineer Battalion; 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery; and the 125th Forward Support Battalion helped unload a truck filled with Girl Scout cookies that arrived Feb. 18 at Fort Riley. April Clark, product service manager for Fort Riley and with the Girl Scouts for 17 years, over-

saw the stacking and sorting of 1,625 cases of cookies, each containing a dozen cookie boxes, into the Scout hut at Marshall Army Air Field. While the Scouts have completed their door-to-door sales, a cookie table will be set up at the post exchange from Feb. 21 to March 15 for anyone still wanting to buy the cookies. The PX booth will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

Boxes of cookies cost \$3.50. Available flavors are Caramel Delights, Peanut Butter Patties, Shortbread, Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Lemon Pastry Cremes, Animal Treasures and the new flavor, Pinatas. More than 180 girls are active in Girl Scouts on Fort Riley. The Scouts estimate they will make more than \$68,000 on the cookie sales, \$ 10,335 of which will stay on Fort Riley for use in the many Girl Scout programs that go on throughout the year.

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Events in Kansas

Check out these and other events on the Kansas Travel & Tourism's Web site, www.travelKS.com.

Northeast Kansas:

Vietnam: Healing a Nation's Wounds -- through Sept. 1 -- Exhibit honoring the Vietnam veterans of Lawrence and northeast Kansas; 1047 Massachusetts St., Watkins Community Museum, Lawrence, Phone: (785) 841-4109; www.watkinsmuseum.org; Hours: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 1:30-4 p.m.

Kansas City Star Quilts Exhibit -- through May 9 -- Enjoy an exhibit of quilts created from the Kansas City Star quilt patterns; 6305 Lackman Road, Johnson County Museum, Shawnee; Phone: (913) 631-6709; www.jocomuseum.org; Hours: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sun. 1-4:30 p.m.

Kansas Silent Film Festival -- Feb. 27 and 28 -- Rare D.W.

Griffith silent film, introductions by Denise Morrison, music provided by Dr. Marvin Faulwell and by the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, 17th and Jewell, White Concert Hall, Washburn University, Topeka; Phone: (785) 231-1010; www.kssilentfilmfest.org; Hours: Fri. 7-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Antique Show and Sale -- March 5-7 -- Annual antique show and sale, wide array of antiques offered for sale during this show, 21st and Harper, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence; Phone: (785) 843-6219; www.visitlawrence.com; Hours: Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

North central Kansas:

Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945 -- through March 20 -- 25 vintage replica posters from the Smithsonian Institute illustrate that the factory and the home

were also arenas of war, 126 E. Lincoln Ave., Lincoln Art Center, Lincoln; Phone: (785) 524-3241; www.kansashumanities.org; Hours: Tue.-Fri. noon-4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., or by special appointment

South central Kansas:

Southfork Archers 3-D Bow Shoot - March 7 -- Monthly bow shoots. Classifications include unlimited, limited, bare bow, open, traditional, women's and youth, Byron Walker Wildlife Area, Kingman; Phone: (620) 532-3242; www.kingmank.com; Hours: 10 a.m.

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