Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Paper cottontail

Fort Riley spouse organizes Operation Easter baggies for deployed Soldiers

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Fort Riley Post

Tanks arrive

1st Battalion, 34th Armor, getting ready to roll again

Page 4

Friday, March 25, 2005 | America's Warfighting Center | Vol. 48, No. 12

Around The Army

Fort Riley:

Pentagon and Fort Riley officials have released a timeline for the arrival of new Soldiers to fill the 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, unit of action at Fort Riley.

Sixty Soldiers are expected to arrive in June, 50 more in September, 800 in October, 800 in November, 800 in December and the final 875 in March 2006.

Fort Benning:

The Bayonet reported Feb. 25 that a panel of experts had recommended the Fort Benning schools be transferred to the local school system. Unless Pentagon officials choose to disregard the advice of the three experts selected to assess data collected during the year-long transfer study, the post's six elementary schools and one middle school will likely be transferred to the Chattahoochee School System.

For more on this story and other Fort Benning news, visit www.thebayonet.com on the Web.

Fort Polk:

The Guardian reported Feb. 25 what some Soldiers thought might be good changes to the Army's physical fitness test.

A first lieutenant suggested changing the two-mile run to a one-mile run with Soldiers wearing a rucksack. "We should train as we fight," he said.

A captain suggested making standards the same for men and women Soldiers. "If we do the same job, we should hold the same standards," he said.

A private said the test standards needed to be adjusted. "It shouldn't have such a low standard to pass," he said.

For more about this story and other Fort Polk news, visit www.jrtc-polk.army.mil on the Web.

Okinawa:

The Pacific Stars and Stripes reported March 22 that servicemembers moving into on-base housing on Okinawa after April 1 will be limited to two pets because of overwhelmed base veterinary services, according to a memo from the Kadena housing department.

Current base residents with three or more pets will be allowed to keep them all, but they must register the animals with the Kadena Air Base Veterinary Clinic, the memo stated.

The focus is on dogs and cats and will not affect smaller animals such as hamsters and gerbils, an spokeswoman said.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the Pacific and European theaters, visit www.estripes.com/ on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported March 22 that more than 480 Canadian Army Reserve Soldiers were wrapping up their training at Fort Knox on "Exercise Maple Lightning."

The Soldiers are from southwestern Ontario's 31 Canadian Brigade Group.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/ on the Web.

E-6s get option to live off-post

Policy moves single staff sergeants into public housing within three years

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Single staff sergeants on stateside military installations will be allowed to live off post thanks to a new policy announced March 9.

The policy authorizes non-dependent basic allowance for housing pay to single staff sergeants on installations in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska. It does not apply to overseas facilities.

George Lloyd, a strategic planner for Army Unaccompanied Personnel Housing, said the goal of the new policy toward staff sergeant housing is twofold.

"It provides these Soldiers with more stability and gives staff sergeants the ability to plan their lives a little better," Lloyd said.

Lloyd said staff sergeants who want to take advantage of the new policy should contact their commanders. [When the policy is fully implemented three years from now, staff sergeants will live off post automatically, officials said, unless they apply for senior enlisted rooms and compete along with master sergeants and sergeants major where that type of billeting is available.]

"The information has gone out to the field and is on our Web page (www.hqda.army.mil

See Off-post, Page 2

Table manners

Post/Blackmon

A Bradley Infantry Fighting vehicle crew of 1st Bn., 16th Inf., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div., moves through a Table 8 gunnery scenario at Fort Riley's Range 18 in mid-March. The crews had to share the limited number of Bradleys in the battalion. Most of the battalion's Bradleys were turned in for rebuilding after the unit's last mission in Iraq.

Bradley crews overcome obstacles to qualify

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Recent personnel changes, vehicle problems and training modifications didn't prevent 32 Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews from qualifying at the recent Table 8 gunnery.

These day and night target scenarios were part of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry's, first Table 8 since their return from Operation Iraqi Freedom in October. The gunnery ran from Feb. 22 to March 17.

Of the 32 crews that qualified, 11 achieved superior status and one crew achieved distinguished status by shooting a perfect score.

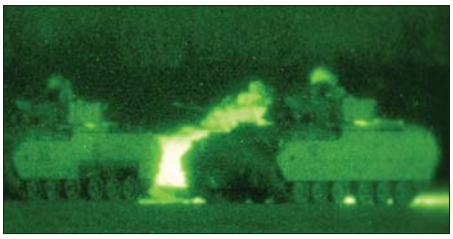
Back at work for less than six months, several issues affected the semi-annual gunnery, including numerous recent personnel changes and Bradley shortages.

"Our preliminary gunnery training was a little bit disrupted due to the personnel turbulence, the number of Bradleys and all the other conflicting things on our schedule," said Maj. Thomas Traczyk, battalion operations officer. "Our crews were a little bit less well-trained going into the table. Normally you lock your crew in three to six months out before a gunnery. We just didn't have that luxury."

"It went as well as could be expected, considering the newness of the crews. We had a lot of guys who had never seen a Bradley before, let alone been on one or shot one. But we got them through it," said Staff Sgt. Robert Koehler, battalion master gunner.

Thirty-two of the battalion's 44 crews

See Table 8, Page 3



Post/Blackmon

A night vision camera lens casts everything in a greenish hue as Bradley crews of 1st Bn., 16th Inf., take part in night fire gunnery at Fort Riley. The battalion qualified 32 Bradley crews.

Family, friends bid Soldier last farewell

By Jay Baker
Public Affairs intern

Fellow Soldiers, family and friends crowded into Morris Hill Chapel March 17 to remember a 70th Engineer Battalion Soldier.

Spc. Matthew A. Koch, 23, of Company A was killed by in an improvised explosive devise attack in Taji, Iraq, March 9.

At the ceremony, Soldiers who knew and worked with Koch shared stories about their encounters with him.

Capt. Robert Hilliard, who encountered Koch in Iraq, said, "When I heard about Spc. Koch's death, everything I knew about him came rushing back and every single memory was positive.

"He always had something positive to say. I still remember

See Post service, Page 2

The rifle, ID tags and empty boots and helmet symbolize a lost Soldier during the March 17 memorial service at Fort Riley for Spc. Matthew Koch.
Post/Baker

Comrades in Iraq honor war 'brother'

By Kevin Bromley
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Soldiers of 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, shuffled silently into the Brigade Chapel at Camp Taji March 10 to pay their last respects to a fellow Soldier and friend.

An improvised explosive device killed Spc. Matthew A. Koch of Company C, 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, March 9 while Koch was conducting a route reconnaissance.

Wounded in the attack were Sgt. Owen E. Griffith Jr. and Spc. Monte B. Todisman.

Koch, a native of Pennsylvania and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, joined the Army in 2002. After completing advanced

See Iraq service, Page 2

Post service continued from page 1

clearly him saying 'ahh, come on, sir, it's not that bad,'" he said.

Hilliard recited the words of Koch's mother, who described him as a compassionate and caring person who decided that he had to do something after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Koch displayed his value for all life, Hilliard said.

"During a mortar attack when rockets were hitting the building, Koch was guarding a detainee; and knowing he had on his vest and Kevlar helmet, he threw himself on a detainee who had nothing to protect himself," Hilliard said.

Sgt. Owen Griffith, who served with Koch for three years, including completion of basic training, said, "Matt loved to talk to people and get to know every person he met.

Spc. Matthew Koch

He helped out people around their houses with electrical work, and in Iraq he spent two hours fixing a split power cable for us," he added.

He was born in Allentown, Pa., on June 22, 1981, and enlisted in the Army in January. 2002.

He was a combat engineer assigned to Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn.

He volunteered to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2003, re-enlisted in January 2004 and returned to Iraq for a second time in February 2005.

Koch's awards include the Valorous Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

Iraq service continued from page 1

100th MPAD/Wester

Lt. Col. Anthony Wright (left), commander of the 70th Eng. Bn., 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div., bows his head while Chap. (Capt.) Raul Maria, 70th Eng. Bn. chaplain, delivers the benediction during a memorial service for Spc. Matthew A. Koch at Camp Taji, Iraq, March 14.

individual training, Koch was assigned to the 70th Eng. Bn. at Fort Riley.

He redeployed with the 70th Eng. Bn. in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2005.

"He [Koch] was an American Hero in every sense," said 70th Eng. Bn. Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Wright.

"Never once did he not have a ready attitude and a grin. He demonstrated every day that he was a Soldier," Wright said.

Command Sgt. Major Anthony Cady said, "We were all deeply saddened by the loss. Spc. Koch was an outstanding Soldier.

"We will all sorely miss his ever-present smile, good-natured attitude and Warrior Spirit. He was a great American Soldier and our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with all those who love him," Cady said.

The Soldiers were conducting operations in the Hor Al Basha Province northwest of Baghdad when their M113 armored personnel carrier was struck by a roadside IED.

"There is a lot of IED activity out there," said Maj. Douglas Guttormsen of the 70th Eng. Bn. "It presents a problem for traffic in the area," he said.

Since accepting the transfer of authority for the region, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's Soldiers have been extending their operations into new areas. "They're going into places that have not been actively patrolled for some time," said Col. David Bishop, 3rd BCT commander.

"In breaking new ground, these Soldiers are conducting missions that are vital to protecting the Iraqi people and their fellow soldiers," Bishop said.

"Spc. Koch died bravely in the service of his country," he said.

Koch was remembered as a good Soldier and a close friend to those he served with.

Capt. Jess Curry, Company C commander, said, "He was a big man, with a bigger heart. I know that his fellow Soldiers loved him very much."

Koch's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Service Medal.

Lest we forget

A complete listing of the Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in Iraq can be found the Fort Riley Web page. Go to www.riley.army.mil and click on Current News.

100th MPAD/Bromley

Keeping sharp lookout

Sgt. Michael Saina of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, provides security along a road in Taji, Iraq, March 19. Saina, a resident of Fagatogo, American Samoa, is serving his third tour of duty in Iraq.

Off-post continued from page 1

/acsimweb)," he said.

The change comes at a time when the Army is making numerous changes to the way it houses Soldiers.

Earlier this year, the housing allowance increased by 8 percent to cover a 4.5-percent increase in housing costs nationwide. An E-8 with dependents now receives about $60 more in each paycheck than before the change; an E-4 with dependents receives $47 more.

Staff sergeants will not all move off post immediately, officials said. They said the policy is designed to work by attrition.

Suzanne Harrison, chief of Army unaccompanied personnel housing, believes it will be about three years before all single staff sergeants move out of barracks, as noncommissioned officers move and are reassigned.

The Army will pay for moves staff sergeants are told to make. Soldiers who elect to move on their own must do so at their own expense, officials said.

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Post news in brief

Civilian, eight Soldiers retire

Eight Soldiers and one civilian employee are scheduled to be honored during a post retirement ceremony at 9 a.m. March 30 at Riley's Conference Center.

Scheduled to retire are Col. Rufus Y. Bandy III of Dental Activity; Chief Warrant Officer 4 William D. Schmidt of the 82nd Medical Company; 1st Sgt. Mary L. Fitzsimmons, inspector general; Master Sgt. Harry S. Stiner II, command retention; Sgt. 1st Class Baum S. Chae, 101st Forward Support Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Ronny D. Blunt, 1st Engineer Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Frederick E.F. Wilkins, 1st Eng. Bn.; Sgt Tony D. Flynn, 1st Maintenance Company; and Ms. Ann Murphy of Education Services.

Post to close Kitty Drive

Kitty Drive on Custer Hill will close from April 1 to about Aug. 1 while the road's surface is replaced and its shoulders and drainage is improved.

The closed area stretches from the intersection with Desert Storm to the intersection with Estes Road. Both intersections will remain open to traffic.

Chapel alters hours for Mass

The Catholic Mass at Morris Hill Chapel on April 3 will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4814.

MEDDAC plans heat classes

The Preventive Medicine Service of U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Riley will offer heat injury awareness and prevention briefings at Barlow Theater from 9 to 11 a.m. April 6 and May 4.

The classes will cover types of heat injuries, treatment and prevention. Heat injury Prevention is a yearly requirement for Fort Riley Soldiers. MEDDAC officials recommend unit commanders send at least two representatives to MEDDAC's class and those Soldiers present training to their units.

Family members are welcome to attend.

Classes also are available to units on a first-come, first-serve basis on Wednesdays April 15 through May 25. Available times for the one-hour classes are 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Russell Nurse, Sgt. Scott Fowle or Staff Sgt. Jody Gonzales at 239-7323.

Directorate closes for brief

The Directorate of Information Management will close March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. to conduct a training and awareness brief for all its employees. Directorate officials encourage everyone to arrange their business plans with this change in the operation schedule in mind.

For more information, call 239-6131

Post to hold sunrise service

Fort Riley's annual Easter sunrise nondenominational worship services will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. March 27 at the Outdoor Chapel off 1st Division Road.

Guest speaker for the service will be retired Maj. Gen. Orris Kelly, a former chief of chaplains now living in Manhattan.

The worship service will be followed by a continental breakfast served at the Outdoor Chapel site.

Post/Blackmon

Spc. Ian Ritchie, driver for Bravo 66, gets ready for his crew's turn at gunnery qualification.

Post/Blackmon

Staff Sgt. Michael Crutchfield and Spc. Michael Davis of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., load their Bradley before heading out to the range for gunnery qualification in mid-March.

Crew takes top honors

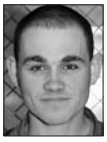
By April Blackmon
Staff writer

With just a little more than a week together as a crew, three Soldiers achieved Table 8 gunnery perfection for 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry.

Company C's Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Black, vehicle commander; Spc. Jacque Collins, gunner; and Spc. Michael Hunter, driver, successfully engaged all 10 targets to take home the battalion's top gun honors.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Black

Spc. Jacque Collins



Spc. Michael Hunter

The perfect score surprised the crew. This was the first Table 8 for Collins and Hunter.

"We worked together nine days before the gunnery," Black said, "and we came a long way since day one."

Black's experience and demeanor throughout the gunnery was helpful, Collins said.

"I was nervous at first. Then after a couple of days, I got more confident. Sgt. Black ... explained things to me before we actually did them; we talked through it," he said.

The crew didn't have the same Bradley throughout the gunnery.

"Driving each one was always different," Hunter said. "Some of the brakes are a little touchy – you push it too fast, and it throws the gun off."

Table 8 continued from page 1

Gunnery

Table 8 gunnery tests a crew's ability to shoot from a stationary and moving Bradley while engaging stationary and moving targets.

The crew moves along an outlined course and relies on crew coordination, the Bradley commander and proper authority from the range tower to hit their engagements.

Each crew must successfully complete at least seven of 10 engagements to attain qualification status.

Crews that successfully destroy eight of 10 targets achieve superior status; hitting nine or 10 of 10 targets earns distinguished status.

participated in the gunnery. The other 12 crews were too new and weren't ready to go, Traczyk said.

The crews were forced to share the 11 fully capable Bradleys available. Most of the battalion's Bradleys were either left in Iraq or were turned in for upgrades as part of a refurbishing program.

With various maintenance problems popping up throughout the gunnery, only seven to 10 were ready to go at any given time, Traczyk said.

"It was a big challenge. The hardest thing was crew ownership. The crews did not really own the Bradley they were firing off of," he said.

"The Bradleys we had available were used and abused," Koehler said. "It caused a lot of people to be standing around waiting for a Bradley that was usable to come off the range so they could jump on, load it up and go."

Adding to the turbulence was training modifications.

This Table 8 was slightly different than what Bradley crews of the past have qualified on, Koehler said. The gunnery included scenarios the battalion had seen in Iraq.

"We put a lot more lateral dispersion on the targets - scanning left to right. The targets were a lot farther apart, and we incorporated friendly targets into the scenarios," he said.

The modifications were a bit challenging to recognize at first, Koehler said, but the crews adapted well.

"Once they got out there to the practice tables - 5, 6 and 7 - they did very well and our results were very good. They did a good job overall," Traczyk said.

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‘New’ tanks reach unit

Battalion unloads rebuilt Abrams M1A1s

Post/Blackmon

Pfc. Rickey Harris (left), Spc. John Shanks (center) and Spc. Vincent Peter of Co. A, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, work to remove chains holding down the battalion’s new M1A1 Abrams tanks.

A guide stands in front of a rebuilt Abrams M1A1 tank being unloaded at the Fort Riley railhead after it was driven off a railcar onto a concrete ramp. The rebuilt tanks will replace part of the fleet of M1A1s 1st Bn., 34th Armor, turned in for refurbishing and transferred to the 2nd Inf. Div. units that replaced the battalion in Iraq.

Post/Blackmon

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, have “new” M1A1 Abrams tanks. The battalion received 22 refurbished tanks from Fort Hood, Texas, via rail March 3. Another train carrying 20 more Abrams was en route to Fort Riley last week, two battalion officials said.

“It feels pretty good to have the new tanks because the tanks we had were pretty old. They just had a lot of maintenance problems. They were beat up and from the Desert Storm era,” said Capt. Donnell Kennerly, battalion S4.

The refurbished equipment is part of the Abrams Integrated Management Overhaul Program. Anniston Army Depot in Alabama and General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights, Michigan, formed the partnership to “recapitalize” the tanks.

The program takes some of the Army’s oldest Abrams tanks and turns them into like-new products.

“These are 100 percent better than what we had here before,” said Ramon Cruz, Abrams Fielding Site chief at Fort Riley. “We had some of the oldest tanks in the fleet.”

“It makes life better for us because we’re getting caught back up with the regular Army,” Kennerly said.

The upgraded tanks should help increase efficiency and decrease wasted time, Cruz said.

While the tanks look the same on the outside, numerous modifications and upgrades were made to the tank’s interior.

Those changes include an eye-safe laser range finder, revised hull and turret networks boxes and technological upgrades. New embedded diagnostics will allow maintenance personnel to troubleshoot and repair the vehicle much quicker, Cruz said.

Other refurbishments to the tank will improve and increase engine life. “They’ll now be able to get more miles from the engines,” he said.

The battalion’s former tanks will make their way to the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. There, they will be completely disassembled and parts will be repaired and refurbished, Cruz said. Once the parts are refurbished, they will be shipped to the Lima Army Tank Plant in Ohio for reassembly. Those tanks will go to another unit.

First Bn., 34th Armor, plans to take its new tanks out the end of the month to test them before beginning gunnery in early April, Kennerly said.

Post/Blackmon

Pfc. DiAngello Strong of Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, climbs onto an Abrams tank in need of a driver. Strong and several fellow armor Soldiers worked to take the tanks off railcars March 15.

What is your unit doing?
The Fort Riley Post newspaper staff wants to know.
Call the editor at 239-8854. Let’s talk.

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Commentary

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you think is the best thing about being in the Army or about being an Army family?

"For families, it depends on where you are. Overseas, the garrison staff is more supportive of families. Stateside, that's not the case. For myself, it's the opportunity to excel. If you work hard, you will be awarded appropriately."

Staff Sgt. Clifford Dickinson
S2 NCOIC
HHC, 1st Infantry Brigade
Home: Redlands, Calif.

"Job security. Before enlisting, I was in retail management. Our company was bought out, and they did away with all the management. That's not fun."

Spc. Neal Durkin
Logistics clerk
HHC, 1st Brigade Combat Team
Home: Chicago

"The bond between military families and within the community. The whole community is like a family. The way the ladies pull together in tough times. It's like being in a boat going upriver, but everyone's in the boat together, everyone's paddling."

Shelley Martin
Army wife since 1994
Home: Trenton, Mo.

"It let's you travel quite a bit and meet different people from different cultures. I've been to Germany, Colorado and Puerto Rico."

Edilmira Ocasio
Wife of 20-year military retiree
Employed at Fort Riley
Child Development Center
Home: Junction City

"The stability, the security of never losing your job. If you behave and not misuse your bodies, you'll be able to stay in. And the travel. You get to travel for free."

Spc. Katie Youngblood
Supply specialist
101st Forward Support Battalion
Home: Grand Rapids, Mich.

Next week's question:

What makes you proud, as a civilian employee, to be part of the Fort Riley team?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Raising community awareness

Month celebrates military child, educates

By Carolyn Tolliver-Lee
Family Advocacy Program

April is nationally recognized as Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. It includes the Week of the Young Child.

This year's campaign slogan is "Protecting All Our Children, All the Time!"

Military children, in particular, are to be celebrated because they are the sons and daughters of Soldiers serving our country at home and abroad. This makes the lives of military children very different from most other children.

Carolyn Tolliver-Lee

Many military children learn to maintain distant relationships with their parent or parents who are active duty Soldiers stationed afar.

Unlike most other children, military children's parents spend extended periods of time away from home performing military missions.

• • •

The life of the military child is one of constant change and travel. They relocate from one community to another, one state to another and sometimes from one country to another.

Each transfer introduces new experiences: new friends, new schools and new surroundings. Yet, every move is considered "home."

During April, Fort Riley's Family Advocacy Program will offer special events and programs for the installation and surrounding communities to promote healthy and positive family relationships.

Children are more likely to develop healthy, positive self-esteem with each positive interaction they have in their environment. These events are especially planned to foster healthy bonding with children, parents and community.

The Family Advocacy Program celebrates military children and their families each day of the year and especially during the month of April.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Two years later: What do Iraqis think?

By Donna Miles
AFPS

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two years after the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, most Iraqi people are relieved to be free of Saddam Hussein, hopeful for their country's future, but frustrated that progress isn't coming as quickly as they'd like.

That was the assessment of several Iraqi journalists in Baghdad who spoke with the American Forces Press Service on the condition that their names not be used for fear of retaliation by extremists.

The journalists described an Iraq buoyed by Saddam's removal from power and the possibilities ahead under a new democratic government.

"Under Saddam and his army, people were always afraid. Talk to just about anyone and they know someone killed under Saddam," said a journalist for an Iraqi daily newspaper. "Anyone, even the devil, would be better," agreed a reporter who covers Iraq for a U.S. newspaper.

Across the board, the journalists agreed that nothing short of Operation Iraqi Freedom could successfully have freed Iraq from Saddam's iron grip.

• • •

The population is split regarding the length of the coalition mission here, but generally understands that it's too soon for the coalition to leave Iraq. They don't like what they perceive as aggressive convoys running through their streets, but they recognize that they're necessary for Iraq's long-term security, the reporters said.

"People understand that it is necessary for the coalition to stay through this transient, difficult stage for our country," one reporter said. "The Soldiers need to stay until we're able to secure ourselves from the dangerous enemies, both in and out of Iraq."

But at the same time, many Iraqis are frustrated by the difficulties they're experiencing during their country's transition period - from concerns about security and unemployment to uncertainty about their future government to inconveniences caused by dilapidated water and electrical systems.

Regular insurgent attacks on Iraqi civilians have left the population frazzled, and many are growing increasingly angry at those behind the attacks. More than 2,000 people marched through Baghdad March 18 to protest a bombing that left 125 people dead.

The attackers include Iraqis who refuse to let go of the Saddam regime. While stressing that he disagrees with their viewpoints and tactics, one reporter said he understands their desperation.

"Under Saddam, they had money, they had big houses and cars, they had high-level jobs. Now they have nothing," he said. These loyalists aren't necessarily committed to Saddam the man, the reporter explained. What many are clinging to are the lives of privilege they once had, but have lost.

• • •

Ridding Iraq of extremists has to be a top priority in Iraq's progress, a reporter said. "The first demand has to be to kill the terrorists," he said. "We can't move forward with the terrorists operating freely and killing our people."

In terms of their future government, the people are mixed, with some wanting a clear separation between church and state and others preferring an Islamic government. The latter alternative, one Iraqi journalist who reports for a U.S. newspaper fears, likely would be strongly influenced by Iran. "People don't want to see an Iranian style of government for Iraq," he said.

As they ponder their country's political future, some Iraqis have difficulty looking beyond the day-to-day inconveniences caused by Iraq's long-neglected infrastructure, the journalists agreed.

• • •

The Iraqi people have heard about the $18 billion the United States has committed in reconstruction funds but aren't seeing signs of the efforts or believe they're taking too long.

"Many Iraqis thought that the Americans could come in and wave a magic wand and everything would be fixed," said one reporter who covers Baghdad for a local daily newspaper. "They don't understand that it's going to take time to clean up after 35 years."

Similarly, as they watch their country transition from a dictatorship to a democracy, many Iraqis, particularly those with less education, are grappling with their newfound liberties.

"People are trying to understand: What is democracy? What is freedom?" a reporter said. "To some, it means that now they can do anything they want, but that's not true. There are a lot of misconceptions, and the Iraqi leaders and Iraqi media need to help educate them."

• • •

Despite the difficulties and frustrations of Iraq's transition period, most Iraqi people are now looking to the future with hopes and aspirations unimaginable just two years ago, the reporters said.

"Most Iraqis believe that the future will be better," a reporter summarized. "They want a good, stable life and a chance to live their dreams."

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*

FORT RILEY POST

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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____

Post news in brief

Post to begin spring cooling

Weather permitting, Public Works personnel will begin turning off heating beginning April 4 in the following sequence:

April 4-15 - Administrative buildings, barracks, bachelor enlisted quarters and bachelor officer quarters with individual units, buildings in the 8000 area, dining facilities and community buildings.

Air conditioning systems are scheduled to be turned on beginning May 2 May in the following order:

May 2-13 - Barracks, bachelor officer quarters and bachelor enlisted quarters, buildings in the 8000 area, community buildings and administrative buildings.

Heating and cooling systems in chapels, medical and dental buildings will be maintained as appropriate.

Family housing occupants control their own heat and air conditioning systems as desired. The authorized temperature for the cooling season is 76 to 80 degrees.

All-terrain rider courses slated

An ATV RiderCourse is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 27 and 28 at the McGee Farm.

Licensed ASI instructors conduct the hands-on, half-day ATV RiderCourse.

The course offers students an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor.

Students practice basic safety techniques with hands-on exercises. Particular emphasis is placed on the safety implications relating to each lesson.

Participants receive the ATV RiderCourse Handbook that reinforces the safety information and riding techniques covered during the instruction.

Individuals 6 years of age and older may take the class. Riders younger than 16 are restricted to ATVs of the size recommended for the rider's age.

There are special teaching provisions for students under 16 years old, and parents are encouraged to attend.

Students younger than 12 participate in separate classes and a parent must be present during the entire course.

Class size is determined by the age of the students: maximum of eight for 16 and older, maximum of six for 12 to 15 and maximum of four for 6 to 12 years old. Parents or guardian must attend with students ages 6 to 11.

Students under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the release and consent form.

For more information, call Vanita Fiedler at 239-2334.

Army seeks new warrants

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks.

Positions are open in all 41 active duty warrant officer specialties, and the following are experiencing critical shortages:

- Military Intelligence
- Special Forces
- Food Service
- Criminal Investigation
- Airdrop Systems Technicians.

Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For more information, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant on the Web or call DSN 536-0328, 536-0466, 536-0271, 536-1860, 536-0458 or 536-0484.

The toll free number is (800) 223-3735, extension 6 and the last four digits of the phone number.

70th Eng. Bn./La Caille

A "Humvee" splashes through a large puddle several days of desert rains created at Camp Cooke in Iraq.

70th Eng. Bn./La Caille

Boot prints fill with water along a muddy stretch near Camp Cooke's main post exchange facility.

Desert, water equals . . . MUD!

Rains soak Camp Cooke; 70th Engineers splash through daily routines

By Emily La Caille
70th Engineer Battalion

The soil of Camp Cooke in Al Taji, Iraq, consists primarily of sand, dirt and gravel. It all dissolves easily into mud and water puddles after a 20- minute sprinkle of rain.

The mud lasts but a short time, quickly becoming sand and dirt again after only 30 minutes of sunshine.

The soil's consistency allows good traffic movement for military and civilian vehicles as well as pedestrians — when it's dry. During a recent stretch of days when the rain refused to let up and the clouds continually cloaked the sky, the sun got little chance to dissipate the standing mud and water.

Military vehicles tackled the area inside Camp Cooke with minimal problems during that stretch. Civilian vehicles experienced the same good fortune with only an occasional slip that mired them momentarily the mud.

Pedestrians took the brunt of the weather's hardship, wading through ankle-deep puddles in

some areas and trudging through knee-deep mud in others.

The situation created some problems for Soldiers and civilians at Camp Cooke as they attempted to keep their living areas clean. One step from their trailer was bound to end in mud and water.

Most Soldiers opted to leave their boots and sneakers outside in the standing water instead of dragging the water and mud into their living quarters with their shoes. Some have found ways to beat the water, putting out planks and whatever else they can find to elevate their doorstep above the muck.

Sidewalk construction is in progress at Camp Cooke but is far from complete. Once complete, sidewalks will provide relief to those crossing the camp on foot during soaking periods of weather.

Sidewalks, however, aren't always a solution to getting wet. People using them face the possibility of being splashed by vehicles passing by on the nearby water-filled road.

Many at Camp Cooke are looking forward to a break in the rain clouds so the sun can begin to dry up the camp. In the meantime, those same many can the last of moisture and mild temperatures before the onslaught of the Iraqi summer's dryness and 100-plus degree temperatures.

Post/Hill

Sgt. First Class James Blecha (left), noncommissioned officer in charge of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, comforts Ike as Sarah Rapp (right), a veterinary technician, and Reba Ferreira (rear) K-State equine intern, escort him into a stable. Ike underwent surgery at the K-State Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital March 10 to have a pin in his foot removed.

Color guard mount healing from surgery

By Cassidy Hill
Assist. Com. Rel. Officer

Ike, a 13-year-old paint quarter horse with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard at Fort Riley, is one step closer to recovering from an injured foot.

Dr. Carolyn Arnold, an assistant professor of equine surgery at Kansas State University's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, and other surgeons and assistants removed a pin from Ike's joint during a follow-up surgery March 10.

"Pins allow the horse to not bear his weight on the joint," Arnold said. "The pins were placed above his new repair to give the joint time to heal."

Arnold said Ike originally had two pins placed in the lower part of his cannon bone; but with the pins sticking out of his leg, he bumped them into his stall and bruised the bone. Doctors had to remove one of the pins after he did this, she said.

Arnold said that three weeks after Ike's initial surgery the other pin became loose, which is an indication his joint was on the road to recovery.

"His leg looks great," Arnold said. "He is able to bear weight, and his joint is fusing as expected. He is right on track."

Noncommissioned-Officer-in-Charge of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, Sgt. 1st Class James Blecha, said K-State's staff has been great through all of Ike's surgeries.

"Ike has been very well taken care of, and the staff has really been easy to work with," Blecha said. "They are very knowledgeable, and you can tell they truly care about horses."

After surgery, Ike was placed in a padded room to wake from the anesthesia. He was then escorted to his stable, where he remained overnight.

Ike fractured his foot in January. The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital helped the mounted unit with Ike's surgery by covering $3,250 of the expense. Also, the hospital used Ike's surgery as teaching resource for veterinary medicine students.

Arnold said it would take at least another three weeks before Ike's cast could come off. She said staff members at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital would come to the stables next week for another checkup on Ike.

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Post news in brief

Riley's to host food, Karaoke

Fun, food and Karaoke is on tap at Right Hand Night from 5 to 8 p.m. March 25 at Riley's Conference Center.

Eligible patrons are invited to show their talents and perhaps become "Fort Riley's Idol." Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

Admission is a $3 cover charge at the door.

For more information, call 784-1000.

Army seeks CID agents

The U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Command is seeking qualified applicants to become highly trained CID special agents.

The CID investigates all felony crimes in which the Army has an interest, provides protective service operations, and works closely with other Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism.

Agents receive training at the U.S. Army Military Police School and advanced training in specialized investigative disciplines.

To qualify you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, possess at least 60 semester hours of college credit and a general technical score of at least 110. A minimum of 6 months police experience is preferred, but not required.

For more information on becoming a CID Special Agent, visit: www.cid.army.mil, or contact your local CID office today.

Recruiter teams to visit post

A Recruit-the-Recruiter team will brief Soldiers interested in switching to recruiter duty at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. March 29 and March 30 at the Post Retention Office.

Soldiers who serve as recruiters earn the Recruiter Badge and sergeants and staff sergeants in a promotable status who earn the Recruiter Ring during their 36-month tour are eligible for meritorious promotions.

Recruiters also receive $450 per month in Special Duty Pay upon assignment.

The briefings at Fort Riley will cover the duties, challenges, benefits and opportunities of recruiter duty. Attending the briefing in no way obligates the Soldier for recruiting duty.

A voluntary personal interview following the briefing will determine if a Soldier is qualified.

For more information about recruiting duty, visit www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter on the Web or call (502) 626-0105 or DSN 536-0105.

For information regarding the Fort Riley briefings, contact the Post Retention Office at 856-4215.

Program open seasons to end

Public Law 108-469, which was signed into law Dec. 21, 2004, eliminates the Thrift Savings Plan open seasons and the restrictions on contribution elections which are tied to open seasons.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board will implement this law on July 1, 2005.

There will be one more open season, April 15 through June 30, 2005. This means that participants may file contribution elections with their agencies or uniformed services at any time beginning April 15.

Through June 30, these elections will be processed under the current rules. Beginning July 1, contribution elections will be processed under the new rules – that is, the elections must be made effective no later than the first full pay period after they are filed.

Artillery Soldiers train Iraq soldiers

100th MPAD/Bromley

An Iraqi Army Soldier of the 307th Bn., 40th Iraqi National Guard Bde., takes a quick peek through a window during urban warfare training in Taji, Iraq. Members of Fort Riley's 4th Bn., 1st FA, are training members of the Iraqi Army in basic soldiering skills.

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – "This training is good for my soldiers," said Lt. Col. Sabah Kadhem, commander of the Iraq army's 307th Battalion. "If a soldier is not trained, he can't defend his country," he said bluntly.

At Hawk Base, near Camp Taji, Iraq, Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, are making self-defense of their country possible by training soldiers of the Iraqi Army.

A cadre of Soldiers assigned to the battalion's A and B companies staff Hawk Base and teach the Iraqi soldiers the skills they will need to secure their area of northwest Baghdad.

"The Iraqis complete two weeks of training here," said Capt. Daniel K. Getchel of Vale, Ore., a 4th Bn., 1st FA, officer supervising the training. "We train them to get proficient, and then turn the company back over to their unit."

Getchel said the Iraqis start by learning individual skills. "They work on skills like patrolling, reacting to contact, casualty evacuation and basic soldiering skills," he said.

The Iraqi troops then move to squad-level tasks and finally work on training at the company level.

Report from
Iraqi Freedom

"They're working well together," said Sgt. Cozae C. Banks, an Atchison, Kan., native and member of the battalion's training cadre.

"We're trying to teach them a certain standard of discipline," Banks said.

The cadre tries to instill discipline in the troops but doesn't have to spend much time motivating them.

Getchel said they are highly motivated when they arrive for training.

Iraqi morale high

"I've seen an increase in esprit de corps, morale and motivation," he said. "We've had Iraqi soldiers that have been wounded in combat come back for training"

He also has seen an increase in the amount of equipment available to the troops, who are now issued uniforms, physical training clothes, running shoes and two pairs of boots.

The Iraqis break in those new boots on the training lanes at Hawk Base.

On one of the lanes recently, American trainers supervised as an Iraqi army squad cleared a group of buildings containing other Iraqi soldiers posing as insurgents.

The U.S. cadre acted as observer-controllers and let the Iraqis test their skills.

"We're in more of an evaluative role," Getchel said.

"This is a squad (situational training exercise)," said 1st Lt. John Sackman, a Co. A trainer from Boise, Idaho.

Like many cadre members, Sackman is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked as a civil affairs officer and thinks his experience with the Iraqi culture has helped him train Iraqi troops and officers.

"I've had lunch meetings with them (Iraqi officers) and introduced new teaching methods," he said.

Sackman underscored one his main training goals. "We're trying to teach initiative down to the lowest levels," he said.

One of the Iraqi army noncommissioned officers showed this initiative on the squad lane.

"He was dissatisfied with the performance of his squad, so he is leading by example through this training," Sackman said, as the sergeant showed his troops how to fire and maneuver.

After the exercise, Sackman gathered the cadre and troops together to discuss successes and focus areas as part of an American-style after-action report.

"This terrain was chosen because it is difficult. You are making definite progress," he told the soldiers.

"Keep on moving with a sense of purpose," Banks added. "You're doing a good job."

As the Iraqi troops formed to march back to their barracks, Getchel summed up his thoughts about the partnership with the Iraq army.

Iraqis show bravery

"If we put out great effort, these can be great troops," Getchel said. "They're some of the bravest people I've met," he said, alluding to the great risk Iraqi men take when choosing to serve in the army.

"If they know what the mission is, and they've rehearsed it, they can execute," Getchel said.

Kadhem agreed. "They are now ready for any mission," he said. "My soldiers are very happy when they catch an insurgent because they are helping the future of Iraq."

For the rest of the year, the Soldiers of 4th Bn., 1st FA, will be at Hawk Base to teach them how to catch insurgents and help the future of Iraq.

Cooks keep Soldiers fed

Food preparation, soldiering keep 'em busy

By Jamie Bender
19th PAD

If you like early mornings, a clean working environment and a busy schedule, the life of an Army cook may be for you.

An Army cook's day begins with cooks' mount. The formation of Soldiers dressed in white uniforms is inspected by the shift noncommissioned-officer-in-charge and duty assignments are handed out.

Assigned to starches and vegetables, Pfc. John Nentl, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, began his early shift by preparing and cooking potatoes O'Brien, rice and corn for almost 200 hungry Soldiers.

"The potatoes are already peeled and sliced," Nentl said. "That saves a lot of time."

The rice is prepared in pans that hold 100 servings.

"We usually start out with 100 servings, and about half way through we can make more if we see that we need it," said Cpl. Kenneth Eide, 331st Signal Company.

As breakfast is being served, preparations are being made for lunch, the busiest meal of the day.

"We are always working against the clock," Nentl said. "You have to have everything ready for the next meal. You have to make sure everything is done and looks good. You are constantly cleaning up as you're cooking. It's probably the most stressful part of the job."

Cleanliness standards have to be high.

"The way you do it at home ... you have to do it 10 times better than that," Eide said. "We don't have room for error. We could make a lot of people sick."

The early shift ends after lunch. The kitchen is cleaned once again and inspected by the oncoming shift NCOIC. Anything that doesn't pass inspection is pointed out and taken care of before the cooks are released for physical training.

Civilian KPs (kitchen police) assist the Soldiers at Devil's Den.

"They do the dishes, pots and pans," Eide said. "They clean up the dining area and stuff like that."

For Nentl, early shift is the most challenging.

"The hardest part is waking up early to get here," he said. "I like to do it all. I don't really have a favorite job, but I like to do everything."

Actual cooking is only about 20 per cent of the job, Eide said. The rest is prep work.

"Cooking is pretty much making sure everything is at the right temperature and done all the way," he said. "The hardest part is the preparation to make sure everything is right."

The cooks work as a closely knit group. They have to be, Eide said.

"Cooks are always together in one area. You don't have a choice but to get along."

"We work a lot of long hours," Nentl agreed. "We have a long duty day and we work a lot of weekends and holidays."

A long duty day and few holidays are part and parcel of the Army cook's job.

"They have this job as well as still doing [common task training], weapons qualification and command maintenance," said Sgt. 1st Class Derald Jones, 331st Sig. Co. operations sergeant. "Most of the holidays, they are still going to be working here. I think our Soldiers take that duty in a very motivated way. We have a lot of quality Soldiers ready and eager to train."

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Intelligence staff coaches division's Guardsmen

By James Tamez
19th PAD

The intelligence (G2) section of the 24th Infantry Division is responsible for overseeing military intelligence training of the 48th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Stewart, Ga., as they prepare for deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom later this year.

"Our mission in the military intelligence arena is to get the best information on the enemy forces out there, whether it is terrorists or anti-Iraqi forces, and give that information to the commander so that he can develop his plan and execute it," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Zenyuk, G2 noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech).

"We work specifically with the different intelligence Military Occupation Specialties within the (48th BCT) and tailor training specifically for them," he said. The G2 has a two-week timeframe to train all the MI Soldiers within the brigade on different areas within the intelligence sector, he added.

"Our primary mission is to prepare them by providing resources and training for the 48th S2 shop," said Maj. Mark Crisman, G2 officer-in-charge, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech).

19th PAD/Tamez

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Zenyuk (right), G2 noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), watches Spc. Juan Lopez, HHC, 48th BCT, as he tracks the location of friendly units on the training map.

Crisman added that the G2 shop, which has about 20 Soldiers to handle real world intelligence, training requirements and personnel security, has a very important and multifaceted job to do.

"First, we are here to assist the 48th by maintaining a real world idea of what is happening where they are deploying," Crisman said. "We get information from the unit that is on the ground and we show the 48th what is happening.

"The second thing we cover is the day-to-day operations within an S2 shop at the brigade level. We talk about threat tactics, techniques and procedures, including how (threat forces) are conducting improvised explosive devices attacks, how they are conducting mortar attacks and how they are conducting coordinated attacks," he explained.

Zenyuk said the work the G2 is doing is extremely important because of the possible consequences. "It is very important that we be here so that the intelligence folks within the brigade are properly trained. If we were to send them over unprepared, it could cost Soldiers lives. Not just the intelligence Soldiers, but also the Soldiers on the ground that rely on the intelligence," he said.

"The 48th is getting some good training and they are fielding new equipment," Zenyuk said. "We also provide subject matter experts, who talk to them about what they will be doing in Iraq when they get there and to give them a broader idea of what is going on."

He added that the training is focused on areas that will better assist the 48th in their mission.

Much of this training is a shift in focus from when Zenyuk entered the intelligence field about 10 years ago.

"Terrorism is a big issue that we didn't have to deal with to the extent that we are now," he said. "Before 9/11, we focused on large formation, force on force battles. With the environment we are in, we are focusing on small unit, terrorism and individual type missions. We have had to change our train of thought, and that is one of the ways we are developing and changing."

Crisman agreed. "The fight against terrorism has changed the Army as a whole," he said. "As we have mobilized these National Guard units, we've learned new things, found better ways to accomplish the mission and found new training techniques for all sections within the brigade."

Crisman added the 48th BCT is not the first National Guard unit to deploy under the observation of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech). Others were the 30th BCT from North Carolina, the 278th BCT from Tennessee and the 155th BCT from Mississippi.

Pfc. James Tamez is on assignment with the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) at Fort Stewart, Ga.

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2nd Platoon tankers shine without 'tracks'

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

The 2nd Platoons in 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, showed they were the best "infantry" Soldiers in the tank unit, and Company A's 2nd Pltn. tops them all.

Co. A's 2nd Pltn., consisting normally of four, four-man Abrams tank crews, performed better than any other platoon in the battalion during Centurion Stakes Feb. 22-25. The platoon received its award at a ceremony March 11 when the battalion presented a number of awards for Soldier and unit achievements.

Centurion Stakes competition placed the battalion's tankers on foot facing a variety of situations any dismounted unit in the Army could face in combat today.

Besides common Army skill requirements, such as the physical fitness test, first aid for a variety of injuries and marksmanship with the 9mm pistol, the platoons reacted to an improvised explosive device, attack by direct and indirect fire and attack by a sniper.

Platoons could earn 2,500 points total for their performance in 22 graded situations. Most situations offered 100 maximum points, but the Army physical fitness test offered 300 points and the weapons qualification and reflex fire event offered 150 points each.

Post/Heronemus

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis D. Fuller (right) accepts congratulations from 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes (left) and battalion commander Lt. Col. Michael Higginbottom for his platoon's top score in Centurion Stakes.

Co.'A's 2nd Pltn. maxed scores in 12 of the 19 events offering 100 points, scored 219 of 300 in the physical fitness test, shot 110 of 150 points in 9mm qualification and 137 of 150 in reflex fire. The platoon earned a total of 2,278 points in Centurion Stakes, also scoring the highest mark in the battalion for 9 mm weapons qualification.

Company B's 2nd Pltn. scored 2,239 points for second place, and Company C's 2nd Pltn. scored 2,213 points for third place. Capt. Damon Durall, the battalion adjutant, said the command leadership was pleased to see the top three platoons score within 65 points of each other.

Centurion Stakes provided a unique opportunity for the tankers to train and practice combat skills they may face in Iraq, Durall said, and it made good use of time the battalion was without its tanks.

The battalion turned in some tanks for complete overhaul when it returned to Fort Riley after its latest mission in Iraq, he said, and transferred the rest to the 2nd Infantry Division units taking the battalion's place in Iraq.

The battalion's overhauled tanks began arriving at Fort Riley March 15.

At first, some of the Soldiers weren't too enthused about the dismounted exercise, said Co. A's 2nd Pltn. Leader, 1st Lt. Alexander Moore.

He characterized Centurion Stakes as something different for his Soldiers "in a good way. We have to be prepared for any possibility. All the lanes matched what we will see overseas, what I saw in Iraq."

Although Moore is an armor officer, he led an infantry platoon for four months while deployed to Iraq. When the 2nd Pltn. lost its leader in Iraq, he took over for the rest of the tour and returned with the unit to Fort Riley.

The lack of initial enthusiasm from some Soldiers in the platoon changed to real motivation as Centurion Stakes drew nearer, Moore said. Eventually, that motivation became very aggressive with a positive attitude for success demonstrated by the platoon as a whole, he said.

"It was fun," said Pfc. Rickey Harris, a tank driver in the 2nd Pltn. He admitted some of his fellow Soldiers lacked some spirit at the beginning, but by the time Centurion Stakes kicked off a week later, they were saying, "Yeah, let's do this," Harris recalled.

The poorest performance the platoon turned in was for the 19-kilometer road march. The platoon scored 65 of a possible 100 points. Moore said one Soldier in the platoon had injured his knee, so that slowed them down some, but the decision was to finish the march together instead of leaving a fellow Soldier behind.

A lot of the guys kept encouraging him to keep up, Harris said, and he did.

The march was easy for him, Harris said. "I play basketball and walk and run all the time."

Harris said he thought the platoon was really prepared for Centurion Stakes, even though Moore said he had only a week to get his Soldiers ready. When the platoon went through the competition, Harris said he was ready. "There was nothing new," that caught him or others in the platoon by surprise, he said.

Other awards

The following honors also were recognized during the 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Centurion Stakes awards ceremony March 11.

High 9mm pistol qualification score - 2nd Lt. Joseph T. White of Company A (28 of 30 targets hit)

For outstanding performance during Centurion Stakes:
Sgt. Travis Wilson, Co. A
Pvt. Eric E. Clark, 1st Platoon, Company B
Sgt. William D. Salmon, 2nd Platoon, Co. B
Sgt. Joseph W. Loesch, 3rd Platoon, Co. B
Pfc. Robert J. Herpel, 1st Platoon, Company C
Spc. Nathan K. Sparks, 2nd Platoon, Co. C
Pvt. Michael E. Endl, 3rd Platoon, Co. C

Army Physical Fitness Badges for scoring 270 or higher on the APFT went to:
1st Lt. Alexander Moore of 2nd Platoon, Co. A
Pfc. Casey Briggs of Co. B
2nd Lt. Jarrad Glasenapp of Co. C
Pfc. Andreas Sax of Co. C

Battalion opens new headquarters

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Tankers of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, cut a ribbon March 11 to ceremoniously open their new headquarters building on Custer Hill, across the street and north from 1st Brigade headquarters.

Occupancy came earlier than expected, said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Michael S. Higginbottom, "thanks to efforts by Garrison Commander Col. John Simpson and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble."

The early move was important, Higginbottom said, because it moved the battalion's staffs into one building, making interstaff and company coordination much easier.

"We used to be spread out in several buildings," he said.

The new building also contains a computer lab that will be an important asset for the battalion's Soldiers, Higginbottom said. It will give them access to digital training and reference materials for personal and unit development, he said.

"You know, platoon sergeants don't really have an office; but they have a need to use a computer to obtain training material or to just compose a document," Higginbottom said. The lab will provide that technical support, he added.

At the same time the battalion headquarters staff consolidated into one building, the battalion's single Soldiers moved into one living area, Higginbottom said.

"They moved into the old 2-34 (2nd Battalion, 34th Armor) barracks. They were spread out across four or five barracks, which made it hard for first sergeants to control accountability and cleanliness, he said.

"Now they're right across from the PX and can walk there, thanks to the new lighted walkway that's being installed," Higginbottom said.

Post/Heronemus

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble (left), 1st Bn., 34th Armor, Commander Lt. Col. Michael Higginbottom (center) and battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes cut a ribbon to open the new battalion headquarters.

Got a news tip? Got a concern?
Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

Hospital changes records procedure

By David Heidebrink
IACH

Irwin Army Community Hospital staff will assume responsibility for transporting all medical records to locations within the hospital after April 4.

Patients will no longer be allowed to transport their medical records to appointments within the hospital.

The change is being made to comply with the Office of the Surgeon General Directive 03-006 dealing with the Closed Records System.

In conjunction with the change in records service, the customer service window in the outpatient records room will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and be closed on weekends, training holidays and federal holidays.

Patients may continue to request a copy of medical records in lieu of possessing or transporting the original record.

All requests for copies of medical records should be referred to the correspondence staff located next to the admissions and dispositions office on the first floor.

Exceptions will continue to be made for active duty servicemembers transporting their medical records to and from the Soldier Readiness Processing site, to same-day appointments at the hospital that result from a referral made by the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic staff, when making a permanent change of station, traveling on temporary duty or when referred to an appointment off-post.

Family members and retirees will continue to hand-carry their records to off-post appointments and when relocating due to their sponsor's PCS.

Other circumstances might require the patient to hand-carry his or her medical records, but those situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Activated Reserve Soldiers who are on Fort Riley only to mobilize or demobilize are exempt from all CRS initiatives. They will have to hand-carry medical records unless their orders assign them to Fort Riley in conjunction with their activation.

WALKER JIM
2 x 4"

Red 2X4 Saturn/JWalker G Open

EASTSIDE MARKET-MANHATTAN
2 x 7"
Black Only
2x7eastside03/20-0257am

LEGACY COMMUNITY CHURCH
4 x 6"
Black Only
4x6 top ten easter/9970

MILITARY ONESOURCE-AFC
6 x 21.25"

FC/#554118,4119,4120,21,22,23

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Fort Riley
Sports & Recreation

Friday, March 25, 2005 | America's Warfighting Center | Page 11

Sports news in brief

Center requires boater's class

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, and younger than 21 must complete an approved boater safety education course in order to operate a motorboat or sailboat on Kansas public waters.

People who fall into that age category may operate a motorboat or sailboat if they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person older than 17 who possesses a certificate of completion for an approved boater safety education course or is exempt from this requirement.

Outdoor Recreation Center at Fort Riley will host Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks boater safety classes from 7 to 9 p.m. April 7 and 8, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 9, 7 to 9 p.m. May 5 and 6 and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 7. Cost is a $10 deposit that will be returned the first night a person attends.

A KDWP instructor will certify class attendees to operate boats after they pass a 50-question test given the last day of the class. Class is limited to the first 30 participants 12 years or older who enroll.

The certification is required of anyone wishing to rent a boat from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 239-2363.

New fitness teachers sought

The fitness department is looking for new fitness instructors to teach aerobic/kick boxing classes. Individuals certified by well-recognized associations, such as ACSM, AFAA or ACE will be considered. Anyone interested can send a resume to Building 202, Custer Avenue, fax it to 239-6870 or call 239-2813 for more information.

Golf clinic set at Custer Hill

Custer Hill Golf Course at Fort Riley will host a golf clinic for women beginning at 3 p.m. March 25. For more information, call the golf course at 784-6000.

Rec offers archery lessons

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, 9011 Rifle Range Road, will offer an archery familiarization class at its range on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. through April 7.

Cost for each class attended is $2, and attendance can be in those classes that fit the individual's schedule.

An archery top gun competition is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 9.

For more information, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

Longest beard contest slated

All hunters harvesting turkey in the hunting areas of Fort Riley can enter the 2005 Longest Turkey Beard Contest sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Registration for the contest will be through April 7.

For more information about the contest and about hunting on Fort Riley, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

Amputees join in Bataan Death March

By Donna Braun
Army News Service

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. – One generation of war heroes paid tribute to another March 20 at the 16th annual Bataan Memorial Death March.

After 26 miles through gravel, sand and wind-blown dust, Sgt. 1st Class Michael McNaughton sprinted toward the finish line. He was one of five men, all amputees, sponsored by Walter Reed Army Medical Center, who participated in this year's march.

"I wanted to do this for the Bataan survivors," McNaughton said. "The sacrifices they made were incredible."

McNaughton knows first-hand about the sacrifices Soldiers are called to make during wartime. He was wounded while deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, leaving his right leg amputated above the knee.

More than 3,500 people, most of them military, participated in this year's march. The memorial event began in 1989 to honor the tens of thousands of American and Filipino troops who surrendered to the Japanese on April 9, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines.

Those troops were sent on a forced march that lasted days through the Filipino jungle. Thousands died along the route. Those who survived faced the hardships of life in a prisoner of war camp. Others were wounded or killed when unmarked ships transporting the prisoners to Japan were sunk by U.S. air and naval forces.

Bataan Death March Survivor Ben Steele of Billings, Mont., was in awe of McNaughton's effort.

"It is truly incredible that he wanted to do this for us. I'd say he'd already done enough," Steele said.

McNaughton, who had never before completed a marathon-length competition, said the course was challenging, especially the

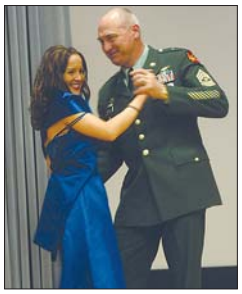
See March, Page 13

Dancing Chiefs

Post/Baker

Four-year-old Jade Summers and a Kansas City Chiefs' cheerleader dance in the aisle at Barlow Theater March 19. The cheerleaders performed a USO-type variety show for Soldiers and families at Fort Riley.

KC pro football cheerleaders visit post



Post/Baker

Sgt. Maj. Eric Meir, 648th ASG, accepts a dance with a Kansas City Chiefs' cheerleader during their variety USO-type show.

By Jay Baker
Public affairs intern

Folks fanatic about football and dancing filled Barlow Theater March 19 to watch a special show presented by the Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders. The 14-member squad has been to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Italy and now Fort Riley entertaining Soldiers and thanking them for what they do for the country, said Raquel Latham, squad captain.

The cheerleaders' dance show conveyed a historical theme while replicating what USO shows may have been like during the 1940s, 1950s and at present.

Soldiers on a break from work, aspiring young dancers and cheerleaders and others seemed to really enjoy the show. Children and teenagers danced in the isle and on stage with the cheerleaders on select songs during the variety show dubbed "As Time Goes By, Memories Last Forever." The cheerleaders capitalized on their acting talent, especially during the Elvis and the Beatles skit.

Nikki Wallo, an 8-year-old dance student from Dwight, Kan., didn't seem familiar with some of the skits, but almost everyone in the audience seemed to get excited as they were reminded of entertainers like James Brown, Diana Ross and Joan Jett. Wallo's aunt Carla Gilbert, a Civilian Personnel Operations Center employee, surprised her niece by bringing her to the theater without telling her why they came.

"I have been asking her all day what's going on, but she will not tell me," Wallo said.

Despite the many 5 and 8 year olds scattered throughout the audience dressed in tiny Chief's cheerleader outfits, Wallo didn't realize what was coming until the group was introduced. In fact, the audience was so diverse it offered few clues to answer her question.

Sgt. Joseph Rogers, a team chief at 596th Signal Company and a big football

See Cheerleaders, Page 12

Local legend comes home

Ex-Blue Jay, WFL player now sergeant

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

"Emp" has returned to haunt some favorite stomping grounds – Fort Riley and Junction City.

Emclean Taylor

The former star running back for the Junction City Blue Jays hung up his football cleats several years ago to join the Army, following in his father's military boot steps, but not until he'd given professional football a go.

Emclean Taylor, now a sergeant and cook with the 977th Military Police Company, first came to Fort Riley as a teenager with his family in 1982. He made the varsity football team as a sophomore and said he really developed athletically under the tutelage of Head Coach Ron Hill.

By his junior year, college football scouts were already taking a close look at him, Emp said. When his father got orders for a Germany assignment, Emp's dad decided to go alone, leaving his family in Junction City so Emp could continue to play ball for the Blue Jays.

The light – 190 pounds – running back shined. He earned a berth in the Kansas Shrine Bowl, where he played with Darryl Golden and met Barry Sanders.

Emp graduated from high school in 1986 with a football scholarship to play at Independence Community College near Coffeyville, Kan. Emp's speed – he could run 40 yards in 4.4 seconds – and being able to jump very high straight up suited him well for his switch to playing defensive

See Emp, Page 13

Faculty, students play ball

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A last glance at the scoreboard indicated the blue team and red team had tied at 40 after five quarters of basketball.

A second earlier the score read differently, but who won and who lost wasn't the point of the game March 18 in the school's north gym.

Terry Heina, assistant to Fort Riley Middle School Principal Joe Handlos, explained before the game began that the whole point was to foster interaction between students and faculty members and to have some fun before the school closed for spring break.

Don Stevens' physical education class organizes the annual game. It gives them some experience in coordinating such activities, he said before last year's game.

The event also raises money for the school's responsibility training fund, Heina said. The school uses that fund to support activities such as all-school incentive celebrations and other events that recognize student achievement in academics and behavior, he said.

Each student who wanted to see the game paid $1 to spend the last hour of the school day cheering on his or her favorite players. Cheering spectators filled the bleachers.

About 30 volunteer students and about 15 volunteer teachers teamed up to play on five different squads of the red and blue teams. Each squad had at least one

See FRMS, Page 13

Larry Nelson (left) dribbles around red team opponent Dylan Bender in the third quarter of the annual student and teacher basketball game at Fort Riley Middle School March 18.
Post/Heronemus

Patients ‘up in arms’ over new clinic

Soldiers at Walter Reed participate in wheelchair fencing

By Michael E. Dukes
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Sounds of clashing sabers and foils echoed in Walter Reed Army Medical Center’s Wagner Sports Center Feb. 17 during a unique therapy clinic for servicemembers recovering from war wounds.

A clinic sponsored by the U.S. Paralympics with cooperation from Walter Reed’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation office and Occupational Therapy Clinic introduced wheelchair fencing to Walter Reed patients.

Most of the patients were at a loss for words when they first walked into the gym and saw two champion Paralympic fencers, Mario Rodriguez and Gary Vanderwege, feverishly thrusting and parrying foils and epees back and forth while sitting in wheelchairs.

The fencers sat in low-back sports wheelchairs that offered maximum maneuverability and stability. The chairs where clamped into a special floor bracket to hold them in place at just over an extended foil length apart.

While gripping a rail across the back of the chair, the fencers bucked the chairs back and forth, leaning into and away from attacks against their opponent. In a matter of split seconds, attacks and counterattacks were waged. Sometimes the defending parry would spare a fencer by mere fractions of an inch.

While dueling with foils or epees, fencers must successfully touch their opponent with the tip of their weapons to register a hit. When armed with sabers, a successful slash on an opponent’s target area is all that is needed.

An electronic signal box lights up when a successful hit is registered, but many times, opposing hits are so close together that a judge will call the first hit and award a point to the appropriate person.

When asked if they would try the sport during the clinic, most of patients answered quickly, “No.” Whether they weren’t confident they could do it or were still perplexed with the possibilities, they seemed reluctant to “step up” and try it.

Paralympics

The U.S. Paralympics is a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee and is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and promoting excellence in the lives of all persons with physical disabilities.

For more information about the U.S. Paralympics, visit www.usparalympics.org

Having been in their position, Vanderwege wasn’t about to take “no” for an answer. He seemed to believe the Soldiers were up to the task and that they would enjoy the experience.

Despite saying earlier that he didn’t think fencing was for him, Sgt. 1st Class Denis Viau, a Soldier wounded in Iraq, allowed Vanderwege to help him don a protective fencing coat. He then wheeled over to the sparring area, hopped into one of the fencing wheelchairs and put on a facemask.

James C. Murray handed him a weapon and instructed him on the basics.

“The sport is good for a person new to the chair because the participants are stationary,” said Murray, a fencing coach for the U.S. Paralympic team and the Johns Hopkins University Women’s Fencing Team.

“The thrust, parry and feign are similar to Army tactics,” he added.

After several minutes of clumsily attacking and dodging his opponent, Viau began to get the hang of it and started scoring points against him. When the bout was over and he removed his facemask, Viau had a look of renewed confidence and a slight smile on his face.

“I thought it was good – interesting – and something else other amps or disabled people can do,” Viau said, though he admitted the sport wasn’t for him. He said that he wants to return to his duty station at Fort Lewis, Wash., where he hopes to continue serving in the 1st Striker Brigade.

ANS Photo

Paralympics fencers Mario Rodriguez and Gary VanDerWege demonstrate the intensity of wheelchair fencing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Feb. 17.

John F. Register, a U.S. Paralympic athlete and former Soldier who served in Iraq told the audience, “The only thing that limits me or holds me back is my mind. Not this ....” He then reached down and lifted his pant leg to show his C-leg prosthetic.

The Paralympic Games is the second largest sporting event in the world – second to the Olympic Games – showcasing the talents of more than 4,000 elite athletes with physical disabilities hailing from more than 130 countries.

Athletes compete in about 500 medal events in 18 sports, including archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian, goalball, judo, powerlifting, sailing, shooting, soccer, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

Cheerleaders continued from page 11

fan, brought his two teenage children to the show after spotting a flyer and some of the cheerleaders at the Post Exchange earlier in the day, he said.

“I like football and dancing,” said 15-year-old J.R. Rogers.

“I am just following them around,” said 16-year-old Jessica Rogers.

The cheerleaders thanked the Soldiers for giving them the freedom to do what they do. Command Sgt. Major James Noble presented the group a Fort Riley memento - a framed photo of the Buffalo Soldier’s Memorial in Junction City. Scott Scherberger, recreation program manager for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, thanked the group for coming to Fort Riley.

“We got really lucky getting them to come here. They contacted me only a couple of weeks ago and said they wanted to come to the post. I think they chose Fort Riley because of the amount of Soldiers we have overseas compared to other installations in the area,” Scherberger said.

Latham and the 13 other dancers started the tour in July with a show in Cuba. The present tour ended with the Fort Riley performance. The team will begin tryouts for next year’s team soon, Latham said.

“We are doing this for the Soldiers. It’s not for us; it’s for them. As we created and performed the show, we developed a strong sense of patriotism and devotion to the men and women serving the country. It’s very humbling,” Latham said.

Post/Baker

Raquel Latham, Kansas City Chiefs’ cheerleading squad captain signs autographs for Soldiers. MP Spc. Nathan Wolfe (right), 300th MP Co., took a break from work and watched the dancers perform a variety show at Barlow Theater, March 19.

STANDARD PLUMBING
3 x 4"
Black Only
3X4STANDARD#403/23AM

FAITH FURNITURE
3 x 9"
Black Only
3x9 Faith/Post

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

BLUE/3x10.5/March 2005

Emp continued from page 11

back for Independence.

Emp moved from ICC to Austin Peay University in Kentucky after graduating in 1988. He spent a semester at Austin Peay, just long enough for a Dallas Cowboys scout to see him while conducting a "combine" evaluation on another Austin Peay player.

The combine evaluation is a measurement of a player's ability to bench press weights, run 40 yards and jump vertically.

Emp said he hadn't approached the scout about being tested. The scout saw him at a team practice and asked Emp to test. The results: Emp pressed 225 pounds, ran the 40 yards in 4.29 seconds – faster than he had in high school – and jumped 42 inches straight up from a standing position.

That was good enough to get an invitation to play with the Cowboys' practice team, which Emp did in the 1989 season. Emp credited Coach Hill's insistence that the Blue Jay players train with weights and do a lot of agility drills for getting him physically prepared for college and pro ball.

But Emp was small by National Football League standards and after one season with the Cowboys, he went to Germany to play for the Frankfurt Galaxy, one of six German and Dutch teams in the World Football League.

Most of the WFL players were Americans who had come right out of college or who hadn't been kept by NFL teams, Emp said. Each team played with at least two local national players on the field at all times, he said.

The sport had developed a popular European following, Emp said. The season ran for three months in the spring. Emp played about every week during the season and spectators for each game numbered about the same as those he'd seen in the stands at American college games, he said.

Life was great while the season lasted, Emp said. He liked being in Germany and being able to travel there. But when the season ended, so did the paychecks.

So, in August 1991, Emp joined the Army while still in Germany. It's been a good life since, he said, although he broke an ankle while serving in Iraq and now has metal pins holding it together.

The military has the same cohesion among its members that he experienced while playing on football teams, Emp said. That has been an important part of his life ever since playing ball for Coach Hill, he said.

"What I learned from Coach Hill I've taken with me everywhere I've gone," Emp said.

Post/Heronemus

Brittany Doyle dribbles downcourt while opponents of the blue team, an unidentified teacher (left), Terrell Beard (second from left) and Brittany McBride (behind Doyle) close in to defend. Teacher Stacey Cook (rear) runs to catch up to the action and assist his teammate. Teachers and students were teamed on squads of the blue and red teams to play one of the five quarters in the annual student-teacher game at Fort Riley Middle School March 18.

ANS/Ted Gaskins

Sgt. 1st Class Michael McNaughton (center), sponsored by the Walter Reed Medical Center, refreshes himself at one of the water points along the memorial march route.

March continued from page 11

infamous "sand pit." The pit is about a half mile of loose, deep sand in an uphill area toward the end of the course.

"That was really tough. My prosthesis acted like a shovel in the sand," McNaughton said. "I kept digging in."

McNaughton said there was another reason it was important for him to participate in the march.

"There is an organization called the Challenged Athletes Foundation. They raise money to buy equipment for disabled people to participate in these events. I wanted to make more people aware of the organization," he said, noting that the group has a Web site.

There are more than 250 people in the amputee program, Walter Reed's Lt. Col. Barbara Springer said.

"Some of our guys had participated in other events, such as the New York City Marathon," Springer said. "One of our staff who had been stationed in this part of the country knew about Bataan and suggested that we send some of our guys. At first, people said the event would be too hard."

"We sent out questionnaires to see who would be interested, then narrowed it down to 10 people," Springer said. "That was further narrowed to five who met all the training requirements."

While McNaughton elected to go for speed and participate in the light category, Staff Sgt. Brian Neuman, Staff Sgt. Andy McCaffrey, Marine Cpl. Daniel Lasko and Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jose Ramos participated in the military heavy category, each wearing his uniform and carrying a 40-pound rucksack.

Long before the last marcher of the day crossed the finish line, each of the five men from the Walter Reed group had completed the mission begun in the predawn hours that Sunday.

Editor's note: Donna Braun writes for the Missile Ranger newspaper at White Sands Missile Range.

FRMS continued from page 11

Post/Heronemus

Terrell Beard dribbles across midcourt in the first-quarter action of the annual student-teacher basketball game at the close of school March 18.

teacher and usually two playing with enough students to fill out the five-person squad.

None of the students could play in the game if they had played for school sports teams this year, Heina said.

The students volunteered to play and were recommended by their teachers.

Each squad played an eight-minute quarter. Between quarters, some students who had bought tickets and were attending the game got to use their basket-shooting skill to win prizes.

Each contestant had 30 seconds to shoot a layup, a free throw, a three-point shot and a long shot from mid-court. For each basket the contestant made, he or she won a soda, a braided lanyard, $5 and a $50 U.S. Savings Bond, respectively.

Some contestants earned the first three prizes. Two or three players got close to making the mid-court shot, but Stevens said that has only been done once in the several years the game has been played.

Contest winners

Soda, lanyard and $5
Ashley Brockman
Ricky Dixon
Travae Jones
Trevor Pond
Dylan Soper
A.C. Taylor
Dalton Wagenblast

Soda and lanyard
Tristan Flagg
Bria Jimenez
Ashley Maywald
Cody Parmely
Charell Strickland
Olivia Wilkerson
Felicia Williams

Soda
Richard Bragg
Roger Cantrell
Tyler Freeman
Shante Monroe
Esteban Perez
Shawn Persaud
Andrew Reinhardt
Michael Reynolds

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Hubert Bull/3-22, 3-23 & 3-25

WALKER JIM
2 x 3"
Black Only
2X3 Saturn/J Walker 0247 3/20

LIVING WORD OF CHRIST CHURCH
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3LWOCC03/04am

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 19"
Black Only
Alltel/#502170056/Post March05

(From left) Air Force retiree Sam Escoe, contractor Steve Allen, Army retiree Mike Lopez and active duty Soldier Darin Dinger team up during the golf course scramble tourney March 19. *Post/Meek*

56 participate in scramble

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

Sunny skies and brisk temperatures greeted the golfers who gathered at Custer Hill Golf Course on March 19.

The course hosted a four-man scramble as part of its open house and membership drive. Tom Pettegrew, chief of business operations with the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, organized the tournament. Pettegrew said the chilly temperatures did not deter the golfers.

"We had 56 golfers," he said. "I thought if we could get 60 we would be doing really well."

Before the tournament, golfers were treated to coffee and donuts as part of the course's open house. The scramble began with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. Following the 18-hole tournament, the golfers returned to the clubhouse for a light buffet.

The golfers were split into foursomes for the tournament. Each player was assigned a skill level of A, B, C or D and talent was evenly distributed among the foursomes, Pettegrew said.

The golfers were divided into two flights and prizes were awarded to the top teams in each flight. Players on the top two teams in each flight won merchandise from the Pro Shop and gift certificates, Pettegrew said.

Top foursomes in the first flight were winners John Stewart, Ed Faiola, Mark Neely and Gordon Freeman with a team score of 65.

Second place went to the team of Mark Taulbee, Devin Riley, Robert Teetsel and Dennis Hardy, who tallied a 65 score with a lost card playoff.

Third place went to Brad Koocher, Shaun Moseman, Tim Hickert and John Davis with a team score of 67.

Paul Confer, Steve Kilde, John Cory and Roy Watson teamed up to win the second flight by taking the tie-breaker on a 69 score that matched the runner-up team of Ed Coleman, Tom O'Brien, Mike Ernst and Thomas Bjorkman and third place team of Rich Howard, Ray Howard, William Christopher and Chris May.

Prizes also were awarded for closest tee shot to the pin and longest drive.

Bill Ahlers hit closest to the pin on Hole No. 7. Justin Chapman hit closest to the pin on Hole No. 16. Paul Confer hit the longest drive on Hole No. 9.

Pettegrew said the purpose of the tournament was to allow golfers to see the course and encourage them to purchase or renew memberships.

"The tournament gave players the opportunity to see the course," Pettegrew said. "Hopefully after seeing the course they'll want to purchase a membership."

The tournament brought in 15 new members.

King Field House offers fitness class variety

Several types of personal fitness classes are offered at King Field House. Authorized users of the facility can take part in the following:

Cardio Pump

These aerobics classes are Monday and Wednesday 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. All fitness levels are encouraged to attend. Mondays tend to be traditional step class. On Wednesday, get two workouts in one with step and resistance equipment (bands, balls, tubes, etc.

Fitness Yoga

Monday and Thursday noon to 1 p.m. A non-purist yoga class for all fitness levels. This lunchtime class integrates body and mind for a total performance featuring strength, conditioning, flexibility and time to calm the mind. Cost is $2 per person or $1.50 per class, if paid monthly.

Fitness Assessments

Fitness Assessments, limited to 10 participants. Those interested must register for the free fitness assessment. This session is for the new exerciser and the seasoned fitness individual.

The session will involve body composition, cardio endurance testing, flexibility testing as well as muscular strength and endurance testing. To register in advance, call 239-3146 or 239-2813.

Cardio, Weight Training Express

Develop cardio skills in two free sessions of intensive learning and training with a specialized instructor.

This class is a jump-start to a cardio program for a new exerciser as well as providing motivation and direction for veterans. Session I reviews principles and components of cardio training.Session II contains demonstrations and hands-on time with different cardio equipment.

Body Circuits

A full body workout using stations for constant variety and nonstop movement. This class allows the individual to gain familiarity with dumbbells, Nautilus equipment and cable equipment.

Weight Training Express

Develop weight training skills in two sessions of intensive learning with personal instructor. This class provides motivation and direction for those who've been pumping iron for a while as well as new lifters.

Session I reviews principles and components of weight training. Session II includes demonstrations and hands-on time in the weight room, learning proper form, breathing and stretching.

Target Heart Rate Training

Learn to train at a personal target heart rate for efficient and safe results. This coached workout alternates moderate, steady cardio training with strong, high-intensity moments. The last 15 minutes are dedicated to rock hard abs, lower back strengthening and a full body stretch.

Cardio Challenge

This challenge involves different modes of cardiovascular exercise all within one workout. Various pieces of equipment may be used, including the bike, treadmill, stair climber, cross trainer and elliptical.

PT Power Time

Looking for an alternative to traditional PT? This class rotates weekly between fitness yoga, total body circuits and power sculpting (bands, tubes and stability balls). This class, for active duty and reserve members only, provides the variety a person needs to avoid plateaus and maximize results.

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
3X3MILOUTLETTF03/04AM

SALINA POWERSPORT
3 x 2.5"
Black Only
3X2.5 GENERAL AD/9939

GEICO-AFC
3 x 10"
Black Only
#547097 & 547098/Called Up

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Fort Riley
Community Life

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Community news briefly

Wings return to Rally Point

Rally Point's popular chicken wings night returns March 30 after renovation of the club's kitchen. Wings will be served from 5 to 9 p.m.

The club continues its Family Night event from 5 to 8 p.m. April 1 with a family friendly movie, music and buffet.

For more information, call 784-5434.

Scholarships now available

Combined Scholarship Committee scholarship applications are available online at www.riley.army.mil. Click on the Current News link and scroll down to Briefs. Click on CSC Scholarship Application and follow the directions to fill out the application.

Copies of the application also are available from guidance counselors at local high schools, the Soldier and Family Support Center, Fort Riley Thrift Shop and the Education Center.

Applications must be submitted by April 15. Scholarships will be awarded in May and will be for the fall semester of 2005.

Applicants must be a family member graduating high school or currently enrolled as a college or vocational school student (must have a high school diploma or GED certificate) or the spouse of any active duty member assigned to Ft Riley, retired military member or deceased military member of the greater Fort Riley community.

For more information, call Shawni Sticca, scholarship committee chairperson at 784-3191

Partners plan annual meeting

Partners of the First Territorial Capitol will meet in annual session at the capitol on Fort Riley at 5 p.m. March 31. This volunteer organization works to keep the doors to the 150-year-old capitol open for visitors interested in the history of Kansas and Fort Riley.

Guests are invited to join the partners for the meeting and barbecue supper being provided.

Riley's to host Easter food, fun

Military families can celebrate Easter at Riley's Conference Center March 27. Riley's will offer a traditional brunch of carved top round, scrambled eggs, seasoned home fries, smoked bacon, sausage gravy with biscuit, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, assorted desserts, chilled orange juice, coffee and tea for $12.95 for adults and $8.95 for children ages 4 to 12.

Brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., children can participate in one of three Easter egg hunts on Riley's grounds. Each hunt will be based upon age groups.

Reservations are recommended. Call 784-1000.

Correction:

In the March 4 issue of the Post, the person presenting gifts to the 100th member of the Enlisted Spouses' Club was misidentified. Presenting the gifts is the club's treasurer, Jessica Gamez. The Post apologizes for the error.

Dentists discover high cavity rate

By Nancy Elliston and Heather Cambron
DENTAC

In February, Fort Riley Dental Activity dentists and staff performed dental screening exams at post elementary schools and taught students proper brushing and flossing techniques.

Of 1,474 dental screenings performed, 464 children, about 31 percent, had visible tooth decay; and of these, many had multiple cavities. X-rays would have revealed an even greater number of cavities.

Some parents believe that baby (deciduous) teeth are unimportant because they fall out and the child grows new permanent teeth.

False.

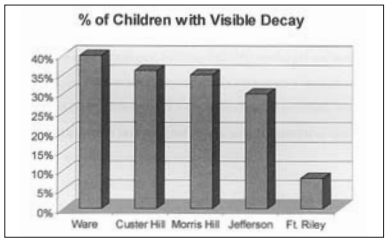
Decayed baby teeth can cause extreme pain and suffering, and result in hospitalization. Cavities can adversely affect permanent teeth that have not erupted into the mouth, and early tooth loss can cause crowding, which may result in the need for future orthodontics.

To improve oral hygiene, parents are encouraged to help their child brush after meals and snacks and to floss once a day.

Military family members are eligible to enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program provided through United Concordia. Soldiers or their family members can pick up enrollment forms at any post dental or health facility or their unit personnel office.

On-line enrollment is also available at www.ucci.com.

After signing up for United Concordia, there is a 30-day waiting period. Family members must receive their insurance cards before they can use the services of a local dentist.



Easter bunnies

Post/Blackmon

(From left) Dana Dolly, Jonathan Alvarez, Kathy Alvarez and Ryan Alvarez fill Easter bags for Soldiers deployed to Iraq. The bags contained candy-filled plastic eggs, a handmade Easter-gram and other goodies.

Volunteers send holiday treats to Iraq

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The Easter Bunny plans to visit some 300 Soldiers deployed to Iraq in the coming weeks.

Instead of being greeted with a white rabbit delivering goody-filled baskets, the Soldiers of Fort Riley's 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, and a few other deployed companies will find boxes filled with decorated paper bunny bags.

The bags are filled with a variety of items, including hand-made Easter 'grams and cards, candy-filled eggs, phone cards and, of course, Easter grass. The items came from schools and churches in Florida, South Carolina and Texas and were assembled by Kathy Alvarez and volunteers at Fort Riley.

"One third-grade class did a fundraiser for us for Valentine's Day. They were selling candy-grams. Their goal was to sell 100 in a week. Well, they ended up selling 700 that week. So they were able to purchase 70 120-minute phone cards for us," Alvarez said.

"We also have pictures that we're going to be sending to the Soldiers of the kids decorating the Easter bags and doing their fundraising," she said.

Titled "Operation Easter," the idea is part of an ongoing effort from the home front to take care of deployed Soldiers, Alvarez said. The efforts began the last time the Soldiers were deployed to Iraq in 2003.

"When my husband was deployed to Iraq, he was telling me that Christmas was going to be one of the biggest holidays that the Soldiers were going to have, and so I thought, what could I do to help improve their Christmas? So I started seeking donations and putting items together and sending it to them," she said.

"When my husband was over there, he was the platoon sergeant. He would tell me that there was a lot of single Soldiers and some married Soldiers who never got mail," said volunteer Dana Dolly. "It just made us feel better knowing that they were going to get something."

Alvarez and her children, Ryan and Jonathan, and her friend Dolly have been coordinating efforts around various holidays to help boost the morale of the deployed Soldiers.

"These Soldiers are over there and they don't have much comfort from home, so we try to get what we can and give it to them," Dolly said. "I know this means a lot for them."

While neither of the ladies' husbands is currently deployed with the battalion, the women said they still want to take care of those Soldiers.

"It's very important to send a hug and a smile to them, because knowing what they're going through, it's very important that we continue their morale and in any way we can support them. We're going to support them. It's going to be something I'm going to be doing every year, because

See Easter, Page 16

Store to offer more variety

Commissary shoppers will see changes

By Jay Baker
Public affairs intern

Fort Riley commissary shoppers will find a wider variety of food products in their store after April 20. Commissary Director Mark Derby will close the store after normal shopping hours April 17 through April 19 to reset all sections, excluding frozen foods, produce and the bakery.

"The store will be closed Tuesday (in addition to the normal Monday closing). During that time, contractors will tear down, reset and refill the store. When we reopen, the new shelving will be longer, the end caps will change and we will have four specialty sections," Derby said.

Derby said he expects Soldiers who come to Fort Riley from other posts will want to see the same products they saw at their previous location. He assessed product sales, considered the expected population increase on-post and found that the commissary needed to increase food choices for customers and organize it similarly to larger commissaries.

Fort Riley officials have announced that about 3,400 Soldiers will be added to the post as part of a new unit of action, the 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. The first contingent of those Soldiers is scheduled to arrive in June 2005.

These product changes will not affect the width of the isle or the space provided between the shelves to push the carts, but it will lower the top shelf two inches and condense the area at the end of isles in the front and back of the store, he explained.

Shoppers who like to add a taste of German, Oriental or authentic Mexican flare to their meals will be able to browse an array of special products in their own sections. Other four-foot sections will hold organic and Atkins type foods.

Shoppers can find Puerto Rican Goya products in their own section, too. Derby explained that the customer wouldn't have to look for products scattered throughout the store, because all these types of foods will be consolidated.

The renovations will not affect the price of products.

"A commissary must sell its products at cost. There is a five percent surcharge, which is used to pay for building improvement. The rest of our budget is provided by Congress," Derby said.

Groceries at the commissary are typical of any store, but the cost of

See Store, Page 16

Hospital adds Nurse Advice Line

By Jan Clark
IACH spokesperson

Irwin Army Community Hospital has added a service for the soldiers of Fort Riley and their families.

The Nurse Advice Line opened March 8 and is staffed by registered nurses who assess symptoms and, using triage guidelines that have been approved by the hospital's medical staff, help callers determine if and when they need to see a physician.

They also provide health information regarding diseases, medical procedures, medication use and side effects, and give care advice for managing an illness or problem at home.

If the advice nurse determines a caller has an acute need to be seen, he or she can usually make an appointment for the caller.

For the past two weeks, advice nurses have been assisting new mothers with concerns about feeding, umbilical cords, cough and cold symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea. They also have fielded calls for school age children and adults who have suffered with colds, vomiting and diarrhea as well as "pink eye."

With allergy season already in bloom, the advice nurses find themselves frequently helping to determine if a caller's symptoms are cold or allergy related.

The advice nurses have triaged abdominal, flank and chest pains, medication reactions and skin disorders and have dispatched Emergency Medical Services.

See Advice, Page 16

Community news briefly

Breakfast starts special event

Organizers of Month of the Military Child events invite all military ID card holders to eat a free pancake breakfast from 10 to 10:45 a.m. April 9 at School Age Services, Building 6620. Diners can then take provided bus transportation to the April Activities celebration in downtown Junction City.

Shuttle service will be provided back to Fort Riley at 1 and 3:15 p.m.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and takes place in Junction City Municipal Building at Seventh and Jefferson streets. A wide variety of vendors, crafts, fun and games are planned, including a Child and Youth Services Booth.

RSVP to 239-5077 or 239-9478 by April 8 for the pancake breakfast and bus transportation.

Storytime tells about big love

The story for April 2 is "Guess How Much I Love You," by Sam McBratney. Little Nutbrown Hare tells Big Nutbrown Hare he loves him as much as his little arms can reach, but Big Nutbrown Hare loves him as much as his really big arms can reach.

After the story, listeners will make growth charts to mark how big they are.

For more information, call the library at 239-9582.

Session explores networking

The Fort Riley Family Advocacy Program and community organizations will present an informal networking workshop from 10 a.m. to noon April 12 at Riley's Convention Center.

Information will include key prevention strategies for child abuse, childcare requirements of Central Registration on post, baby-sitter requirements at Fort Riley and housing policies and procedures.

Refreshments and on-site childcare will be provided. Attendees must register early to obtain childcare.

Register at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264 or by e-mail at site 2665@riley.army.mil.

Parenting class set at church

"Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" will be conducted from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 4, 11, 18 and 25 and May 2 and 8 at the First Presbyterian Church, 113 W. Fifth St., in Junction City.

Registrations will be accepted until April 4. To register, call the Community Connections office at 717-4021 or e-mail JimWilliams@usd475.org.

Care orientation scheduled

A Family Child Care orientation will be offered April 7 for people interested in becoming an FCC provider. The orientation is given from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Building 6620.

Providers are sought to replace providers who leave Fort Riley and to meet demands for infant and hourly care.

For more information, call the FCC director at 239-9892.

Deployed get free childcare

April 2 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free childcare for deployed Soldiers families

For more information, call 239-9173.

Church group hosts seminar

The Morris Hill Gospel Congregation sponsors marriage seminars on the first and third Mondays of each month.

For more information, call the chapel at 239-4814.

Free tax filing still available

Soldiers, retirees, families eligible for service

By Jay Baker
Public affairs intern

Soldiers, retirees and family members can still file their taxes for free on Fort Riley.

The Tax Center opened Jan. 18 and will remain open until April 15. It is located in room 29 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264.

The center's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Filers my call 239-1040 for appointments or may walk in with questions.

The tax center is less busy now than in January and February, said Capt. Jason Elbert, installation tax attorney.

"I expect to see more people in April, near the (filing) deadline," Elbert said.

The tax center staff can assist 1040 EZ filers on a walk-in basis, but anyone concerned about time should make an appointment, he said.

The tax center sent more than 3,000 electronic returns to the IRS so far this tax season and helped people get almost $6.5 million in returns. The services the center provides to active duty and retired personnel saves them a total of more than $500,000 in service and e-file fees, Elbert said.

The staff can e-file state returns and amend 2003 federal and state returns. Additionally, they can help childcare providers and those who rent out one house with their returns, Elbert said.

Recently, filers who received amended and corrected W-2s have come to the tax center, and the center helps solve those issues, too, he said.

Easter continued from page 15

I know what it means to them," Alvarez said.

The two women's operations are independent of the battalion's Family Readiness Group. They are efforts coordinated mainly by Kathy and her sons, with the help of volunteers in several states.

Alvarez said she pitches in a lot of her own money, mainly for shipping, because she doesn't really receive monetary donations.

"Sometimes we get monetary funds to help with shipping, and usually I'll pitch in the rest," she said. "I'll pitch in for shipping. I'll pitch in for supplies. If there's anything that they need and the Soldier lets me know, I'll go ahead and get that and send it in their box."

With or without assistance, Alvarez and Dolly said they plan to continue their operations for the 1st Bn., 41st Inf., Soldiers.

"We're going to do it until they all come home," Alvarez said.

For more information about their projects, including Operation Christmas 2005, visit www.roadhog.org on the Web.

Post/Blackmon

Kathy Alvarez helps fill decorated Easter bags with plastic eggs filled with candy and other donated items.

IACH/Clark

Shannon Pinkston, a registered nurse filling in as an advice nurse, takes a call and assists a patient.

Advice continued from page 15

Questions regarding concerns during pregnancy are directed to an advice nurse in the obstetrics clinic.

If the advice nurse is busy taking a call during hours of operation, callers can leave a brief message on the voice mail. Callers should include their name, phone number, where they can be reached and the nature of the call. Callers should speak slowly and clearly so the advice nurse has the needed information to return the call.

The Nurse Advice Line can be reached by dialing 239-DOCS (3627) or 1-888-DOCS (3627) and following the automated instructions.

The Nurse Advice Line is available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Store continued from page 15

buying at the commissary is generally 30 percent less overall than what would be spent at off-post markets buying the same products, according to Defense Commissary Agency officials.

"The services that the commissary provides are as almost as old as the Army. Back then stores offered rations to officers. This reset is going to give the Soldiers coming in the biggest variety we can," Derby said.

Essex takes AAFES command

By Judd Anstey
AAFES

DALLAS – The Air Force has named Maj. Gen. Paul W. "Bill" Essex new commander of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Essex leaves his position as director of plans and programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to take the new position.

He succeeds Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, who will retire.

Essex has been responsible for force structure planning and programming, doctrine, requirements, manpower and analysis for the nation's airlift and refueling force.

He entered the Air Force in 1973 as a distinguished graduate of Miami University's ROTC program. He is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours in various models of the KC-135 and EC-135.

His operational experience includes command of a squadron, an operations group and two air wings. Essex led unit deployments for operations Restore Hope and Southern Watch, served as installation commander in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and participated in Operation Deny Flight.

He also served as deputy director of NATO's Reaction Force Air Staff in Kalkar, Germany.

Commissary to offer Dollar Days

Defense Commissary Agency

Dollar Days are coming to the Fort Riley commissary.

"Dollar stores are on the rise in commercial retail stores, and we want to get in on all the fun as well as offering customers even greater bargains," said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency.

The Fort Riley commissary kicks off its first "Dollar Days" event March 30. Items throughout the store will feature dollar pricing, reflecting the hot "dollar store" concept.

"Customers might see two-for-a-dollar deals or even unusual deals such as three items for $2," said Fort Riley Store Director Mark Derby. "It all depends on the items up for sale, but the key is obviously in offering multiple items for even dollars."

Customers should look for the dollar sign banner outside the commissary and the "Extra Savings" signs inside the commissary, showing the way to "Dollar Days" savings throughout the store.

If the event proves popular with customers, "Dollar Days" could be expanded to several times per year, commissary officials said.

Is your organization doing something for Fort Riley? Call the editor at 239-8845. Let's talk?

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2COLLEGETF03/04AM

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Scrapbook Gar/3-22,3-23 & 3-25

SUPER 8- ABILENE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Super 8 0087

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 4"
Black Only
UnclaimedCash/3-22,3-23& 3-25

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 4"
Black Only
KDHE/3-22, 3-23 & 3-25

SETH CHILD CINEMAS
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
2X5.5SETHTF03/04AM

BODY FIRST
1 x 1"
Black Only
1x1bodyfirst02/20am

PRAIRIE HAWG CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 Prairie Hawg Mar TF

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR
1 x 2"
Black Only
1X2 Man Shoe Repair 3/2

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2screent f03/04am

Leisuretime ideas

Topeka:

What: Tulip Time. Woodland garden with thousands of tulips and daffodils open for public to enjoy the beauty in mid-April.
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily April 13-24
Where: 4536 SW Elevation Lane
Phone: (785) 478-4624
Admission: $4.50 advance, $5 at gate

Hays:

What: German Heritage Days. Focusing on the regional German culture. Seminars, guided bus tours of historic churches, German food, music, and audience participation.
When: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1 and 2
Where: 100 W. 7th St.
Phone: (785) 628-2624
Admission: $5

Fort Scott:

What: Civil War Encampment. Civil War history as the Union army re-occupies Fort Scott. Living history camp, demonstrations, and Saturday evening programs.
When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 9 and 10
Where: Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott National Historic Site
Phone: (620) 223-0310
Admission: $3 for 17 and older; under 16 free

Hutchinson:

What: 37th annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. Festival and benefit auction with ethnic food, quilt auction, crafts, music, and run for relief.
When: 5 to 9 p.m. April 8 and 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9
Where: 2000 N. Poplar, Kansas State Fairgrounds
Phone: (620) 665-7406
Admission: Free

Eureka:

What: Fall River Canoe Trips. Up to three-hour canoe trips six to eight miles down Fall River. Specializing in group trips.
When: Thursday through Tuesday April 1 through Oct. 30
Where: 416 E. River
Phone: (620) 583-6481
Admission: Varies

Wichita:

What: European Royalty Exhibit. See European royalty displayed with authentic autographs, and story from displays about them.
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday April 1-30
Where: 835 E. 1st St., Museum of World Treasures
Phone: (316) 263-1311
Admission: Adult $9.90; senior $6.90; youth $5.90

Lindsborg:

What: 107th annual Midwest Art Exhibition. The oldest annual Kansas exhibition. Represents more than a century of artistic vision.
When: 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday April 8 through May 1
Where: 401 N. 1st St., Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery
Phone: (785) 227-2220
Admission: Free

Salina:

What: "Jesus Christ Superstar." The best musical retelling of the greatest story ever told, Christ's last days.
When: March 25 and 26
Where: 151 S. Santa Fe, Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts
Phone: (785) 827-6126 or (877) 414-2367
Admission: $12-$18

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost $3.50 for adults and $1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

March 25 – The Aviator (PG-13)

March 26 – Son of the Mask(PG)

March 27 – The Passion of the Christ(R)

March 31 – The Aviator (PG-13)

April 1 – Hitch (PG-13)

For more information, call (785)784-2226 or 784-2640.

Lawrence:

What: The young musicians of Drum Drum, one of the most innovative contemporary groups from Australia and the South Pacific, draw upon their diverse cultures and ancestry to create a style of music never heard before.

When: 7:30 p.m. April 1

Where: 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

Phone: (785) 864-2787

Admission: Varies

• • •

What: Zuill Bailey, cello. A virtuoso musician who dazzles audiences with his technical and artistic command of the cello. Accompanied by pianist Robert Koenig.

When: 2 p.m. April 3

Where: 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

Phone: (785) 864-2787

Admission: Varies

• • •

What: "Miss Saigon." Set in the final days leading up to the American evacuation of Saigon in 1975, a gripping story of two young lovers torn apart by the fortunes of destiny and held together by a burning passion and the fate of a small child.

When: 7:30 p.m. April 5 and 6

Where: 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

Phone: (785) 864-2787

Admission: Varies

Leavenworth:

What: 6th annual antique show

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 2 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 3

Where: 123 S. Esplanade, Riverfront Community Center

Phone: (913) 758-0193 or (800) 844-4114

Admission: Varies

Holton:

What: 8th annual American Indian Artifacts Show.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 8

Where: 4-H fair building

Phone: (785) 364-3238

Admission: $2

Abilene:

What: Antique Telephone Collectors Spring Show. Telephone collectors from across the US meet to buy, sell, trade, and exhibit telephones and related artifacts.

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1

Where: 619 N Rogers Avenue, Sterl Hall

Phone: (620) 245-9555

Admission: $5 adult; $3 child

Cosmosphere

Well-known images of man's exploration of space and the moon (above and right) are part of the exhibits in the museum at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, 1100 N. Plum St. in Hutchinson. The Cosmosphere is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. All day admission costs $12.50 for adults, $11.50 for seniors age 60 or older, $10 for children age 5 to 12 and children 4 and younger get in free. For more information, call (800) 397-0330.

Cosmosphere offers youth camps

Kansas Cosmosphere

HUTCHINSON – Dedicated to bringing America's space program to life for children of all ages, the Cosmosphere has begun registration for the 21st summer of camps at the space center.

The award-winning camps begin at the end of May and are specialized for young people at all grade levels.

Featuring a new motorized multi-axis trainer, enhanced flight simulators, a new robotic arm trainer and upgrades to the motion-based Falcon III Shuttle Simulator, the Future Astronaut Training Program is open to all students entering grades seven through 10.

The five-day, all-inclusive summer experience includes spaceflight simulations, shuttle crew exercises, virtual spacewalks on the Manned Maneuvering Unit, multi-axis training, g-force experience in a centrifuge, rocket building, aviation training and much more.

Mars Academy, a three-day camp open to all students entering grades five and six, includes building and testing robots, using telescopes to view the universe, completing science experiments in the Cosmosphere's Martian Laboratory, planning a simulated mission to Mars and learning how to survive on the "Red Planet."

Student housing at the Hutchinson Community College dorms, with chaperones, is included in the price of both camps.

Investigate Space is a week-long program for students entering grades two through four. In either five morning sessions or five afternoon sessions, students will learn about living and working on the moon during an "Operation Lunar Base" adventure.

To register for one of the Cosmosphere's camps online, visit www.cosmo.org, or call the Cosmosphere at (800) 397-0330.

Cosmosphere

The Space Center is located at 1100 N. Plum St. in Hutchinson.

BRIGGS AUTO GROUP, INC
6 x 10.5"
Other Color
FC 6x10.5 Briggs3/23