



**Morels offer tasty treats for hunters**  
Popular mushrooms can be found growing on Fort Riley.

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# Fort Riley Post

**Infantry claims volleyball title**

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry team goes undefeated in volleyball play.

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Friday, April 16, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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## Around The Army

### Hanau, Germany:

The Herald Union reported April 13, that the Army will inactivate 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, by Sept. 30. Fort Riley has Battery C of that battalion stationed on post. It has just returned from Iraq.

The Army community newspaper stated a U.S. Army public affairs release attributed the inactivation to the Army's initiative to rebalance forces between its active and reserve components.

The 1st Bn., 4th ADA, a component of the 1st Armored Division, is the first U.S. Army unit affected under the plan. The plan calls for all air defense artillery battalions in all 10 active duty Army divisions to be removed from the division structure.

The paper reported that the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, based in Kitzingen, will be inactivated or realigned sometime after its redeployment to Germany in 2005.

For more about this story and other news in the Hanau military community, visit [www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil/hunion](http://www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil/hunion) on the Internet.

### Fort Leavenworth:

The Lamp reported April 8 that a contractor will perform between-occupancy maintenance of family quarters beginning May 1. Outgoing residents should notice a streamlined procedure for clearing their quarters and new residents will move into quarters that will meet all maintenance and cleaning standards, the paper reported.

For more information about this story and other news at Fort Leavenworth, visit [www.ftleavenworthlamp.com](http://www.ftleavenworthlamp.com) on the Internet.

### Fort Belvoir:

The Belvoir Eagle reported April 8, that Soldiers will need to take a more active role in managing their military records because the Army is preparing to eliminate the Military Personnel Records Jacket, commonly referred to as the 201 File.

The paper reported that Army personnel officials plan to eliminate the MPRJ by July 1. Paperwork that was traditionally maintained in the MPRJ will be eliminated and converted to electronic format or maintained separately by the Soldier's servicing personnel office.

For more about this story and other news at Fort Belvoir, Va., visit [www.belvoireagle.com](http://www.belvoireagle.com) on the Internet.

### Fort Rucker:

The Army Flier reported April 9, that crew chiefs from several Army and National Guard units had been attending the first standardized training course for crew chiefs.

The course was implemented in November for UH-60 Black Hawk crew chiefs ranking from sergeant through sergeant first class.

Before the new course was instituted, Black Hawk crew chief training wasn't standardized and varied in content and quality from unit to unit, the paper reported. The new course is designed to offer the crew chief a solid foundation of job training, which can then be enhanced at the crew chief's unit.

# MPs begin exchange mission

## U.S. Soldiers, South Africans work to improve protection skills

By Mike Sykes  
K-State Intern

Fort Riley may not seem like the most international post in the Army, but several members of the Fort Riley community are changing that.

Lt. Col. Anthony D. Zabek and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Meyer of the 924th Military Police Battalion traveled to South Africa in January for a week's mission.

Their visit was the first in what they hope will be many exchanges

between the military police of both countries.

"The focus of the visit was to establish the initial program for an MP exchange," Zabek said. "Our intent was to exchange information and provide a learning environment for both organizations."

Zabek and Meyer pointed out that while the South African military may not appear to have much in common with the U.S. Army, they in fact have faced and dealt with many similar conflicts and issues.

From major combat operations

in World War II, to counter-insurgency operations in Namibia and Angola, to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations supporting the United Nations and the African Union, the South African MPs have been involved with

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# Colors return



Post/Skidmore

Capt. David Bryant, Company C, 125th Forward Support Battalion is greeted by daughter, Meghan, 6, after having been gone a year.



Post/Skidmore

Col. Russ Gold, commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team and more than 300 soldiers from the 3rd BCT were welcomed home during a redeployment ceremony April 13.

## Families reunite with 300-plus 3rd BCT Soldiers

By Gary Skidmore  
Command Info. Officer

When 6-year-old Meghan Bryant saw her father, Capt. David Bryant of Company C, 125th Forward Support Battalion, standing in the formation across the aircraft hangar floor, it was the first time she had seen him in a year. It was all her mother, Melissa, could do to keep her from running out to greet him.

Then, the order came from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, for the Soldiers to rejoin their families.

McGhan shot out ahead of the more

than 500 families and friends gathered to welcome their Soldiers home and flew into her father's waiting arms. Right on her heels was sister, Katie.

Bryant and more than 300 Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, including their commander, Col. Russ Gold, returned to Fort Riley April 12.

Before releasing the Soldiers to their families, Hardy spoke of their commitment to their mission and what they had accomplished in Iraq.

"Even though the fight continues today, you have made a commitment and a down payment that will be known for years to come," Hardy said. "You have taken part for sure in a mission much

larger than yourself, and you have come home veterans.

"More than the patrols and the security posts and the terrorists which you have captured, you have also done good things for the Iraqi people," Hardy said.

"You have helped to re-establish schools, turn the water and the lights on, get the homes in the economy back up and functioning again in a way that is peculiar to western armies and for sure the American Army, where you can laterally carry on a fight at one end of the block and be handing out balls and helping kids at the other end of the block," he said.

"That is what America is all about," Hardy said. "That is surely what you

have brought to the people of Iraq, and for that, the civilized world will be forever grateful," he said.

When the Soldiers were released to their families, Gold found Sgt. 1st Class Telva Reid, a senior personnel sergeant wounded in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated and injured her and another soldier in her Humvee.

Gold handed her a mounted piece of shrapnel removed from her before she came back to Fort Riley.

"When he visited me in the hospital in Iraq, he asked if he could have the shrapnel," said Reid. "He just gave it back to me," she said pulling a necklace from

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## 'War Dawgs' receive medals

### Two receive Bronze Stars

By Mike Sykes  
K-State Intern

Soldiers and families of the 300th Military Police Company were honored April 12, for their work during Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 200 Soldiers of the 'War Dawgs' company were recognized with various medals from the Bronze Star to the Army Commendation for meritorious service.

The ceremony was a follow-up to an awards ceremony held

in Iraq before redeployment. Other Soldiers were recognized in that ceremony for their service. Overall, the company decorated Soldiers with a Purple Heart, 14 Bronze Stars and 130 Army Commendation Medals.

Two Soldiers unable to attend the ceremony in Iraq were awarded the Bronze Star Medal at Fort Riley April 12 for their exceptional meritorious performance of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. First

See MPs, Page 2



Post/Sykes

First Lt. Jessica Murphy (right) and Staff Sgt. Michael Bieh (center) receive Bronze Star Medals April 12, from 300th Military Police Company Commander Capt. Lynn Roll.

## Valor earns medals

### Battalion honors three Soldiers

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

"It's kind of neat to give a young Soldier an award for valor," said Brig Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), during a ceremony April 8, in Barlow Theater.

Members and guests of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, gathered that day to honor three battalion Soldiers -- an officer, a noncommissioned officer and a private first class -- receiving Bronze Stars and an Army Commendation Medal with "V" devices.

Capt. Shane Celeen and Pfc. Jeremy Hale received Bronze

Stars and recently promoted Sgt. 1st Class Alejandro Garza-Gonzalez received the Army Commendation Medal for valorous acts while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kearney said pinning a Bronze Star on the chest of a young soldier was especially great because "they haven't got 10, 12 or 15 years of experience or two and three times in combat to build the experience to do that stuff. When they do it, it's a special day."

Hale went into action April 1, as a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., attached to a scout section of the 82nd Airborne Division.

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## Post news in brief

### Fort to conduct live fire exercise

Nearby communities may notice increased noise activity on Fort Riley April 20-22.

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, will conduct a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex and throughout the post's training areas. The training will take place during the day and nighttime hours.

The exercise will include live fire with M1A1 Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Additionally, the Air Force is supporting the mission by providing various aircraft flyovers.

### Tank trail closed for utility work

The tank trail that runs parallel to Vinton School Road from 1st Division Road west to Old Highway 77 will remain closed through April 17, in order to lay a waterline. Wheeled vehicles will be required to use Vinton School Road and tracked vehicles will need to continue north and use one of the east-west trails north of training area 36.

### Troop medical clinic to close

The Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic will close at 11 a.m. April 29, and resume operations at 6 a.m. May 3, so staff can move into a new facility behind the current building.

Soldiers with acute illnesses requiring treatment before the clinic opens in its new location may report to the Emergency Department at Irwin Army Community Hospital to be triaged and seen.

Soldiers who do not require acute care should report to the new clinic for sick call at 6 a.m. May 3.

For more information, call Capt. Susan Gartung at 239-4411.

### Units win cash for recycling

Troop Incentive Program winners for 2nd Quarter of fiscal year 2004 are:

**Small Unit**  
 First place and \$750 — 2nd Battalion, 289th Regiment  
 Second place and \$500 — Detachment E, 15th Personnel Services Battalion

**Third place and \$250 - 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support)**

**Large Unit**  
 First place and \$1,000 - 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry  
 First place and \$1,000 - 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor  
 First place and \$1,000 - 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor  
 Second place and \$750 - Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison  
 Second place and \$750 - 101st Forward Support Battalion

**Third place and \$500 — 924th Military Police Battalion Random Act of Recycling - Aluminum Cans**

**Small Unit Winner:** \$250 to 4th Finance Battalion for 59 pounds of aluminum cans  
**Large Unit Winner:** \$250 to 924th MP Bn. for 118 pounds of aluminum cans

### SJA names top employee

Frances Walsh was recently recognized as Employee of the Quarter at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. She received a time off award.

### Army seeks new warrant officers

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to

## Medals continued from page 1

sion. The scouts moved forward to reconnoiter the bridge situation in Asamawa and met intense enemy small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire when it arrived.

Hale was cited for immediately returning oppressive fire across the river during a firefight in which a Soldier was killed and others wounded.

Hale's wife, Carrie, and their son, Nathaniel, 5, accompanied Hale during the awards ceremony. Her reaction to the award: "Oh, wow. It's pretty great. It's ... I don't know."

Hale said he told his wife all about the firefight that earned him the Bronze Star. "The day after it happened, I called and let her know and told her not to worry. I told her we got shot at and one of us died, but don't worry."

Carrie is new to Army life and the dangers her husband may

face. Both hail from a small town — Franklin, N.C. — and they've shared life in the Army the past year or so.

"It's a scary thing," she said about Hale's military service, "but I'm here forever." The couple met about six years ago.

"I thank her a lot for sticking with me," Hale said.

Celeen earned his Bronze Star for leading his company attached to Task Force 20 in a night attack to gain control of an airfield.

His company killed several enemy soldiers, destroyed several armored fighting vehicles and seized control of the airfield.

The citation accompanying the medal read, in part, "Capt. Celeen seized the battle position, (and) ...

held the position for two hours under fire. Capt. Celeen led from the front, displaying disregard for his safety as he personally engaged the enemy and seized the

initiative."

Garza-Gonzalez earned his Army Commendation Medal for valor while serving as a section sergeant in Asamawa. His Bradley crew and a dismounted force of six Soldiers came under enemy fire.

Garza-Gonzales and his Soldiers suppressed the enemy in order to lead friendly forces from a checkpoint and then aided the clearance of numerous buildings.

The 35-year-old noncommissioned officer is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm but said he saw few similarities between what he encountered then and what he saw in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Experience in the earlier war in Iraq prepared him somewhat, Garza-Gonzalez said, but "you never know what to expect."

Garza-Gonzalez tried to instill that same mindset into the Sol-

diers he supervises, he said.

"I've been fortunate to have a lot of assignments under my belt, so I've been exposed to a lot of different mindsets and training events (during his 16 years in the Army). Those are the same kind of things I try to put down to my soldiers," he said.

When his crew and dismounted Soldiers came under fire, Garza-Gonzalez turned choreographer and directed the counter-offensive.

"What I remember most was the first contact, how smooth it happened. You always have your doubts about how your soldiers are going to react. You train them the best, and then it's game day.

"When we made first contact and I gave the word to fire, there was no hesitation. The crew just started interacting, talking to each other, correcting each other and our guys on the ground automati-

cally went just like we were trained. Didn't even skip a beat," Garza-Gonzalez said with obvious pride.

"Bottom line, nothing would have happened without my Soldiers," he said.

At the ceremony's conclusion, Kearney presented the mothers of Sgt. Jacob Butler and Spe. Larry Brown with the Army Chief of Staff's Coin of Excellence and the Battalion's war coin. Butler and Brown were killed in action in Iraq and their names are memorialized on the war coin.

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many of the same type of events as U.S. MPs, Zabek said.

"They face the same challenges but just on a smaller scale," Meyer said, referring to the smaller size of the South African military.

When the Apartheid era ended in 1994, the South African Corps of Military Police underwent its largest and most challenging transformation.

"1994 saw the integration of seven armed forces of the apartheid-era South Africa into the new South African National Defense Force," Zabek said. "The armed forces now reflect the diversity of the country."

To Zabek and Meyers, this integration also presents one of the toughest hurdles for the South Africans to clear.

To point out how much of a challenge integration has been, Meyer noted that the commanding general of the MPs in South Africa is a former freedom fighter who fought against the same people he now leads.

Zabek and Meyer toured several installations and met with many officers and military police during their stay.

They exchanged briefings on MP operations and history as well as MP training and education with their South African counterparts.

Meyer observed that South African management techniques are on par with those of U.S. MPs, but equipment is in short supply.

"They don't have enough radios for all the MP vehicles for use in law enforcement," he said.

Zabek said he thinks the most opportunity to help the South Africans is in force protection and critical asset protection. He believes that Fort Riley is well prepared to provide support and training in those areas.

The U.S. military's current focus is on joint operations. Zabek pointed out that the South African MP force is a totally joint force comprised of members of all branches of service but under one command.

That joint capability lends itself to further study by U.S. MPs to see what lessons can be learned, Zabek said.

"The history of the United States and Republic of South Africa provides a background for mutual learning and greater understanding of social diversity and culture, as this was not just solely a military event," Zabek said.

"The great take-away from the visit was a better understanding of South Africa and the important role it plays in the region," he said.

## MPs continued from page 1

Lt. Jessica Murphy and Staff Sgt. Michael Biehl were cited for "outstanding dedication to duty during ground combat operations in Iraq." Their actions contributed to the overall success of 504th Military Police Battalion and the Victory Corps, according to the citations accompanying their medals. The 300th MP Co. was attached to the 504th MP Bn. while in Iraq.

Murphy said there "really is no textbook answer for what you will find in Iraq." Duty there is "always about vigilance" and that is what her medal represents, she said.

Biehl said his award represented "a lot of good soldiers doing a lot of good work."

Biehl's squad was responsible for confiscating more than 210 weapons, the most in the battalion, and for seizing other bomb-making material and preventing numerous improvised explosive device detonations.

His squad also seized more than 89 pounds of plastic explosives and recruitment material from two terrorists and captured six Iraqis with rocket-propelled grenades and night vision equipment for during the 300th's deployment.

Biehl said several of those captured were eventually sent to Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Biehl also received the Order of the Marchesssee Award.

The medal is awarded to Soldiers who "demonstrate outstanding dedication and devotion to the MP Regiment." Master Sgt. Carl Prickett emphasized the importance of the award, saying that in his 24 years of service he has never seen anyone awarded the medal.

Thirteen other Soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device.

Three of the Soldiers received the award for their actions after a vehicle hit a land mine. Their quick response was credited with saving the lives of two other Soldiers.

Ten Army Commendation Medals went to Soldiers for their actions in an incident in which an IED killed three Soldiers and wounded three others.

Twelve Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement based on their involvement in a combat patrol that found and disrupted an ambush site directed at coalition forces. By securing the insurgents and weapons, they were credited with saving an unknown number of coalition forces.

Thirty-five Soldiers were awarded Army Commendation Medals for outstanding performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After the Soldiers' awards were presented, members of the Family Readiness Group were recognized for all of their contributions and for ensuring that all family members were kept informed and cared for during the 300th's deployment.

In addition, several friends of the 'War Dawg' family were recognized for their special support during the deployment.

After the awards and presentations were finished, Capt. Lynn Rolf III, commander of the 300th MP company spoke briefly about the great work they had accomplished and of those still serving in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Anthony Zabek, commander of the 924th MP Battalion, also spoke briefly on the outstanding job the 300th had done and all they had accomplished.

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*Post/Skidmore*  
Holly Kubik (left) shows Haley McCabe, 5, the video she shot while waiting for their loved ones to arrive.

# Post toughens motorcycle policy

## Riders required to wear specific types of protective clothing

**By Jeffrey Buczkowski**  
*Public Affairs Officer*

Fort Riley has a new policy in place. Motorcyclists and passengers who do not meet the installation's policy concerning motorcycles, mopeds, dirt bikes and all terrain vehicles will be denied access to the post or issued tickets.

Military police will conduct checkpoints to verify adherence to the policy. Military personnel in

violation of the new policy can be cited and nonaffiliated civilians can be escorted off post for non-compliance.

The policy was signed March 31 by Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley. Safety is cited as the reason for these measures.

Under the new policy, both operators and passengers must wear the following items when riding:

– A U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) approved helmet properly fastened under the chin.

– Impact or shatter resistant goggles or a full-face shield attached to the helmet. Windshields, fairings and eyeglasses alone cannot be substituted.

– Full-fingered gloves, long trousers, a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes.

– A reflective vest. If a backpack or T-bag (sissy bar bag) covers or blocks any portion of the reflective vest, an additional vest

must be placed on the outside of that pack/bag.

Operators must be properly licensed by civilian authorities. Military, family members, Department of Defense employees and Fort Riley contractors must also possess a valid Motorcycle Defensive Driving Course card.

Motorcyclists requiring the Motorcycle Defensive Driving Course should contact the Fort Riley Installation Safety Office at 239-2334.

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under her shirt displaying the mounted metal on a gold locket. Obviously moved emotionally, Reid said the gesture was unexpected.

"He just gave it to me," Reid said. "It was a real surprise. It was nice."

Gold said every Soldier in his command would come home with a different way of looking at their time in Iraq.

"We walked in areas where no one has walked before," he said. "The boots that we walked in will become history."

Gold said he knows his Soldiers will be better for having endured the hardships of Iraq.

"They're going to appreciate the United States a lot more, our way of life, our society; and I hope they take that with them through life," said Gold, who described the experience as a positive one for him and his Soldiers.

"These Soldiers are going to walk tall because they have done things that no one following behind have done ... because they can't," Gold said.

"We went into Baghdad and there weren't any lights, no power, just chaos, no government," Gold said. "If you go back there now, you wouldn't believe it. It's got a thriving economy, trucks are full, stores are open, and they'll teach us capitalism."

Gold said there's still a lot to be done in Iraq and stressed how hard it will be for future rotations.

"It took us a long time to come up with a constitution and democracy," Gold said about the United States. "We can't expect that to happen there in a short period of time. It's a helluva experience, and I'm thankful for it."

Additional body armor, more up-armored Humvees and battle-field robots are examples of requests that have been heard and approved by members of the Army Strategic Planning Board.

Getting the right equipment to combatant commanders in a timely manner is only one aspect of the Army's focus area on resource processes.



*Post/Skidmore*  
The Olson family from Maxbass, N.D., cheer when they spot their Soldier, Sgt. Craig Olson.

**By Marcia Triggs**  
*Army News Service*

*Editor's note: This is one in a series of articles relating to the 17 Army focus areas. This one focuses on resource processes.*

WASHINGTON -- Every Thursday senior leaders on the Army staff spend an hour validating equipment requirements from commanders to ensure needed capabilities get in the hands of deploying troops.

Additional body armor, more up-armored Humvees and battle-field robots are examples of requests that have been heard and approved by members of the Army Strategic Planning Board.

Getting the right equipment to combatant commanders in a timely manner is only one aspect of the Army's focus area on resource processes.

"It's a series of actions that match dollars to desired capabilities," said Lt. Col. Bobby Claflin, an action officer with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, G8.

The Army Strategic Planning Board was first formed after 9-11 with a primary focus on supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Even though it works as a gatekeeper, the board ironically has been able to compress equipment-fielding schedules from years to months and even weeks, officials said.

Unit commanders from company to theater level submit operational needs statements to their major commands, and if the MACOMS can't fulfill the requests, they are forwarded to

Headquarters Department the Army for resolution, said Col. Mark Averill, chief of ASPB.

"When commanders see a required piece of gear that they need for mission success they can basically write and ask for it," Averill said.

Before requests reach the ASPB's Thursday meeting, Averill hosts a Tuesday meeting where a council of colonels first reviews the requests.

"Instead of walking requests in each of the staff sections and trying to get on the G3's calendar, we provide a forum where multiple decisions directly impacting Soldiers on the ground can be made within 60 to 90 minutes," said Lt. Col. Michael Komichak,

a member of the ASPB.

The planning board isn't just driven by requests from commanders, Komichak said. Board members also think forward, he said. They use lessons learned from previous rotations of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to predict what units will need on the ground, he said.

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# 'Thanks for the job; I'll be gone a year'

## Mobilized colonel: Reserve, National Guard Soldiers must be up front with employers

**By Sam Robinson**  
Staff writer



These stories comprise the second installment in a four-part series

**About the series:**

As the Army's mission evolves, the manner in which National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are used is changing. More mobilizations, longer deployments and expanding roles for reserve component Soldiers have created new challenges for America's citizen Soldiers.

Balancing a full-time, long-term career with the duty of military service can test the relationship between a Soldier and his or her employer.

Many businesses across the nation have stepped up to the call of the nation and supported their reserve component employees. Some, despite the law, have questioned the extended absences and pressured the employee not to serve.

As Soldiers begin to return from Iraq and other duty stations, they are faced with the decision of whether or not to re-enlist. With more than 100,000 reserve component Soldiers serving on active duty, reserve strength will translate into the overall strength of America's forces.

This series looks at the law that protects reserve component Soldiers in the civilian workplace and tells the stories of some Reserve Soldiers at Fort Riley.

his employer made plans to adjust the workload.

As a senior account manager with the South Carolina-based Sonoco, Lowery oversaw the sales of flexible packaging to Nestle Foods. His home is in St. Louis, Mo., but he does a great deal of traveling throughout the States.

"Bob is my second in command. He manages a large account," Bob Biasi, Lowery's civilian supervisor, said. "We had to decide how to shift duties and pick up the slack in his absence."

The transition was not painless but Lowery knew it had to be done. He had to make it look easy. As commander of the 6025th Garrison Support Unit activated to Fort Riley, Lowery would be in charge of helping thousands of other Soldiers make the same transition.

"We are the mobilizers," Lowery said. "We can't have a bad day. We struggle like all the other reserve component Soldiers, but the show must go on."

Col. Jay Simpson, Fort Riley garrison commander, said Lowery has been a great asset in his cur-

**"Being in the reserves is a big part of my life. I let (my employer) know up front."**



**Robert Lowery**

country," Biasi said. "Bob has been up front with us throughout the hiring process and through his departure. Everyone on the team and in the company supports him unquestionably."

Lowery, like other reserve component Soldiers, found it difficult at times to not help out with his civilian job.

He expresses concern about his co-workers and is anxious to see how they will react when he returns to Sonoco. He knows he will have to build relationships with them and give them a chance to express how they feel.

Originally, Lowery was slated to return to civilian life in January, but the Army extended his orders until this summer. His family and job will have to continue to wait for his return.

"It is demanding for all of us to have Bob gone," said Biasi. "We want him back as soon as possible. We were counting on having him back in December, but now we know it won't be until this summer."

Lowery said that his days go by

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## Company helps sergeant make up pay loss

**By Sam Robinson**  
Staff writer

William McLaren has been an Army Reserve Soldier for 18 years. Last January, with hundreds of other citizen Soldiers, he came to Fort Riley to help other reserve Soldiers prepare for war.

This is not the first time McLaren has been called to active duty, but this has been the longest absence from his wife and job due to military service.

"I volunteered for Desert Storm, but it was over quickly," McLaren said. "I knew this time it would be at least a year."

At Fort Riley McLaren is a first sergeant who oversees training in Lane Two of the overall lane

training. Lane Two trains and evaluates Soldiers in methods of protecting their base of operations from assault. In the civilian world McLaren is a systems operator at a Quaker Oats production plant.

"I have had no problems with my employer because of my military service," McLaren said. "In fact they have surprised me with the generous support given to me and my wife."

McLaren said a few months after he left his job the company began providing wage stipends to his wife. The money helps offset expenses related to McLaren's absence and his travel back and forth for family visits.

"PepsiCo, who owns Quaker Oats, said I could get what I

would make in a 40-hour week, but I would need to pay back a portion when I return," McLaren said. "Even though it is a loan, it is still a huge help."

"My coworkers and supervisors have kept me up to speed with what's going on up there," McLaren said. "I have realized how good a company I work for

and the kind of people I work with."

McLaren admits the benefits he receives are not typical and may not be possible for other companies, especially smaller ones, to offer. But he hopes that even small businesses will support Soldiers and allow them the freedom to serve their country.

"I have learned so much being in the Army Reserves," McLaren said. "I hate to think that some Soldiers would miss the leadership development opportunities this brings to them because they are worried about the jobs."

"Or even worse, our nation would lose a qualified, dedicated Soldier because of a hassle with their boss."



**Sgt. 1st Class William McLaren (left) oversees training that teaches Soldiers defense of base operations.**  
Post/Robinson

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# Commentary

## On Women in Combat

# Mom wears combat boots, why not combat arms insignia?

By Karima L. Mares  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In the scorching heat on June 28, 1778, a young woman carried pitcher after pitcher of water into the mist of cannon-fire during the Battle of Monmouth, searching for comrades in need of aid.

Seeing a Soldier fall to the ground, wounded by British fire, the woman, who had no experience as a gunner, picked up the gunner's rammer staff, and without hesitation manned the gun during heavy enemy fire.

This woman fought bravely in

the face of danger.

This woman happened to be an artilleryman's wife — Mary Hays McCauly, better known as Molly Pitcher.

Even before Molly Pitcher's time, women have fought alongside their male counterparts. Most of the time they have had to disguise themselves as men so they could fight for our country, but nevertheless they fought.

Although women have been fighting for a long time, we weren't officially recognized as servicemembers until Feb. 28, 1901.

On that day, the U.S. military established the first permanent

role for women, as nurses in the Army, and 202 previously contracted nurses were inducted into the Army Nurse Corps.

By the time the 1940s rolled around, more than 150,000 women joined the Women's Army Corps to support the Soldiers during World War II.

Although our roles in the military were limited to gender-specific jobs, they expanded from cook and nurse to include secretary, cartographer and driver.

After more than 100 years of women in the military, limitations on the kinds of jobs we can do are still in place.

Today, in the new millennium,

we are allowed to hold many combat-related jobs.

In the Gulf War, women guard-perimeters, flew troop transport helicopters and even fired Patriots that destroyed Scud missiles, and we still don't have the choice to serve in direct combat missions.

Women take the same oath of enlistment as men, they go to Basic Combat Training and the Basic Officers Course and they qualify with their weapons, yet women do not have the choice to be in direct ground combat.

I don't really understand the reasoning for this, although I've heard and read many excuses for

it: such as, women aren't strong enough to endure combat, women can't shoot to injure — never mind to kill — and we just aren't made to fight in combat.

The reality is that some of us aren't strong enough and don't meet the standards necessary to fight, but there are plenty of men who aren't qualified to fight in combat, either.

I think that if a female Soldier is qualified and can meet the necessary standards, she should at least be given the right to fight for her country.

There are thousands of women in the military who qualify with their weapons far better than the

men do, and who not only exceed their own physical training test scores, but surpass their male counterparts as well.

Those women should at least be given the option of being in the thick of it.

I hope eventually that gender will not be an issue to consider when soldiers are assigned their military occupational schools.

Men go to combat because they are men. Are women's lives more valuable than men's are?

Editor's note: Karima L. Mares is assigned to the 13th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

## Lowery continued from page 5

quickly because there is so much work to do. To fill his sparse free time, he is picking up a hobby or two.

Lowery contends that being in the reserves was his only hobby before coming to Fort Riley. Since his arrival he has taken up golf. He says he has some good teachers, expensive, but good.

"He is giving up a lot from civilian life to be here. Some Soldiers would be very upset to get a six-month extension. Bob has taken it in stride," Simpson said. "He will give us 100 percent every day he is here."

Lowery and his wife, Jane, and their two sons, Russ and Rob, have had much to deal with during the past year. Lowery's moth-

er-in-law died in April and his father died in November.

"Both Sonoco and Fort Riley have supported us through these tough times," Lowery said as he looked down, twisting his wedding ring, taking a moment to gather his thoughts.

"I continually find myself surrounded by great people," Lowery said.

It is not hard to tell where Lowery's heart is when you walk into his office. A Missouri state flag adorns one of the walls. Opposite it is a large Uncle Sam poster.

Lowery also displays a letter signed by the Missouri legislature commending his unit for their service. He also has a letter from the chief executive officer of Sonoco

thanking him for his service and reassuring him of his job.

Lowery, who is continually smiling, loves to joke around. This is evident by the slogan on his favorite coffee cup. "One weekend a month, my ass."

He gets a little red in the cheeks when asked to talk about himself. He misses his family but feels fortunate that he is not too far away.

"Bob Lowery is a great American," Simpson said. "He has been critical to Fort Riley over the past year."

Lowery considers himself to be in a very good position with his civilian company.

Unlike some Soldiers, he is confident he will return to work with the same level of reverence

he had when he departed. His boss agrees.

"This doesn't tarnish his record. We briefly talked about using a temp to fill the slot, but they wouldn't be as good as Bob. He really knows the industry," Biasi said. "Bob is the kind of guy people like to work with, so we know he will be fine."

"I am lucky to be where I am at professionally," Lowery said. "I have never had a doubt about my status with Sonoco. They have been supportive of me and my family through all of this."

As Lowery's exit from Fort Riley comes nearer, his concerns shift to what will happen at Fort Riley and what lies ahead for his fellow Soldiers. But he knows this

team will recover from his absence just as Sonoco has.

Lowery is concerned for Soldiers who have found themselves in much more difficult situations with their employers. He hopes they use the services that are available to them and that they are treated fairly in the work place.

He has a few words of advice to share with other reserve component Soldiers.

"Communication is the key for this to be a success story," Lowery said.

"You have to communicate with your family, friends and your employer. They need to know your status and your plans for the future," he said.

Lowery feels there is a big dif-

ference between employers who simply follow the law regarding reserve component Soldiers and employers who embrace the spirit of the law.

"I think we are simply doing the right thing," Biasi said. "Yeah, our business is in a tight spot because Bob is gone, but where would we be without an Army?"

Lowery began his service while he was in the ROTC at the University of Southern Mississippi. Now, nearly 30 years later, he is ready to retire.

"When I finish here, it will be time to hang up my beret," Lowery said. "This has been such a wonderful experience, but it is time to move on."

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# News from the Front



Soldiers of the 1st Engineer Battalion use a crane and dump truck to haul concrete barriers to sites where they will be used to provide defensive obstacles as part of Operation Instant Fortress. 1st Engineer Battalion

## California engineers aid Riley unit in Iraq

By Chad Palmer

1st Engineer Battalion

Combat support equipment engineer units have been providing the Army with diverse construction and combat assets throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom. One such group of engineers is attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, operating in central Iraq.

In the spring months of 2003, the Dirt Dawgs were planning to go to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for their annual rotation.

The NTC rotation was planned for October, but a new mission quickly took its place. Instead of going to the California desert to train, first platoon detached itself from the 568th Engineer Company and headed to the Iraqi desert to attach itself to HHC, 1st Eng. Bn., in support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

When 1st Platoon was selected to deploy to Iraq, the platoon

immediately restructured to facilitate an increase in personnel and equipment. All of the best equipment and vehicles in the 568th were transferred to the platoon.

The final composition of the platoon consisted of two equipment squads to provide horizontal construction assets, one transportation squad to provide hauling assets, and one maintenance squad to ensure that all the equipment ran throughout the deployment.

The two equipment squads contain bulldozers, scrapers, graders, rollers, tractor-trailers and even one 20-ton crane. The transportation squad provides 5-ton and 20-ton dump trucks for hauling.

Since arriving in Iraq, the Dirt Dawgs have provided three essential ingredients to 1st BCT operations: mobility, counter-mobility and survivability.

Mobility has been provided with the construction of new roads, repair of old roads and route clearing missions.

Counter-mobility has been

accomplished by setting up defensive obstacles in and around Camp Junction City and Camp Manhattan to limit the points of entry into the camps.

Survivability recently gained national attention through implementation of "Operation Instant Fortress." That operation placed thousands of concrete protective barriers around key buildings and sites in the Ar Ramadi area.

The operation consisted of several all-night missions using the crane and a wrecker to unload and place the barriers, often very tight spaces.

Survivability also has been attained by creating well-protected fighting positions, building protective bunkers and placing barriers around the frequently used areas of Camp Junction City.

The CSE platoon also built an ammunition supply point, two football fields, a softball field, a dozen motor pool parking areas; improved drainage around camp; and a score of walkways through previously muddy areas.

## 3rd Brigade Soldiers help rebuild Iraqi army

By John S. Wollaston

3rd BCT

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Twice during the past 15 years, the Iraqi armed forces have been literally obliterated by the United States and its allies.

The first time, the Iraqi military was left to its own devices, forced to do what it could to re-constitute itself any way it could.

The second time around, in the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqi Army is rising from the ashes of defeat with the help and assistance of an unexpected ally, the U.S. Army.

At Camp Cook, the former Iraqi military installation in Taji just north of Baghdad, a small contingent of U.S. and Australian soldiers are teaching a new Iraqi army the tactics and skills necessary to defend the country. A six-man team representing the Bulldog Brigade helped train, advise and conduct operations with 100 to 120 Iraqi army soldiers.

The soldiers of the new Iraqi Army are a mixture of old and new personnel. Carefully screened former soldiers join new recruits and senior noncommissioned officers work with inexperienced lieutenants. All have one goal in mind, to make Iraq safe for their countrymen.

"There's a lot of pride in the soldiers. They [the new Iraqi soldiers] have the potential to be a

powerful force. Their concept of how to conduct operations has really developed well over the last 45 days," said Capt. Johnny Casiano, one of the 3rd Brigade's trainers.

Using a crawl, walk, run method to train the Iraqis, Casiano and his team started with the basics, teaching U.S.-based fighting doctrine at squad and platoon levels.

"At the beginning it was tense working with the Iraqis," said Sgt. 1st Class Dan Smith, a member of Casiano's team from the 1st Armored Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion.

"But now they're happy we are here, and it feels real good working with them." The Iraqi army soldiers echoed that sentiment.

"At first we had a very different impression of the U.S. Army," said Major Azam, an Iraqi army

commander. "Now we realize they are good people who want to help us and came to liberate us. There is mutual respect between the soldiers, and they've been very good at assisting us with our training."

At a time when it was still risky for Iraqi citizens to be seen openly assisting coalition forces, Casiano pointed to a bombing in the Kadamia district of Baghdad as an example of how willing the soldiers of the new Iraqi army are in securing the country.

"They had no orders to do so, but they were willing to go down there and help," Casiano said.

During the next few months, as security forces like the new Iraqi army assume a larger role in protecting the country, the main concentration will be on forming light infantry units. Plans call for 27 battalions in the new Iraqi army by fall of 2004, with the last four battalions being aviation units.

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, April 16, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

## Community news briefly

### JCHS singers rate high at fest

Junction City High School's Lady Blues Women's Ensemble, Freshman Ensemble and Men's Ensemble competed at Kansas Music Educator's Association Regional Music Festival April 3.

Ten vocal soloists also competed.

Receiving the superior "1" ratings were: Alyssa Elder, soprano; Francesca Vlasak, soprano; and Men's Vocal Ensemble members Brandon Runnels, Cedric Foster, Charles Chaudary, Joe Billings, Justin Black, Mardell Floberg, Spenser Jenkins, Brad McCormick, Shawn Gamache, James Phillips, Ramone Lowe, Kevin Gladney, Jason Pauly, Carl Slifer, Dustin Williams, Cameron Lee, Martin Tompkins, and Ernest Lowndes.

These students, under the direction of music teacher Mary Louise Stahl, move on to the state festival in Emporia on April 24.

Receiving "2" ratings were: Lady Blues Women's Ensemble; Ernest Lowndes, bass; Molly Anderson, soprano; Erin Barnes, soprano; Christine Chun, soprano; Letia Didion, soprano; Hanna Tompkins; and Lory Dawson, alto.

Receiving "3" ratings were: Martin Tompkins, tenor; and the Freshman Ensemble

### Men's Bible group convenes

A long-term men's Bible study group will start meeting from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. April 29 at Kapauan Chapel on Custer Hill.

This group will meet weekly and all men are invited.

The group will begin by looking at "The life of David: Sinner and Saint."

For more information, call Chap. (Capt.) Glenn Palmer at 784-8384 or 239-9565.

### Outpatient pharmacy moves

Demolition of the Outpatient Pharmacy at Irwin Army Community Hospital begins the week of the April 19.

To accommodate renovation, the Outpatient Pharmacy will move to Inpatient Pharmacy in the hospital's basement starting the evening of April 16.

Hospital officials plan to have the Outpatient Pharmacy fully operational in the basement the morning of April 19.

### Crafts center sets several classes

April 17 - 3-D Buildings in Glass, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
April 18 - Scrapbooking Get-Together, 1 to 4:30 p.m.  
April 19 - Wood Safety, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

April 19 - Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.  
April 20 - Beginning Sewing Catch-Up Class, 6:15 to 8:45 p.m.

April 20 - Mold Pouring Orientation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

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



Fort Riley Volunteer of the Year Andrew Williams accepts recognition awards, gifts and applause April 12 in Barlow Theater after being named the Post Volunteer of the Year for 2004. Applauding his achievement are (from left) Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley; Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Richard Young; Col. John Simpson, garrison commander (rear); and Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela, 24th Inf. Div. command sergeant major.

## Post thanks volunteers for 136,300 hours

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Fort Riley thanked a corps of 48 volunteers April 12 and presented them with medals for their contributions to the post's well-being. A panel of five judges selected Andrew Williams as Volunteer of the Year and 17-year-old Victor Arias Jr. as Youth Volunteer of the Year.

At the end of the ceremony in Barlow Theater, Williams presented Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, with a large mock check for more than \$2.25 million. The amount symbolized the labor value of the more than 2,160 volunteers who donated 136,300 hours of service to Fort Riley during 2003.

Units and organizations on post nominated 37 volunteers for the top honor, which earned Andrews an Outstanding Civilian Service Award, \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds from a local

bank and financial loan institution and 30 days' use of a new truck from a Manhattan auto dealer.

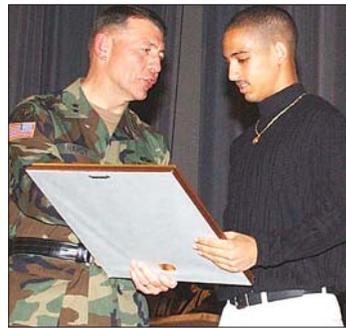
Leaders of the 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion, 937th Engineer Group, nominated Williams for the leadership he demonstrated and service he rendered the unit's Soldiers and families as head of the Family Readiness Group.

Family Readiness Groups work to keep family members of all unit Soldiers informed about the unit's and Soldiers' status and help family members work through problems at home while Soldiers are deployed.

The unit commended Williams, saying his "tireless efforts have truly made an impact on the spouses and Soldiers of 1st Maint. Co during preparations for deployment and deployment."

Installation Volunteer Coordinator Betsy Young, who

See Volunteers, Page 13



Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, presents Victor Arias Jr. an award for being named the first Fort Riley Youth Volunteer of the Year. Arias volunteered 1,000 hours to Child and Youth Services on post during 2003.

## Post observance to remember Holocaust

By Larry D. Caldwell  
Senior EO Advisor

Fort Riley's Equal Opportunity Office will host a Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

April 28 at Barlow Theater. This year's theme is "For Justice and Humanity."

Between 1937 and 1945, 10 million Jews, Gypsies, and mentally retarded people were taken from their homes and sent to concentration camps.

These innocent people had done nothing wrong. One man, Adolf Hitler, viewed them all as members of an impure race.

Hitler saw the extermination of Jews and Gypsies as the final solution to creating a pure race. Moriah Wagner, a freshman at

Kansas State, and the former Kansas Junior Miss, will perform musical selections from the movie "Shindler's List" during the program.

Louis Frydman, a survivor of the Dachau concentration camp, and Fred Stueve, a liberator of the

Dachau concentration camp, are scheduled as guest speakers for the observance.

The observance is open to all soldiers, families and civilians of the Fort Riley community.

Samples of Kosher food will be available after the program.



Eddie Zenyuk (in red sweatshirt) finds archery isn't as easy as it looks while his brother, Billy, prepares an arrow to try his luck. Watching is Tana Edwards and their father, Sgt. 1st Class Joe Zenyuk.

## Kids sample Scouts' life

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

The Boy Scouts of America brought a mobile day camp trailer to the soccer fields near Colyer Manor housing area on Fort Riley April 12.

Scouts, Scouters and volunteers set up a wide range of games and activities for children to play and try during a day they didn't have to attend school.

The Scouts set up for all day in chilly weather and had seen about 25 children during the morning

hours. Some of the children weren't Boy Scouts, a Scout executive said.

"They were having fun, and that's the main thing," said Russ Black, Quivera District executive for the Coronado Area Council.

He had hoped for more participation but said he was glad those who came enjoyed trying their hand at whatever was available.

The Scout council takes the mobile day camp trailer into communities to give children there a sample of what Scouts do and the fun they can have Scouting, Black said.

That Monday, Black had set up an obstacle course through which children had to push a huge ball, an archery range, a golf putting green, soccer, horseshoes, a fishing rod casting range, a field full of chocolate Easter eggs and buddy skis.

Four people stand on the two buddy skis with one foot on each one. Together the four people try to walk down a course on the skis, around a large can and back to the finish.

"It's a team-building exercise," Black said. "It's hard for even adults to work together to do it."

## Lawyers to host Law Day events

### Students can play jurors for mock trial

By Shane Reeves  
OSIA

Law Day is an annual celebration sponsored by the American Bar Association each year on May 1 to educate the public on aspects of the law and to celebrate our freedoms under the law.

This year's theme, "Equality by the Law," is in honor of the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, which desegregated the nation's public schools.

The Fort Riley Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is sponsoring several events in conjunction with Law Day.

The first event is a poster contest involving fifth-grade students attending Fort Riley schools. Attorneys from the staff judge advocate's office will speak to the students about this year's theme. Students will then be asked to create an individual poster that demonstrates how we have "Equality by the Law."

Posters will be due on April 28. Winners will be announced May 5.

The overall winner whose poster best represents this year's theme will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

The second-place poster creator will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond.

Prizes will also be presented to the top three poster creators at each school.

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Lawyers from the Fort Riley staff judge advocate's office also will conduct a mock trial from 8:45 to 10 a.m. May 6 at Fort Riley Middle School.

Seventh-graders at the school will be allowed to participate as jury and audience members while the attorneys conduct the trial.

The event is planned to allow the students an opportunity to see how the average citizen plays a critical role in the judicial system.

The seventh-graders who participate as jurors will receive a

See Law Day, Page 13





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## Community news briefly

### Commissary to close for reset

Fort Riley's commissary will close April 20, to reset store stocks. The store will reopen for normal business April 21.

### Teen Center activities:

Upcoming activities planned by Teen Center staff include:  
April 16 - Bowling, 6 to 9 p.m.  
April 17 - Rolling Hills Refuge Zoo Trip-Salina, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
April 23 - Middle School Dance, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222. The center is located at the corner of Thomas Avenue and Longstreet Drive on Custer Hill.

### At the movies

•••  
The doors at Barlow Theater open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children age 5 to 11. Children under age 5 are admitted free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

- April 16 - Hidalgo (PG-13)
- April 17 - Starsky & Hutch (PG-13)
- April 18 - Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London (PG)
- April 22 - Hidalgo (PG-13)
- April 23 - Secret Window (PG-13)
- April 24 - Spartan (R)
- April 25 - Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (PG-13)
- April 29 - Secret Window (PG-13)

## Law Day

continued from page 11

Certificate of Appreciation for their involvement.

The office of the staff judge advocate is also sponsoring the 11th Annual Law Day Golf tournament at Custer Hill Golf Course beginning at 7:30 a.m. April 29. Each tournament attracts about 120 participants to play in the four-man scramble.

Prizes will be available for the first-place foursome, second-place foursome, first-place second light, men's and ladies' longest drive, and closest to the pin.

# Local TriWest staff helps troops

By Richard Gray

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Every week, Active Army and Reserves Soldiers loaded with equipment and trepidation arrive at Fort Riley for deployment to hostile places. Every week others come home, some bringing with them medical problems they didn't have when they left.

Fort Riley is one of the U.S. Army's processing centers for mobilizing and demobilizing Active Army and Army Reserve

units from across the country. TriWest Healthcare Alliance's TRICARE Service Center on post is one of the busiest in the TriWest network. Its staff of 14 people has been working extended hours for months.

When deployments from Fort Riley began in November 2002, Fort Riley TSC Office Manager Kim Foreman started counting the TRICARE enrollments the office handled. "I stopped after 8,000," she said. "I just gave up." The pace hasn't slowed.

"We're pretty busy," Foreman said. "We have a good team. We make sure the work is done before the end of the day."

About 1,200 Soldiers a month go through the TSC's offices, which occupy a wing on the fifth floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital. The TSC staff sees hundreds more once or twice a week when Soldiers in the Army Reserve fill the gym at Fort Riley to be examined by doctors, write their wills and receive anti-anthrax shots before shoving off.

With every planeload of returning Soldiers, the TSC team swings into action, making sure the veterans are taken care of, ranging from appointments for fitting prosthetic limbs to fighting bacterial infections. The most common ailments are skin rashes and parasites from bathing in Iraqi water.

The reality of war shows up daily at the TSC, particularly with the husbands of two Fort Riley TSC's staffers serving in Iraq.

## Volunteers

continued from page 11

moderated the awards ceremony, also cited Williams for his work with the Army Family Team Building program.

Williams, a former British reservist who met his American wife while they were stationed in Bosnia, said working with the unit's Family Readiness Group meant getting "involved in a lot of things, helping families, making sure they have the right advice, that they get the best of care, that they're informed of what's taking place with their husbands."

Williams said the Army Family Team Building program welcomes the younger wives to the Army and teaches them what's it all about, what they can expect from the Army, what the Army expects of them and where they go to get help when things get difficult.

"What you have here is just short of fantastic," Williams said about the program and about the family support organizations that exist at Fort Riley. "More people need to embrace it. It's a great institution."

Williams said volunteering his services came naturally. "I've been so fortunate because I've gotten so much out of the Army. This is sort of like giving something back to other families. Sometimes it's hard being a single parent, especially for a guy, and these girls (mothers manning the home front) all need a medal," he said.

Williams credited everyone who helped him for the Volunteer of the Year honor he received. It's giving something back and fortunately I've been given the opportunity to do that. I've got a great team behind me. I'm only the tip of the iceberg. There's a whole series of folks behind me."

From four nominees, the volunteer selection panel named Arias the post's first Youth Volunteer of the Year because of the service he provided the staff of Child and Youth Services.

CYS officials praised Arias for willingly giving up his personal activities to help with children in CY's care. Arias also represented Fort Riley at teen leadership forums and brought back his knowledge to teach others.

Volunteering helped Arias adjust to life at a new installation, Arias said. "I got here three years ago and I wasn't really sure I wanted to be here. So, I went to the Fort Riley Youth Services and they happened to be a real good set of people."

"They got me involved in the community. They're more like a family now. So I help out there a lot," he said. Arias volunteered more than 1,000 hours at CY.

Volunteering at CY brought plenty of personal rewards to Arias, he said. The medals he received April 12 were nice, but more than getting them, "I like to see the smiles on kids' faces when I help them," Arias said.

### Mayors,

### Assistant Mayors

- Alyn West - Main Post East
- Stacy Erickson - Main Post East
- Patii Walker - Colyer Manor West
- Stacie Belt - Ellis Heights North
- Lindsay Mills - Ellis Heights North
- Shannon Meyer - Ellis Heights
- Harriett Leggett - Main Post West
- Arnalinda Wellman - Main Post West
- Elizabeth Pressley - McClellan Heights
- Grace White - Meade Heights
- Sheri Belville - Monteith
- O'Donnell Heights
- Li Thornton - Peterson Heights
- Kim McDaniel - Peterson Heights
- Kathryn Alvarez - Warner Heights North
- Christina Martin - Warner Heights South
- Leigh Ann Smith - Burnside Heights

### Youth Volunteers

- Shontay Osterman-Bailey - American Red Cross
- Victor Arias Jr. - Child and Youth Services
- Mardell Maxwell - Chapel Activities
- Miles LeMay - Historical and Archaeological Society

### Adult Volunteers

- Victoria Jurgensmeier - American Red Cross
- Caroline Arbogast - Army Community Service
- Andrew Williams - Army Family Team Building
- Thomas G. Anderson - Boy Scouts
- Fran Dinkelkamp - Circle of Care Medical Department Activity
- Mashawn Sitca - Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Fund
- Mary Bonneau - Enlisted Spouses Club
- Pamela Gonzalez - Girl Scouts
- Joanne Gulotta - Historical & Archaeological Society of Fort Riley
- Lori A. Perry - Officers and Civilians Spouses Club
- Marlene VanSickle - Thrift Shop
- Joyce Wingfield - Fort Riley Elementary School
- Kathryn Alvarez - Morris Hill Elementary School
- Elli Ebersole - Ware Elementary School
- LaRinda Paulson - Chapel Activities
- Lori Perry - Military Council of Catholic Women
- Vanessa Swisher - Protestant Women of the Chapel
- Michelle Avery - 1st Brigade Combat Team
- Tamara Huguenin - 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery
- Tina Locklear - 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry
- Selina Bell - 1st Battalion, 34th Armor
- Liz Bushman - 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor
- Kathy McDowell - 1st Engineer Battalion
- Chevon Rosenberry - 101st Forward Support Battalion
- April Clark - 3rd Brigade Combat Team
- Trish Meyers - 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry
- Stacie Belt - 1st Battalion, 13th Armor
- Shauna Lauauwe - 2nd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery
- Denise Tozier - 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery
- Julie Treen - 70th Engineer Battalion
- Melissa Bryant - 125th Forward Support Battalion
- Mildred Sweet - 937th Engineer Group
- Andrew Williams - 541st Maintenance Battalion
- Kris Schmidt - 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance)
- Joanne L. Gulotta - 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support)
- Lori A. Perry - 2nd Battalion, 291st Regiment
- Debbie Tinsley - 924th Military Police Battalion

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

## Sports news in brief

### Softball umpire clinic set

A slow-pitch softball umpire rules clinic is scheduled on April 17, in King Field House for those wanting to umpire upcoming games. Registration fee is \$35. For more information, call 239-3945 or 239-2172.

### Law Day golf tourney slated

The annual Law Day Golf Tournament will be April 29 at Custer Hill Golf Course. A rain date of May 6 has been set.

The command group, major subordinate and battalion commanders, local dignitaries, members of the Geary and Riley County bar associations and the public will be invited to play in the tournament.

A myriad of prizes, such as for overall winners, longest drive for a male, longest drive for a female, closest drive to the pin for males and for females and closest drive to the line, will be awarded, as well as various door prizes.

For more information, call Capt. Juan F. Garcia at 239-3117.

### At Custer Hill Golf Course:

April 17 - Golf Course Gagne, 7 to 8 a.m.

April 18 - Golf Course Gagne, 7 to 8 a.m.

April 22 - Ladies Golf Clinic, 3 p.m.

### Exercise classes offered on post

April 19 - Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

April 20 - "Get On Track", Guidance to Lap Swimming, 9 a.m.

April 22 - Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call King Field House at 239-3868.

### Fitness center floors repaired

Fitness center floors are scheduled to be sanded and refinished in April and May. Floors will be worked on and unavailable for use according to the following schedule:

Long Fitness Center: Floor and racquetball, April 5-23

King Field House: Floor and racquetball, April 26-May 7

Leonard Fitness Center: Racquetball court and entryway to court, April 26-30

Craig Fitness Center: Racquetball court, May 10-14

### Lanes feature extreme bowling

Extreme bowling -- bowling under strobe lights -- is offered at discounts for families and individual soldiers using Custer Hill Lanes on post.

Families can bowl in the extreme conditions from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays for \$10 per family per lane. They can rent bowling shoes for \$1 a pair.

Soldiers can bowl under the extreme conditions from 10 p.m. Fridays to 1 a.m. Saturdays and from 10 p.m. Saturdays to 1 a.m. Sundays for \$11 per person.

## Air Force unseats Army's women

By John Sayas  
MCAS Miramar

It had been 12 years since the Army lost an Armed Forces women's basketball championship game. The Air Force beat them 81-74 April 9 in the final game of this year's tournament at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

The round-robin tournament

began April 4 with teams from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army and Air Force playing six games each. The team with the best record overall by the end of the tournament would be crowned this year's champion. If teams tied in overall records, the point differential between the two tied teams would determine the winner of the tournament.

The Army had gone unbeaten in every tournament since 1992

when they won their first championship. Every tournament since then, the Army has been the most dominant and was once again the team to beat.

Finding a weakness in the Army team was in the game plan set by opposing team coaches and service commanders, especially for the Marines, who have gone winless in the past few years.

"The Army has to go down," said Col. P.C. Christian, chief of

staff, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, as he congratulated the women who made the Marine team at the MCABWA headquarters here days before the tournament started.

The Air Force felt they had the best chance to take the title because they were 4-1 going into the final game of the tournament. Their only loss was 64-61 against the Army earlier in the week.

"We have played well in the

past," said Thomas Highsmith, assistant coach and Fayetteville, N.C., native. "We are starting to get real well together. That's what you want in a tournament is to get at the right time and that is what we are doing right now."

Because of the possibility of the teams having tying records, the earlier game between the two teams would fall into play, mean-

See Women, Page 15

## Undefeated 41st Infantry claims volleyball title

By Gary Skidmore  
Command Info. Officer

The 2004 Fort Riley Battalion Level Volleyball season is over! The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, emerged as league champions after going undefeated against teams from USA MEDDAC and Detachment. D., 15th Personnel Services Battalion, in the final matches played April 13.

In the first match of the evening, MEDDAC forfeited the first game because they could not muster a team at 6 p.m., when play was scheduled to begin.

Given 10 minutes to come up with enough players to challenge the infantry, MEDDAC's Assistant Coach Erick Acevedo found five willing volunteers to fill in so they didn't have to forfeit again.

"These are not our regular players," said Acevedo. "The team is still at the hospital."

The second game of the match went quickly, ending with a 25-8 win for the infantry.

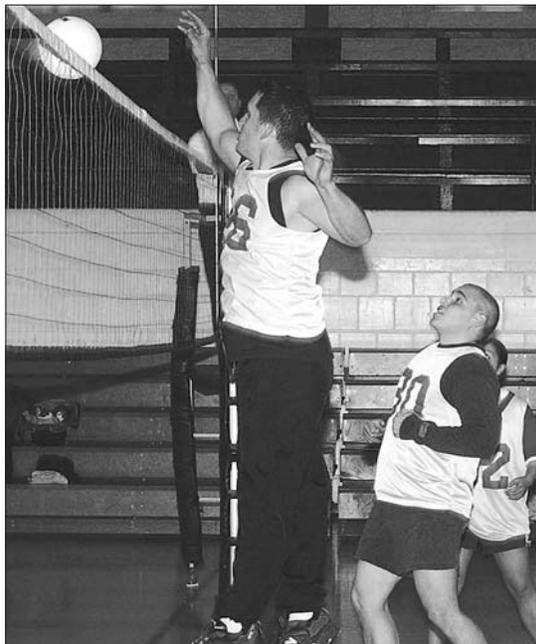
The infantry attacked the MEDDAC team by continually setting and spiking the ball with just about every possession. Even the infantry's servers, most notably Henry Phillips, Joseph Nansen and Oswaldomar Rivera, served like they knew what they were doing.

The talent on the infantry team runs deep.

Nansen has been playing league volleyball for a long time.

"I'm from Hawaii," he said. "But, I played on an international league and traveled all over the United States while I was in high school."

See Volleyball, Page 15



MEDDAC's Santiago Yerra goes to the net for a block during the match between USA MEDDAC and Det. D, 15th PSB. PSB took the match 25-9 and 25-22.

Post/Skidmore

## Series drivers support reserves

### Childress, Labonte, others form racing 'dream team'

AFIS

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Richard Childress Racing and Bobby Labonte, the 2000 NASCAR Cup Series champion, joined forces with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at the Texas Motor Speedway April 3, in the first of a NASCAR "Dream Team" lineup of drivers.

Labonte drove the ESRG No. 29 Army National Guard/Army Reserve car in a first of five Busch Series races to salute supportive employers of national guards and reserve Soldiers.

The program's driver lineup, announced at the Daytona International Speedway in February, includes Tony Stewart, Ricky Craven, Kerry Earnhardt and Kevin Harvick.

Stewart is scheduled to compete May 1 at the California Speedway, representing the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Craven will run July 10 at the Chicagoland Speedway for the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Earnhardt will follow Sept. 25 at the Dover (Del.) International Speedway in the Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve car, and Harvick will wrap up the program Nov. 2 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, representing the Coast Guard Reserve.

Richard Childress Racing's No. 2 AC Delco Chevrolet, driven by Ron Hornaday, will carry the Employer Support of the Guard

See NASCAR, Page 15

## Airmen hold on to defeat Delta Dragons

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

The 10th ASOS added a win mark to its soccer record April 12, beating Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, 2-1, thanks to a penalty kick by Coach Don Sinde. The second game of the evening, USA Medical Department Activity versus 924th Military Police Battalion, was cancelled.

The airmen lost to USA MEDDAC April 8.

PSD's Delta Dragons won the season opener April 1, against the 924th MP Enforcers. They found themselves evenly matched against the Air Force players April 12.

A Delta Dragon player stuck a hand inside the box early in the second half, Sinde said, to set up the penalty kick. On a second penalty attempt, Sinde sent the

ball cleanly past the Delta Dragon goalie for the winning score.

The Dragons drew first blood about midway through the first half and appeared to dominate offensive play to that point. But, the airmen quickly drove the length of the field to tie the game and both teams took a half-time break knotted at 1-1.

Sinde and his wings, Don Reed and Ben Garrison, bring some soccer experience to the 10th ASOS team. Sinde played with an Air Force team in Hawaii and Reed played in Germany.

Garrison has also been playing soccer for a while, but the rest of the 10th ASOS team is new to the game. Sinde said. He hadn't expected to win against the Dragons April 12, but said he saw a lot of improvement in his players after the USA MEDDAC game, especially when playing defense.

"We practice every Tuesday and Thursday morning," Sinde

said. "They'll continue to get better."

With so many novice players, Sinde coaches his team to keep the ball on the edges of the field. "A lot of new players want to clear the ball up the middle of the field," Sinde said. He wants 10th ASOS to capitalize on its experienced players and their speed by bringing the ball up the field on either side instead of trying to fight through the middle.

Delta Dragons Coach Kenneth Horton and goalie Tim Gutierrez weren't pleased with the game's outcome. "I stopped one penalty kick," Gutierrez said, "but the refs gave them another one." The second penalty kick was the one that gave the airmen the winning score.

Horton said the two teams were evenly matched. Both had opportunities to score during the second half but couldn't put the ball into the net, he said.



Players crowd around the 15th Personnel Services Battalion goal during a game April 12, between the Delta Dragons and 10th ASOS, who won the game 2-1.

Post/Heronemus





Jay Balis (left) and Richard Miller (right), of 15th Personnel Services Battalion, battle Kyle Smith of the 924th Military Police Battalion during a game April 8. PSB won their season opener.

# Player/coach predicts wins

## 'Medics' strong contenders

By Gary Skidmore  
Command Info. Officer

Craig Noda, player/coach for the USA MEDDAC soccer team on Fort Riley has no problem predicting who's going to win the next series of games and the post soccer championship. "MEDDAC," Noda said. "I plan on the team taking the post championship this year."  
He predicted 15th Personnel Services Battalion would beat the 924th Military Police Battalion April 8, and they did, 3-1. He also predicted his USA MEDDAC team would beat 10th ASOS, and they did, 3-1. Although the armen gave the medics some trouble, Noda seems to know what he's talking about. He's basing his prediction on years of experience as a player. The 37-year-old has been playing soccer for 24 years. He played on the Jr. Olympic team in 1984 and was a player on the All-Army team in 1987 and again in 1988.

He predicted last week's games and talked about his team's style. "There's a lot of talent on this team," said Noda, who has merged Brazilian and British national team styles into his own. Noda said he tries to keep six players on defense and six on offense all the time.

"We always protect the backfield," Noda said. "Last week, in play against PSB, his team took 16 shots compared to the four fired at the MEDDAC goal."

Kenneth Horton, player/coach for 15th PSB agrees MEDDAC is a strong team. "We're watching MEDDAC and learning from them," Horton said. "We're going to try to keep up with them. If they are combining styles, so will we."

Horton said they have some new players since the loss to MEDDAC last week.

"We've been practicing hard," he said. "We're working on our defense," which he admits is his weakest link. Physical stamina in the second half, however, was his team's eventual downfall, Horton said.

# 41st Infantry extends volleyball domination

By Gary L. Harp  
105th MPAD

USA MEDDAC vs. 15th PSB  
It was a near mirror image of what happened March 30, when the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, opened battalion-level volleyball league play at King Field House. The infantry cut their opponents little, if any, slack. The infantry team beat USA Medical Department Activity 25-7 and 25-12 then beat up on 15th Personnel Services Battalion 25-15, 25-8.

15th PSB vs. USA MEDDAC  
The night started out with the 15th PSB and USA MEDDAC staring at each other through the net. Their games were evenly matched, with each team making good volleys and not pulling away from each other.

When Bruce Keller of 15th PSB started his serves, his accurate placing in spots USA MEDDAC found hard to return set the tone for both matches. He racked up seven straight points in the first match and six in the other to rally his team to 25-14 and 25-19 wins.

41st Infantry vs. USA MEDDAC  
The second match April 6 was the beginning of 1st Bn., 41st Inf.'s, perfect night.

With near perfect sets, the infantry continually leaped high to send powerful spikes that MEDDAC could not answer on the other side of the net. Henry Phillips and Joe Nansen proved especially adept at spiking the ball toward opponents.

Henry Phillips showed very good placement on his serves, and that gave MEDDAC problems setting up volleys because of side-outs or one return to the waiting infantry setters and spikers.

41st Infantry vs. 15th PSB  
First Bn., 41st Inf., entered the final match of the night with the momentum it had built in the previous victories. The 15th PSB players could not defend against Nansen's powerful jump serves and spikes.

The infantry answered every rally 15th PSB tried to mount and walked away with 1st Bn., 41st Inf.'s, fourth win of the night.

# Volleyball

continued from page 14

Nansen said he learned a lot from the other teams he played against as a young player.

Phillips, a former Marine, got his experience by playing three years in southern Spain with his team. The Palm Beach, Fla., native also played a lot of beach volleyball growing up.

Rivera was a member of the Puerto Rican Jr. National team for three years, and his team was the national champions in 1998.

"I also played in the Pan American Games," said Rivera, who leaves April 28 to try out for the All-Army Volleyball Team.

1st Bn., 41st Inf., vs. 15th PSB  
Although the infantrymen beat PSB 25-20 and 25-9 in the second match of the evening, PSB proved a strong contender in the first game and kept within two or three points of infantry until the end.

PSB's Denise Chavis played backcourt defense well, and on offense she set most of the time for whomever was going for the spike.

But, by the end of the first game, the PSB challenge was waning and so was their ability to get the ball over the net.

MEDDAC vs. PSB  
MEDDAC's real team showed up and although the score of the first game, 25-9 in favor of PSB, doesn't reflect it, they showed improved fundamentals over their volunteer teammates. Their ability to set and spike was more evident with this team, particularly the skill of John Kurtz.

Kurtz managed the backcourt and led the team in saves on defense and spikes on offense.

In the second game of the match, PSB came out on top, but with a much narrower margin, w25-22.

Assisting in setting up MEDDAC's play was Marybelle Yater, the shortest player on the team. She would set the ball so Kurtz could come on strong at the net and score with his spike.

# Women

continued from page 14

ing the Air Force had to win the game by at least four points to win the tournament.

"It's the first time in a long time that we have had the chance to play for first place on the last day of the tournament," said Highsmith before the start of the game. The Air Force came out playing aggressively against the Army by getting out in front with a 13-2 lead early in the first half of the game. Army player Eveveta Crawford of Fort Hood, Texas, who finished with 22 points three 3-pointers to help Army pull ahead of Air Force by one point to end the first half, 41-40.

Army's Andrea Hinton of Tripler Medical Center, Hawaii, scored 20 of her game-high 28 points during the second half, but it was not quite enough during the final minutes of the game. Air Force stuck to the game plan by playing tough defense and kept the offense going with Naomi Mobley of Eielson Air Force Base, Ark., scoring 27 points for the game.

An all-tournament team was announced at the conclusion of the tournament along with a 12-member All-Star Service Team that will remain at the air station

to practice for the upcoming Nationals Tournament in Las Vegas April 21-25.

## 2004 Armed Forces Women's Team

- Teressa Walkins
- Fort Benning, Ga.
- Eveveta Crawford
- Fort Hood, Texas
- Tarina Loyd
- Fort Bragg, N.C.
- Andrea Hinton
- Tripler AMC Center, Hawaii
- Katie Scott
- U.S. Naval Academy, Md.
- Mariela Miles
- Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.
- Lyschale Jones
- Langley Air Force Base, Va.
- Hazel Carrington
- NAS Sigonella
- Maurin Strambler
- NAS Fort Worth, Texas
- Lindsay Logsdon
- Laughlin AFB, Texas
- Ashley Bland
- USS Mastin
- Adrienne Beard
- Barksdale AFB, La.

Head Coach: Larry Glover, Ramstein AFB, Germany  
Assistant Coach: Thomas Highsmith, Patrick AFB, Fla.

# NASCAR

continued from page 14

and Reserve logo on its rear deck lid for the entire 2004 NASCAR Busch Series season.

"It's a great opportunity to get back in the Busch series in a very unique situation, driving a car for Richard Childress, which is not like driving for Joe Gibbs or one on my own," Labonte said. "Texas is the only planned race for me to be in the ESGR car this year. That makes this unique because it's a one-time deal for me."

"I really appreciate Bobby starting the ESGR program for ESGR and RCR," said Childress, president of the racing team that bears his name. "It makes sense to have him do this in his home state of Texas. This program is about honoring the employers who have signed statements of support for the ESGR and are doing everything they can to support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve."

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Black Only  
3x5, country meadows

REGULATOR TIME SHOP  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1x3 Coupon Ad

MANHATTAN PERIODONTICS  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2 APRIL 04 TF

BIG DOGS  
2 x 4"  
Black Only  
2x4 big dogs

SET  
2 x 5.5"  
Black Only  
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# Tasty morsels await pickers

By **Gibran Suleiman**  
*DES Wildlife Biologist*

With the long-awaited arrival of spring come dreams of monster spring gobblers — stringers full of crappie and sacks full of morel mushrooms. Although many people are unfamiliar with mushroom



**Gibran Suleiman**

hunting, morel hunting has quite a following.

The morel, genus *Morchella*, is a highly sought-after fungus due to its exquisite taste. Many will argue there is no other mush-

room that can beat it. In fact, many restaurants will pay top dollar to mushroom hunters in order to be able to run a dinner special featuring morels.

For a week or two this spring the woodlands on post will have thousands of morels emerge from the earth. For those who are intrigued, but don't know much about this tasty fungus read on. We will start with the basics.

It is crucially important that you know what you're doing before you eat any kind of wild fungus. While many edible mushrooms grow in Kansas, many others are toxic to ingest and can even kill you.

According to the 1999 Annual Report of the North American Mycological Association Mushroom Poisoning Case Registry, there were 105 human cases of mushroom poisonings reported that year. Two of those were fatal.

When eating a wild mushroom, first take a small nibble and wait 24 hours before consuming more. Mushroom collectors say: "There are old mushroom hunters and there are bold mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

The best way for a mushroom neophyte to start is to hunt with someone who has a lot of experience looking for morels. Not only will they teach you how to identify mushrooms, but they might also give you some helpful hints on finding morels. There also are many field guides on mushrooms available. One good book for this region is "A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms" written by Bruce Horn, Richard Kay and Dean Able.

There are no set rules to follow when looking for morels because they show up in many places. However, timing is very important when looking for morels. They typically emerge in Kansas in April or early May. I start to look after the first good rain, with the temperature staying above the 50-degree mark.

Morels are easiest to find the day after a rain. Every seasoned mushroom hunter has his or her own theories on where to search for morels. A good start for beginners would be to look for morels around dead elm trees or cottonwoods along creeks or rivers. But keep in mind that they can be found growing almost anywhere. Sometimes you might find a lone morel where other times you might find dozens upon dozens.

You do not need any permits to collect morels on Fort Riley. You do, however, need to make sure any area where you venture is open for non-consumptive use and you have a natural resources vehicle maker (available at building 1020) on the dashboard of your vehicle. The Directorate of Environment and Safety open area hotline phone number is (785) 239-6669.

Morels can be prepared a number of ways. They should always be washed well and cooked. One of the simplest ways is to simply sauté them in butter and add a little bit of seasoning.

Many people prefer to bread them. Others will stuff them. Whichever way you decide to prepare them, don't over-indulge. Morels, like many things, can make you sick if you overeat.

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# Travel & Fun in Kansas

## Leisuretime ideas briefly

### In Manhattan:

**"Larry the Cable Guy"** — Bramlage Coliseum, Kansas State University, April 21, at 8 p.m. Military discounts of \$10 per ticket are on sale now at Bramlage. Reserved tickets with \$10 discount are \$22.75 plus service charges.

### In Abilene:

**Heritage Toy Show** — See old and new toys. Buy, sell, or trade. April 17, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 619 Rogers, Stierl Hall in Eisenhower Park.

For more information, call (785) 263-2681.

### In Wamego:

**Wamego Tulip Festival** — Handcrafted items, entertainment, children's activities, and food court. April 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wamego City Park.

For more information, call (785) 456-7849 or visit [www.wamegohamber.com](http://www.wamegohamber.com) on the Internet.

### In Salina:

**ByGone Days** — Pancakes, sawmill demonstrations, steam engine, re-enactors, farm demonstrations, rural displays, one-room school in session, kid's activities. April 24-25 during daylight hours, 1100 W. Diamond Drive, Yesteryear Museum.

For more information, call (785) 825-8473 or visit [www.yesteryearmuseum.com](http://www.yesteryearmuseum.com) on the Internet.

**Smoky Hill Contra Dance** — Music by Lindsey Hogan & Friends, caller Emid Coker. All dances taught. No partner or experience necessary. Wear comfortable, casual clothing and soft-soled shoes. Bring water to drink. April 24, lessons at 7 p.m., dance 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., 146 S. Santa Fe, Dance Elite Studio.

For more information, call (785) 819-3292 or visit [www.kansasfolk.org/contra/salina.html](http://www.kansasfolk.org/contra/salina.html) on the Internet.

### In Leavenworth:

**Yard sale** — Fort Leavenworth's post-wide yard sale is scheduled for April 24.

### In Olathe:

**Civil War on the Border** — Battles, artillery, soldiers, period vendors, and stagecoach rides. April 17-18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1100 Kansas City Road, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm.

For more information, call (913) 971-5111 or visit [www.mahaffie.com](http://www.mahaffie.com) on the Internet.

**Passport to Adventure** — Hike the creatures feature trail and meet wild Kansas animals. April 25 through Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 909 N. Highway 7. For more information, call

(913) 764-7759 or visit [www.erniemiller.com](http://www.erniemiller.com) on the Internet.

### In Waterville:

**Victorian Days** — Celebrate 1800s history. English tea at Weaver Hotel, vintage home tours, entertainment at opera house, and Cowboy re-enactments. April 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (785) 363-2515.

### In Emporia:

**Brown Express Custom Car Show** — Super custom car show, featured in Low Rider Magazine. Hot rods, street rods, muscle cars, low riders, classics, and antiques. April 25 from 1 to 7 p.m., Northend Campus, Emporia State University.

For more information, call (620) 341-5331 or (800) 279-3730.

### In Hutchinson:

**IMAX: NASCAR** — Groundbreaking IMAX film "NASCAR: The IMAX Experience" thrusts moviegoers and NASCAR fans into the driver's seat to experience the heart-pounding thrills of stock cars racing at breakneck speeds up to 200 miles per hour, through May 27, hours vary by day, 1100 N. Plum St., Kansas CosmoSphere & Space Center.

For more information, call (620) 662-2305 or visit [www.cosmo.org](http://www.cosmo.org) on the Internet.

### In Wichita:

**Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show** — Educational displays of minerals, fossils, lapidary, flint knapping, sphere making, faceting, wire wrapping and beading. April 23 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., April 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and April 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 2700 S. George Washington Blvd., Cessna Activity Center.

For more information, call (316) 943-1785 or visit [www.geocities.com/wgms2001](http://www.geocities.com/wgms2001) on the Internet.

### In Halstead:

**Hooterville Mud Run** — Nine classes from ATVs to tractor tire size, CMBA sanctioned, April 25, 1 p.m., Halstead Road and SW 30th. For more information, call (316) 830-2271.

### In Blue Rapids:

**Muzzleloaders rendezvous** — Competition in shooting events, knife and hawk, primitive archery, primitive and modern camps, horse camp, pre-1840 dress strongly encouraged, however everyone is welcome, April 23-25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 15th Road.

For more information, call (785) 494-2457.

# Good tales



Storyteller Marla Matkins will entertain with tales of western Kansas.



Downs Arts Council Sharon Treaster tells stories about strong Kansas women.



Downs Arts Council Judy Nichols includes folktales from around the world in her repertoire.

## If you go

Take U.S. Highway 24 west to Downs, Kan.

Turn south at the intersection of Kansas Highway 181/Morgan Avenue to all festival sites.

## Storytellers spin yarns at annual fest

### Staff report

Seven well-known storytellers and nine local yarn spinners will fill two days in Downs, Kan., with tales to enchant, entertain and tickle the funny bone of visitors to the Kansas Storytelling Festival April 23-24.

Featured storytellers include "the Robin Williams of Storytelling," Ed Stivender of Philadelphia. Marla Matkins will draw on her love of western Kansas history and stories shared by her great-grandparents, who homesteaded there in 1876.

Judy Nichols of Wichita will share stories from a repertoire of folktales she's gathered during 30 years performing at festivals, conferences and schools. She teaches storytelling and puppetry. Sharon Treaster is a lifelong Kansas resident who lives in Beloit. Audiences may feel as though they have met Amelia Earhart and Rosie Ise after watching and listening to Treaster's interpretations of their lives.

Elda Martens hails from Fairview, Okla., and tells stories of the faith and hopes of the Mennonite people. She creatively

pieces her life of gathering interests, friends and opportunities through the designs she puts into her quilts.

On a musical note, Joe Boley returns to the festival with the Riverbend 5 Plus 1, a Dixieland band made up of Kansas musicians.

Ann Zimmerman sings about the prairie and celebrates the adventures, joys, pain and silliness of life on the windy plains using the piano, guitar and her clear, smooth voice. The characters in her songs include plumbers, farmers, professionals and windblown plains people.

Local storytellers on the program include Terry Koops, Mike Nyhoff, Jim Stucky, Sam Seymour, Dean Hunter, Allen DeBey, Greg Martin, Von Rothenberger and Steve Richardson.

**Friday events include:**

\* Nichols' "Character Tales" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

\* Junior storytellers and Matkins' "Cattle Towns and Soiled Doves" from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

\* Stivender's "Myth America" from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

\* A tall tale contest from 7 to 8

p.m.; and

\* A variety of stories and songs from 8:30 to 9 p.m.

**Saturday events include:**

\* Stivender's "Fools and Tricksters," Nichols' "Kansas Women, Strong and Proud," Zimmerman's "I Can Feel It" and Treaster's "Amelia Earhart" from 10 to 11 a.m.

\* Martens' "Faith and Life of Western Oklahoma Mennonites," Matkins' "Cattle Towns and Soiled Doves," Zimmerman's "Plain People and Not So Plain" and Nichols' "Listen and Help Tell the Story" from 11 a.m. to noon.

\* Music by Riverbend 5 Plus 1, kiddie train rides and main street shopping from noon to 2 p.m.

\* Stivender's "Once Upon a Planet," Matkins' "Libby's Story," Treaster's "Rosa Ise" and yarnspinning from 2 to 3 p.m.

\* Stivender's story lab, Matkins' "Libby's Story," Zimmerman's "Long Ago and Far Away" and Nichols' "Character Tales" from 3 to 4 p.m.

\* Koops' "Shovels and Shenanigans" and Home on the Range in 3 Voices from 4 to 4:30

p.m.;

\* Nyhoff's "Have You Heard?" from 4 to 5 p.m.; and

\* "An Evening with Ed Stivender" as the festival finale beginning at 7 p.m.

### Admission

**Adults:** \$15 for all performances \$8 for daytime April 23 \$10 for daytime April 24 \$5 for evening April 23 \$7 for evening April 24 \$2 individual daytime event pass

**Children:** Children under 10 free Children 10-17: \$7.50 for all performances \$4 for daytime April 23 \$5 for daytime April 24 \$2.50 for evening April 23 \$2.50 for evening April 24 \$1 individual daytime event pass

**Family:** \$50 for all performances \$25 for daytime April 23 For tickets, call (785) 454-3808 or buy April 23-24 at Memorial Hall in Downs, Kan.

## KSU Theatre to perform 'Macbeth'

### Special to the Post

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University Theatre will present William Shakespeare's tragedy, "Macbeth," at 8 p.m. April 29-30, May 1 and May 5-8 in Nichols Theatre.

"Macbeth" is the story of a

man consumed by the need for power and fame. Urged on by his wife and the prophecy of witches, Macbeth follows a cruel and bloody path of murder and treachery to gain the crown of Scotland.

Fight choreographer Benaiah Anderson, a university senior, has pulled out all the stops in creating

several realistic battles between enemies.

Anderson has built several of the swords used in the production.

Director Charlotte MacFarland, an associate professor of theater, is using original music composed by a professional musician, Mike MacFarland, to

enhance the audience's experience.

Tickets cost \$7 for students and seniors and \$12 for the general public. Discount tickets are available for groups.

For tickets, visit the McCain Box Office from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays or call (785) 532-6428.

SCREEN MACHINE

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2x2screenMachine

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Home School/4-13, 4-14 & 4-16

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Fairchilde/4-13, 4-14 & 4-16





BRIGGS-  
6 x 21.25"  
Black Only  
FULL COLOR-Full Pg. Week 1

