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Weather Forecast	Today  High:62 Low:44
Saturday  High:77 Low:55	Sunday  High:77 Low:54

Fort Riley Post




Post yard sale tomorrow
Bargain hunters will be out in full force tomorrow for the Post-wide Yard Sale. Hours for the sale are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Go out early for the best bargains.

FRIDAY

April 25, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 17

Ingram receives Silver Star in Iraq

By **Christie Vanover**
Chief, Community Relations

Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram, commander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, received the Silver Star April 18 in Baghdad for conspicuous gallantry in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram

Ingram deployed from Fort Riley in March to command the "Thunderbolts" from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Although he was the only person awarded the Silver Star during the April 18 ceremony, he was humbled by the honor.

"It has nothing whatsoever to do with me. It has to do with the soldiers that I lead. They're the ones that earn the medals. I merely represent them," he said during a live interview on MSNBC

moments after receiving the award.

"In this case, I received the Silver Star on behalf of them," he added referring to the nearly 600 soldiers that he commands.

The Silver Star is the Army's fourth highest decoration awarded to those who are cited for gallantry with marked distinction while serving in action against a U.S. enemy during conflict.

In Ingram's case, it was March 31, 2003, during a battle to secure Al Hillah, Iraq. The unit, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was moving in on the city to divert the enemy's attention from the 3rd Infantry Division so they could move forward to Karbala, said Ingram.

"We knew there were some light forces in the area, but once we crossed the line of departure, there were a lot more there than we anticipated."

Ingram said his unit encountered dismounted forces and artillery and rocket propelled grenades from a battalion of the

See *Silver Star Page 3*



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, observe a Stinger Missile streaking skyward at a radio controlled target during a live fire exercise on Fort Riley Saturday.

Musser departs for Pentagon assignment

By **Jamie Bender**
Staff writer

A departure ceremony for Col. John Musser, Chief of Staff, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, is scheduled for today, 9 a.m. at Cavalry Parade Field.

Musser assumed his duties here on June 24, 2002.

Musser received his commission from Texas A&M University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1976. Following airborne training and the Armor Officer's Basic Course, he was

assigned to the 5th Battalion, 32nd Armor, Fort Stewart, Ga., where he served as a tank platoon leader, support platoon leader, company executive officer and battalion motor officer.

In 1979, he was assigned to United States Army Europe, where he served as a company executive officer and tank company commander, 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor and as Brigade Adjutant, 2nd Brigade, 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Upon returning from Europe in 1982, Musser attended the Air

See *Musser Page 5*

Top soldiers fire Stingers during exercise

By **William Biles**
Staff Writer

Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery; Battery C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, as well as elements from the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, conducted a Stinger Missile live fire Saturday. The 1st Bn., 188th ADA is a National Guard unit from N.D., which made the trip to Fort Riley specifically for the exercise.

"The purpose of the Stinger live fire is to allow our soldiers to actually fire a missile, which is something we typically don't get to

do," said Capt. Gary Beard, commander, Btry C, 1st Bn., 4th ADA. "Because of the cost and availability of the missile, it's not something we can go out and do everyday." The units participating Saturday had a total of 20 missiles to fire, which they divided between them.

The soldiers, who had the highest qualifying scores from throughout the year, were the ones that had the opportunity to fire the Stingers.

"It's a good reward for them. We take the crews that scored the best in qualifications at the Improved Moving Target Simulator, located in Grand Forks, N.D., and those are

the guys that get to fire the missile," said Beard.

The soldiers that do fire the weapon system are among the few that have the chance to without having to be in a combat environment.

"I've been in Air Defense for 12 years and haven't had the opportunity to fire a live missile yet," said Sgt. Brandon Ruzbacki, Stinger section sergeant, Btry C, 1st Bn., 4th ADA. "These guys that are firing should feel lucky they are able to do so."

"This is a good opportunity to actually see what the Stinger does for real, so if I

See *Stinger Page 6*

Statistics in at Fort Riley Tax Center as staff closes doors for season

By **Kim Levine**
Staff Writer

Fort Riley's Tax Center closed out the 2003 tax season with a sense of success, said Capt. Alison Tulud, installation tax attorney.

The Tax Center filed 3,614 federal returns and 2,909 state returns for the Fort Riley community this year, saving soldiers and their families an estimated \$591,000 in preparation fees. This is 22 percent more than what they saved last year.

"The main factor you look at when measuring the success of a program from year to year is value of services, how much people saved in preparation fees," said Tulud.

The Tax Center served active duty military ID cardholders, their families and military retirees, and accounted for tax refunds of more than \$5 million, up 19 percent from last year.

Tulud said she was pleased with the breakdown of ranks in who used the Tax Center as well. Soldiers E-5 and below made up the highest percentage, with 2,044 filing through the center.

"The majority of the people we are helping are lower-ranked soldiers," said Tulud. "This is exactly where we want to be. We want to provide that support for those in the lower enlisted ranks, because not having to pay to have your taxes prepared is money they do not have to let go of."

A higher number of retirees also used the Tax Center this year, said Tulud, up 83 percent from last year.

This year also marked the first year the Tax Center used electronic filing for state taxes.

"Fort Riley was one of the few Army

posts to use e-filing for state taxes this year," said Tulud. "Massachusetts was the only state we did not file electronically with, because we could not fulfill their requirements."

The Tax Center filed 1,343 state returns electronically this year. Still, Tulud said she feels like the deployments might have had an effect on the Tax Center's numbers.

"The deployment was difficult to deal with," said Tulud.

She said 3rd Brigade, with some of the first units to deploy, was the only brigade whose numbers did not increase from last

year. "I feel like we could have done higher numbers without the deployments. Next year I anticipate that these numbers will increase again," said Tulud.

The change in location may have also had an effect on this year's numbers, according to Tulud.

"People like to go to the same place. A permanent location or area where the Tax Center could be every year would really help the numbers," said Tulud, but since the center is only operational for four months out of the year, this is unlikely.

See *Tax Center Page 3*

Fort Riley honors soldier killed in Iraq

By **Jamie Bender**
Staff writer

A memorial service was held April 16 for Spc. Larry Brown at the Morris Hill Chapel.

Brown was killed in action on April 5 while in Iraq. The service began with an invocation by Chap. (Capt.) Brian Reed. Those attending then stood to sing verses of America the Beautiful and Sgt. 1st Class Scott Hallenbeck, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, gave the eulogy, reading Brown's military history and awards.

Staff Sgt. Albert Salmeron, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Regt., spoke about Brown's personality in his tribute.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Larry for quite some time," said Salmeron. "Larry always struck me as an outgoing, fun loving man with a big

See *Soldier Page 2*



Post-Bender

Spc. Larry Brown was honored at Morris Hill Chapel April 16. He was killed in action April 5, in Iraq.

Chemical Company continues to train

By **Jamie Bender**
Staff writer

The 754th Chemical Company, a National Guard unit headquartered in Omaha, Neb., arrived at Fort Riley in March to begin preparations for deployment in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

The company is comprised of three platoons. "We have two reconnaissance platoons and one decontamination platoon," said Capt. Troy Paisley, company commander, 754th Chem. Co. "The reconnaissance platoon provides a survey of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical contamination and marks areas of contamination..."

The decontamination platoon provides decontamination to a unit that had been exposed to either chemical, radio-

logical or biological contamination."

A chemical company relies on many pieces of equipment to detect contamination.

"We have chemical agent monitors that detect chemicals, and improved chemical agent monitors that detect nerve agents," said Paisley. "We also have the M8 and M22 alarms. The M8 detects nerve agents and the M22 detects nerve and blister agents. The ANVDR2 is an instrument that detects radiation."

The equipment of a chemical company also includes Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear.

Once the reconnaissance platoon detects NBC contamination, a report is sent to their headquarters to the chemical section, said 1st Sgt. Brian Folts, 1st Sgt., 754th Chem. Co.

"The chemical section will plot a projected area of contamination," he said. "We would then be able to warn units in that area that they need to protect themselves or move out of the area. The chemical section would also coordinate decontamination for those units."

The 754th is set up to do operational decontamination. "We do an operational decontamination," said Paisley. "For that, we use M12 decontamination apparatuses. We do a vehicle spray down and supervise a MOPP gear exchange."

Most of the soldiers of the chemical company are chemical operation specialists. During initial entrance training, the soldiers train at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "They learn specific things about the MOPP gear and the

See *Chemical Page 4*



Casualty Assistance mission to help families through difficult times

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

When a soldier dies, the process of notifying the next of kin begins.

There are several things that can happen.

The Casualty Area Command is responsible for notifying the next of kin. The commander of the Fort Riley Casualty Area Command (CAC) is currently Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

The Fort Riley area covers Nebraska and Kansas, minus the 11 northeastern counties that belong to Fort Leavenworth, said Connie Buckley, chief, Personnel Operations Branch.

"What that means is if you are a soldier from Fort Lewis, and you are going home to visit family in Washington, D.C., driving along I 70 and you have an accident and die, your body is taken care of at Fort Riley," explained Buckley. "We would contact Fort Lewis to get your records, but we would handle your remains here."

There are many factors that determine what each CAC is responsible for.

"It doesn't matter where you are assigned; it depends on where it happens or where the next of kin are located and where you will be buried," said Buckley. "Just

because a soldier is assigned here and dies here, his family or next of kin may be in Mississippi, Fort Polk has that area. They would go and notify the next of kin, not us."

The CAC uses the information that you give on your DD Form 93, which contains your emergency contact information.

"It is the most important form," said Buckley. "It tells us if you're married, your spouse's name and address and your parents names and addresses. From that, it is decided which CAC needs to be notified."

There are two kinds of next of kin. The primary, which would be your spouse if you are married, and the secondary, which would be your parents.

"If your spouse is here, I have primary," said Buckley. "If your parents live in Missouri, either Fort Leavenworth or Fort Leonard Wood would have secondary. I would give them a heads up and let them know that they have secondary next of kin. But they have to wait until the primary is notified. We don't tell mom and dad before we tell your spouse."

The information should come to the CAC through the Fort Riley Operations Center, said Buckley.

"[The FROC] has a list of who to call based on your standing, depending on if you are a veteran, a retiree, a family member or active duty," said Buckley. "Anyone who knows of an incident

should call the FROC to make sure it goes through the right channels."

Once the FROC notifies the CAC, Buckley makes sure the next of kin is notified properly.

"I would get a hold of [the soldier's] commander and ask him to get into greens and get a chaplain," she said. "I send them to the spouse's house with the information I have. Once the spouse is notified, they call me back with the time and date they notified. Then, I call the second CAC in Missouri and let them know that the parents can be notified."

At one time, the Army notified family members of a death or casualty with a telegram. It is now done in person.

"Imagine if you're in my position," explained Buckley. "You have to call someone and tell them their husband has been shot and killed. You can't see over the phone, and all of a sudden I hear a clunk on the other end. I don't know if they have had a heart attack or passed out and hit their head and need medical assistance. This way there is someone to stay until family or a friend can be with you. There are certain things that should never be told on the phone."

The average time it takes to notify the next of kin is about four hours, said Buckley.

"The normal times of notification are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. We

do not go to their house at 3 a.m. and wake them up to give them that kind of news."

After the next of kin is notified, Buckley lets the Public Affairs Office know that the information is releasable. However, in wartime, the Department of Defense must release the information.

"The Kuwait CAC handles deaths in Iraq," said Buckley.

"They do a basic message because they don't have too much information. It says who it is, the rank, the unit, what happened and when it happened."

There are 61 items that go into a casualty report, that includes all of your awards, next of kin information and whether they have been notified and when. The Kuwait CAC does as much as they can with what they have.

From there, it goes to Department of the Army. When they see that it is a Fort Riley soldier, they immediately call us and we go find the record. We then do a supplement report and fill in the remaining items."

While notification happens as fast as possible, the responsibility of the CAC does not end there.

"What doesn't happen quickly is after the funeral," said Buckley. "We help the next of kin get all the entitlements they are deserving of. Whether it is the SGLI, the death gratuity and social security benefits, if applicable, or taking

care of funeral cost, there is a lot that goes on and it is an astronomical amount of paperwork. It's not just that something happens to you and it's all over in three days. We have had cases take up to a year. It's a long drawn out process."

The CAC is here to help the families, said Buckley.

"Last year alone, Fort Riley performed more than 1,300 funerals," she said. "We did 27 funerals just last week. We try to help the family get every benefit that they are entitled to. Everyone that comes through here has just lost someone, so they start out as an unhappy customer just because of the situation. We try to help them out as much as possible, and be compassionate and caring."

Grunt By Wayne Ulden



Soldier

continued from page 1

hearts and a great sense of humor. Larry could always be seen with a smile on his face, no matter what situation he found himself in. He would always find the time to help a fellow soldier in need, no matter how big that favor was. He was a true friend to all around him.

"Larry made a name for himself around the unit as a hard working, go-to soldier. Larry truly understood the meaning of the Army values. Larry was an outstanding friend and soldier."

Capt. Matthew Albers, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Regt., spoke about Brown as a soldier.

"I cannot speak of his personality or his demeanor, but I can address his drive and determination as a soldier," said Albers.

"Spec. Brown was truly a great soldier — one that set standards within his platoon and one who always had the time to help. Soldiers who knew Spec. Brown speak highly of him. Spec. Brown died fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi people and the safety of the United States."

Albers also sent his sympathy out to Brown's family.

"They have lost a son and brother," he said. "I too share their grief, as do all soldiers here today. We have lost not just a fellow soldier, we have lost a friend and a brother in arms."

Brown was born in Jackson, Miss. He enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in October 2000.

After completing Infantry Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Regt., Fort Riley in April 2001. Brown deployed to the National Training Center twice, to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Spring and to South West Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brown's awards include the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Star Device, Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

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Programs help protect homes

Provost Marshal's Office

There are two types of House-watch programs on Fort Riley, the Military Police program and the housing program.

The Military Police House-Watch Program is an additional physical security measure incorporated in the Fort Riley Provost Marshal Office to help keep the community safe and crime free, whereas, the housing policy is intended to ensure maintenance and prevent problems from expanding.

The Housing Residents Policy Handbook says, "The military sponsor is responsible for reporting absences of 7 days or more to the Housing Facilities Branch so that the proper action may be

taken in case of emergencies.

Residents must have someone watching the quarters for them and let Housing know who that person is. Absence does not relieve occupants of their responsibilities for their quarters. The lawn must still be mowed, sidewalks shoveled, pets cared for, etc.

The personal house-watcher must make daily inspections so that any facility problems may be detected and reported for repair immediately. Failure to catch and repair broken water lines, heating or air-conditioning equipment and other issues can result in the assessment of charges to the resident.

The Fort Riley Military Police offer a voluntary home security

program for residents of Fort Riley who will be away from their on-post quarters. Residents are asked to provide basic information, such as lights left on, location of keys and date of return. Residents must also provide the name of their house-watcher. Military Police patrols will conduct daily after-hours physical security checks of the quarters as a crime prevention effort.

Residents can sign up for House-watch when they go on leave or for other periods when their quarters will be vacant. The form is on the Fort Riley website and can be brought to the Military Police desk, Building 221, Custer Ave., at any time.

Silver Star continued from page 1

Nebuchadnezzar Division, 1st Republican Guard Corps. His tank took a direct fire during the battle.

He said the rounds merely scratched the tank and left an occasional burn mark on the surface.

"It matched everything we had trained to do," Ingram said, "but just the sheer volume of the artillery combined with the direct fire systems was sort of a shock."

"The battalion commander trails the lead company, so as the lead company went in and engaged, I just happened to be in a spot between two buildings where a counterattack company tried to come down and get in behind my lead company," he said.

Although his description of the battle was modest, Ingram and his soldiers were under a full-fledged attack.

According to the award citation, Ingram calmly and skillfully directed the efforts of a combined arms task force in destroying the Iraqi battalion as multiple rocket propelled grenades bounced off his tank, massed artillery fire

exploded all around and intense small arms fire was directed at him.

"Lt. Col. Ingram's inspirational leadership, selfless disregard for personal safety and rare mastery of battle command reflect great credit on him, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), V Corps and the United States Army," read the citation signed by Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace, commanding general, V Corps.

"I try to bring calmness, an ability to bring everything together - bring the indirect fire where I need them, bring the attack aircraft where I need them, and that's not just me," said Ingram.

"All I'm doing is directing things. I have people on both ends that actually do the work. I'll just say, 'I need indirect fire here,' and my fire support officer makes that happen."

Ingram attributed his calmness to the extensive training he received prior to deployment.

"We train all the time, so when this happens, it's nothing new. We do it over and over again through repetition," he said.

His wife of 17 years, Caroline,

was surprised and proud when she heard the news of his award on MSNBC.

Ingram was equally surprised, when during the interview, his wife chimed in from Fort Riley and congratulated him on receiving the Silver Star over the air. It was the first time they had spoken since March 5.

"It looks like you have been doing wonderful things over there with the Thunderbolts. We're very, very, very proud of you," she said.

As they reconnected and discussed the past six weeks, Ingram reiterated to his wife that all of his soldiers were safe.

"He is certainly gallant. He is also a very cautious man I think. I am very confident that he, as well as all the other Thunderbolt soldiers, will safely return home," said Caroline.

Like her husband, Caroline agreed that he didn't win the medal alone. Each soldier and family member in the battalion is wearing a piece of the medal, she said.

Editor's Note: MSNBC contributed to this article.

Talk Around Town

"What care package item would you most want sent to you while deployed?"



"Lots of mail would be enough."

Staff Sgt. Brock Johnson
530th Military Police Company



"I would like a video of my baby being born on May 27, 2003, because I will not be here."

Sgt. Jeffrey Leege
530th Military Police Company



"Inspiration, so that I can help finish our mission and come home to my wife and son."

Staff Sgt. Donald Trimble
530th Military Police Company

Tax Center continued from page 1

Tulud and the staff is now in the process of closing down the center for the year.

"We are in the process of final safety checks of files to make sure nothing is outstanding," said Tulud.

She said they are also waiting for some states to clear, which may take several weeks. While clearing out all of the office equipment, the staff is still answering follow-up questions and concerns, and they will be in the office at the Soldier and Family Support Center until April 30.

"We are really happy with the success this year," said Tulud. "Just one person turning around and saying thank you makes all the work worth it."

"It was our privilege to serve the Fort Riley community, and we look forward to serving soldiers and their families again next year," said Tulud.

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Briefs

Post Wide Yard Sale

The Post Wide Yard Sale is tomorrow, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

K-State Fort Riley Day

Kansas State University and Coach Bill Snyder are hosting Fort Riley Day tomorrow at 1 p.m. during the football team's annual spring scrimmage. Soldiers and families can gain free admission by going through Gate B on the west side of the stadium and presenting their military ID card. Seating will be reserved in Section 3 on the west side. A special halftime presentation will recognize Fort Riley soldiers, their families, those local soldiers who were killed in action this month while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and PFC Patrick Miller, the former POW from Kansas. For more information on the sixth-ranked Wildcats and 2002 Holiday Bowl champions, visit www.kstatesports.com

Retreat for Families

Finding Strength for Difficult and Unexpected Times is the

Chemical

M22, the M8 and the CAM," said Paisley.

"They also spend time working with the M12 and M17 [decontamination gear] and individual equipment," said Fols. "They also get the opportunity to spend some time with a live nerve agent in the chemical defense training facility. It gives them confidence that their suit will protect them."

Soldiers of the 754th spend several hours at MOPP level 4, which requires the entire chemical suit, along with the protective mask, to be worn.

"We have been doing simple soldier tasks in MOPP 4, just to get our soldiers acclimated to being in MOPP 4," said Fols. "We are getting them two to four hours a day in a MOPP suit, so that way, it's no big deal to them."

Paisley said his soldiers are doing well with the transition to active duty.

theme of a day-long retreat at Morris Hill Chapel, May 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The retreat is open to all military families, but is especially focused on helping the spouses of deployed soldiers. You must pre-register. Meals will be provided, as well as childcare on request. For more information or to register, call Don Ericson, 239-0979 or e-mail don.ericson@riley.army.mil

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Fort Riley's volunteers will be recognized at the 2003 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at Barlow Theater, April 28. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m., with opening remarks from Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick. Volunteers of the Year chosen by units and organizations around post as well as recognized, and one person will be announced as the Installation Volunteer of the Year. The event is open to the public.

Spring Heating, Air Conditioning Schedule

Air conditioning systems are scheduled to be turned on May 5 -

16 in the following order: barracks, BOQ's and BEQ's, 8000 area, community buildings, administrative buildings, dining facilities and then motor pools.

The heating and cooling systems in the chapels, medical and dental buildings will be maintained as appropriate. Family housing occupants control their own heat/air conditioning systems as desired. The authorized temperature for the cooling season is 76 to 80 degrees.

Nursery Workers Needed

Looking for workers who are interested in working at the nursery's on post at any of the chapels (Main Post, Morris Hill, Normandy and Kapauu Chapels). You must be able to work Sunday mornings for worship services. Those who are interested must be 18 years of age or older and must be CPR and First Aide certified, or willing to get certified at their expense. Call Sgt. 1st Class Lang,

239-2799, for more information.

Security Manager's Course

The Director of Security is sponsoring an S2 - Security Manager's Course. The course will provide valuable information to both new and current security personnel. The classes will be held May 5 and 6, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the CPAC, building 319, classroom 2A and 2B. Classes on Personnel Security, Information Security, Intelligence Support to Force Protection, Physical Security, COMSEC and ADP Security will be taught. Instructors include DSEC, PMO and DOIM personnel. To register, call Harry Sturdivant, 239-6322, or e-mail, harold.sturdivant@riley.army.mil

Marriage Enrichment Class

Want to make a good marriage better? Want to better understand your spouse? Want to have your

Army Summer Concert Series

Tickets are now on sale for the 2003 Army Summer Concert Series, featuring performances by Night Ranger and Cheap Trick, Memorial Day weekend.

The concert will be May 24 at Marshall Army Air Field. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. and Night Ranger starts the concert at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the gate. Group tickets are available for \$25 for up to four people, and all four must enter together. Purchase tickets at Information, Ticketing and Registration on post, at participating local Dillon's stores or by phone at 239-5614.

The concert is open to the Fort Riley community and the general public.

Seating is festival-style, so concertgoers should bring their own chairs or blankets. Six concession stands will sell food and beverages at the concert.

Cameras, recording devices, pets, coolers, glass and outside food and beverages are not allowed within the gates. Free parking is available at the site, which is located right off I-70 at exit 301. For security purposes, concertgoers will need photo identification, vehicle registration and proof of insurance to access the installation.

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More Briefs

sponse better understand YOU? Come learn how to deal with misunderstandings, and how to stop the argument cycle at the monthly Marriage Enrichment Class tomorrow, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center. Free childcare is provided if you bring your child's shot records. Register by April 24, by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chaplain (MAJ) Paulson, the Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

Days of Remembrance

The Division Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor a Days of Remembrance Commemoration Program Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at Normandy Chapel. The theme for this year's observance is "For Your Freedom and Ours." The program is free and open to all soldiers, their families, civilian employees and members of the surrounding community.

For more information, contact your brigade's equal opportunity adviser or the Division Equal Opportunity Office at 239-8453.

Employment Readiness Program

A 2003 orientation class will be held Tuesday. Pre-registration is required. The briefings are held 9 a.m. - noon at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264. For more information, contact the Employment Readiness Program 239-9435.

Thrift Shop

It is Spring cleaning time and the Fort Riley Thrift Shop wants to help you clear out your clutter! Don't wait for the yard sale! Call the Thrift Shop to come and pick up your donations (in good condition).

Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Bag Sales are every Wednesday and Thursday. Get as much as you can in a bag for only \$1! The Thrift Shop is looking for people to be on the board for next year. If you are interested, call Scott Martis, 784-2351.

Musser

continued from page 1

Defense Officer's Advanced Course and completed his Master of Science under the Army Cooperative Education Program. Musser then served as the Chief of Market Analysis for the Northeast Region of U.S. Army Recruiting Command from 1984-1986.

He was then assigned to the Training and Doctrine Analysis Command where he served in the military advisory component of the JANUS computer simulation development team at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., from 1986-1988.

Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College in 1989, he was assigned as S-3, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, with subsequent assignments as Chief, G3 Plans, 8th Infantry Division; Secretary of the General Staff, 1st Armored Division and Executive Officer, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

In 1993, Musser was assigned as a Staff Group Leader at the Combined Armed Services and Staff School, Fort Leavenworth. He commanded 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, at Fort Riley from 1994 until its deployment to Europe in 1996.

In 1997, Musser attended the National War College in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon as Chief of the Warfighting Analysis Branch in the J8 Directorate, and he held this position until assuming command of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division in March, 2000. Musser is departing to become the Joint Requirements Division Chief on the Army G8 staff in the Pentagon.

Musser's Awards include the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Musser and his wife, Marilyn, have two children.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at King Field House.

The Shoppe

The Shoppe is having a banner year, so stop by and see all the wonderful things The Shoppe has to offer. If you are looking for a fun way to get involved on post and learn valuable skills at the same time, look no further. The Shoppe has some wonderful volunteer opportunities. Thank you for all of your support at the Spring Bazaar.

The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

RESUMIX Training

The Army Community Service Center Employment Readiness Program and the Fort Riley Civilian Personnel Actions Center will host a "RESUMIX: Come and End the Confusion" training, May 21 - 3 p.m., at the Soldier Family Support Center, building 7264. Come out and see how the Army's Resume Builder works, what hiring managers are looking for, how the Civilian Personnel Operations Center determines job classifications and why there are so few jobs from which to choose. To register, call 239-9435.

Hunter Education

Outdoor Recreation on Fort Riley will be having a one-day hunter education class on May 31. Class will start at 8 a.m. and will last approximately seven hours. Class size is limited to 30 students. Registration will be at the

Outdoor Recreation Center. People must register in person. There is a \$10 deposit, which is refundable when the student arrives at class on May 31. Students will need to register and pick up their student manuals prior to May 10. There will be two multiple choice question type tests given on May 31. If there are any questions, the students can call the Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, 239-2363 or 239-2249.

Mail Training

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered May 7 and 21, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at building 319. An Official Mail Training class will be offered May 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at building 319, CPAC. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

Employee of the Quarter

Austin Roberts has been selected as the Public Works' Employee of Quarter for 2nd Quarter, FY 2003. Roberts is employed as a contract inspector in the Construction Inspection Branch, Engineering Services Division. His selection was due to his efforts to ensure military families living on Fort Riley had quality housing. Roberts will receive a Public Works Certificate of Appreciation, a 16-hour Civilian Time-Off Award and a reserved parking place for the quarter. Other outstanding PW employees

who were nominated for the award include: Pam Morlewski, Connie Hazlett, Rich Sweazy, Kevin Kirkland, Jim Coupal, Walt Sutter, Garry Gallant, Paul Cassella and Russ Goering.

Girl Scouts

The Fort Riley Girl Scouts will be holding a Spring Dance/Registration for scout year 2003-2004 on Thursday, 6 - 7 p.m., at Rally Point. The cost of registration is \$10. If girls are currently with a troop, they will fill out the registration form and pay the \$10 fee to their troop leader. The troop leader will give them a pass to enter the dance. Dance, have fun and get to know other Girl Scouts. For more information, call 210-1208.

Pre-retirement Orientation

The semi-annual Pre-Retirement Orientation will be conducted May 9, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. at Barlow Theater, building 7866. The orientation is for individuals who have submitted their request for retirement, however, any soldier contemplating retirement in the near future is welcome to attend. The purpose of this orientation is to receive information concerning rights, benefits and responsibilities in conjunction with retirement. Soldiers who are

eligible for early retirement (for medical reasons) should also attend. Spouses of retiring personnel and prospective retirees are invited and encouraged to attend. This orientation is a requirement IAW AR 600-8-7 and soldiers may attend as many times as they wish. For further information, contact the Retirement Services office, 239-3320 or 239-3667.

Leave Donation Program

Several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency and are facing a period of more than 24 hours of Leave Without Pay. The following individuals have requested that their names be released in order that they may receive donated leave: Gary Barick, G3, CPACLT0220; Mozelle Corbin, SWCPOC, CPA-CLT0304; Paula Ferguson, SWCPOC, CPA-CLT0316;

Bernard Garlick, SWCPOC, CPACLT0315; Mary Woods, SWCPOC, CPACLT0316; Sarah Green, 15th PSD, CPACLT0313; Howardine House, DES, CPA-CLT0312; CeCelia Liggett, 5th Army, 75th, CPACLT0311; Shalotta Gettridge, MEDDAC, CPACLT0314; Lewis Marretta, MEDDAC, CPACLT0224; Anna Ostrowski, D R M, CPACLT0309; Jeanne Noss, HQ Garrison, CPACLT0301; Niel Sitton, SJA, CPACLT0214 and Don Webb, PW, CPA-CLT0305.

To donate annual leave to any of the individuals listed above, complete OPM Form 630. This form is located on the CPAC Intranet web site under "Forms." Completed forms should be forwarded to: Sonja Elzy or Gelean Baylor, CPAC. For additional information on leave donation procedures, contact your Activity's Administrative POC.

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Korea 50 years ago -- Truce talks focus on trade of remaining POWs

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

As U.N. and communist forces continued to trade sick and wounded prisoners of war, they began talks to exchange remaining POWs, 50 years ago this week in Korea.

April 24-30, 1953 — Final preparations are being made to resume truce negotiations at Panmunjom April 26 as Operation Little Switch continues.

Now Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, chief of the U.N. truce talks team, continues to be prepped over April 24-25 for resumption of truce by Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. supreme commander, and by government and military officials in the United States.

Harrison has already let his returning counterpart, North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, know that since the communists have accepted the U.N. stand on prisoner exchanges when a truce is signed, the United Nations will not discuss new issues they bring up. All other original issues except the details of repatriating

prisoners have been worked out. Harrison tells the communist truce team if it does not bargain in good faith, the United Nations will call off the talks again.

State Department officials speculate that events in the Soviet Union have driven the Chinese and North Koreans back to truce talks. After Stalin's death, the new Kremlin leadership is more preoccupied with consolidating power than in the Korean War.

Harrison has told the communists that they can choose either of the U.N. plans submitted earlier for repatriating prisoners. The United Nation's choice of neutral country to take control of the Chinese and North Korean prisoners for a 60-day explaining period is Switzerland. He has made it plain that the United Nations will not consider a communist-dominated country to be neutral.

When the truce talks resume April 26, only Harrison and Rear Admiral John C. Daniel have experience at negotiating with the communists. The three new members of the U.N. team are Republic of Korea Maj. Gen. Choi Duk Shin; Brig. Gen. Edgar E. Glenn,

U.S. Air Force; and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ralph M. Osborne.

Although there are new faces in Nam's group, they are officers who handled staff-level negotiations and since have been promoted to generals.

Nam presents the communists' positions as talks resume. They include exchanging all prisoners except those who do not want to be exchanged within two months. During the third month the prisoners who don't want to be repatriated will be sent to a neutral country. The communists will then have six months in which to explain to them why they should go home. A political conference will decide what to do with those who still refuse to go home at the end of six months.

Harrison immediately rejects the proposals. He says there is no need to subject the prisoners to six months of persuasion; 60 days is

plenty of time. The mutually acceptable neutral country can assume control of the prisoners in South Korea.

Nam responds quickly, rejecting Switzerland as the neutral country and says six months is needed to explain to the prisoners why they should go home and to remove their fears about going home, since they are a result of their long captivity.

While GIs and ROK soldiers talk freely about conditions in North Korean prison camps, released Commonwealth troops aren't allowed to talk to reporters. That causes a protest by British and American newsmen. On April 25 Lt. Gen. Harry Wells, Commonwealth Division commander, told reporters that his soldiers did not have similar tales.

The general makes the statement two days after Rt. Rev. Alfred Cecil Cooper, 70, who was freed from communist captivity

want to stay in South Korea, similar to releases of large numbers of prisoners by the communists early in the war. While the United Nations does not plan to release any of the POWs, Harrison's remark is intended to make the communists aware of one consequence if talks bog down again.

April 24-29 — U.S. and South Korean servicemen released in Operation Little Switch tell reporters April 24-26 about more prisoner deaths in Red prison camps. The deaths were caused by communist brutality, lack of medical care, diseases and exposure to winter weather since 1950.

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after the Soviets interceded, reported in London that 96 civilians died in a forced march near the Yalu River in October 1950. Cooper, who took part in the march, said most of the deaths were among elderly people, women and children. The civilians were captured in the communists' invasion of South Korea.

April 26 — The Air Force reports April 26 that only one MiG-15 has been shot down in the past seven days. Enemy ground-fire down two allied planes during the week.

Navy fliers pound areas around Tanchun and Sopo in northeast North Korea which the enemy use to build up their troop strength.

April 29 — The Defense Department reports that the number of American casualties as of April 24 was 134,410, which includes 23,869 dead.

A plane lands in San Francisco carrying 35 Americans freed in Little Switch. They are the first to return home.

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



Combat Zone program gives soldiers high returns

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Deployed soldiers in combat zones are eligible to earn a guaranteed 10 percent interest rate on savings. The Savings Deposit Program is a special government savings account for servicemen working in global hot spots. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers with active status who are deployed are eligible to enroll.

Using the program, soldiers can earn 10 percent interest on up to \$10,000. However, they are not eligible to enroll until they are in the combat theater. Servicemen interested should contact their local financial offices, said Betsy Sullivan, financial counselor at Fort Riley. The program also requires soldiers to withdraw the money within 90 days of returning from the deployment region.

Congress originally introduced the Savings Deposit Program in 1966 during the Vietnam era. It was reintroduced in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War, and has since been extended to several other missions, including Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Interest rates are currently running at about 2 percent, so earning 10 percent is an extremely good deal for soldiers, said Sullivan. For more information and details, contact the Financial Readiness Program, 239-5032 or 239-5775.

Self-Help teams provide vital support to post

Public Works

Did you know that every unit, company, battery or troop, is required to have a noncommissioned officer and three school-trained members on their Self-Help Team? These teams are an essential part of the installation's facility maintenance team. They free the Public Works employees to work on those repairs that only they can do. The Public Works Self-Help School can help units establish a good Self-Help Program. The course is scheduled every month and the next is scheduled to start on May 5. Classes are also scheduled for June 16 and July 21. For more information, visit the PW web site on the Intranet or call 239-3757. The course is taught in conjunction with Barton Community College and provides soldiers the opportunity to obtain advanced

education credits.

The Self-Help course also incorporates the Installation Energy Conservation class, which is taught on Thursday afternoon, 1 p.m., the week of the Self-Help Class. You do not have to attend the Self-Help class to come to the Energy Conservation class. This class is mandatory for Energy Awareness Officers/NCOs.

To enroll a soldier, the unit needs to submit a request for an on-post school space to the Self-Help School. The school is located on Main Post, the upper floor of building 307 at the corner of Holbrook and Carter Ave. The On-Post School Request can also be faxed to 239-8188, ATTN: Self-Help School.

The hours of operation for the school are Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., however, the Self-Help Class itself runs from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The school is closed on

Federal holidays and training holidays.

If you need to pick-up Self-Help supplies, the Troop Self-

Help Store, building 372, is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The store is closed on all Federal holidays.

Retreat for Families

Finding Strength for Difficult and Unexpected Times is the theme of a day-long retreat at Morris Hill Chapel, May 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The retreat is open to all military families, but is especially focused on helping the spouses of deployed soldiers. You must pre-register. Meals will be provided, as well as childcare on request. For more information or to register, call Don Ericson, 239-0979 or e-mail don.ericson@riley.army.mil



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APR 24

Stinger continued from page 1

ever do have to fire one, I will have some experience," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kamedula, Btry. F, 1st Bn., 188th ADA.

The air defense units at Fort Riley go to the IMTS twice a year for their Table VIII certifications, said Beard.

It's a lot like what the soldiers do with their Bradleys or tanks (qualification gunnery), except the air defense soldiers are using shoulder-mounted missiles, he said.

Although the weather was wet and the range muddy, the soldiers' morale was high, as they looked forward to firing a live Stinger.

"I've been looking forward to this for awhile," said Cpl. Joseph Chavez, team chief, Btry. C, 1st Bn., 4th ADA. "We do a lot of classroom training, and we're able to come out here and do what we're taught gives me a good feeling."

Missing the target wasn't even a consideration.

"We're not going to miss. We don't train to miss," said Chavez.

The Stinger missile, a full-dimensional protection weapon, is the Army's system for short-range air defense that provides the ground maneuver commander force protection against low-altitude airborne targets, such as fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles. The missile uses an infrared seeker to lock on to the heat in the engine's exhaust, and will hit nearly anything flying below 11,000 feet, according to the Global Security website, www.globalsecurity.org.

"The main reason for the training is that the soldiers gain confidence in their equipment, and I would like them to know the missile is able to acquire a target correctly," said Beard. "It's important they realize the training they received in the past, through simulators, will actually work when you transfer it to a live missile."

As air defenders, they don't get the chance to fire live missiles too often, he said.

"This is extremely important for them (soldiers). If all you do is train, train, train, you start to lose

the focus of what you're doing. So, it's good that they see that the training they've had over the course of the year is finally paying off," said Beard.

"It was amazing — An experience of a lifetime," said Spc. Raymond Bickford, Btry E, 1st Bn., 188th ADA. "Everything you go over (during training), everything they tell you, it's all true."

The soldiers firing tried to compare the feeling of firing a

live missile to the IMTS in North Dakota.

"You can't compare it. When you get the tone lock and then super elevate the system, and then wait for the fire command, that's a rush right there," said Pfc. Benjamin Miller, Btry C, 4th Bn., 3rd ADA.

Even though the time at the range took longer than expected due to the weather, the soldiers didn't have any regrets.

"It's always worth it," said Chavez. "Looking down range with a live missile, rather than being in a classroom environment, and being able to put everything that you have learned and practiced all year into this one time. It's definitely worth it."

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Engineers practice decontamination skills, test equipment

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, were in the field April 10 refreshing their skills in decontaminating personnel and vehicles after a chemical attack.

The company started the exercise in Mission Oriented Protective Posture II and had to go to MOPP IV when a simulated chemical attack occurred at their Assembly Area.

When in MOPP II, the soldiers were wearing their chemical protective suits with protective rubber over-shoes. When the alarm sounded due to the attack, the soldiers quickly went to MOPP IV. To achieve MOPP IV, they donned their protective mask and gloves. The soldiers stayed at MOPP IV until they received the "all clear" signal.

While the soldiers were driving in a convoy on the way to the AA, there were periodic stops for them to exercise tactical procedures with the vehicles.

The company had several goals for the training.

"The training objectives were to roll out our vehicles, conduct before-operations preventive maintenance checks and services, as well as performing a during- and after-operations PMCS and set up and operate a decontamination site," said Capt. Katherine Pendry, commander, HHC, 1st Eng. Bn.

"Effectively, we received more training objectives than the three we had, because we performed convoy procedures and operations during the day's training."

The exercise also helped the command gauge the company's vehicle readiness.

"The roll out will help us test the operational readiness of our vehicles, to see where they stand

mechanically and to make sure they are tracking," said Lt. Matthew Doherty, executive officer, HHC, 1st Eng. Bn.

"We want to make sure our equipment works," he said. "Due to being on access control for the last few months, we haven't been able to exercise our equipment. Now, we have the chance, since that task has ended, to make sure our equipment is being properly maintained for operational readiness."

Training in protective gear was also important.

"We did four hours of training in MOPP IV, along with an operational decontamination," Pendry said.

"The purpose of the MOPP IV training is to ensure our soldiers are competent and confident they can execute routine tasks while in MOPP IV."

Once in the AA, and the protective masks were donned by the soldiers, they were all required to perform tests utilizing an M256 Contamination Kit. By performing a series of steps, the kit lets the soldiers know what type of chemical agent, if any, is present.

After the tests are taken, the information is then given to the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical noncommissioned officer in charge. With that information, the NBC NCOIC is able to dictate what type of decon sight needs to be set up, what they are able to do or not, and in that type environment, said Pendry.

Another device the soldiers were able to have hands on training with was an Improved Chemical Agent Monitor for their vehicles. The ICAM is able to detect if there are any blister or nerve agents present.

The next step called for the sol-

diers to go to the operational decontamination site in order to cleanse themselves and their vehicles of the chemicals they had encountered.

Present at the site was the 1st Brigade Combat Team's Decon Platoon.

The decon platoon participated in every aspect of the day's training. However, they had to run through the situations ahead of the rest of the company so they could set up their equipment at the decon site, said Pendry.

The decon platoon soldiers received their job specific training when the HHC vehicles went through the site and were decontaminated by the platoon's M12 Power Driven Decontamination Apparatus, she said.

The PDDA is a high-pressured washer that dispenses chemical cleaning solvents to the contaminated vehicles. The soldiers were trained to recognize distinct hand signals that are given so they can properly go through the steps of the procedure without incident.

"Full drill level training is why I think soldiers enter the Army. They don't enlist to guard gates, so getting them off the gates and getting them into a training area, I think, is very rewarding," said Pendry.

"I feel really good because we've been away from training for awhile and you can tell it lifted the morale of the soldiers, because they weren't complaining about being in MOPP IV," said Spc. Karen Hagedoom, assistant NBC NCOIC, HHC, 1st Eng. Bn.

"It feels a lot better to be able to train again, and this training is about as realistic as you can get on Fort Riley," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Bainum, maintenance crew chief, HHC, 1st Eng. Bn.



Staff Sgt. Frederick Wilkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, scans his vehicle with an Improved Chemical Agent Monitor in order to detect if the area has been exposed to a blister or nerve agent.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, wait in line to go through the steps of decontaminating their gear during a recent training exercise.

Former POWs receive welcome at Fort Bliss

By LeeAnn Lloyd
Fort Bliss PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — More than 2,000 supporters came out to Fort Bliss Saturday evening to welcome home seven former POWs arriving at Biggs Army Airfield.

Two of the former POWs, Spc. Joseph Hudson and Pfc. Patrick Miller, of the 507th Maintenance Company, waved the American flag and cheered as their aircraft rolled to it's designated stopping point.

Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"Sgt. Riley thanks you and asks that you continue this unabated support for his fellow soldiers and servicemembers, who are still overseas making great personal sacrifices for our freedom and the freedom of the Iraqi people. He also asks that we keep in our thoughts and prayers those who are still missing and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," Sgt. Nikki Agee said on behalf of

Riley Tuesday.

Once the soldiers are deemed in good health, they will be released on convalescent leave.

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BRIGGS

Also there to receive the patronage of the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities were Sgt. James Riley, Spc. Edgar Hernandez, and Spc. Shoshana Johnson of the 507th, and Chief Warrant Officers Ronald Young and David Williams of Fort Hood, Texas.

Hudson stopped in the middle of the troops' victory lap to express his appreciation.

"This means the world to all of us. Remember our fallen soldiers. God Bless America. This is why we live in such a great country," Hudson said.

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All of the former prisoners of war appeared to be in good health and spirits as they made their way to their families. Mary Pickering, Miller's mother, recalled her reactions to the news of her son's captivity.

"You just try not to believe it's real," Pickering said. "But I always had hope he would be home. I was glued to the TV, hoping there would be some mention of them. I never lost hope. Pat's a very strong-willed person," she said.

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One of the things that helped keep Miller going was singing Toby Keith's "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)" Pickering said.

"He sang a lot while he was out there, and let me tell you, Pat does not have a singing voice," Pickering said with a laugh.

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While flags waved high in the hands of supporters, people still paused in remembrance of the nine fallen soldiers of the 507th, whose lives were taken March 23 during the ambush in Nasiriyah that injured four others and resulted in the capture of six.

Killed in action were: Spc. Jamaal Addison, 1st Sgt. Robert Dowdy, Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto Jr., Pfc. Howard Johnson II, Spc. James Kechl, Spc. Lori Ann Piastewa, Pvt. Brandon Sloan, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Johnny Villareal-Mata and Sgt. Donald Walters.

Injured were: Sgt. Curtis Campbell, Spc. James Grubb, Staff Sgt. Tarik Jackson, and Spc. Damien Luten.

Former POW Pfc. Jessica Lynch, rescued April 1, is still recovering at Walter Reed Army

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