



MEDDAC claims soccer title

Team lives up to coach's early season prediction.

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Fort Riley Post

Annual fair promotes wellness

Fort Riley Middle School students learn there's more to fitness than gym class.

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Friday, May 14, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 19

Around The Army

Iraq:

The European edition of Stars and Stripes reported May 11 that mail service to Iraq has improved. Mail delivery sometimes took up to four weeks. A federal watchdog agency was directed to review mail delivery to troops stationed in the Middle East after Congress and the White House forwarded more than 300 complaints about delivery problems.

More than 95 percent of the mail was parcel, a much higher portion than past wars and taking up more space on aircraft, postal officials said.

The absence of commercial traffic in and out of Iraq has forced the military to rely on military aircraft and charter planes to haul most of the mail. Attacks on ground convoys also have made it difficult to get mail to far-away camps.

Postal officials said improvements are making a difference, and the survey found some soldiers who spent a year in Iraq agreed.

For more about this story and other military news in Europe and the Pacific, visit www.ustripes.com on the Internet.

Fort Knox:

Inside the Turret reported May 13 that Fort Benning, Ga., civilian employees will be incorporated into a new civilian personnel system late in fiscal 2006.

The National Security Personnel System will introduce changes in how the Defense Department recruits, hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its civilian employees.

For more about this story and other news at Fort Knox, visit www.themilitaryenterprise.com on the Internet.

Fort Eustis:

The Wheel reported May 13 that 90 people gathered at the Fort Story Cape Henry Inn to experience and solve a murder mystery. The participants in the seventh-annual murder mystery weekend played detective to discover who among them was committing brutal murders.

Friday night, after the participants had eaten and gotten to know each other, a gun shot them to a grizzly crime scene: A Catholic priest had been murdered in a ritual slaying.

Two more grizzly murders would follow, each with dark, ritualistic overtones.

For more about this story and other news at Fort Eustis, visit www.militarynews.com/wheel/ on the Internet.

Stuttgart:

The Citizen reported May 13 that construction workers, school employees and 6th Area Support Group officials joined other interested community members at Patch Elementary School to mark a significant event in the creation of an addition that will house two kindergarten classrooms.

They all participated in a German tradition dating to the Middle Ages, the Richfest, celebrates the "topping off" of a construction project.

For more on this story and other military community news in Stuttgart, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil/ on the Internet.

Army condemns detainee abuse

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The alleged detainee abuse by some 320th Military Police Battalion guards at the Abu Ghraib prison is not as widespread as some believe, according to initial findings of an investigation into that abuse, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker recently told

congressmen. Schoomaker and acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee joined Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers in discussing the alleged detainee abuse with members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees during separate committee meetings May 7. Schoomaker referred to the

investigation conducted in February by Lt. Gen. Antonio Taguba, deputy commanding general for Support, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, into the specifics of the alleged detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib—and to see if similar abuse may be occurring elsewhere in Iraq. Taguba was formerly the assistant division commander forward for the 24th Infantry Division.

Schoomaker said the Taguba Report praised three MP battalions in Iraq for doing the detainee job right with similar missions and under similar circumstances as the 320th MP Bn. "There is no question that the potential consequences of this incident are huge but we must not forget that they are not representative of the Army or that they are the acts of a few," Schoomaker

said. He said the Army is taking the incident very seriously, the system will work to punish those responsible and the Army will learn and adapt from what it learns. Asked if improper Army Reserve unit training led to the situation, Schoomaker replied that the Army has only one standard for all units, Reserve or active.

Practice



Post/Heronemus

Fort Riley Fire Department Lt. Lester Kaiser (center), Emergency Medical Service's Kyle Martin (pointing) discuss strategy before sending personnel into the mock tornado-stricken area May 6.

Garrison crews respond to mock tornado damage

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Post emergency crews swarmed on Ellis Heights housing area May 6, after reports that an imaginary tornado had devastated the area and caused several casualties that morning.

The make-believe tornado hit about 9:30 a.m. and created havoc and human tragedy during its 15-minute stop on post. It supposedly damaged several homes and killed or injured 30 people.

Within minutes after the all-clear siren blared over post, emergency response personnel of the military police, Irwin Army Community Hospital, the American Red

Cross and post fire department were rolling toward the pretend devastation. They worked for about three hours practicing what they would do if a tornado really struck the fort.

The garrison's emergency personnel played the most visible roles, taking care of victims and assessing damage and dangerous situations at the site, but many more manned emergency operations centers at the post headquarters, the hospital and the Provost Marshal's Office.

Heads of most major organizations on Fort Riley crowded into the emergency operations center, including representa-

See Tornado, Page 3



Post/Heronemus

Firefighter Cary Booth discovers a manikin portrayed as a dead victim after a mock tornado hit Ellis Heights housing area on post.

Colonel plans to plant fruit trees

Luebker: Army lifestyle, culture will be missed most

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley's assistant division commander for support said farewell May 13, after spending 30 years in the Army. The post honored him during a retreat ceremony.

Col. Thomas G. Luebker said he will head north to a 20-acre alfalfa field in

Door County, Wis., where he plans to grow spruce trees for wind breaks on his property and plant fruit trees.

Most people who go to Wisconsin buy a piece of land and cut down all the big trees, Luebker said. He plans to do just the opposite, seeing his 20 acres as a natural canvas. His master plan calls for a house in the middle and a detached four-bay garage for his car, tractor, boat and

trailer. "From my house I can actually see Lake Michigan four miles away from my front porch. From my back porch, I can see the sun set over the Bay of Green Bay," he said. "I really don't have a job," Luebker said, but said he would eventually find some work to do. In the meantime, he

See Luebker, Page 2



Post/Heronemus

Col. Thomas Luebker, assistant division commander for support, is "off the command calendar" awaiting retirement.





Post news in brief

Rifle Range Road closed

After the inbound traffic closes at 8 a.m. each day, Rifle Range Road will be closed to all traffic for the remainder of the day to facilitate road construction.

Outbound traffic will be detoured to Trooper Drive. Traffic detour signs will be installed for the duration of the project.

Commander, civilians to talk

Col. John Simpson, Fort Riley garrison commander, will meet with the post's civilian workforce twice on May 18, in Barlow Theater, building 7866, on Custer Hill. His addresses are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and civilian employees may attend either session.

Bus transportation usually provided for the addresses has been discontinued. Ample parking is available but employees are asked to car-pool if possible.

CPAC offers TSP brochures

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has received 173 Thrift Savings Plan Open Season (now-June 30) tri-fold brochures. Anyone wanting some for their organization should request them by e-mail from CPAC or call Nathan Butler at 239-6075, Dawn Barclay at 239-6088 or Karen Brough at 239-6084.

Employers set for post job fair

Several employers will visit Fort Riley from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 21, during the free job fair in room 7 of building 210, to talk with Soldiers and families about available career opportunities.

These employers understand the skills that soldiers bring to the workplace and therefore make a valiant commitment in their recruiting efforts to attend military Job Fairs.

Soldiers who want to stay in the Kansas area or want employment in another state or overseas may find a new career closer than they think.

Resumes are not required. For more information on employers scheduled to attend, call the ACAP Center at 239-2278 or 239-2248.

Graduation ceremony set

The combined graduation ceremony for Fort Riley is scheduled for 1 p.m. June 10, in King Field House.

Counseling services will not be available at the learning centers that afternoon because of the graduation ceremony. For more information, call 239-6481.

Unit mailroom classes offered

Fort Riley Postal Operations staff will offer Unit Mailroom Training for newly assigned unit postal officers and unit mail clerks from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 26, in building 309.

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

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (20 days OJT period is required).

Unit postal officers not involved in mail handling duties only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. Unit postal officers involved in mail handling duties must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and must take the test.

Command changes

Batchelor succeeds Geczy

By Kristen Hamilton
KSU Intern

Lt. Col. David Batchelor assumed command of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, May 11, on Cavalry Parade Field.

He succeeds Lt. Col. George Geczy III.

Batchelor came to Fort Riley following an assignment in Vilsack, Germany, as the executive officer for 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. During that assignment he was deployed for nine months to Kosovo, Serbia Monte-Negro, as deputy chief of staff for the Multi-National Brigade East.

This is Batchelor's second assignment to Fort Riley. From 1991 until June 1994 he served in various positions in the 1st Infantry Division, including commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, the battalion that reflagged to become 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Batchelor said he chose to come back to Fort Riley out of 35

other stations. He said, "Our family is excited to be here. We wanted to come back. We are humbled by the opportunity before us."

In light of the unit's upcoming deployment to Iraq, Geczy emphasized his confidence in Batchelor's skills and leadership abilities. "Lt. Col. Batchelor brings a wealth of experience and is going to do a great job."

Geczy said he has spent a great deal of time working with Batchelor and his wife

in order to ensure a smooth transition for the unit's soldiers and their families.

The battalion task force of about 700 soldiers is scheduled for their second rotation to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The deployment will take place within the next 65 days.

Geczy took command of 1st Bn., 41st Inf., on June 15, 2002, in Kuwait during Operation Desert Spring.

He begins his next assignment with the Pentagon's Joint Staff in July.



David Batchelor



George Geczy

Luebker

continued from page 1

plans to be a sort of gentleman farmer who people might see some Saturday at a farmer's market selling his fruit.

"I'm going to plant an orchard, cherry trees, apple trees, raspberries, strawberries.

I tell people they should do something they enjoy, and I really enjoy plants," he said.

Luebker's retirement date is May 31, the day before he turns 52. It's a day Luebker said he is looking forward to even knowing he will miss the Army lifestyle.

Luebker said he would miss Soldiers the most, "the whole business of soldiering. You miss the culture.

"It's been really painful," Luebker said, "as we've gone through this fight. You train 'em, you prep 'em and you ship 'em and you're not allowed to go with them (Soldiers)."

Luebker said he's been amazed watching the strength of young spouses who are left behind.

"As we've lost Soldiers over there, it's just amazing to watch when you do lose a Soldier how the spouses gather around the family and help them," Luebker said.

"There's a whole helping hand, a whole concern, there's entire compassion in this Army culture that I don't think exists out there in the civilian world. I think I'm going to miss that," he said.

Luebker came to Fort Riley three times during his 30 years in the Army, first as an ROTC cadet in 1973, then as a battalion commander in 1992 and again in 2002 as the assistant division commander for support.

The biggest change he's seen since 1992 is the absence of the 1st Infantry Division.

"There are too many patches on the hill," Luebker said, referring to the 24th Infantry Division (Mech), the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, the 937th Engineer Group and the Installation Management Agency patch worn by garrison Soldiers for about a year now.

K-State has grown a lot since

Awards

Two Legions of Merit
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Three Meritorious Service Medals
Two Army Commendation Medals
Army Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star
Army Service Medal
Overseas ribbon with numeral 3
Parachutist Badge
Ranger Tab

1992, Luebker said. "Junction City has grown a little, but the good news is they're as hospitable as ever," he added.

"Fort Riley, itself, as an installation, is pretty much the same as it was before," he said.

During a career that took the Luebkers to several posts in the continental United States, Germany and Korea, the departing assistant division commander recalls three years his family lived in Saudi Arabia as his most unique assignment.

Those three years he spent building King Khalid Military City. "There were about 800 American civilians, seven American Soldiers, 22,000 Korean and Pakistani workers up on the Iraqi border building this city," he said.

Two of the Luebkers' sons were born there in a field hospital.

"When my middle son was born - he's going to be a junior at (Kansas State University) - I had myself and my wife in the room. We had a Canadian doctor. We had a Filipino nurse.

"We had a Sudanese guard standing at the door with his war markings on, holding an AK47 with crossed bandoliers of ammo," he recalled.

It was a tense time, Luebker said. "We were there when the United States was bombing Libya."

Training

continued from page 1

ing officer. "This goes hand in hand with the new equipment."

The unit was originally slated to "go away," Boyer said. "With the move to 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), we have new equipment and will be capable of having more manpower," Boyer explained.

"First Kansas" counts about 600 Soldiers on its current roster. The unit will increase its strength to about 700 later this year, Taffon said.

"We expect to have a higher operational tempo," Boyer said.

"We anticipate less service time on our new equipment, and this will allow us to have more

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USA DISCOUNTERS
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RED/May 2004





Tornado continued from page 1

tives of the garrison headquarters, Resource Management Office, Directorate of Environment and Safety, Staff Judge Advocate's Office, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Directorate of Contracting, Directorate of Logistics, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Directorate of Information Management, G-1, G-2, G-4, G-6, G-8, Public Works, Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center, 937th Engineer Group and Public Affairs Office.

Emergency personnel responding to Ellis Heights picked up clues to the kinds of damage and personal injuries they faced from large photos in front of some quarters and scattered victims made up to resemble injured people.

The photos showed a house in some state of destruction and moulaged victims showed injuries they had received. Information cards at designated points described injuries or damage that couldn't be shown physically.

Five families on Barton Street allowed their homes to be used during the exercise. Five Soldiers each from 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 125th Support Battalion, 70th Engineer Battalion and 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, played the roles of injured people living in the area. Five dummies were used as people killed by the tornado.

The military police arrived first and began cordoning the area to control traffic, said 1st Lt. Kelly Skrdlant, MP operations officer. "We had about 24 MPs on the ground, one in the FROC (Fort Riley Operations Center) and nine in the PMOC (Provost Marshal's Operations Center)," he said.

The first two patrols at the site

began looking for casualties and rendering emergency first aid, Skrdlant said. When emergency medical technicians arrived on the scene, they passed on information about what they had found and turned over the medical treatment to the experts.

The MPs then concentrated on controlling foot and vehicle traffic in and out of the site.

The fire department set up its command post on a hill overlooking the site and quickly sent firemen into the area carrying hoses to fight any fire they might find.

Firemen also walked into the area to pinpoint damaged buildings and utilities and to locate victims needing medical attention. The firemen are trained emergency medical technicians.

Meanwhile, the hospital had set up its emergency operations center and sent two ambulances manned by civilian employees to the scene. Other ambulances arrived later with Soldiers driving them.

Capt. Brian Friedland, the hospital's chief of plans, training, mobilization and security, said the initial medical mission was to "snatch and grab." The medical personnel on site made a quick assessment of who needed immediate transport to the hospital and took them away. Other victims would be moved, if need be, at a later time.

One patient required helicopter medevac late in the exercise. The medical staff and fire department incident commanders coordinated that evacuation.

The hospital's role continued at the hospital with the arrival of patients. Friedland conservatively estimated 300 MEDDAC personnel played some sort of role during the tornado exercise.



Post/Heronemus
Jose Rios (left) and a Red Cross volunteer (back to camera) with Irwin Army Community Hospital, get help from Fort Riley military police bike patrolman Sgt. David Parthamore loading a mock tornado victim into an ambulance.



Post/Heronemus
Medics Pfc. Debbie Hunt (left) and Pvt. Alexander Suliaman secure a patient to a stretcher.



Post/Heronemus
Post firemen Lt. Darryl Wanamaker (left) and Mike Richardson help MEDDAC's Staff Sgt. Larry Fisher and MP Pfc. Shaun Spencer roll a mock victim onto a stretcher.



Post/Heronemus
Irwin Army Community Hospital medics and members of a Medevac helicopter crew from 1256th Medical Company, Minnesota National Guard, load a patient for air medevac.

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Army tweaks training

Initiatives improve education system, leader development

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Today's methods of training the force and growing leaders are not broke, but they need some tweaks to ensure continued success on tomorrow's battlefields, according to the findings of Task Force Leader Development and Education.

"We have what I consider a world-class Army and world-class leaders today. You have to recognize they are products of the (education) system we have in place today," said Brig. Gen. James Hirai, Army Command and General Staff College deputy commanding general.

The task force validated many of the findings of the officer, warrant officer, noncommissioned officer and civilian Army Training and Leader Development Panel surveys that were conducted over the past few years.

The task force did not limit itself to validating studies. It took a broad look across the Army.

Lifelong Learning

While the Army has long espoused a culture of lifelong learning in leaders of all levels, accountability for that lifelong learning has not been well defined. The individual Soldier, the organizations the Soldier belongs to during an Army career and the institution itself all have roles to play in that lifelong learning journey, Hirai said. Those roles need to be clearly defined

Focus areas

The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus are: The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Modularity; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Commitments; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability and Logistics.
To view a brief synopsis of each area, visit [The Way Ahead](http://www.army.mil.thewayahead) at www.army.mil.thewayahead.

and understood by each player, he continued.

Additionally, there must be some form of formal standards-based assessment and feedback mechanism in place in order to determine if lifelong learning goals are being met and to adapt to changing learning needs or emerging technologies.

High-Payoff Initiatives

The task force is recommending that Army schoolhouses move toward a common scenario based upon today's asymmetrical threat. Working off a common scenario may allow different career field training centers to build synergies in conducting collective joint exercises via linked simulators and computer networks, Hirai said.

Education System

Task Force Leader Development and Education is also reviewing content delivery and

timing of training. Part of that is determining when a Soldier should get resident training and the duration of that training.

Joint operations training is one area that should be done at a lower level than most Army school curriculum — likely at the basic qualification course, the general said.

"Joint interoperability, joint operations (training), is not at the right level," Hirai said. "We are finding in the contemporary operating environment today that joint operations are done by junior leaders."

Leveraging Technology

Leveraging technologies includes distance learning via linked simulators and distance learning via the Web, but it is more.

"We are looking at the human dimension — how people learn," Hirai said. "It's about identifying what leaders and Soldiers have to

do and how to most effectively deliver the training they need to do those tasks."

Education Proponent

Agreeing wholeheartedly with the Civilian Army Training and Leader Development Panel finding, the task force is recommending a single education proponent for all Soldier and Department of the Army civilian training.

Under the current system, civilian training is managed through the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, with major commands footing the bill. Soldier training management is an Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G3, responsibility, with the Human Resource Command paying travel and other costs.

Hirai said he envisions a single organization responsible for managing the training of the military and civilian workforces. As far as civilian leader development, Hirai said there are many courses out there but none tied to career progression. The task force recommends the Army establish a specific civilian leader development program.

Integration

The Leader Development and Education Task Force has been in close contact with the other area task forces, Hirai said, as what each finds often impacts other areas.

The focus areas are all linked and all designed to improve the readiness of the Army.



Post/Robinson

Teamwork

Spc. Brett Fishel, Fort Riley K9 Unit and his dog, Orson, search for narcotics during a recent testing exercise. The exercise is designed to test the handler's ability to communicate and direct the dog during searches.

Soldiers study afterblasts

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Military members who specialize in the explosive ordnance disposal field will get the chance to enhance their skills from their civilian counterparts.

It's part of a new, ongoing training course being held at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

The ATF maintains and oversees the center, training a variety of law enforcement agencies in blast investigation and explosives disposal techniques.

At the course, Army and Navy EOD specialists join civilian

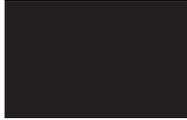
agents in sifting through debris of what's left of a car after an explosion.

Plastic engineer tape forms a series of grids where workers carefully remove small particles from the soil with gloved hands.

Special Agent Steven Beggs, section chief for the NCTR, said students receive an overview of the types of explosive devices criminals and terrorists use.

Beggs said a blast site provides a wealth of information, such as what the device was made of, how it was built and who built it. That information can lead to ways of countering it, he said.

The recent NCTR class was the second one offered to military.



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FORT RILEY POST

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Fort concentrates on risk management

By Matthew Fearing
105th MPAD

"Leaders must be proficient with the risk management process, fully embrace and utilize the Army's doctrinal five-step Safety Risk process."
That's the challenge in Commanding General's Policy Number 04-01 (Command Safety Policy) signed by Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley commanding general.
Fort Riley is an Army leader in risk management, said Paul

Inman, safety division chief in the post's Directorate of Environment and Safety.
"Countermeasure," the Army Safety Center's magazine, cited Fort Riley's risk management initiatives in listing Fort Riley as a leader.
The fort's program is based on the commanding general's focus on the total Army installation, Inman said.
Training is a key to minimizing risk, Inman asserted and he indicated that training is provided to all levels on post. The Fort Riley

Safety Office provides Safety Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) training for the military side and Safety Manager training for the non-military side.
The Safety Office also conducts frequent safety inspections.
When conducting inspections of civilian work areas, Inman said his team looks for compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and ergonomics — the placement and use of equipment for efficient and safe human use.
In working with the military,

inspections focus on Army safety regulations.
Even in safety-conscious environments, safety issues may arise.
"One of our biggest problems is non-use of seat belts by non-military personnel," Inman said. "Fall protection is an issue and hearing problems are hitting on the radar screen."
Inman continues to push employee education to combat the problems. Sometimes military and civilian workers are unaware of the safety precautions they should take, so "it is a matter of

education of those working areas."
Fort Riley uses a team approach to risk reduction. The post division directors are members of the installation prevention team. The team looks at multiple ways to reduce risk.
To help in that effort, a statistical analysis of the historical and projected safety problems is made on every Fort Riley battalion.
The results are presented to the battalion commanders in order to target problem areas.
Quarterly Safety Days are

mandated in the Command Safety Policy. They focus on routine operational standards that, when not in use, could result in injury, death or equipment damage.
Accident trends, repeated failure to follow standards, seasonal safety, and control measures to reduce the occurrence of the unsafe acts are highlighted.
The safety policy requires leaders to conduct off duty risk assessments during the Soldiers' 72-hour reception and integration counseling and before holiday weekends, passes and leaves.

College student studies soil Findings could help post preserve prairie

By Kay Garrett
KSU

MANHATTAN — When a 63-ton M1A1 Abrams tank rumbles across prairie, it has an environmental impact on the plants, the soil and the soil dwellers, too.
Just exactly what impact such tank training maneuvers have on the prairie is the subject of a new research project funded by Fort Riley's Integrated Training Area Management Program, or ITAM.
Peg Althoff, a Kansas State University agronomy graduate student, is conducting the project.
Fort Riley military reservation contains more than 100,650 acres and has been a training site for U.S. Army tank crews for decades. About 73,000 acres of the reservation are used for training maneuvers and there are 127 miles of tank trails on the fort.
Such a huge and irreplaceable

tract of land is an essential training facility for national preparedness, Althoff said.
"Managing the land at Fort Riley for the long haul is essential," she said.
Her research could help determine the soil properties that would indicate to Fort Riley land stewards whether a tank range is becoming over-used and degraded. Althoff works closely with range control officer Lee Breidenstein and Integrated Training Area Management Program coordinator Philip Woodford.
In personal correspondence, Breidenstein said that all areas of the ecosystem — flora, fauna, soil, air and water — are affected by the repeated exposure to tracked vehicles, rotary winged aircraft and by the troops. Recognizing that, the Army established a protocol for long-term monitoring of military lands — the Land Condition Trend Analysis.

Since 1995, Phil Gipson, leader of the U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in the K-State Division of Biology and K-State statistics professor Jeff Pontius have been assessing the plant and wildlife responses to military training exercises.
Althoff collected and analyzed data from one growing season and conducts year two of her work this spring and summer.
"Anything we can say at this point is preliminary because we have only one season of data," she said. "Long-term research is what's needed in order to make accurate conclusions."
Althoff is evaluating physical, chemical and biological factors that might be affected by repeated tank traffic — soil compaction, bulk density, soil texture, chemical elements, plant biomass, microbial diversity and the nematode and earthworms taxa.

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Commentary

Heroes at home

Hats off to spouses of servicemembers

By Arlene H. Hull
Special to the Post

"If the military had wanted you to have a spouse, they would have issued you one."

Remember those words? Well, that was then; this is now. America's military has realized and acknowledged the significance of the military spouse. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the Friday before Mother's Day of each year to be Military Spouse Appreciation Day. It is your day to be honored.

For the times you've stood and watched a ship sail from the harbor, an aircraft disappear into the clouds or a truck convoy pull out of sight, not sure when they would return, we thank you.

For the countless household moves you've made from a place

you know to one that's strange and different — often by yourself — we thank you.

For the families you've held together, for the anniversaries, birthdays and holidays you've celebrated alone, we thank you.

For the hand you've extended to another military spouse when the need was there, truly creating a military family, we thank you.

For the spirit and strength you've shown when your servicemember has gone into harm's way, we thank you.

For the pride you've displayed while serving as an ambassador of the military spouse to the rest of the world, we thank you.

Far too frequently, the sacrifices and dedication of the military spouse have gone unnoticed and unappreciated.

In our nation's recent history, thousands of servicemembers

have been placed in harm's way as they stood watch as freedom's guardian. You too have stood watch at home, facing challenges alone. You have waved flags and held banners high to express your support. You have kept the candles burning on the home front as a reminder of our deployed military.

You have made difficult sacrifices of your own and have called upon your inner reserves to nurture family life so your servicemember can focus on the business at hand.

Even in times of relaxed alert status for our military, you have stood ready and alert for the slightest of signs, perhaps overlooked or ignored by your civilian counterparts, signaling a potential change in the status of our military forces.

As a military spouse, you have

willingly packed up and relocated countless times and may have been separated from your own parents and siblings for several years at a time.

Quite often, you have been placed in an unfamiliar ethnic or cultural setting or in a remote location. You have met this challenge with confidence and pride, making your nation proud of you.

By the same token, you have extended your hand and hospitality to visitors to our country. A country cannot count itself strong by its armed services alone. It also must depend on its civilians. With military wives and husbands setting a superior example through devotion, courage and commitment, we are a nation of strength.

Military spouses, stand tall, stand proud. We salute you. You are truly our unsung heroes.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



Drinking and driving

What does it take to get Soldiers to consider effect of their actions?

By Matthew P. Kettell
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — In April 1989, two of my Soldiers were killed when they hit an oncoming vehicle. They'd both been drinking and neither was wearing a seatbelt.

They'd been on their way to pick up a fellow Soldier and bring him back to a party. However, they never returned and what happened changed my life forever. I was their platoon sergeant.

We had just finished several support missions, redeployed to home station, and were transitioning to be the division readiness force for the 82nd Airborne Division. It was a Thursday and we had completed all our inspections and were getting ready for a three-day weekend. The commander gave us our safety briefing.

Afterward, I briefed my platoon on the two-hour recall procedures and gave them an additional safety brief. I covered drinking and driving, speeding and wearing seatbelts. Also, because we were on DRF 1, I told them not to

drink any alcohol.

I was concerned about a couple of my Soldiers. A day or so earlier, their wives called me out of concern about their husbands' drinking and driving and lack of time at home. I decided to have a man-to-man talk with these Soldiers about their wives' concerns. I set it up so I could talk to each individually at my home.

The Soldiers were 19 and 20 years old — at the prime of their lives — and had so much ahead of them. One was going to be a father in three weeks.

We had a recall formation to test the alert roster the following Monday morning. As the squad leaders gave me their accountability reports, they reported two Soldiers missing. The Soldiers' wives were there, but the Soldiers weren't.

I went to the first sergeant's office to inform him of the report but he was with the commander, who asked me to come into his office.

He told me the division staff duty officer had informed him that two Soldiers were killed in an accident involving another Sol-

dier's car. The vehicle's owner told me that my Soldiers had borrowed the vehicle.

The victims' bodies were burned beyond recognition. The coroner needed to check their dental records for proper identification. I was 99 percent sure they were my two missing Soldiers.

I asked the commander what we were going to do because the wives were at the staff duty officer's desk wanting to know where their husbands were. As time went by the wives became increasingly upset. They had not been told the full situation yet, but in time, the dreadful call came.

I often wonder how you tell a Soldier the worth of his life, the importance of his family and the happiness a newborn child will bring. I thought I had gotten through to these Soldiers, yet they died — not in combat, something that might be justified — but in an avoidable accident.

To this day I still ask myself, "What does it take?"

Matthew P. Kettell is the tactical safety officer for 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

Army One Source Q's & A's

Army One Source is a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week toll-free information and referral telephone service that provides information ranging from everyday concerns to deployment and reintegration issues.

Q. Will AOS cost anything if I use it?

A: No, the services are pre-paid by the Army. There is no cost to callers, going online, ordering educational materials, or the six counseling ses-

sions.
Q: What are the qualifications of the people answering the phone?

A: AOS counselors have master's degrees in fields such as education, social work, early childhood development, psychology and counseling. They have on average more than five years of prior experience in their respective fields. Many of the consultants have a state license or are Certified Employee Assistance Professionals.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, May 14, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Sports news in brief

Outdoor Rec changes hours

Effective May 30 through Sept. 11, hours of the Outdoor Recreation Center will change as follows:

Saturday and Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday: Closed

Also closed on May 31, July 5 and 6, and Sept. 4 for federal holidays.

May National Fitness Month

The Fort Riley Fitness Department will be conducting various fitness related activities throughout the month. There will be a Running Clinic, Fun Run, Camp/Hike/Bike Clinic, body fat analysis, Blood Pressure and Cholesterol checks and much more! Come by King Field House Fitness Center or call 239-2813 for additional info.

May 14 -- Body Fat Analysis, 1 to 4 p.m.

May 15 -- Camp/Hike/Bike Clinic, 9 a.m. to noon

May 17 -- National Bike to Work Day

May 17 -- Weightlifting Tips, 2 to 3 p.m.

May 17 -- Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

May 19 -- Stretching Basics, 9 a.m.

May 20 -- Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Craig court floor refinished

Craig Fitness Center's racquetball floors are scheduled to be sanded and re-finished and thus unavailable for use May 10-14.

Outdoor Rec sets contest

The Outdoor Recreation Center is taking registrations through May 30, for a fishing contest.

Registrants should fish at Williams, Roblyer, Pritchard, Breakneck, Moon Lake, Vinton or Campbell Ponds to catch one of the 112 red, white, blue or gold-tagged fish on Fort Riley.

Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Prizes are \$20 for red-tagged fish, \$15 for white-tagged fish and \$10 for blue-tagged fish. Anglers who catch a gold-tagged fish win an inflatable raft.

The contest goes until Oct. 31.

For more information, call the Outdoor Rec Center at 239-2363 or 239-6368 or stop by building 9011.

At Custer Hill Golf Course:

May 14 -- Commander's Spring Golf Tournament

May 15 -- Golf Course Gaggles, 7 to 8 a.m.

May 15 -- Free Golf Lessons from a PGA Professional

May 16 -- Golf Course Gaggles, 7 to 8 a.m.

Families can skate together

The Riley Wheels Skating Rink offers family roller-skating on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$6 per family of six people. Each additional family member pays \$1.

For more information, call 239-376.

No brag, just fact

USA MEDDAC kicks way to soccer title in tournament

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info. Officer

A lot of people laughed when Craig Noda predicted USA MEDDAC would take the Fort Riley Battalion Level Soccer League championship and sweep the championship tournament.

It wasn't easy, but the season's over and MEDDAC ended up losing only two games, one to 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, and the other to the 15th Personnel Services Battalion.

That record put them on top of the league standings and to go undefeated in tournament play, claiming the tournament trophy just as Noda predicted.

The final game for the top honors came down to MEDDAC and a physical 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

The odds going into the tournament weren't in MEDDAC's favor. Noda was injured in the game before the championship and though he played, he wasn't in top form.

Talent for the MEDDAC team runs deep though and players like Michael Kim, Justin Banister and John Everett on the field and Goalie Shane Fesinstine in front of the goal stepped up and took the game to the Infantry.

The Infantry fielded its share of talent for the game.

Derrick Hoffman, who scored all three goals in their previous game with 15th PSB and Barry Baptiste-Swift, a former professional player with the New York/New Jersey Metro Stars, came prepared to play.

So did their best ball handler, Jose Guillen. But the Infantry attack wasn't enough to pull off a win.

In the first 15 minutes of the game, most of the play was in Infantry territory, but it wasn't until MEDDAC Striker Danny Ortiz sent in a beautifully placed ball from a corner kick that points showed up on the scoreboard.

No one but the Infantry could take credit for the goal, however. It was headed in by mistake, putting MEDDAC on the scoreboard first.

See Soccer, Page 10



Kevin Ross (left) of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry and Kenneth Horton of 15th Personnel Services Battalion, go head to head in a post tournament soccer game.

'Sarge' sprints to 4th victory

Army News Service

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher recorded his fourth win of the season at the ram-delayed O'Reilly Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol Dragway May 3.

The pilot of the U.S. Army Top Fuel dragster won a "pedaling" contest in the finals over Clay Millican. In the process Schumacher widened his lead over second-place Brandon Bernstein in the Top Fuel point standings.

"Like all my victories, this is for all the Soldiers fighting for our freedom," Schumacher said. "What a great day for the Army team."

The Chicago native put up impressive numbers en route to his 15th career victory. In the first round he took out Rhonda Hartman-Smith with a 4.482-second run at a blistering 331.04 mph. In round two he posted a 4.477-second pass at 331.36 mph to beat Doug Herbert.

While Schumacher and Bernstein banked almost identical 4.50-second passes, Bernstein was too quick off the line and fouled with a red light, handing Schumacher the final-round entry.

"That was huge, getting by Brandon," Schumacher said. "I actually felt bad for him, but we'll certainly take the win light any way we can get it. Those were 20 important points given how close we were entering this race."

After watching a 110-point lead disintegrate to 38 points after the Houston event, Schumacher battled back to extend his lead to 81 points heading into the Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway in a week.

"We're only a quarter of the way through the season," said the 1999 Top Fuel world champion. "You can't let your guard down for a second with as good as the Top Fuel class is this year."

This is the third time in Schumacher's career that he's won four races in a season. He also turned the trick in 2000 and 2003.

Medics slip past 'C-Rock'

MEDDAC suffers blemish in tourney title tilt

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

U.S. Army Medical Department Activity overcame its only loss in the Spring Fling slow-pitch softball tournament to win the championship trophy May 8, at the Fort Riley softball complex.

Ten company-level teams entered the tournament. MEDDAC advanced through the winners' bracket, defeating 596th Signal Company 16-2; Company C (C-Rock), 70th Engineer Battalion, 13-0; and 342nd Military Police Company, 3-2 before losing to C-Rock 18-11 in what

could have been the last game of the tournament.

MEDDAC finished with a 9-8 win against C-Rock after the Engineers clawed their way through the losers' bracket to the tournament championship game.

C-Rock won its tournament opener 13-3 against Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor. MEDDAC sent C-Rock to the loser's bracket in their first meeting. Down one loss in the double-elimination tournament, the Engineers squeezed past Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 5-4; Company C, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, 12-11 and the 342nd Military

Police Company 11-9, in succession before meeting MEDDAC again and beating the eventual champs.

C-Rock went to the plate first in the championship game but failed to score, leaving two runners on base.

MEDDAC put two points on the scoreboard in the bottom of the 1st inning. Tyrone Manning scored the first run on Jeremy Martinez's sacrifice fly to center field. Martinez scored later when Jack Dilbeck hit the ball past C-Rock's third baseman into left

See Softball, Page 10



Post/Heronemus

MEDDAC's Michael Walter rounds third base on third base coach Alexis Hobie's direction May 8, as 596th Signal Company's third baseman Daniel Reichel and pitcher Brent Nylen wait for the ball. MEDDAC beat 596th Signal Company 16-2, on its way to the Spring Fling championship.

Freshman seeks messages on race day

By K.L. Vantran
AFPS

WASHINGTON -- Jeff Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet may have been the first to cross the finish line at the California Speedway May 2, but thanks to the efforts of

a 15-year-old California girl, U.S. servicemembers also will receive recognition.

Shauna Fleming, a freshman at Lutheran High School in Orange, Calif., set up shop under racecar driver Matt Kenseth's No. 17 tent at the Auto Club 500 in Fontana,

Calif. The teen's kindergarten teacher is the aunt of Kenseth's wife.

"She thought Matt and Katie would help me in some way," Shauna said. "Then DeWalt (Matt's sponsor) got involved and let us use some of their display

space to put up a tent and collect letters during the race."

Speedway officials also lent a hand. "The Speedway was awesome," said Shauna. "They made announcements that I was there and put information about 'A Million Thanks' in the information

they hand out to fans."

Shauna's goal is to collect and distribute one million letters of appreciation and e-mails of thanks to current and past servicemembers as part of National Military Appreciation Month -- May. To date, she has more than 125,000



Soccer continued from page 9

It took fewer than five minutes before Kim worked the ball down the field and sent a short pass to Everett, who eased the ball into the goal and boosted the score to 2-0 in MEDDAC's favor.

On MEDDAC's next possession, Banister took his turn at scoring, giving MEDDAC a three-point lead.

Infantry's Jonathon Alban immediately answered Banister's goal to reduce the point spread to 5-1.

MEDDAC's Kim managed two more points, giving MEDDAC a 5-1 win for the tournament trophy.

"They just came out here better mentally prepared and ready for victory," Hoffman said. "They played a lot better than the last time MEDDAC played us," he said. "They were focused today."

Baptiste-Swift said MEDDAC played a more organized game than the Infantry.

Noda echoed Baptiste-Swift.

"This is one of the best games we ever played. Our team showed up to play and they proved what I've been saying all season long. We were going all the way this year."

MEDDAC vs 937th

The 937th Engineer Group dominated the midfield and controlled the ball most of the game it played against USA MEDDAC in their semi-final soccer game, but they still lost 3-1.

Hugo Romero, Patrick Lachance and Chris Morris kept the pressure on the MEDDAC strikers most of the game but couldn't get past Goalie Shane Fesinstine to score.

Halfway into the first half, MEDDAC broke out of their lackluster offense and sent the ball past Engineer Goalie Chris Miller.

Two minutes into the second half, MEDDAC scored again after a fast break downfield for a 2-0 MEDDAC lead.

Romero countered with a fast

drive back to MEDDAC's goal and quickly scored the only point the Engineers would make.

On their next possession, MEDDAC's Michael Kim took the ball in past Goalie Morris for the final point of the game, making it a 3-1 win and giving MEDDAC a shot at the title.

Infantry vs. 15th PSB

Derrick Hoffman proved the talent on the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry's, soccer team runs deep by making all three of their points himself.

The Infantry's strategy changed from going to former professional player Barry Baptiste-Swift for the score to Hoffman. They used Baptiste-Swift, Jose Guillen and Eric Bohn to get the ball to Hoffman.

PSB's Goalie Manuel Robles met the Engineers' offensive challenge by repelling more than 15 kicks into his territory and keeping the score to 3-0.



Post/Skidmore
Derrick Hoffman (second from left) and Jose Guillen (second from right) keep the ball in 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry's, control against two 15th Personnel Services Battalion players.

Softball continued from page 9



Post/Heronemus
MEDDAC's Ishmael Jimenez slides into second as 342nd MP's Michael Cox throws to first and Derek Pfeifer watches the play. MEDDAC beat the MPs 3-2.

field. C-Rock responded with one run in the bottom of the second when pitcher Joseph "Doc" Smith hit to MEDDAC's pitcher and a late throw to second base let Joshua "Wheels" Cheatwood score.

MEDDAC widened its lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the second inning. C-Rock's "Doc" loaded the bases after bobbing a hit by William Molina, walking MEDDAC catcher Elizabeth Barnaby and allowing a single by Zeb Gillum.

Ishmael Jimenez stepped to the plate and fled out to the left fielder. Molina tagged up on third base and went home for one score. Barnaby made it home after a bad throw went past the C-Rock third

baseman. Manning brought Gillum home with a hard-hit single to right field to put MEDDAC up by four after two full innings.

C-Rock rolled back on top, 7-5, in the top half of the third inning. Doug Mattz, Brian Wright and Trinidad "Gut Z" Gutierrez hit singles against MEDDAC pitcher Gary "Big Hurt" Reams to load the bases.

"Wheels" lined the ball to center field to score Mattz and Wright. "Gut Z" scored when MEDDAC's right fielder dropped Jimmy Lowry's fly ball. Cheatwood, Lowry and Joe Haywood scored three more before MEDDAC turned a William Mabe hit to the pitcher into a double play to retire C-Rock in the top of the

third. Neither team scored again until the top of the fifth inning when Haywood crossed home on a "Wheels" single. C-Rock led MEDDAC 8-5 with 2 1/2 innings left in the championship game.

MEDDAC regained some composure in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game 8-8.

"Big Hurt" homered to score Manning and Gary Moore before C-Rock sent the Medics back to their bench.

Both teams' offenses stalemated until the bottom of the seventh inning.

Manning tripled to the center-field fence and Moore hit a sacrifice fly to left field that let Manning tag up and sprint home for the winning score.



Post/Heronemus
"C-Rock" pitcher Joseph "Doc" Smith hits first base about the same time as the throw to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, first baseman Robert Winterrowd. The 12-11 win moved C-Rock into the title games.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12"
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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, May 14, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Community news briefly

Devin honored

USD 475 will host a retirement reception and open house in honor of Superintendent of Schools Mary Devin from 2 to 4 p.m., May 16, in the Junction City High School cafeteria. All district patrons, staff and friends are cordially invited to attend. In lieu of gifts, Devin requests that donations be made to the Geary Community Schools Foundation.

BOSS

May 19 -- Members Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Custer House reopens Side B

Custer House Side B has reopened and is available for rental by units or organizations wanting a special place to hold an event.

May has many open dates but June dates are filling up. Cost is \$20 with a refundable deposit of \$50.

To reserve a date, call Joanne Gulotta at 784-4922.

Moore confab to be simulcast

The Chaplain's Office and Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a simulcast of the Beth Moore Living Proof Live Conference from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 15, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Moore is an inspiring speaker and best-selling author who identifies with discouraged women because she, too, once felt defeated before the transforming power of God's Word changed her life. Moore acknowledges she learned an important lesson that she now shares with other women: "I learned that living in victory only happens when you absolutely surrender to the total power of God and to His truth."

Moore has made it her mission to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with God.

Bible school registration set

Wild West VBS Adventures can be found at Morris Hill Chapel June 8-11. Parents can send their elementary-age cowboys and cowgirls to learn about God each morning from 9 a.m. until high noon.

Registration dates are now through May 16. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

Registration forms can be found at all chapel services, meetings and concerts.

To register by phone or e-mail, contact Althea Brown at 717-3032 or god4me@oz-online.net.

Olympics group invites others

The local Special Olympics group invites families who have special needs individuals to join them in their upcoming events.

Special Olympics is a worldwide program providing year-round training, education and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people age 8 and older with mental and physical retardation.

For more information, call Geary County representatives Otis Scroggins at 238-1342 or Bob Alan at 762-2149.

Post to honor Asian Pacific heritage

By Valerie Dey-Bolejack
105th MPAD

Fort Riley plans to celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month at 11:45 a.m. May 19, in Barlow Theater. This year's celebration theme is "Freedom for all - A nation we call our own."

The 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert L. Canuela will present the keynote address.

"Samoan Princess," a dance by Cecilia A. Ruyle, is also on the program. The dance consists of traditional Samoan and Hawaiian dancing.

A sampling of Asian and Pacific

food dishes by a local caterer completes the noontime program.

The term Asian Pacific American includes people from a wide range of cultures, including Japanese, Chinese, Koreans and Filipinos. Southeast Asians, such as Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians, Pacific Islanders from Hawaii, Tahiti, Easter

Island, Micronesia, Melanesia, which includes the Solomon Islands, Indians and Pakistanis are also considered part of this ethnic group. The groups have a wide range of cultures, history and language.

The United States started celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans when

President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring the first 10 days of May "Asian American Heritage Week." On Oct. 23, 1992, President George Bush signed Public Law 102-450, designating May as Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

See Heritage, Page 12

Fairly well, thanks

Day shows students all aspects of wellness

By John S. Wollaston
19th PAD

When most people hear the term wellness, they think of it in terms of diet and exercise. But wellness includes much more than the amount of exercise a person does on a daily basis.

To help the students at Fort Riley Middle School understand the complete spectrum of wellness, the school hosted a Wellness Fair April 28.

Activities ranged from safety demonstrations and health screenings to Tae Kwon Do and rock climbing exhibits.

"Wellness encompasses all of your life, not just PE (physical education) or during the day at school," said Rhetta Kramer, assistant principal at Fort Riley Middle School.

Kramer said total wellness includes mental, spiritual, emotional and social aspects as well as the person's physical condition.

Activities varied

Members of the Fort Riley Fire Department displayed one of their rescue tucks and let students dress in the fireman's protective clothing, known as "turnout gear."

A trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol used a crash simulator to demonstrate how it feels to collide with another vehicle at 30 mph.

Fort Riley military police demonstrated the effects of alcohol using a set of goggles designed to simulate the effects of alcohol on the brain.

The students donned the goggles, attempted to walk a straight line for a short distance and then attempted to make a free throw.

The trooper ordered pushups as punishment instead of jail time whenever a student missed the basket.

The Kansas Lions Club brought a mobile screening unit to this year's Wellness Fair. Children were screened for hearing and vision problems.

See Fair, Page 12



Skyler Pond, 13, of Fort Riley Middle School's seventh grade, climbs a wall during the annual wellness fair at the school April 28.

Public can buy phone cards as gifts

Special to the Post

The Department of Defense has announced that any American can now help troops in contingency operations call home.

DoD authorized the Armed Services Exchanges to sell prepaid calling cards to any individual or organization that wishes to purchase cards for troops who are deployed.

The "Help Our Troops Call Home" program is designed to help servicemembers call home from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Those wishing to donate a prepaid calling card to a military member may log on to any of the three armed services exchange Web sites:

— The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, <http://www.aafes.com/>

— The Navy Exchange Service Command, <http://www.navy-nex.com/>, or

— The Marine Corps Exchange, <http://www.usmc-mecs.org/>

Click the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link. From there, a prepaid calling card may be purchased for an individual at his or her deployed address or to "any servicemember" deployed or hospitalized.

The armed services exchanges will distribute cards donated to "any servicemember" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and the Fisher House Foundation.

The armed services exchanges operate telephone call centers in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other countries and aboard ships — anywhere servicemembers are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. All of these locations stay busy around the clock to provide communication between deployed troops and their loved ones at home.

Commissary boosting sales, savings

Manager moved from Colorado to take job

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Mark Derby counts the past 22 years as commissary experience in his military background.

Before that he grew up in an Air Force family. He moved into the commissary officer's chair at Fort Riley in March with the challenge to increase lagging sales.

Sales at Fort Riley increased the past two months to a point where they trail last year's receipts only by about 5 percent, he said May 10. Two months ear-

lier the Fort Riley store dipped to about \$200,000 below sales for the same time period the previous year, Derby said. That amounted to a drop of 15 percent to 20 percent from the previous year, he said.

Derby talked May 10, as though increasing commissary sales at Fort Riley required no secret formula even with so many of Fort Riley's Soldiers deployed to Iraq and elsewhere.

"I cleaned up the store," he said first. "I make products available," he added, "and the case lot sale this month will help a lot."

The store usually reserves its case lot sale for the fall, Derby said, but May is Commissary Awareness Month and Fort Riley's commissary is participating in a system-wide case lot sale promotion.

Beyond those three tactics, Derby said he works closely with vendors in the Fort Riley commissary zone to create unique cost reductions for Fort Riley shoppers.

The Defense Commissary Agency, which operates the Army

See Derby, Page 12



Mark Derby, the new store manager at the Fort Riley commissary, checks out some of the fresh produce.



Community news briefly

SFSC activities:

May 14 -- Newcomer's Orientation, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

May 19 -- Community Action Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Crafts center sets classes

May 15 -- 3-D Buildings in Glass, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 15-16 -- Black & White Photography Orientation, 2 to 4 p.m.

May 16 -- Scrapbooking Get-Together, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

May 16 -- Ceramic Painting-Dry Brush Technique 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 17 -- Wood Safety, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 17 -- Advanced Matting & Framing, 6:30 p.m.

May 17 -- Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.

May 18 -- Mold Pouring Orientation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Teen Center activities:

Upcoming activities planned by Teen Center staff include:

May 14 -- Midnight Softball and BBQ, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

May 15 -- Worlds of Fun Trip, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 21 -- 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.

May 14 -- The Ladykillers (R)

May 15 -- The Prince and Me (PG)

May 16 -- Jersey Girl (PG-13)

May 20 -- The Ladykillers (R)

May 21 -- The Alamo (PG-13)

May 22 -- Home on the Range (PG)

May 23 -- The Whole Ten Yards (PG-13)

May 27 -- The Alamo (PG-13)

May 28 -- Hellboy (PG-13)

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OPHTHALMIC MANAGEMENT
2 x 5"
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Fair

continued from page 11

The Junction City Fire Department towed its mobile fire safety house to the school to teach kids about fire safety and the proper way to exit a burning house.

Officers from the Junction City Police Department and Fort Riley military police Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) teams also participated.

Chance to explore
"Everyone has a chance to explore a lot of different opportunities here," Kramer said.

"We're hoping everyone can find a life-long skill or physical activity ... from this ... and gain information about taking care of the whole person," Kramer.

The students attended the fair during their elective time. That gave each block of students about 90 minutes to explore the various activities.



Post/Skidmore
Kansas State Trooper J.L. Riedel straps Autumn Cuddy into the seat belt convicer he brought to the wellness fair.



Post/Skidmore
Judy Fielder (left), aerobics instructor, leads Bria Jimenez, 13-year-old seventh-grader at Fort Riley Middle School, and Sgt. David Parthamore, 300th Military Police Company, in an exercise routine.

Derby

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Experience

Mark Derby has worked in commissaries at: Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., site store on a bombing range complex Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Fort Bliss, Texas Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

commissary system, provides some product sale prices through deals with contracted vendor. "We pass those savings on to our customers, like every commissary does," Derby said.

DeCA allows store managers to work with zone representatives of the contracted vendors to create more savings, Derby said. "I work with zone representatives to get more coupons and to get permission for double coupons," he said. That translates into some customer savings at Fort Riley that other commissaries in the same zone might not offer, he said.

Customer savings at Fort Riley can be as much as 40 percent compared to what is spent at a Junction City grocery store, Derby said.

His list of frequently purchased

and family necessities includes milk, bread, peanut butter and toilet paper, among other items. The prices paid for those items total 60 percent of what shoppers would pay for the items at the local "one-stop shopping" store, Derby said.

Commissary officers try to reach an overall goal of 32 percent savings for their customers, Derby said. A family of four that shops consistently at the Fort Riley commissary can save about \$2,700 a year, he said.

Single Soldiers could save \$34 a week if they would shop at the commissary instead of eating a lot of meals at fast food restaurants, he said. Barracks rooms are equipped with refrigerators and microwave ovens. A frozen microwave meal costs as little as 99 cents at the commissary.

Fixing a meal in the barracks would save on food costs and travel expenses getting to and from the restaurant, Derby said. He wants to drive that point home to single Soldiers and said he plans to work through company first sergeants to get a few minutes after morning PT to present his ideas to the Soldiers.

The idea of going after single Soldiers to shop in the commissary isn't new to Derby. While he was the deputy commissary officer at Fort Bliss a few years ago, the commissary officer there began a program to do the same thing.

"The Soldiers would run to the commissary. The commissary officer would give them Gatorade and tell them how they could save shopping at the commissary,"

Derby said. "The Soldiers on the hill (at Fort Riley) are too far away to run down to the commissary, so I'm going to go to them," he said.

The future looks bright for Fort Riley's commissary, Derby said. Lackland Air Force Base is testing self-checkout at four express lanes and four regular lanes in its commissary. If that works out, and Derby sounds positive about the possibility, self-checkout lanes could come to Fort Riley within a year or so.

The end of May, DeCA begins a new promotion called "Savings You've Earned." It will clearly mark the commissary products being sold at costs lower than local stores sell them, similar to what the Best Value tags show now, Derby said.

Heritage

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May was selected to commemorate May 7, 1843, the first immigration of Japanese to the United States.

It also marks the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

More than 12,000 Chinese worked on the railroad when other workers were unwilling to do so because of the dangerous and often deadly task of laying rails through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In 1854, in *The People v. Hall*,

the California Supreme Court ruled that a Chinese man could not give testimony in court because Chinese were "inferior, and ... incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point ..."

In that same year, Yung Wing

graduated from Yale University, becoming the first Chinese to graduate from a U.S. college.

Today, many Asian Pacific Americans suffer from the opposite, the model-minority myth that stereotypes them as diligent, high achieving and successful.

This label has caused discrimination and blocked them from affirmative action, according to the Asian Pacific Employee Council.

Many subgroups, such as Cambodians, Laotians and Vietnamese Americans continue to suffer a

much higher than average poverty rate as a group.

This year's celebration observes the many contributions of Asian Pacific Americans, celebrates their progress and addresses issues the Asian Pacific Americans still face.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisuretime ideas

Fredonia:

Gold Dust Days Festival — Historic festival celebrates the 1885 opening of the Gold Dust Hotel; re-enactments; musical performances; historic displays; demonstrations; Fredonia Fire Department will be selling its famous sausage sandwiches; May 22, all day; Downtown Square. For more information, call (620) 378-3221 or visit www.fredoniachamber.com on the Internet.

Kansas City:

Abdallah Shrine Rodeo — 45th annual PRCA rodeo, car show, craft show, carnival midway, and much more; from 6 to 10 p.m. May 27-28 and all day May 29; 1405 N. 98th St., Wyandotte County Fairgrounds. For more information, call (913) 362-5300 or visit www.abdallah-shrine.org on the Internet.

Topeka:

O'Reilly NHRA Summer Nationals — National NHRA drag racing event. More than 700 cars racing to speeds of 330 mph, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 28, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 29 and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 30; 1805 SW 71st St., Heartland Park Topeka. For more information, call (785) 862-4781 or (800) 437-2237 or visit www.hpt.com on the Internet.

Holton:

Glory Days Festival and Car Show — Memorial Day celebration, car show, parade, crafts, and pancake breakfast; from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 29; Downtown Courtyard Square. For more information, call (785) 364-3963 or visit www.holtonks.net/city on the Internet.

Atchison:

Antique Airplane Fly-In — 38th annual, static display of vintage aircraft in hometown of Amelia Earhart; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 29; 16701 286th Road, Amelia Earhart Airport. For more information, call (913) 367-2427 or (800) 234-1854.

Sedona:

Yellow Brick Road Festival — Parade, Wizard of Oz characters, contests, food, shopping, and entertainment; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 29; Main Street and Chautauqua Street. For more information, call (620) 725-4033.

Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival — 4th annual. Features Tab Benoit, Sean Costello and 2003 Grammy nominee Alvin Youngblood Hart; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., May 29 and 2 p.m. to midnight, May 30; downtown. For more information, call (620) 725-3834 or visit www.eqbluesfest.com on the Internet.

Cottonwood Falls:

Music at the Emma — Weekly acoustic jam sessions playing country, gospel, bluegrass, and rock and roll. Musicians and audience welcome; Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; 317 Broadway, Emma Chase Cafe. For more information, call (620) 273-6020 or visit www.emmachasecafe.com on the Internet.

Emporia:

Car show — Show open to all classes of vehicles in beautiful shaded park, May 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., South Commercial Street at the Cottonwood River, Soden's Grove Park. For more information, call (620) 342-0944.

Prickly stuff

Cactus can fill plates

By Alan Hynek
Fish, Wildlife Biologist
Conservation Division

On the prairies of Fort Riley are two botanical dissidents. They come armed with sharp spines and an array of folklore and fascinating uses. Although these two seem out of place on the Kansas plains, they are certainly an interesting part of the tallgrass prairie community.

Two species of cactus are known to occur on Fort Riley. The prickly pear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*) is common and found throughout the post. The other is much less common and is fittingly known as the pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha missouriensis*).

Both are in a family of plants found mainly in the arid southwestern United States. They have a characteristic thick dermal (outer) layer that helps to minimize water loss during the hot and dry summer. In addition, most cacti have spines that help protect the plant from water loss by predators.

Prickly pear grows on rocky slopes and hillsops in the open plains. It can be found as a single plant or more often in a cluster of several plants. There are nine species of prickly pear found in the Great Plains and is the most widespread cactus in North America.

It is characterized by having

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Alan Hynek

one to several thick pads arranged with up to 1-inch spines. The yellow flowers are produced in the spring of the year and bear a fleshy red or purple fruit.

The prickly pear has many reported uses. Most notably is that nearly all parts are edible, including the pads, fruit, buds and flowers. The Plains Indians used this plant quite extensively as a staple food source.

The taste of raw prickly pear pads is similar to that of a raw cucumber. Pads were most often boiled to loosen the skin

and remove the spines. Although prickly pear fruits and pads are quite tasty, they must be eaten with extreme caution. Some of the spines possess barbs similar to a fishhook, making them difficult to remove.

The pincushion cactus is not very common on Fort Riley but can be found on rocky ledges in the open prairie. The plant has one to several round stems bearing clusters of spines.

The flower is a striking pale yellow to green and develops into a fleshy fruit. As with the prickly pear, most parts of this cactus can be eaten. However, because of its small size it was not a major food source for the Plains Indians or early settlers.

Both species of cactus can be grown ornamentally and make a good landscape plant in the right situation.



Cacti such as this are known for their value as a southwestern and Kansas food source.

Region's cat show promises variety

Special to the Post

Manhattan — More than 100 cats representing 50 breeds and everyday household pets will be on display at an International Cat Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 22 and 23, at the Holiday Inn Holdime in Manhattan.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors 60 or older and children (under 6 free) and \$10 for a family of five.

People with a military ID receive \$1 off admission.

The show and judges are affiliated with the American Cat Fanciers Association, an international purebred cat registry.

Representatives of some of the newest breeds will be on display, including hairless cats, spotted cats and curly cats.

Spotted cats, such as the wild-looking bengals and ocreats, have colorful glowing spots that make them look like miniature affectionate leopards.

American Curl cats sport ears that curl backwards to almost touch the back part of their skull. Scottish Fold cats have ears that fold forward and tuck into the curved outline of the head.

The Sphynx, with its nearly hairless pear-shaped body, takes some getting used to. Since the normal temperature for a cat's body is 103 degrees, the Sphynx, with all that exposed skin, feels like a comforting hot water bottle when held. Solid and spotted skin patterns substitute visually for fur and large expressive eyes and ears accent the overall look.

The Selkirk Rex, the Cornish Rex, the Devon Rex and the American Wirehair are distinctively different breeds based on special genetics that cause their fur to form kinks or waves.

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