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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

www.riley.army.mil

Weather Forecast

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High:78 Low:53	High:76 Low:54	High:70 Low:52

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post

June 6, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 22

New program to air

Fort Riley will premier "Heartland Journeys," a travel show produced by and for soldiers. The show will air daily on post cable channel 2 after In Step with Fort Riley.

Discover what possibilities await you -- from drag racing to indoor football, and family fun to places off the beaten path.

"Heartland Journeys" will give you an idea of what activities and communities surround Fort Riley.

82nd Medical Company welcomed home

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Fort Riley welcomed home over 100 soldiers from the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), along with approxmately 50 soldiers from the 205th Area Support Medical Battalion, in Hangar 817 at Marshal Army Air Field Sunday.

On hand to welcome the soldiers was Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander of maneuver, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

"This is a tremendous feeling — seeing them back home," said Helmick. "They did a great job of flying missions all over Iraq, and they did it safely. Maj. Schwartz brought all of his soldiers home alive. Which is a great compliment for him and the training of his soldiers."

The soldiers will receive a well-deserved rest and then it will be back to business as usual.

"We want to let them get back and spend time with their families. Their equipment will be back at a later date. And, when they get it prepared, we will get them back into the training regime for their MEDEVAC tasking for the installation," Helmick said.

But, until the soldiers get back into the garrison swing of things, they will be getting reacquainted with their loved ones.

"We will have the soldiers go through a decompression training, where it will help them get reintegrated with their families. We want them to realize that things change back home when you're on deployment, and we want the soldiers to be able to ease back into their home life so they won't have any problems," said 1st Sgt. Michael Mears, 82nd Med. Co.

The families and spouses couldn't sit still for a moment, filled with the excitement and the antic-

See 82nd Med Page 5

Post/Skidmore

Pfc. Josh Morgan gets a teary welcome from his wife, Krista, at the 82nd Medical Company Redeployment Ceremony Sunday at Hangar 817. Morgan was one of over 100 soldiers returning to Fort Riley from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Post gates being modified

By Christie Vanover
Community Relations Chief

Fort Riley's access control points are under construction. The temporary access control points are being replaced with permanent structures that will further enhance the installation's security. This measure is required following the attacks on Sept. 11.

Construction is underway at Trooper Drive, Estes Road and Rifle Range Road gates. The remaining four gates will receive upgrades later this summer.

Fort Riley was an open post for nearly 150 years. However on Sept. 11, 2001, post officials immediately implemented access control measures to protect Fort Riley's families and personnel.

"At the time, locations were chosen to meet the immediate security requirement while allowing for construction of permanent facilities in the future," said Lt. Col. Wesley Anderson, director, Public Works.

"We are moving the Trooper entrance forward to create less congestion in the commissary area and to free up the line of

See Gates Page 3

Soldiers earn Expert Infantry Badge

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, as well as elements of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, received their Expert Infantry Badge at Bulldog Parade Field May 30.

The EIB is presented to infantrymen for excellence. The award is based on the individual infantryman's physical fitness and demonstrated ability to perform to Army standards in a broad spectrum of critical infantry skills.

"The EIB recognizes outstanding infantrymen who attain a higher degree of professional skills, expertise and excellence. It defines an infantryman who can expertly maintain, operate and employ his weapon and equipment," said Staff Sgt. Perry Kerr, ceremony narrator, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry.

To receive the award, the soldiers where put to the test and had to earn the right to wear the infantry's most prestigious award upon their chest.

"It (EIB) enhances the individual training program in infantry units by providing a grueling training and testing period. We initially began with 245 candidates. Standing before you now are 132 of the infantry's best, who have earned the right to proudly display the Expert Infantry Badge on their chest," Kerr said.

And as far as tests go, this one was not a cakewalk with it working on a Go/NoGo format.

"Once a soldier receives a NoGo at a station, his chance of passing it has dropped to a 50/50 chance. If you get a second NoGo at the same station, then you are out of the race. And, if you receive three NoGos throughout the entire event (one at three different stations) you will be walking the walk of shame. It is very difficult to attain this badge," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Tunney, S3, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.

More than being a hard award to earn, it shows something about the soldier who wears it.

"It's very important for them because this award they are getting today shows that they are professionals who know their jobs. And, from everyone able to see that award on their chest that reflects that professionalism, can help them with progression within their field," said Tunney.

"That badge says that the soldier wearing it is technically and tactically proficient and knows how to employ weapons, mines, first aid and all of the 35 tasks they went through to earn the badge," he said.

See Badge Page 2

Post/Biles

Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander for maneuever, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, pins the Expert Infantry Badge on 'True Blue' infantrymen.

Bulldog Brigade gets settled in Baghdad

By John S. Wollaston
Staff Writer

When you're a soldier and you deploy to a combat zone or an area that's been ravaged by war, you begin to realize that Dorothy was right. There is no place like home.

Things you take for granted, even simple things like toilet paper, become prized and almost sacred possessions. When mail does manage to find its way to your compound, things you'd hate to find in your mailbox back home, like a cable bill, are a welcome sight, because at least you're getting some kind of mail, that beats getting none at all.

One thing that seems to resonate through every soldier is the ability to create things from nothing. Three empty Meals Ready To Eat Boxes, some tape and a little 550 cord and you've got a three-drawer chest to store your clothes. Two relatively clean engine oil drip pans and a little soap and you've got the wash and rinse cycle of a human powered washing machine. And, on the matter of washing clothes, it's safe to say that when one of these soldiers' wives wants a new washing machine in the future, he'll buy the nicest one he can. The soldiers have found a new and everlasting appreciation for them.

Another great creation to be had is the baby wipe. It's not just for babies anymore. When the water is not working in a building, which is often, baby wipes of any shape size and scent make a

See Brigade Page 6

TASC/Davis

Command Sgt. Major Richard Hearron makes remarks at his retirement ceremony May 30. Hearron retired with 30 years and 13 days of service.

Hearron honored at retirement

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

An all-star career ended on May 30, with the retirement of Fort Riley's division command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hearron, outgoing division command sergeant major, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, retired after 30 years and 13 days of service. He said it was a career that started by chance.

"When I joined the Army on 17 July of 1973, there was no way that I would have thought my career would last 30 years," he said. "As a matter of fact, I went down to the local recruiting station to join the Air Force.

"There was no one in the office, and as I was standing there, an Army sergeant first class asked me if I wanted to wait in his office. Here I am, 30 years later."

Hearron said he never had the opportunity to thank that sergeant first class, so he thanked him on the day of his retirement. "It's been a great career."

The Legion of Merit Award was given to Hearron at the ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field for exceptional meritorious service in worldwide positions of increasing responsibility in the United States Army, culminating with his final assignment as division command sergeant major at Fort Riley.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Hearron's selfless service, professionalism, technical competency, tactical proficiency and unwavering commitment to soldiers' well-being are a true testament to all whom he served. His impeccable leadership always produced exceptional results," Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, III Corps, said in a letter that was read at the retirement ceremony.

"CSM Hearron's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great character of him, Fort Riley and the United States Army."

Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander for maneuver, echoed those comments.

"What we are talking about here, for all noncommissioned officers, is an all-star career - one that all soldiers coming into the Army only dream about," he said. "Command Sgt. Maj. Hearron has lived it."

He lived among the soldiers

See Hearron Page 2

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Soldiers return from Korea

By Ryan D. Wood
Staff Writer

Members of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor returned home to a hero's welcome and the waiting arms of their loved ones after a deployment to Korea ended on May 28.

The task force deployed on March 5 for a mission, which was originally slated to last 45 days. Due to the escalating tensions in the area and the war in Iraq, departure times for the task force were delayed and the unit ended up spending about 2 months in country.

"Initially our mission was to conduct training in regard to RSOI (reception, staging, onward movement and integration) on the Korean Peninsula. Then, our mission was extended in order to provide additional security and combat power on the Korean Peninsula due to heightened tension with North Korea and the Iraq War," said Lt. Col. George A. Brinegar, task force commander, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

Training on the mission consisted of Korea specific knowledge, such as land navigation in the hills and mountains, maneuvering in very congested areas and learning the Korean road networks.

"Korea is very different than the plains of Kansas," said Brinegar. "Initially the terrain was very intimidating, but after much training, the task force felt very comfortable."

With the open return date, soldiers didn't know when they were going to return home or finish training. According to Brinegar, this posed a challenge for the non-commissioned officers of the task force.

"With the great caliber of NCOs in this task force, morale and discipline were never an issue. The soldiers knew the seriousness of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and knew how important our presence was to the stability of the region," said Brinegar.

"Our NCOs focused on our mission, not re-deployment or Iraq. We had an important mission to do, and the soldiers knew it," he said.

Training on the mission was intense, with the task force moving 300 vehicles across South Korea during a very tense time and conducting live fire exercises with all platforms.

Post/Bultman

Sgt. William Waide, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, greets his family after returning from Korea.

"Our soldiers were outstanding," said Brinegar. "No discipline problems with 400 soldiers — no mission to difficult. United States Forces Korea was very impressed with the caliber of Fort Riley soldiers."

"We got the brigades fleet ready, and the battalion is coming back combat ready. We could go anywhere, and deploy tomorrow. It was tough on soldiers, but they maintained a positive attitude and came through with flying colors," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Moore, 2nd Bn, 34th Armor.

The training ended with a "spur ride," where 34 soldiers earned their spurs.

"It's a two-day exercise where you put leaders to the test. They do individual and collective events, and are graded on them and physical fitness. If they meet the standard of 70 percent in every event, they are awarded their spurs," Moore said.

Returning home from the mission, the soldiers were greeted by a screaming group of family and friends who had worried through the deployment, waiting for their loved ones to return home.

"It's been lonely, long, boring, frustrating, irritating - you name it," said Sacnite Sanchez, wife of Cpl. Joseph Scott Windsor, a member of the 2nd Bn. 34 Armor. "All we knew was that they couldn't come home. Now that they are here, I feel excited, nervous. I just can't explain it. It's just a feeling in your gut."

Soldiers from 4th Bn., 1st FA deliver school supplies

By John Wollaston
Staff Writer

After a three-month delay in their school year because of Operation Iraqi Freedom, schools across Baghdad are beginning to reopen. One of those schools is getting a helping hand from the Bulldog Brigade's 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment. Soldiers from 4th Bn., 1st FA are bringing school supplies to a school near 3rd Brigade's headquarters so the children can take their final exams. The pencils, paper and other materials are a welcome sight to the children and the teachers who have been scrambling to find the necessary items to finish the school year. The battalion Civil Affairs officer, 2nd Lt. Douglas Whitmire, believes what they are doing for the school is a good thing. "These kids are the next generation for this country, and I want to give them a good impression of what America is like," he said.

The influx of supplies isn't the only way 4th Bn, 1st FA is helping this school. Efforts are also being made to find contractors to restore continuous electrical power and water to the building as well.

Post/Wollaston

Second Lt. Douglas Whitmire, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, prepares to hand out paper and pencils to a class at an elementary school in Baghdad. The supplies will help the students finish their final exams and the school year.

Hearron continued from page 1

and their families for 30 years, and the Army is better today because of his discipline and compassion, Helmick said. He is an extraordinary noncommissioned officer and leader who devoted his life to taking care of the soldiers and their families, he said.

"How can America adequately thank you for what you have done?" Helmick said. "The truth is, we can't. We cannot thank you enough, and we cannot thank your family enough.

"If you ask Sgt. Maj. Hearron, I'm sure he would say he was just doing his job. He would probably say something like, 'I'm just an old Sarge. I did what I do,'" Helmick said.

While Hearron is leaving his position at headquarters, he is not leaving Fort Riley. Instead, he has assumed a new role in the installation's Safety Division.

"I wanted to get a job that would keep me involved with soldiers," he said, "and safety is something I've been involved with since I've been an NCO - it's important. My first summer of retirement will be spent at Fort Rucker, Ala., for a safety course."

After four months of learning the ropes in keeping Army soldiers and their families safe, Hearron will be back at Fort Riley.

"The decision to retire was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make," Hearron said.

"But knowing that I have a job that will keep me involved with soldiers made it a little bit easier," he said.

Badge continued from page 1

The tasks the soldiers endured where as much a mental challenge as they where a physical one.

'When a soldier gets a NoGo at two stations, we call that blade running. And that will really jerk on their nerves. You'll see soldiers shaking and telling you that it has them not sleeping at night, and then it becomes strenuous on them. It's both physically and mentally demanding on them at that point," Tunney said.

The number of awardees presented with the EIB says a lot about the unit as well.

"A lot of hard work and dedication went into the event from all of the prior EIB recipients who were the graders. They were the rubber that met the road. They're the ones that taught these guys how to do their job to the standard and by the book," Tunney said.

Even though not all of the soldiers received the EIB, all of them got something out of the event.

"They (soldiers that didn't earn the EIB) gained valuable knowledge out there and received some of the best training they will receive on an individual basis. With that said, they will have a better chance next time because they all took something from their training they can build on, and that makes them all winners," Tunney said.

Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander of maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, was on hand to pin the badges on the 46 "True blue" soldiers. Meaning, those soldiers who had passed their test with 100 percent first time Go rating throughout the testing period. Accompanying Helmick with presenting the awards was Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Christian, Forces Command.

After pinning the badges on the soldiers, Helmick congratulated them all on a job well done.

"Iron Rangers, what a great day for you. I know you have been busting your fourth point of contact out there for the last couple of weeks earning your Expert Infantry Badge," said Helmick.

Helmick went on to say what is now expected of them.

"Today, we awarded the Expert Infantry Badge, and you heard what it represents. It represents experts in weapons, fitness and tactical and technical confidence. From this day forward, you must show and illustrate to your soldiers that you're worthy of wearing the highest award that can be given to an infantryman in peacetime," he said. "The badge doesn't make the man, the man makes the badge. The EIB does not make an expert infantryman, the infantryman makes the expert infantryman."

Helmick also commended the way the training site was run.

"My hat's off to Sgt. 1st Class Worthy. I was out there and saw how you ran the site, and it was absolutely well done — a tremendous job," Helmick said. I have been around a lot of EIB sites, but the stations I went through, and the way you had them set up, where first class."

Helmick, who also wears the EIB, concluded by stating how proud he was of all of the soldiers and how happy he was to give out the true blues.

"Again, congratulations to each and every one of you. I am proud of each and every one of you. This is a significant accomplishment in every infantryman's career. Iron Rangers, continue to lead the way," he said.

Christian also had a glint of pride in his eye as he looked at the soldiers on the parade field.

"I feel like a dad who just got to see his son hit his first home run, or a dad who watched his daughter score her first goal in a soccer game. This is an achievement and a half. When you see this many soldiers out here, and these badges aren't give-a-ways, it tells me we have great soldiers in this organization. They have heart, they have conditioning, and they have discipline. And you do not get all of that out of them without having great leaders," he concluded.

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1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 JUNE RUNNING COTTO N-
WOOD

HOLM AUTOMOTIVE
3 x 4"
Black Only
3x4, p/u 5/30 JUNE RUNNING

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*

LAURA'S REPEATS
2 x 1"
Black Only
2x1, JUNE RUNNING p/u 5/7

FORT RILEY POST

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

West Nile could affect post

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Summer is here, and with the summer comes mosquitoes.

Where large mosquito populations are present, people should be aware of contracting West Nile Virus, which has spread rapidly throughout the United States.

Last year, when tested for West Nile, Fort Riley had more positive mosquito pools than any other place in the state, said Bill Wildman, entomologist.

And, while Fort Riley's average population age is the least likely to succumb to West Nile Virus, the threat is still present.

While no deaths were reported in Kansas last year, 22 human cases were found in the state, and deaths were reported in all of the surrounding states. Wildman said it is very likely that there will be deaths from the virus this year in Kansas.

But it all comes down to awareness and precautions, said Wildman.

"People should watch for the same conditions conducive to a large mosquito population," said Wildman. Because mosquitoes need water to live and breed, any standing water is a prime place for mosquitoes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests checking yards once a week for standing water. For example, children's pools should be dumped, pets' water bowls should be changed and birdbaths should be emptied to help reduce the number of mosquitoes in one area.

Wildman said the installation does what they can to larvicide standing water in ditches, but residents in the housing communities must do the same.

People can also reduce the amount of mosquito bites they get by using insect repellent regularly.

The CDC recommends using insect repellent with DEET, which is a chemical that confuses mosquitoes and makes them unable to locate people.

People should always read the label and test repellents before use, said Wildman.

Troops headed to the field for training should be aware of the proper DoD insect repellent system, said Wildman. This system includes the application of DEET lotion to exposed skin, coupled with the application of permethrin to the field uniform. When used with the properly-worn uniform, this system will provide complete protection not only from mosquitoes but ticks and chiggers as well.

West Nile Virus is more of a threat to the older and the extremely young population, though.

"If you are taking babies outdoors, use netting on the strollers and carriers," said Wildman. "The ones at risk are the babies."

The best thing the Fort Riley community can do is be aware, said Wildman. By taking certain precautions and being educated, the public is reducing the risk of contracting West Nile Virus.

For more information on West Nile Virus and for tips to guard against it, go to the CDC website, www.cdc.gov

Talk Around Town

"What will you do for summer vacation?"

"I will go to Georgia and then on to Panama City Beach, Fla."

Pfc. Jessica A. Harris
977th Military Police Company

"I am going to spend a week in California and go through Disneyland and Sea World."

Sgt. Danny R. Norris
3-382nd Logistic Support Battalion

"I will go home to visit family and go to the beach."

Pfc. Johnita Hill
977th Military Police Company

Gates continued from page 1

sight," said Larry Duch, G3 force protection officer. "Currently the soldiers can only see as far as the dike. With the new site, they will have a clear view toward Junction City."

The new Trooper entrance will be closer to the River Walk and the new Huebner Road entrance will be closer to the town of Ogden. Despite the minor location changes, the same seven entrance points will remain.

The $5.8 million project will create permanent buildings and overhead shelters, according to Anderson.

At the Henry Gate, off of I-70, a brick welcome center will be built that will allow visitors to check in and get maps and other information about Fort Riley, said Anderson. Some locations will also have concrete facilities that resemble the post's historic limestone buildings.

The new design will also generate improvements to the traffic capacity.

Lanes will be added to some of the entrances, like Henry Gate, said Anderson. The plan is that one lane will feed off into multiple lanes similar to the toll booth setup on the Kansas Turnpike.

During the construction, which should be complete next spring, people may experience some traffic slow downs. Anderson said that Public Works plans to post traffic warnings based on the construction schedule on their portion of the post's website to help alleviate the back-up.

However, with the current deployments in Iraq and the deployment to the National Training Center scheduled later this summer, more than two-thirds of the post's soldiers will be deployed in August, so there will not be as many soldiers exiting and entering the installation.

In addition to the access control upgrades, a fence is also being constructed around the main cantonment area. The $3.9 million project will enclose and secure the main areas where soldiers and families live and work.

"11 September has changed what we do forever. The way we fly. How we protect our critical infrastructure here on the installation. How we protect our family members. How we protect key personnel," said Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander for Maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

"Normal is not normal, and so we have to take all the precautions that we need to take, and I hope the people in the local communities understand some of the things we have to do. I hope some of our soldiers and their family members understand, too. We're trying to be as efficient as we can be and as thorough we can," he added.

Water lines to be flushed

Public Works will continue efforts to keep Fort Riley's water clear by flushing of the water distribution system starting June 16. The schedule for flushing is: June 16, Main Post/ Whiteside Areas; June 17, Custer Hill Housing Areas; June 18, Custer Hill Troop Are; June 19, Custer Hill Motor Pool Areas and June 20, Forsyth/Funston/Marshall Field Areas.

Flushing of the water mains will begin at 8 a.m. June 16-20 and will continue until complete. Occupants of the affected area must refrain from use of hot water during this period. To facilitate flushing, Do not park directly across from Fire Hydrants.

When flushing of an area is complete, area occupants should clear the water lines in their quarters. This is accomplished by opening all cold water faucets and letting them run until the water runs clear. The hot water faucets should be opened next to clear any remaining discoloration. If the water does not clear up after 30 minutes, the Service Order Desk, 239-0900, should be notified.

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Briefs

Soldier Show

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is coming to Fort Riley for two shows in July. The 17-member cast will perform at McCain Auditorium at Kansas State University, July 5 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets to the event are free. Advance availability to the military only will run June 15 - 27 at Information, Ticketing and Registration, 239-5614. Any additional tickets will open to the public June 28, and will be available through ITR or McCain Auditorium. For more information, contact ITR or Directorate of Community Activities, 239-9354

Religious Holiday

The Jewish Congregation of Fort Riley will celebrate the holiday of Shavuot today. This holiday celebrates the early wheat harvest in Israel. Following the Friday evening service at 6 p.m., there will be a holiday meal. Services are held every Friday at 6 p.m. at Normandy Chapel. The public is invited. There will be no services on June 20 and 27. Services resume in July.

For more information, contact Eta Margolies, 717-3083 or Maria Cox, 461-5804.

ETS Ceremony

An ETS ceremony is normally conducted the third Thursday of each month in building 210. This month there will not be an ETS ceremony.

Marriage Enrichment

Want to make a good marriage better? Want to better understand your spouse? Want to have your spouse better understand YOU? Come learn how to deal with misunderstandings and how to stop the argument cycle at the monthly Marriage Enrichment Class June 21, 10 a.m. -1 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, room 30. Free child care will be provided if you bring your child's shot records. Register by June 19 by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chap. (Maj.) James Paulson, Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

Father's Day Event

The Junction City Chapter of the NAACP is sponsoring a Father's Day event June 15 at the Second Missionary Baptist Church, Junction City. The event, " The Courage of Our Fathers - A Program Honoring the Long Proud History of African American Military Service," will begin with an open exhibit at the church at 3:30 p.m., followed by a formal memorial service and concluding with at the Buffalo Soldier Monument in Junction City. This event is free to the public and all are invited to attend.

EFMP Summer Camp

The Second Annual EFMP Summer Camp will be at Rock Springs 4-H Center, 5405 West Highway K157, Junction City. The all-day summer camp will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 4:30 pm. On July 8, youth ages 12-16 will attend and on July 9 children ages 6-11 will attend.

Parents need to provide transportation. For more information or to RSVP, contact Laura McCauley, Exceptional Family Member Program, 239-9435. Please register before June 20.

Youth Sports

Registration is still being accepted for girls and boys going into 4th thru 8th grades who are interested in playing 3-on-3 soccer this summer. The cost is $5 and registration is at Central Registration, building 6620. Anyone who shows up at the fields on the scheduled day and time can participate, as long as they are registered. For more information, call the Youth Sports office, 239-9223.

Standards of Conduct Reminder

Only duly appointed contracting officers can obligate the government contractually. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an "unauthorized commitment" - an agreement that is not binding solely because the government representative who made it lacked the authority to enter into that agreement on behalf of the Government. Unauthorized commitments must be investigated, and the perpetrators are subject to adverse actions. Ordering officers may, by virtue of their written appointment, obligate the government up to their designated approval limits. Also, government purchase cardholders may obligate the government when funds are certified by an approved funds certifier, so long as they remain within designated single purchase and monthly purchase limits. For additional information, contact the Directorate of Contracting, 239-0468.

Employment Readiness Program

The Employment Readiness Program is offering several Orientation/Intake briefs for members of the Army family. Orientation briefs are scheduled for June 3, 10, 17 and 24 and July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact the Employment Readiness Program, 239-9435 or 239-9437.

Human Patient Simulator

Fort Riley medics are invited to schedule time for using the Human Patient Simulator. Irwin Army Community Hospital will only have the Human Patient Simulator for a 90-day trail. Medical scenarios for certain combat trauma injuries are available. To reserve a time, call Staff Sgt. Kevin Lockett, NCOIC for the Health Specialist (91W) Transition Program, 239-2111.

Garrison Commander's Address

The Garrison Commander will address the civilian workforce Tuesday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Barlow Theater. Bus pick up points are: Division Headquarters, Building 500; Irwin Army Community Hospital, Main Entrance; DOL, building 8100; Public Works, building 330; Soldier Family Support Center, building 7264 and DES, building 407. Buses depart at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Thrift Shop

Are you getting ready to move? Sort through your belongings and call the Thrift Shop to come and pick up any donations (in good condition) from your house.

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.

The Shoppe

The Shoppe has the gifts you need to say "Farewell" or "Thank You" to someone special. Come and see what The Shoppe has to offer! The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

Mail Training Change

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered June 18, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at building 319. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

Vacation Bible School

The Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure Vacation Bible School will be held June 9 - 13, 9 a.m. - noon, at the Morris Hill Chapel. Contact your local chapel or Don Ericson, 239-0979, to volunteer. Registration for children will begin in all chapels on April 20.

Barlow Theater

Tonight:
7 p.m.
Bullet Proof Monk
(PG-13)

Saturday:
2 p.m.
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)
Free screening*

7 p.m.
Holes (PG)

Sunday:
2 p.m.
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)
Free screening*

7 p.m.
Confidence (R)

Thursday:
7 p.m.
Holes (PG)

Ticket prices:
Adults - $3
Children - $1.50
*Tickets for the free screenings are available at the Post Exchange customer service and Burger King.

U.S. Army Photo

Capt. Alex Deraney, commander, Task Force Neighborhood, and Capt. Rob Ramsey, commander, Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 1st Armored Division, talk with translators to get the number of workers needed to help clean up the suburb, As Salam, in Baghdad on May 21. Task Force Neighborhood is designed to clean up Iraq and help show the people of Iraq that the United States is there to help.

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Tears flow as soldiers reunite with families

By Gary Skidmore
Command Information Chief

When the 82nd Medical Company deployed from Fort Riley Feb. 16 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, there wasn't a dry eye in Hanger 817.

Some thing's never change. When the unit returned to Fort Riley Sunday, tears flowed again, only this time they were tears of happiness and relief as approximately 100 soldiers walked into the hanger to cheering friends and family.

On one end of the hanger, nearest the formation, a large group waving flags and banners cheered for one soldier in particular.

"We're cheering for my little brother, Spc. James Ledford," said Diana Herron from Arlington, Texas. "The whole family's here — my mother and father, my little sister and her kids, my older brother, my aunt and my husband and our kids, not to mention James' wife and kids," said Herron.

"We're all so proud of him. He's my little brother and he's been away fighting the war," said Herron. "We're all here to welcome him home."

"What a great day to have you back in the United States of America," said Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, during comments welcoming the unit back.

"Two thousand hours in the air, 190 missions, 500 soldiers and civilians carried back and forth to hospitals . . . you did everything to standard, without loss of life. We are proud of you. Your nation is proud of you for what you have done," said Helmick.

At the end of Helmick's comments, the order for the soldiers to be released came with an enthusiastic, "Dismissed!" from Company Commander, Maj. James Schwartz.

That's all it took for the anxious families. Before the word finished echoing in the hanger, dozens of spouses, children and friends rushed to the arms of the weary soldiers.

"It's great to be back home with my family," said Spc. Lewis Streeter as he held his wife and 9-month-old son close while peering through flooded eyes of joyous tears.

"It feels wonderful to be back," said Spc. Stephen Madison. "The change in color is amazing. I never thought it was so green here. I don't have any complaints with Kansas anymore."

Post/Skidmore

Whitnet Browning holds a sign welcoming her uncle, Spc. James Ledford, back to Fort Riley.

Schwartz said it was the unit's busy mission that kept everyone focused on their job and not on missing their families.

"We're an air ambulance company," said Schwartz. "Our mission is to evacuate sick and wounded, whether they are U.S or coalition forces or even enemy Prisoners of War.

"Once we got into theater, I think the unit was so focused on the mission, there wasn't a lot of time left for anything else."

Schwartz said dealing with the environment was the hardest aspect of the mission.

"The sandstorms were incredible. You cannot escape the sand. You find it in places you never thought you'd see sand," said Schwartz.

Schwartz said the mission was tough but rewarding.

"We touched a lot of lives over there," he said. "They also touched our lives. Regardless of how severe their wounds were or how minor the wounds were, our ability to get them to a hospital quickly made a difference in a lot of patients' lives . . . and we'll always be proud of the job we did."

Also welcomed home Sunday were 50 soldiers from the 205th Area Support Medical Battalion out of Kansas City, Mo.

Post/Watson

Spc. Nick Lobmeyer, 82nd Medical Company, reunites with his wife, Angie. The couple was married only a few months before he deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

82nd Med continued from page 1

ipation, waiting to see their loved ones again after the four-month deployment.

"I'm very excited about his return," said Kristen Morgan, spouse of Pfc. Josh Morgan, 82nd Med. Co. "We were married just before he deployed, and now we will go and visit each other's family." Morgan said they also plan to celebrate a delayed honeymoon.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world," said Jennifer Benson, spouse of Cpl. Brian Benson, 82nd Med. Co. "I feel so proud of him - it's indescribable."

Spouses weren't the only ones filled with excitement.

"The kids have been on a roller coaster, and they are at the top now waiting to go down. They're just so excited to see their daddy and they are so proud of him," said Lynn Schwartz, wife of the company's commander.

Twelve of the 82nd Med. Co. soldiers are still in Iraq to support the air ambulance mission, said Maj. James Schwartz, commander, 82nd Med. Co.

"The hardest part while being over there was when we were about to redeploy, we were tasked to send 12 of our members back up north to support other companies that were still up there," said Mears.

The air ambulance mission went very smoothly, and they were able to accomplish their goals while in Iraq.

"Mission-wise, things went well. We flew a lot of missions transporting wounded soldiers, both theirs and ours,'' said Mears.

``We put a lot of hours on the birds (helicopters), and they got beat up quite a bit, but the crews and maintenance worked well, and we were able to accomplish every mission," he added.

Schwartz said the company performed admirably, moving more than 500 patients, ranging from U.S. and coalition soldiers to displaced civilians.

"Everyone we evacuated - we touched their life somehow, regardless of how minor or major their wounds were,'' said Schwartz.

``Our ability to get those patients into a hospital quickly, really made a difference for a lot of them," he said

The biggest battle the soldiers faced was with the environment, said Schwartz.

"The environmental conditions were definitely in the extreme. You cannot escape the sand; it's like water - you will find it in places where you would never think you would see it," said Schwartz.

He said the unit was able to overcome the adverse whether conditions because the unit stayed focused on the mission.

The 82nd Med. Co. is the first deployed active duty Fort Riley unit to return home from Iraq and Schwartz felt grateful to be back home.

"It (the feeling) was one of disbelief when we heard we were coming home.

``I felt we were extremely blessed to be able to come home," he said.

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Korea 50 years ago - POWs resolved, DMZ line now truce issue

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

The Korean War got a step closer to an armistice as both the United Nations and communists agreed on terms for exchanging all prisoners of war, 50 years ago this week.

June 5-7, 1953 — Big crowds of South Koreans staged demonstrations in Seoul and other large cities against a truce, which seems to be near.

South Korean President Syngman Rhee is trying to block the cease-fire arrived at by the allies and communists. He writes to President Dwight Eisenhower on May 6 that his government would accede "at our risk" if the United States agreed to make a mutual defense agreement where American forces would help defend the Republic of Korea against an invader; keep U.S. military forces in South Korea until it builds it forces enough to stand alone; and give the ROK military enough supplies to help defend the country with U.S. military help.

The letter said, "Our preference is still to have U.S. forces by our side to help us out. But if that is no longer possible, Korea should exercise its innate right of self-determination ..."

Gen. Paik Sun Yup, ROK Army chief of staff, is recalled from the United States June 7, where he is touring military facilities.

Eisenhower makes public June 7 a letter that he had sent to Rhee a day earlier. In it he urges Rhee to accept the truce and use "political and other methods" besides war to unify Korea. He offers to negotiate a mutual defense treaty with Rhee similar to those the United States already has with Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

June 8 — U.N. and communist delegates at Panmunjom sign an agreement on the exchange of prisoners, the last major item on the agenda. However, a truce cannot be settled yet because the communists insist that the line upon which a demilitarized zone will be based, which was agreed on in 1951, must be changed to reflect combat developments since then.

The prisoner agreement will send those prisoners who want to return home back to their countries within 60 days of a truce being signed.

The Reds hold 13,000 allies, mostly South Koreans. The United Nations holds 73,000 North Koreans and 5,000 Chinese who want to be repatriated.

The United Nations also has 32,180 North Koreans and 14,200 Chinese who do not want to return home. Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India will be on a Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission which will oversee those prisoners who do not want to go home. The commission will take care of the prisoners for 120 days.

During the first 90 days of the armistice, communist "explaining" teams of five, but no more than seven per 1,000 prisoners, can meet with individual prisoners refusing repatriation to tell them why they should go home. Representatives from the neutral commission and the United Nations will also be present at every meeting to ensure force or coercion isn't used.

A prisoner who decides to go home must have the approval of a majority of the neutral nations.

At the end of 90 days, a major political conference will be held to decide how to handle those prisoners who have not changed their minds. If no agreement has been reached at the end of 30 days, the prisoners will be released "from the prisoner-of-war status to civilian status."

The commission will help former prisoners who choose to settle in neutral nations get settled there. The released prisoners still have the choice of changing their minds about going home. If any do, the country in which each settles must take care of sending him back to North Korea or China.

June 8-10 — Rhee refuses Eisenhower's mutual defense treaty offer on the day the prisoner exchange agreement is signed, calling it "unsatisfactory."

The ROK National Assembly votes 149-0 June 8 to reject an armistice that doesn't result in Korea unification. A resolution calls upon the South Korean military forces to take "all necessary measures" to "prevent another communist aggression" (and) be prepared for a northern advance."

Switzerland states June 9 that its troops may not go ashore in Korea because of threats from members of the ROK government. But on June 10, after reassurances by the United States, the Swiss change their minds.

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

Bulldog Brigade continued from page 1

great substitute shower. Not to mention, they aren't ice cold like the water in the showers when they are working.

It must be noted, that in Southwest Asia, clean is a relative term. You never truly get all the dirt out from everywhere. The sand on the ground is the consistency of baby powder and it gets everywhere. When the wind blows, it blows hard and kicks up sand storms to rival those seen in West Texas. So, the battle against sand and dirt is a daily one.

Despite the sparse living conditions in Baghdad for the soldiers, there is an amazing amount of technology that is actually available, like Internet communication. In Somalia in 1993, news stories where sent out on a fax machine, through military phone lines. Usually, on the third or fourth time of trying, a faxed story got back to the office.

This article you're reading now was sent via e-mail from a country that barely has the minimum necessary essentials like electricity and water operating right now. Yet soldiers can e-mail their families and loved ones almost like they were on their own computers back home. And it can be funny to hear people actually complaining about the slow connection times when they log on. Who would have ever thought there would be Internet capabilities in the middle of a war zone? Ah, the marvels of technology.

The headquarters for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, is fairly nice compared with where some of the soldiers have taken up occupancy in Baghdad and other towns in Iraq.

Everyone agrees that it's better than the tents the soldiers were stacked in at Camp Pennsylvania while waiting to move north.

Typical of most Army soldiers though, they are making the best of it and managing to find some time to laugh and smile after the un-enviable task of supporting three different divisions, the 82nd and 101st Airborne and the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech), a Military Police brigade, and playing bodyguard for the commander of V Corps as he rolled from Kuwait to Baghdad. Soldiers gave the light infantry a new appreciation for the effectiveness of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. How much of that is bravado and how much is the honest truth may never be known.

The battalion's first engagement was in al-Samwah. Lt. Col. George Geczy commands the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, and his soldiers showed a lot of force to the enemy.

The soldiers also showed great respect for their fallen comrade, Sgt. Jacob Butler.

Geczy and the scout platoon assembled on a rickety bridge over the Euphrates River. During those first engagements with the Iraqi Army, the Iraqis held the bridge and 1st Bn., 41st Inf. wanted it. Out went the scout platoon to recon the bridge and assess the enemy strength. It was here that Butler, coming to the aid of a fellow scout after a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee, was killed when an RPG hit his vehicle, too.

Geczy and the scouts came back to the bridge, at the request of the Butler family, to bury a memento box the family had assembled, at the site where Butler died.

"Jake died getting us information on this bridge. Info that we used two days later to defeat the enemy," said Geczy. "I think he would be proud."

Post/Wollaston

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry prepare to throw a momento box into the Euphrates River. The box contained items from the family of Sgt. Jacob Butler.

The box was then tossed into the Euphrates River, where it took about 10 seconds for it to sink to the bottom. "We decided to sink it," Geczy said before the ceremony, "to prevent the locals from coming out and digging it up an hour after we roll out of here."

It's beginning to look more and more like a 1st Armored Division world in Baghdad. The 3rd Brigade was the first to complete their relief-in-place with 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech) late last week.

This week the 1st AD was given the ball, and it's theirs to run with.

The first order of business is to continue to clear out arms cache's that seem to be everywhere you turn. An Explosive Ordnance Detachment went to a veterinary medicine clinic recently to inspect a bomb that had crashed through the roof of the clinic and was buried very deeply in the floor.

The family was going about their normal business, like the bomb was another piece of furniture. The EOD team was working on how to remove it.

There are a few remaining burned out vehicles around the city, but they are being cleaned up on a daily basis.

There are still dangers to the soldiers daily in Baghdad. As the brigade commander reminded them recently, "We're still in a combat zone and under combat rules of engagement." It's just the bad guys that have changed their R.O.E."

In any given 24 hour period in Baghdad, the significant event's board is filled with incidents of soldiers having RPGs fired at their vehicles, sniper shots taken at guard positions or at anyone of Iraqi origin seen helping the soldiers. An explosive booby-trap under a highway overpass forced a lock-down on the main route to the Baghdad Airport recently as well.

Anyone who says that combat is over in Iraq is sadly mistaken. To a certain extent, it seems like the ground war was the easy part.

The hard part is getting the Iraqi people to stop killing each other, form a government that represents all the people and rebuild their country and expand its potential. When that's done, maybe then everyone can go home.

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