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<b>Weather Forecast</b>	Today	High:82 Low:64
	Saturday	High:87 Low:68
	Sunday	High:91 Low:68

# Fort Riley Post



**Tumbling into summer**  
A summer tumbling camp began Monday at the Fort Riley Teen Center. Students learned tumbling procedures and how their muscles work.

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## FRIDAY

June 20, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 24



Soldiers get ready to sling load a Humvee onto a helicopter at Marshall Army Air Field on the final day class.

## Students practice sling loading skills

By Jamie Bender  
Staff writer

Almost 30 soldiers graduated from a Sling Load Inspector Course held last week at Fort Riley.

The class taught soldiers how to sling load common items such as a Humvee, 500-gallon fuel blivet and an A22 container.

Over a four-day period, the soldiers learned not only how to do a sling load, but how to inspect a load.

"There are two phases to the training on the first and second day," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Kudlak, Aerial Delivery and Field Service Department, 262nd Quartermaster Battalion, Fort Lee, Va.

"The beginning of the day is classes, teaching basic equipment and techniques. The second part of the day is hands on rigging of the item."

Kudlak said that before an individual can inspect an item, he has to know how to rig it. "We teach them how to properly rig each of these items and the intricacies of

it all."

Soldiers also learn about different helicopters and their limitations, he said.

Once the soldiers have learned how to sling load, they learn how to inspect.

"We teach them the nuances of inspecting," said Kudlak. "The methods that we teach to rig coincide with the inspection procedure."

The rigging procedures are emphasized so that any deficiencies that may occur will stand out, he explained.

Practical exercises for the students occurred Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. During the exercises, soldiers were given five minutes to inspect a sling load.

"For actual testing procedure, they get six minutes," said Kudlak. "It's a confidence boost when they find out they have an extra minute. Particularly with the Humvee and the A22 container — they are time-consuming pieces of

See Sling Load Page 2

## Fort Riley recalls Army's history at 228th birthday celebration

By Jamie Bender  
Staff writer

A ceremony was held last Friday to celebrate the Army's 228th birthday at Cavalry Parade Field.

The ceremony began with the firing of Old Thunder by the oldest continuously serving unit in the United States Army, Battery D, 5th Field Artillery, also known as Hamilton's Own. Old Thunder is a replica of a 1764 model Revolutionary War Era cannon.

As soldiers dressed in period uniforms representing different eras of Army service marched to Old Trooper Monument, the Army's history was read.

In June of 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the formation of the Army to support the efforts of a fledgling republic in her cause to light the torch of freedom.

The Revolutionary War had already begun on Lexington

Green and would end with the treaty of Paris in 1783. The battle at Yorktown, whose outcome would decide the nation's future, became the cornerstone of the country's heritage of freedom and served as a bridge between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

In 1812, the young nation was once again at war with Great Britain. Victories under Gen. Winfield Scott at Chippewa and under Gen. Andrew Jackson behind the cotton bales at New Orleans, proved that America's Army could protect the nation from foreign powers.

Later in the Mexican War, exotic names such as Cerro Gordo, Vera Cruz and Chapultepec were added to the heritage of the American Army.

In April of 1861, the republic split into separate warring nations, pitting brother against brother and state against state. In

1865, the solidarity of the union was restored and the nation took new strength from the memory of

those who died. From 1784 to 1889, the country fought more than one thousand



Col. Thomas G. Luebker, assistant division commander for support, along with Dean Campbell, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, cuts a cake for the Army birthday.

battles and engagements against Native American tribes. The efforts of units such as the Third United States Infantry, Custer's Seventh Cavalry and the Buffalo soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry left an unforgettable image in Army heritage.

In 1917, the doughboys went to Europe to fight the war to end all wars. In the trenches and across no-man's land, the American soldier fought bravely and didn't come back until it was "over, over there."

On Dec. 7, 1941, the United States was once again plunged into global war. In May 1945, the allied effort put an end to the Third Reich and in August of the same year, set the rising sun.

In Korea, the American soldier fought with exceptional skill and courage under the most difficult of conditions. Soldiers held at Pusan, swept across the frozen Han, outflanked the reds at

Inchon and marched to the Yalu.

For a generation, American soldiers fought in Vietnam. From rice paddies to triple canopy jungles, from firebases and air mobile operations, American soldiers fought to defeat against Communist aggression.

In October 1983, the Army once again answered freedom's call as American soldiers made a daring assault on the island of Grenada preventing further communist expansion.

A few years later, the Army sent a Panamanian dictator to prison.

In 1991, the United States Army deployed to the sands of Southwest Asia, stormed across the desert and freed the Kuwaiti people from the invading forces of the Iraqi Army. Recently, the Army helped to defeat and remove brutal regimes in

See Birthday Page 2

## Brigade working hard in Baghdad

By John S. Wollaston  
Staff Writer

It's 11:30 p.m. and soldiers are walking a neighborhood in Central Baghdad. It's a routine street patrol conducted by soldiers you wouldn't usually expect to find walking a beat, Combat Engineers. Every night Company C, 70th Engineer Battalion, patrol a section of Baghdad to ensure the looters and other people with bad intentions stay away.

Across the street from the soldiers is a horse racing track once owned by Saddam Hussein. The night's patrol is quiet, as are most in the neighborhood. Most of the people living there are former employees of Saddam Hussein. So, the houses are a little nicer and the walls keeping the bad guys out a little stouter than you'd find in other parts of the city.

A staff sergeant on patrol said that the job is not that unusual, but it's not anything they teach you at ATC either.

Later in the evening, the soldiers from Charlie Company do another very un-engineer like task, set up and run a traffic control point. Curfew in Baghdad is

from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., seven days a week. If you're an Iraqi out past curfew, you'd better have a pretty good excuse or you're going to jail. Only a handful of cars pass by. Most drivers are turned back and told to go home or risk going to jail. One car that gets stopped has an entire family inside. Their excuse for being out so late? The daughter had just given birth and they were taking the new mom, dad and baby to the hospital. They were allowed to pass without any further questions.

Some of the units assigned to 3rd Brigade have been moving the location of their base to more secure areas. The 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment moved locations last week and they weren't even completely out of the compound before the looters were stealing the sheet metal off the roofs of the buildings.

The Military Police and the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop have tried to stop the looting, but it has made little difference. There are just too many people. Now people are beginning to burn things too, including missile fuel, so there is a very real safety hazard to any soldier sent

to try and stop the looting until the fuel burns itself out.

Weapons of all shapes and sizes are everywhere you turn in Baghdad. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal units and engineers are blowing up the unexploded ordnance as fast as they can, but just running the blade of a dozer across the ground to pile dirt on a pile of ordnance before it's destroyed reveals yet more UXO.

There's no real way you can describe the sound of 200 pounds of plastic explosives going "boom." Suffice to say it's pretty impressive.

Recently there was a change of command at the Baghdad Airport. The location was what's been described as a "summer palace" for Saddam. One of seemingly hundreds he and his sons had all across not only Baghdad but Iraq as well.

The reason for his move in Iraq is clear to some.

One day, as the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment Command Sergeant Major watched some children playing, he said, "When it comes down to it, in the long run, the ones who will benefit the most from what we've done here in Iraq are those little kids right there."

## Soldiers train for Noble Eagle

By Jamie Bender  
Staff writer

Over 400 National Guard soldiers were trained for Operation Noble Eagle at Camp Funston over a four-day period last week.

The soldiers of 110th Engineer Battalion, Missouri National Guard and 127th Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard will be providing gate security for Army posts as part of the rise in security due to the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The training was provided by 1st Battalion, 383rd Regiment (Training Support), a Reserve unit from De Moines, Ohio.

Soldiers trained on several different tasks including personnel search, vehicle search, establishing a checkpoint, securing a facility, responding to a bomb threat and reacting to a suspected explosive device. Soldiers were also trained on conducting a mounted security patrol, reacting to attempted forced entry and reacting to chemical alert and treating and evaluating casualties.

Training took place in eight different stations. "The four days they were here, they rotated through eight different stations," said Maj. Thomas Dollans, officer in charge, 1st Bn., 383rd Reg. "They rotated every four hours. They did either an individual task or a collective task. Some of the collective tasks were either at squad level or platoon level."

The training was challenging for the soldiers in more than just the tasks set for them to do.

"For some of them, it's that they don't usually get

the training in a realistic environment," said Dollans. "They are used to doing it in a classroom or in a common task training type level. When it's all thrown at them at once and they have to do multiple CTT tasks on different individuals at the same time,

**"We had full support from the military police team from 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment. Without them, we wouldn't have made it."**

—Sgt. 1st Class Scott Heckart  
1st Battalion, 383rd Regiment

it's more difficult for them to manage, especially when someone is in charge and they have to direct and supervise the different tasks all at once."

"It's a whole different thought process," added Sgt. 1st Class Scott Heckart, 1st Bn., 383rd Reg. "As opposed to doing stand-alone training, they have to do more interaction and direct their own crews."

The training involved a variety of situations for the soldiers, said Dollans.

"They had to switch gears between being in a totally tactical type situation to one where you had to be interacting with civilians on the battlefield, where there really is no right or wrong answers. It just depends on the way you react to it."

The soldiers were also given techniques to deal with situations they may encounter on their mission.

"You can't go in acting aggressively, like it's a combat mission — you have to go in with the idea that you're not going to escalate the situation," said Dollans. "You're going to find out the information, calmly process everything and not get people into a defensive posture. It's difficult if your not used to doing that sort of thing."

"(The soldiers will) also have to deal with irate people. They are going to have situations at the gate where people forget their ID cards or, for whatever

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# 'Full battle rattle' saving soldiers' lives in Iraq, Afghanistan

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press

Any TV news report from Iraq or Afghanistan shows American servicemen wearing "full battle rattle."

Wearing the battle rattle has saved lives in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

One famous case was that of Army Spc. Jason Ashline. The young specialist was part of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division. His unit was part of Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan in November 2001.

His squad leader Sgt. Raul Lopez picks up the story: "We were taking a lot of small arms and indirect fire," he said. "The unit moved to get to a more protected area."

"As we were pulling away, ... we started taking it real heavy," Lopez continued. "In that period of three to four minutes, I started to roll down the hill. My guys were right behind me. Ashline ended up taking a round directly over his head in his body armor."

"As soon as he was hit, I was in shock," Lopez said. "I couldn't believe I saw it happen a foot and a half in front of me."

The impact knocked Ashline back, and Lopez grabbed him by the back of his body armor to drag him down the hill. "As I was dragging him down the hill, he was saying 'I think I'm all right,'" Lopez recalled. "I got him out of the direct line of fire and ripped his vest open to look for blood. To my surprise, I couldn't find an entry wound."

The interceptor body armor

system had stopped a 7.62 mm round. The round had passed through three layers of Kevlar and mushroomed inside the ceramic plate. But Ashline was alive and after another sergeant - Ryan Brown - retrieved the specialist's weapon, he was back in the fight.

Army officials said that from Afghanistan there are about 25 soldiers who are walking around alive today because their body armor stopped rounds. DoD officials said there are no firm statistics on the situation from Iraq, but that anecdotal evidence suggests the body armor has saved lives there.

"Everything we're getting from Iraq and Afghanistan is overwhelmingly positive," said Dan Power, a spokesman for DHB Industries Inc., the parent company of the maker of the system.

What service members call battle rattle is a two-part system, said David Nelson, the deputy product manager for clothing and individual equipment at Program Executive Office - Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va. "One component is the soft vest that covers the torso and the shoulders and the back," he said during a phone interview.

"It's made of soft material, a mixture of Kevlar and Twaron." These are sewn together in sort of a sandwich fashion inside a nylon camouflage-pattern shell. The nylon vest has attaching points for load-bearing equipment. On the back of the vest is the grab handle that Lopez found so helpful in dragging Ashline.

The second component of the system is ceramic plates that fit in pockets in the front and back of the vest. These plates protect the

heart and lungs. The vest itself will stop bullets from hand guns and fragmentation from indirect munitions such as mortars and hand grenades, said Norm Fanning, Nelson's coworker. The plates added to the mixture will protect against rifle and machine gun rounds.

The total weight of the system is 16 pounds. Fanning said the Army is always looking to modernize the

system and make it more effective. "We're looking at ways to lighten vest even more," he said. The office is testing new ballistic fibers to see if they can't save some weight. They are also looking at alternative materials for the ceramic plates so they are less susceptible to damage if dropped.

The current price for the vests is \$385 a copy. The plates run approximately \$500 per plate.

## Birthday continued from page 1

Afghanistan and Iraq, set millions of people free for the first time in their lives and established a beach head for democracy in the Middle East.

Currently, the nation and the United States Army are engaged in a global war on terrorism.

After the National Anthem was played, Col. Thomas Luebker, assistant division commander (support), 24th Infantry Division

(Mechanized) addressed the crowd.

"God Bless the United States Army," he said.

Luebker said, "The Army is a whole lot more than only soldiers and equipment."

"The Army is a nation. The Army is a people that together keep this nation free. The people of America keep this nation free," he said.

After Luebker's remarks, a cake was carried out the field by Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members, Staff Sgt. Andrew Johnson, 331st Signal Company, and Staff Sgt. Roland Cuellar, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

Fort Riley Soldier of the Year Cpl. Michael Huddleston, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field

Artillery, presented a saber to Dean Campbell, a civilian assistant to the secretary of the Army, and Luebker, in order to cut the cake.

"I think that Fort Riley exudes what the Army is all about," said Campbell after the ceremony.

"We have been fortunate to have great leaders, great soldiers and great support in the civilian community," he stated.

## Sling Load continued from page 1

equipment to inspect because they have a lot of small components that need to be looked at."

At the completion of the course, the soldiers are certified sling load inspectors.

"They will be responsible for teaching the soldiers in their unit how to safely and properly sling load," said Kudlak. "They will be the certifying officials, in conjunction with the aviation unit."

On the last day of the class, the soldiers conducted actual sling loading at Marshall Army Air Field. One soldier used hand and arm signals to communicate with the helicopter while another soldier attached the Humvee to it. The helicopter then lifted the Humvee and carried it a short way before returning for the next team of soldiers to complete another sling load.

The soldiers faced several different challenges during the class. "The most challenging was load inspections," said Sgt.

Stephen Miller, 331st Signal Company, line of site radio operator. "There were so many gags to go in and find."

The time limit for the practical exercises was challenging for Spc. Silfida Gomez, track mechanic, 101st Forward Support Battalion.

"It was difficult to inspect a load in five minutes," she said, "because working and managing your time, you realize that it goes by really fast."

"The most challenging part was actually hooking up the helicopter, because you actually have to be outside working with the equipment and the hand and arm signals to guide the helicopter," said Sgt. Miguel Martinez, telecommunications multi-channel operator/maintainer, 331st Sig. Co. "You have the real pressure of actually going through it."

Many of the soldiers said they felt the class was the best they had taken.

"It was very professional and the instructors are second to none," said Miller.

"These guys have so much knowledge, and for only a one week course, I don't think you could take a better course," he stated.

"The whole course is a lot of

fun," said Gomez. "It's very hands on, and it's one of the best courses Fort Riley has. Seeing the whole course come together on the last day was a lot of fun. The course as a whole has a lot of information to cram together, but once it does come together it all makes sense."



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Post/Vanover

Fort Riley honored former president Dwight D. Eisenhower June 14, at the Eisenhower Center Wreath Laying Ceremony, commemorating the Army's 228th birthday. Brig. Gen. Walter Zink, (right) assistant division commander, 75th Infantry Division (Training Support), laid the wreath on Eisenhower's grave located at the Place of Meditation in Abilene, with the assistance of Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Soto, command sergeant major, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division.

### Soldiers retiring must chose pay plan

Soldiers with DEIMS dates after Aug. 1, 1986, who are eligible under current service regulations to serve continuously to 20 years, must choose between the High-3 and the CSB/REDUX retired pay plans between their 14 and a half and 15th year of active duty, although retirement won't occur until the soldier has completed 20 years of service. The 14 and a half to 15 years of active duty is calculated from the soldier's basic active service date (BASD) Not the DEIMS date. Members who elect CSB/REDUX are entitled to a \$30,000 career status bonus (CSB) payable at their 15th year of active duty. The CSB may be paid in a lump sum or a series of up to five annual payments. In no case will an election become effective before a member's 15th year of active duty. CSB/REDUX retired pay will always lag behind High-3 retired pay, so wise investment of the CSB by members who elect CSB/REDUX is necessary to lessen or possibly eliminate that gap. All servicemembers who are between their 14 and a half and 15th year of active duty should contact the Retirement Services Office for an appointment to choose between retired pay plans. The Retirement Services Office is located in building 210, 239-3320 or 239-3667. For more information concerning CSB/REDUX, go to www.odcsper.army.mil/Retirement

### Noble Eagle continued from page 1

reason, they are being denied access, or they are want to search a vehicle and they don't have time. They are going to have to work through those issues and how they are going to deal with those individuals." The training held some chal-

lenges for the trainers as well. "These are MP related tasks that we aren't used to doing," said Dollans. "We had to really dig into the force protection handbook and develop specific guidance for some of these missions." "There is no strict Army doc-

trine that you can pull off the shelf and use. You have to develop it to fit the situation," added Heckart. "We had full support from the military police team from 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment. "Without them we wouldn't have made it."

## Talk Around Town

### "Do you exercise other than at PT?"



"Yes, I train for summer races -- 10k to 10 miles."



"I do push ups, sit-ups, flutter kicks and lift weights. I leave the running for PT."



"Besides PT, I also lift weights."

Capt. Janine T. Taylor  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,  
24th Infantry Division

Pvt. Daniel J. Honadle  
331st Signal Company

Cadet Matt McQuary  
Company C,  
1st Engineer Battalion

### Units can schedule training on 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 trial. Medical scenarios for certain combat trauma injuries are available. The Human Patient Simulator presents an opportunity for practicing the lessons learned in classes for Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics or classes for treatment of battlefield injuries. To reserve a time, call Staff Sgt. Kevin Lockett, NCOIC for the Health Specialist (91W) Transition Program, 239-2111.

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anthony smith



# Briefs

## Organizational Day

Irwin Army Community Hospital will hold an Organization Day today. Primary Care Clinic 1 will be open 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for Same Day Acute Appointments. This appointment type (Acute) is for patients who develop a sudden illness within 24-48 hours. To make an appointment, call the local TriCare Service Center, 784-1200, or call toll free 1-888-874-9378.

## Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan is having an open season until June 30. The TSP contribution limit for FERS employees for 2003 is 13 percent. The TSP contribution limit for CSRS employees for 2003 is 7 percent. The loan interest rate for new loans is 3.87 percent. You must enroll online for TSP, no hard copies will be accepted. Go to [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil) or call 1-877-276-9833. For more information on TSP, go to [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

## Childcare Openings

The Fort Riley Child Development Center building 6950, Warren Road, currently has openings for the full-day pre-school for children 3-5 years of age. The hours available are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is based on total family income. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services before they can be enrolled in the CDC. Contact CY'S Central Registration, 239-9478 or 239-4847, for information and an appointment.

## Holiday Range Closure

Military training is not scheduled to be conducted at Fort Riley July 3 - 7 in observance of the Independence Day holiday and weekend. Range Control Headquarters and all range support facilities will be closed from 12:01 a.m. July 3 thru 12:01 a.m. July 7.

If guards are required at the Ammunition Holding Area during this closure period due to unit requirement or safe haven, the Fort Riley Operations Center will notify the G3 Sergeant of the Guard, who will report for duty. The Range Control Communications Section will resume normal operations at 12:01 a.m. July 7, at

which time communications with radio stations normally monitoring Range Control frequencies will be re-established. For more information, call Lee Breidenstein, Range Control Headquarters, 239-4516.

## Outdoor Service

The Fort Riley Contemporary Protestant service will have an outdoor service and picnic at Moon Lake's North Pavilion on June 29, 11 a.m. The public is invited.

## Softball Scorekeepers Needed

The Fort Riley Sports Office is looking for a few more individuals who would like to become scorekeepers for slow pitch softball games. The games are in the evenings and on weekends. It can be a good source of extra income during the summer months. Anyone that might be interested should contact Barry Sunstrom, 239-3945.

## Battle of the Bands

Battle of the Bands 2003 will be held July 11, 9 p.m., at Rally Point.

Battle of the Bands is a competition between six local bands. They will be judged in several categories, such as originality, crowd response and musicianship. Bands must perform live for approximately 30 minutes each. Prizes will be awarded. Audition tapes are being accepted now through today to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, building 253. Bands must have a minimum of three members.

Tickets will be available in advance at Information, Ticketing and Registration for \$5. They will also be sold at the door. For more information, call 239-8147.

## Free Concert

Rally Point will host a free concert June 27, 9 p.m. The first 400 people will get in free to see country singer, Anthony Smith, perform live.

Anthony Smith is a new artist, whose first hit, "If That Ain't Country," is rising on the charts. He is performing at Manhattan's Country Stampede the same weekend.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and food and beverage will be available for purchase.

## 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.

The fast-paced, family-friendly musical medley features soldiers performing a variety of music styles ranging from current pop hits to patriotic, country to rhythm and blues, contemporary Latin to nostalgic rock and roll and pays special tribute to Irving Berlin, the "founding father" of today's Army Entertainment program.

Tickets to the event are free. Advance tickets for military personnel and their families are available 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

## 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 tomorrow, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, room 30. Free childcare will be provided if you bring your child's shot records. Register by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chap. (Maj.) James Paulson, Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

## 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 p.m. On July 8, youth ages 12-16 will attend and on July 9

children ages 6-11 will attend.

Along with enjoying the Kansas Flint Hills environment, participants will be participating in activities such as archery, swimming, horseback riding and canoeing. Participants need to be enrolled in EFMP. Parents need to provide transportation.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Laura McCauley, Exceptional Family Member Program, 239-9435. Today is the last day to register.

## Adopt-a-Room

Fort Riley organizations are invited to participate in the Women Infant Care Center Adopt-A-Room project. This beautification program is striving to change the appearance of the patient rooms and give them a softer, family oriented look. The rooms are on the third floor in the Women and Infant Care Center. New mothers are encouraged to bring their own pillows, blankets or towels to add to their comfort during their hospital stay.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Room program, call Maj. Susanna Iara at 239-7434.

## Battalion Level Tennis Program

The 2003 Fort Riley Battalion Level Tennis Program will be next week, Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Barry Sunstrom, 239-3945.

## Special Sacraments Class

A Special Sacraments class will start Tuesday for Catholic children who have completed the second grade. The first class will be at Morris Hill Chapel at 9 a.m. Future class dates and times will be established to fit the schedule of the class members. Call Carolyn Juenemann for more information, 239-4815.

## Thrift Shop

Are you getting ready to move? Let the Fort Riley Thrift Shop

help you get ready for the packers. 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

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered July 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at building 319. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

## Enlisted Spouses Club

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses Club is a service organization designed for Enlisted Spouses E1 - E9, active duty, retirees or widows. The club helps support Fort Riley and surrounding communities with donations to worthy causes as well as the donation of

## Barlow Theater

**Tonight:**  
7 p.m.  
X2: X-Men United (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
7 p.m.  
Identity (R)

**Sunday:**  
7 p.m.  
X2: X-Men United (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
7 p.m.  
Identity (R)

Ticket prices:  
Adults - \$3  
Children - \$1.50

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**MILITARY OUTLET**  
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**WILDCAT CREEK SPORTS CENTER**  
2 x 4"  
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same activities

**CITY OF MANHATTAN**  
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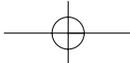
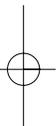
**ACTION TIRE**  
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**WILDCAT CREEK SPORTS CENTER**  
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Black Only  
same activities

**FAITH FURNITURE**  
4 x 6"  
Black Only  
46 pr. di. in faith item



BRIGGS-JEEP NISSAN  
6 x 21.25"  
Black Only  
Briggs





# Letters to the Front

"To my fiancé, Pfc. Bruce Coleman, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.: You're my hero. I love you and miss you every day. I can't wait to see your face again. I am thankful for all of the help and support from the military families, who I know have been through this before. Dezerie Delaney, whose husband is deployed with my fiancé, has been a tremendous encouragement. For all the guys out there that worry everyday how we are doing, just know that we are fine. Do your job, and return home safely, and we will be there waiting for you when you return. Thanks to the Fort Riley Post. We can stay updated on you guys 24 hours per day. We all miss our guys and want them home soon." Michelle Seward, Burlington, N.J.

"To Capt. Michael Durner, 4th Bn., 1st FA: Dear Michael, I miss you lots and hope you are safe. I hope you are taking part in the more meaningful tasks, such as rebuilding the Iraqi schools for the children. The pictures on the website are really neat, and it will be something you can always remember as an amazing accomplishment. Remember our religion and how it states to not harm others but to help others and be compassionate about it. I love you with everything I am and hope you will be home very soon! Be safe." Love, Amanda, military spouse, Manhattan

"Know this: we at home know the loss and hardship that you have endured for the sake of your country. If it were not for the bravery of people like you, the world as we know it would not exist. My prayers go before and after you. Remember that the colors you wear many of us wore before you with pride also. May your way be protected, both away from home and at home. We care about you and pray for your safe return. To the 101st, my son-in-law is with you, and I am proud that he serves his country with pride." Dave

"To Pfc. Kimberly Newman, 300th MP Co.: I just wanted to say 'Hello.' We have been thinking about you a lot lately. You have got us worried. Letters were coming and then they stopped. I hope its because your busy. Did you get our care package? So, how's it going? Hopefully okay. We are doing fine. Eric is home with us now. Now he is looking for a job. Ryan is on his last day of school. Next week starts summer vacation. Your dad and I are just plugging away at work. Otherwise, all is okay here. I haven't heard anything from the rest of the family. Well, I don't know how long these e-mail letters can be, so I will end for now. Take care. You're in our thoughts and prayers." Love, Mom, Sandra Newman, Little Elm, Tex.

"To Sgt. William Stucker: I have received your latest letter. I will be sending out a letter today. I miss you, and we cannot wait to see you again." Shavonda

"Dearest Louis, Logan and I are so eager to welcome you home, and we know that day will come soon. Until then, we want you to know that we love and miss you tremendously." Your wife and son, Tijuana and Logan

"To all of our soldiers, we are so proud of all of our soldiers over in Iraq. You have done a wonderful job. All of you are heroes in our eyes. Keep up the good work, and a special thank you to the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor from Fort Riley. You have made everyone proud. A special hello to our son, Pfc. Kenneth R. Jones. We love you and can't wait to see you." Peg, Alan, Christina, Brian, Colleen, Nancy, Jones and Myslinski

"To Command Sgt. Maj. Skidmore, 2nd Bn., 70th Armo: Hey dad. It's been a while since we last talked - somewhere around three to four months. You don't have to worry about me. I didn't go any

farther than Camp Pendleton. Half of my unit went over and the rest of us are staying here. You should give mom a call. She has been really stressed out lately with both of us being gone. I heard a couple of your guys have been able to call home, and I know it's because you're looking out for them, but you should really take a chance to call mom. I hope you return home soon. I'm looking forward to seeing you when you get home." Lance Cpl. Joshua Skidmore, 1st FSSG Supply Bn., Ammunition Company, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude to all our soldiers in Iraq, most especially my son, Spc. Adrian Castillo, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor. It has been extremely difficult knowing the danger my son and his fellow soldiers have been in and continue to be under; however, it will be the greatest feeling in the world when they finally come home to their loved ones. I hope that all the citizens of the U.S. are as thankful as I am that these young men and women continue to lay their lives on the line for all of us in order that we may continue to enjoy the freedom we have. May God bless them and reward them throughout their lives for their extreme sacrifices." Sincerely, Patricia Castillo, Palmdale, Calif.

"I would like to say a big thanks to all the courageous men and women still serving in Iraq. Even though the war is officially over, these soldiers face a difficult job in helping to rebuild Iraq. I am especially proud of my husband, 1st Lt. Jeff Burchfield, 1-4 ADA, for his unconditional love of our country and his family. Everyone is praying for you!" Lynn Burchfield, military spouse, Washington, Ill.

"I would like to send this message to the troops of the 4th Bn., 1st FA. I would like to tell them that they are heroes, and I am

proud of them and pray for them everyday! My boyfriend, Pvt. Peter Vasquez, is a soldier in this unit. I want to let him know that I love him with all my heart and miss him every second of every day, and can't wait to have him home. I would like to tell him and all the troops from Fort Riley to stay safe, be strong and know that God is watching over them." Sincerely, Karen Balutowski, student, Aurora, Colo.

"To Sgt. Maj. Adrian Poppert: Hey, big brother! I just want you to know that we love you and are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. May God bless you, watch over you and keep you safe. I will be mailing a care package out this week. I love you. Thank you, to all our military men and women." Your sister, Cathy

"Don't forget that your fellow soldiers in the rear, both at Fort Riley and in Europe have your back and are thinking about you. Your safety and mission completion is very important to all of us." Spc. Ida Gastro, 99th TC Det. MCT, Aviano AB, Italy

"I just wanted to say hi to my husband, Pvt. Joseph Duarte, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. I love him and miss him very much. I am so proud of him and his fellow soldiers who are so brave. I'm praying for their safe return. Until then, to my husband, we're one more night closer until we're together." SHIMLY, J.D.I.W.N.Q., Tracey Duarte, Manhattan

"To Staff Sgt. James P. McManigal, 24th Transportation: We miss you very, very much. We just got you back from your year-long duty in Korea, and you were off again. We understand this is the career that you chose, and we are behind you 100 percent. You are a hero to me and to our kids. They will grow up knowing that

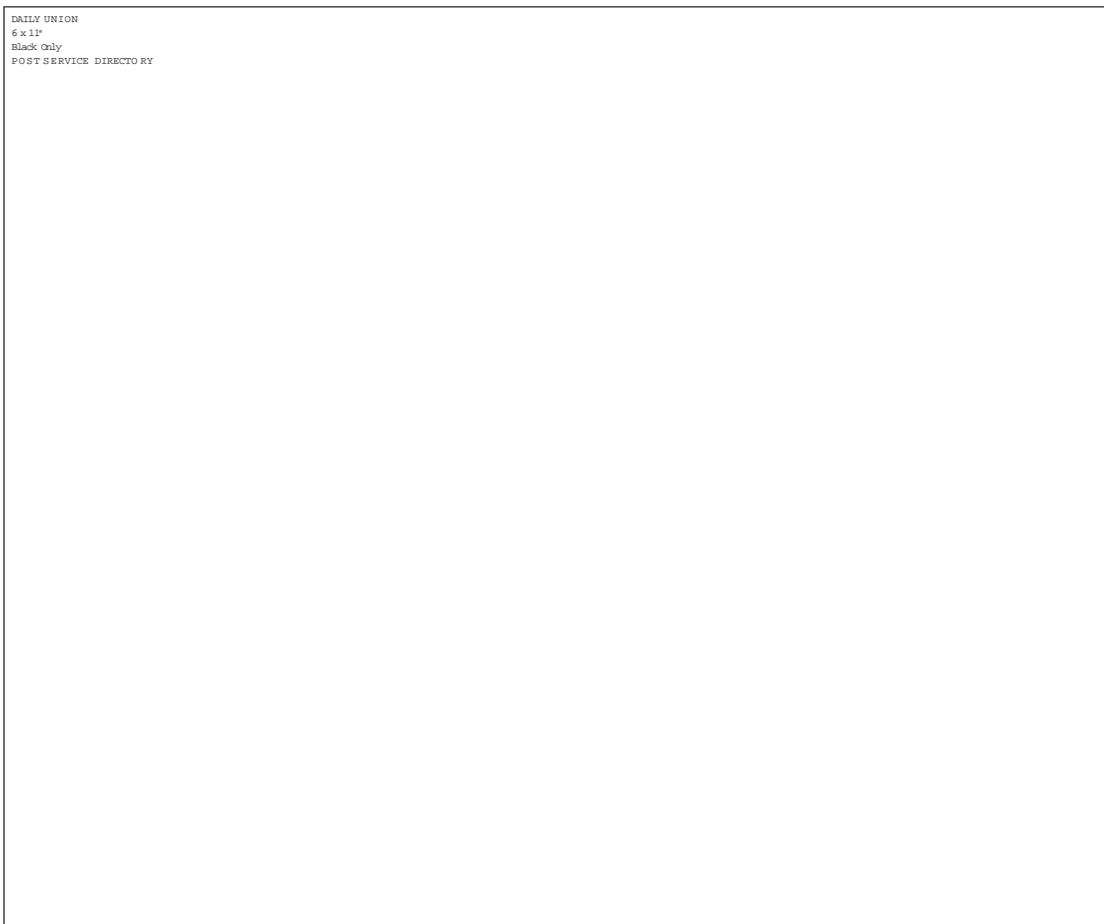
their dad did everything in his power to protect them and to be able to have all the freedoms they so easily take for granted. We miss you and think of you all the time. Be safe, take care of yourself and come home soon. All our love, always!" Mary, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

"To Pfc. Jonathan Searls, 125th FSB: Hi Jon. Hope you're doing okay. Your mom and I are really anxious to hear from you soon, but know that you must be keeping occupied. We know you would call or write if you could. I have been reading articles about your division being in Baghdad. Try to keep your chin up; everyone back here is thinking of you and praying for you. You should hear all the customers who ask about you in the store. No one has forgotten our little deli soldier! I have been sending you letters, too and post-cards from Italy, but I don't know whether you've been receiving them, so I will try this e-mail. I will be leaving for Ames on the 14th, since summer classes start June 16. I hope it passes quickly. I'm going to lunch with Ann tomorrow. She's been work-

ing quite a bit since she came home from college last month. Doug is still at the store, too, and I got to work a couple shifts with him. Steve has your basic training graduation picture in the dining room. We get a lot of comments on how nice you look. Well, call or write if you can. Look out for yourself and don't give up. You'll be home soon. Can't wait to hear from you." Your bud, Beth Johnston, Salix, Iowa

"To Staff Sgt. Howell: We love you and support you. We miss you and can't wait for your return. Home fires burn until your return." Cat

If you would like to send messages of support to our troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, e-mail your message to the Post editor at afzpmr@riley.army.mil. Soldiers, please include your name, rank, unit and hometown. Military spouses and civilians, please include your name, job and hometown. You can also drop off a message at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264, at the front desk.



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# Korea 50 years ago --- Peace talks hit snag, Chinese take ridge

By Jim Caldwell  
Army News Service

South Koreans protested negotiated truce terms 50 years ago this week, as U.S. officials continued to try and appease frustrated parties. Meanwhile, a brief lull in fighting was broken on June 24, as Chinese troops attacked Sniper Ridge.

June 19-25, 1953 - South Korean President Syngman Rhee's attempt to derail truce talks - releasing 25,000 North Korean anti-communist prisoners on June 18 - is met with international disapproval. However, several American politicians agree with the move, adding that the prisoners should have been released much earlier.

On June 19, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles assures U.N. representatives from the 14 allied countries with troops in Korea that Rhee had acted on his own.

However, Communist propaganda asserts that the United

States acted with South Korea to release the prisoners and, on June 20 at Panmunjon, the communist delegation requests an indefinite break in the truce talks. North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung and commander of Chinese forces in Korea Gen Peng The-huai send a letter to U.N. Supreme Commander Gen. Mark Clark demanding that the freed POWs be rounded up immediately. Recapturing the prisoners is framed as a necessary gesture for the U.N. to show "good faith."

At the same time, the Red leaders make no qualification for resuming talks. They want to know if Clark will be able to "control the South Korean government and Army," and what "assurances" he can give "for the implementation of the armistice agreement on the part of South Korea."

On June 20, in response to a letter from Clark on June 18, Rhee writes, "Korea has come to a crossroads." Rhee's letter describes the pending truce as an "imposition of what we so long

have been asking our allies not to ask of us, we have to say no." Rhee adds that, if the U.N. pursues the truce, he can't see how "ROK (Republic of Korea) troops can remain under your command, no matter how regrettable to us."

The next day, U.N. Command officials report the total number of prisoners released as 27,160. At this stage around 1,000 have been recaptured, but officials say catching more escapees will be near-impossible as South Koreans have already taken them in and given them refuge.

Clark flies to Seoul and meets with Rhee June 23-24, getting assurance that ROK soldiers won't be pulled out of the U.N. Command without prior warning.

On June 25, Walter S. Robertson, assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, arrives in Seoul amid demonstrations against truce terms negotiated by the U.N. and the Communists.

Robertson comes to express U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's displeasure with Rhee, and to seek Rhee's support for a truce.

But the ROK president continues to sound defiant, speaking to a Unification Day rally that day. He says the current terms of the truce "won't keep the enemy from sneaking forces into South Korea, leading to "the same disaster suffered by the peoples of Czechoslovakia, Poland and China." The current terms amount to a "death warrant" and must be rejected "whether others understand us or not."

South Korea must have a "show-down with the communists now" to fight for reunification "until every one of us dies... We simply ask to be allowed to decide our fate by our own hands," Rhee said.

June 24-25 --- On June 24 the Chinese end a brief break in fighting, with fresh attacks aimed at ROK units to show how hard it will be for South Korea to fight alone.

The 9th Division is among the first ROK units to come under the Chinese onslaught, in the eastern and central areas of the main line of resistance.

Two company-size forces attack the division's 29th Regiment. Overnight the Chinese throw in more soldiers until the force is about the size of a battalion. Still the ROK soldiers hold firm. The next day, the Chinese break off the attack after having suffered about 700 casualties.

Around Sniper Ridge on June 24, the enemy drives ROK troops from an outpost and holds it against counterattacks. But when the Chinese try to take a neighboring outpost June 25 the South Koreans throw back every

attempt. The ROKs suffer more than 240 casualties, but they say the Chinese lost twice that many.

In the U.S. I Corps, where the Imjin and Yonkkok Rivers meet, is a series of outposts held by the ROK 1st Division. The defenders are ready for an attack as they've seen increased vehicle traffic on the Chinese side as well as a raised intensity of enemy artillery. Nevertheless, the size of the offensive surprises them.

On June 25, behind a heavy artillery barrage, parts of two enemy regiments attack Outposts Bak and Hannah, Hill 179 and five other strongpoints. The South Koreans receive orders from I Corps to hold their positions, and then Corps artillery begins hammering enemy approach routes.

Still the enemy force comes on and gets into trenches and bunkers of the positions. Gradually, ROK troops are beaten back until the enemy owns the ridge crests, the two outposts and Hill 129.

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



# Finance soldiers make sure pay gets to troops in Iraq, Kuwait

By Troy Clay Fort  
Commander, 4th Fin. Bn.



4th Finance Photo

A finance clerk gives money to a soldier deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility.

The 4th Finance Battalion "Iron Eagles" deployed from Fort Carson in early April to the Central Command area of responsibility to do its part in support of Operation "Iraqi Freedom". The battalion deployed a total of 79 soldiers from both Fort Carson and Fort Riley with the mission of providing battlefield finance support to the "Warfighting Commander."

Two months into its deployment, the battalion is fully engaged in finance operations throughout both Kuwait and Iraq.

The battalion currently has eight operating locations, six in Kuwait and two in Iraq. In Kuwait, the battalion conducts finance operations to support the six northern camps. These camps are used as staging bases for deployment into Iraq or for rede-

ployment for those units identified to return home.

The battalion's two operating locations in Iraq are in direct support of Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The battalion has 18 soldiers split between Al Asad Airbase and the city of Ar Ramadi. Both of these locations are in western Iraq.

"Thus far, the battalion has been engaged in a wide variety of finance missions. The biggest missions have been supporting the procurement process through the use of field ordering officers and paying agents, providing casual payments and check cashing support for the troops, accounting for and safeguarding captured or seized currency and providing funds for the Office of the Coalition Provisional Authority. The OPCA was formerly known as the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance. This agency is responsible for setting up the interim Iraqi Government

and the rebuilding efforts in Iraq. To date, the battalion has been involved in the transfer of over \$35 million dollars to Iraq officials in support of OCPA operations.

Although the battalion has a significant number of its personnel deployed, the battalion is still fully dedicated to its finance operations at both Fort Carson and Fort Riley.

To aid in the battalion's rear operations, reserve component

soldiers from the 395th Finance Battalion, 5025th General Support Unit, and the 6025th General Support Unit have combined with the battalion's rear elements to handle operations at these locations. These soldiers, along with the battalion's dedicated civilian force, have made the battalion's overall operations successful in the rear and abroad.

Always true to its motto, the 4th Finance Battalion is "Proud to Pay."

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# Rally Point hosts Battle of Bands

By Kim Levine  
Staff Writer

Battle of the Bands 2003 will be held July 11, 9 p.m., at Rally Point. Battle of the Bands is a competition between six local bands. They will be judged in several categories, such as originality, crowd response and musicianship. Bands must perform live for approximately 30 minutes each. Prizes will be awarded.

Audition tapes are being accepted now through June 20 to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, building 253. Bands must have a minimum of three members.

Tickets will be available in advance at Information, Ticketing and Registration for \$5. They will also be sold at the door. For more information, call 239-8147.

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