Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Softball teams finish 7th week

Week's wrap up of battalion and company games

Page 7

Fort Riley Post

Salute honors nation, Soldiers

Post Soldiers, children take part

Pages 9-11

Friday, July 9, 2004 | America's Warfighting Center | Vol. 47, No. 27

Around The Army

Korea:

The **Pacific Edition of Stars and Stripes** reported July 7 that new scanners will allow faster, automated tracking of packages coming into the country through the military postal system.

Postal clerks are using bar code scanners at Gimpo Airport and at five Army post office locations in South Korea to scan certain types of incoming accountable mail, said Gregory Mackessy, director of the Army's postal operations in South Korea. The scanners, budgeted by the military, also will be used at camps Walker, Humphreys, Yongsan, Red Cloud and Casey.

For more about this story and other military news in the Pacific and European theaters, visit www.estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Rucker:

The **Army Flier** reported June 24 that the first female pilot to fly in the German air force graduated from Fort Rucker's Euro-NATO Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course June 16 in a ceremony at the International Military Student Office conference room.

The German armed services have allowed women in its ranks since the 1970s, but combat positions have only been open to women since 2001.

For more on this story and other news at Fort Rucker, visit www.armyflier.com on the Web.

Fort Knox:

Inside the Turret reported July 8 that the 11th and final class of Fort Knox's Animals In the Military Helping Individuals program graduated June 24 in a ceremony at the Leaders Club.

The AIM-HI program, which trained dogs to assist physically disabled clients, has been discontinued by the Army Medical Command due to a lack of funds, explained Col. Charles Kelsey, the commander of DA's Veterinary Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"The AIM-HI program has been a tremendous success. Over the past six years, over 50 animals have been trained and issued out to different veterans from all services, and to exceptional family members," Kelsey said.

However, with the continuing war in Iraq requiring more support from Medical Command, and with costs increasing in AIM-HI, the money to keep AIM-HI in action simply isn't available, he added.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Eustis:

The Wheel reportedJuly 1 that archaeologists are excavating at Forts Eustis and Story.

Because Fort Story is a Historic District eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, all ground must be archeologically surveyed before any federally funded projects take place.

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

32,000 troops due travel money

DoD authorizes reimbursement for Central Command R&R expenses

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Thousands of troops who participated in the early phases of Central Command's Rest and Recuperation Program in 2003 may soon see some extra money in their wallets.

About 32,000 Soldiers who arrived at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport in Largo, Md., or the Frankfurt Airport, in Germany, on daily military contract flights between Sept. 26 and Dec. 18 now qualify for reimbursement of out-of-pocket travel airline costs to and from their R&R leave addresses.

When the first R&R military contract flight departed Kuwait City Sept. 25, about 250 Soldiers traveled free of charge to Frankfurt or BWI. However, they were responsible to pay for "onward travel" costs to and from their leave addresses.

With the urging of Congress, the Department of Defense approved implementing instructions to cover onward travel costs for R&R Soldiers in early December with an effective date of Dec. 19.

Wording of the implementing instructions did not allow retroactive onward travel reimbursements for Soldiers who traveled on R&R before Dec. 19. A change to those instructions was approved in mid-June to pay back additional travel costs of the early

See Money, Page 2

Rite of passage

Post/Heronemus

Sgt. Kelly Fox waits to walk beneath crossed sabers held by Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Foreman (left) and Master Sgt. David Heidebrink to signify her advancement from enlisted corps to noncommissioned officer corps July 1, during a U.S. Army Medical Department Activity induction ceremony at Barlow Theater.

14 NCOs commit to higher standards

By Jan Clark
IACH

Fourteen Soldiers passed beneath crossed sabers July 1 to ceremoniously join the Army's noncommissioned officer corps.

Twelve U.S. Army Medical Department Activity sergeants shared the time-honored ceremony with two staff sergeants during the semi-annual induction hosted at Barlow Theater by MEDDAC's noncommissioned officers.

The ceremony marks a rite of passage for enlisted Soldiers promoted to sergeant and becoming a member of the Army's "backbone" — the term applied to noncommissioned officers because they provide the strength that maintains the Army's form and the leadership that ensures the Army's day-to-day success.

The two staff sergeants had not participated in an induction ceremony when promoted to sergeant.

"I'm very proud to be a part of a time-honored tradition," said inductee Sgt. Victoria Gettman, who works in Soldier Readiness Processing. "I've been in nine years, so to finally cross the bridge from junior enlisted to noncommissioned officer is ... I can't even think ... it's so ... overwhelming and empowering."

The induction ceremony came a bit postponed for Sgt. Russell Nurse of Preventive Medicine. After the ceremony, he

See Induction, Page 3

Post/Heronemus

Sgt. Louise Moberg signs a copy of the Noncommissioned Officers' Creed.

Officer killed in Iraq

Staff report

Second Lt. Brian D. Smith, 30, of McKinney, Texas, died July 2 in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when he was shot while conducting combat operations.

Smith was a platoon leader for Fort Riley's Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

2nd Lt. Brian Smith

He was commissioned into the Army in June 2003.

Smith had been stationed at Fort Riley since December 2003 and deployed to Iraq in January 2004.

Memorial services are planned for 10 a.m. July 12 at Morris Hill Chapel.

Thirty-eight Fort Riley Soldiers have died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom to 38.

Delays hamper Riley's opening

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Riley's planned opening for July 1 will move to sometime in August, manager Harry Cook said July 1.

Cook said he accepted no early reservations for using the renovated conference center so he wouldn't have to cancel any events should delays in the expected June 14 completion occur.

Contracted workers are finishing some final detail work, project superintendent Bobby Smith said July 2. Rainy weather held up some outside work, he said. Inside work was held up some by back-ordered items that are beginning to come in.

Some minor work remains in the building's basement, Smith said, but he expected to finish all the renovation work by July 9.

The opening also hinges on arrival of furniture ordered for the conference center. Cook said delivery is expected July 28, so an opening this month is unlikely.

Riley's has been closed more than a year for the renovation project that will turn the facility into a hi-tech meeting facility suitable

See Riley's, Page 2

Commanding general visits Devil Brigade

1st BCT/Jasper

Staff Sgt. Cory Kozielski, 1st Platoon, Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, briefs Maj. Gen Dennis Hardy (center), commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, and Col. "Buck" Connor (right), 1st BCT commander, at an observation post in Ramadi, Iraq.

By Joseph D. Jasper
1st BCT

CAMP JUNCTION CITY, Iraq – "Greetings from Fort Riley," remarked Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, June 24 as he addressed the Soldiers of 1st Brigade Combat Team. "I want to let everyone know that your families are patiently waiting for your return."

Hardy flew to Camp Junction City from Tikrit June 24 to visit the Devil Brigade. He arrived in Iraq this week to conduct a pre-deployment site survey for elements of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow Division), scheduled to deploy to Iraq sometime next year.

"I did everything I could to break away from the meetings in Baghdad and Tikrit so I could see my friends from Fort Riley," he said.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq from Fort Riley in September 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It assumed U.S. military responsibilities for the greater Ramadi area from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Hardy later met with the brigade's leadership and presented them with two challenges: "Make sure your Soldiers and Marines understand the importance of what they're doing here," and make sure leaders

See 1st BCT, Page 3

Post news in brief

Units win for recycling

Second Battalion, 289th Regiment (TSB) (FA)Small Unit placed first in recycling efforts for small units during the past fiscal quarter. The unit earned $750.

Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, placed second and earned $500.

Detachment E, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, placed third and earned $250.

Second Battalion, 70th Armor, recycled most among large units on post. Its efforts earned the battalion $1,000.

A second-place tie earned $750 each for 125th Forward Support Battalion, and 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

A third-place tie earned $500 each for 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor; 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery; and the 924th Military Police Battalion.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, was top small unit in random act of recycling competition. The company recycled 184 pounds of plastic to earn the $250 prize.

The same award went to 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, for the large unit recycling the most plastic - 156 pounds.

Team seeks new skydivers

The U.S. Army Parachute Team, "Golden Knights" are accepting applications to attend their annual Assessment and Selection Program in

September. A downloadable version of the application is available on the

Golden Knights' Web site: www.armygoldenknights.com.

To become a Golden Knight, applicants must have a minimum of 150 freefall parachute jumps, a flawless civilian and military record and volunteer to become Airborne qualified.

Applications are being accepted until July 30. Packets can be sent to the U.S. Army Parachute Team, P.O. Box 70126, Fort Bragg, NC 28307.

For more information, call the Golden Knight Administration Office at 396-4800.

Mail classes scheduled

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered July 14 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in building 319. Preenrollment is required. To enroll, call 239-5411.

Prospective unit mail clerks must have at least an Interim secret clearance and have completed 20 days on-the-job training before attending class.

For more information, call 239-5411.

July safety classes set

July's Directorate of Environment and Safley class schedule includes:

Environmental Team Training, July 19-20 beginning at 9 a.m. in room 6, building 407.

Environmental Team training certifies environmental team leaders and members for handling hazardous materials and responding to waste handling spills at the unit level. Leaders and team members must attend this course within 60 days of appointment to their duties.

For more information or to enroll, call 239-0446 or 239-2334.

Environmental Team Training Refresher July 22 beginning at 9 a.m. in room 6, building 407.

Environmental Team Training Refresher is the annual refresher course to Environmental Team Training.

To enroll or for more information, call 239-0446 or 239-2334.

HAZCOM Train the Trainer Course beginning at 9 a.m. July 23 in room 6, building 407.

The HAZCOM (Hazard Communication) Train the Trainer course is designed to train unit instructors on Hazard Communication requirements. These trainers instruct others within their organization on safety precautions and information on chemical health hazards as required by federal law.

To enroll or for more information, call 239-0446 or 239-2334.

Retirement packages due

Any civilian employee considering retirement should submit a retirement application package 90 to 120 days before the intended retirement date, recommend officials in the Army Benefits Center-Civilian.

A timely submission will help ensure a timely first annuity payment from the Office of Personnel Management.

A delay in submitting an application package will affect retirement application processing, often resulting in a delay in the receipt of the first annuity payment.

ABC-C statistics indicate that about 75 percent of the employees who submitted retirement applications one to 15 days before retirement may encounter a delay in annuity receipt.

To learn more about the retirement process, visit the ABC-C Web site at https://www.abc.army.mil.

Heat training offered online

Civilian supervisors wanting to provide their employees about "heat injury" can make use of a Powerpoint presentation on the Web at: http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil.

For more information, call Becky Mabrey R.N., Occupational Health Preventive Medicine Service, Fort Riley, at 239-7042.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

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

Money continued from page 1

R&R Soldiers.

Of the $55 million Congress allotted CENTCOM to use for onward travel, about $14 million has funded commercial airline tickets paid directly to the travel ticketing office for connecting flights or paid directly to R&R Soldiers who provided the proper documentation for their travel costs.

Lt. Col. Bobbie Sanders, deputy chief for G1's R&R Task Force, told reporters in a June 29 Pentagon briefing that officials estimate R&R reimbursements for the missed group of Soldiers will cost $13 million to $19 million.

The Army knows the names of each of the 32,000 Soldiers eligible for the R&R travel reimbursement, Sanders said.

Soldiers eligible for reimbursement should file a claim through their servicing finance office.

Eligible discharged Soldiers should file a claim directly through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, via e-mail at dfas-inr&rleave@dfas.mil or by regular mail to DFAS-IN, Contingency Travel Operations, Department 3900, ATTN: R&R Leave, 8899 East 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249-3900.

Travel claim documentation should include:

— A completed Department of Defense Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher).

— A copy of leave documentation (Department of the Army Form 31 or R&R leave order) containing a fund cite.

— A copy of the airline ticket, ticket receipt or airline travel itinerary that shows the Soldier — not an Army fund cite — paid for the ticket.

Soldiers who no longer have copies of their airline ticket or ticket receipt are encouraged to contact the airlines from which they bought their onward travel connecting flight tickets.

Soldiers who have lost copies and are unable to get other copies of required documentation can submit a lost documentation statement with their travel voucher.

That statement must contain the eligible Soldier's name, social security number, leave dates, the name of the onward travel airline used, final destination airport name and the cost of the ticket.

For more information, visit www.armyg1.army.mil/wellbeing/rrleave/index.htm.

Riley's continued from page 1

for tele-conferences as well as providing services to accommodate social functions, including private weddings.

The completed facility can be used for groups ranging from 20 to 1,000 people. Post organizations will be able to reserve areas within Riley's or the entire facility at little or no cost for official functions.

Some service fees will be charged for organizations using Riley's for unofficial functions.

Two large ballrooms on the main floor will accommodate up to 275 people each. Two smaller ballrooms will accommodate 132 people each. The ballrooms can be combined to allow larger attendance at single events.

Tom Pettegrew, business operations director for the Directorate of Community Activities, emphasized that Riley's will not be an officers' club, restaurant or bar, or clubhouse for private organizations.

People or organizations desiring food and beverage services will be able to use caterers approved by DCA for such events, he said.

Riley's will not compete with off-post convention facilities, Pettegrew said.

Only authorized Department of Defense personnel will be able to reserve facilities within Riley's, he said. In some instances, when off-post convention facilities are booked, authorized personnel may be allowed to reserve Riley's on behalf of their organization, he said.

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Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (left), commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, and Col. "Buck" Connor, commander, 1st BCT, 1st Inf. Div., visit a combat post during Hardy's recent visit to Iraq.

1st BCT/ Jasper

1st BCT

continued from page 1

"understand the challenges that the brigade will face when it gets home," he said.

Devil Brigade Soldiers began preparing Iraqis for sovereignty as soon as they arrived in Iraq. They focused on providing a safe and secure environment for all people living in Iraq. Since that time, they've recruited and trained an Iraqi National Guard brigade consisting of more than 2,500 soldiers and developed the Al Anbar Security College for the Iraqi Police.

The brigade also invested more than $12 million to improve the quality of life for Iraqis by rebuilding schools, medical clinics, fire and police stations, and water distribution systems.

Hardy emphasized that "this is not something we can turn our backs on; we cannot allow this part of the Middle East to collapse." Although 1st BCT transitioned most authority to local leaders in May, it continues to conduct combat operations in support of Iraqi Security Forces.

During his day with the brigade, Hardy conducted a mounted patrol of the brigade's area of operations. He visited Soldiers securing highways in and around Ramadi and Marines attached to the brigade at a combat outpost east of Ramadi.

During the patrol, he had an opportunity to observe Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, secure an area around an improvised explosive device found by Iraqi policemen in western Ramadi.

Soldiers of the brigade are very experienced and careful when handling IEDs. During the incident, the unit worked closely with Iraqi Police to cordon the area to prevent civilians or other coalition forces from entering the danger area. 1st Bn., 5th FA, Soldiers then brought in an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the 1st Marine Division to destroy the IED.

After the patrol, Hardy continued his tour of Camp Junction City and spoke with Soldiers and Marines from each battalion. During his last stop, he accepted an invitation to promote Spc. Corey D. Thompson to sergeant.

After the ceremony, Hardy told the Soldiers assembled for the promotion, "you are the tip of the spearhead for the nation. Not only do you provide stability and security for the people of Iraq, you provide stability and security for the people back home."

Looking toward the brigade's expected redeployment to Fort Riley later this year, Hardy told leaders, "we owe families and Soldiers a rest." He added a caution: "In the old days, we could come home from NTC (National Training Center), go on 30 days of leave and come back with a 'crawl-walk-run' mindset. But your challenge will be to come back with at least a 'walk-run' mindset."

After addressing the brigade leadership, Hardy received special recognition from Col. Buck Connor, 1st BCT commander.

The 24th Inf. Div. played an essential role in preparing and equipping the 1st BCT for combat operations in Iraq. During the presentation of a special wartime unit coin, Connor noted, "When we needed Kevlar blankets for our vehicles, Fort Riley sent them immediately. They bought us shotguns, sniper rifles, more machine guns and mounts, radios and night sights."

Before departing Camp Junction City, Hardy addressed the BCT leadership, "I may not have a chance to come back here again, but I'll definitely be waiting at Marshall Field when you come home."

Inductees

Sgt. Shanita Bailey
Sgt. Scottie Clark
Sgt. Scott Fowle
Sgt. Kelly Fox
Sgt. Bryon Gagnon
Sgt. Victoria Gettman
Sgt. Louise Moberg
Sgt. Russell Nurse
Sgt. Latasha Sherman
Sgt. Kalena Smith-Fulwiley
Sgt. Nicole Wood
Sgt. Nina Yoder

Honorary inductees:

Staff Sgt. Sean Gillespie
Staff Sgt. Maria Malone

Induction

continued from page 1

was seen grinning broadly.

It was "something I wanted to get done," Nurse said. "As soon as I got promoted (to sergeant), I was sent to Iraq; so I didn't get to do the ceremony. I'm just glad that I finally got it."

The induction ceremony was filled with symbolic acts and special presentations geared toward the new MEDDAC NCOs.

After passing beneath the crossed sabers signifying their passage from the enlisted corps, the inductees signed copies of the Noncommissioned Officers' Creed in the presence of MEDDAC Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart as a gesture that they accept the responsibilities that come with being a noncommissioned officer.

Stuart and 541st Maintenance Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann, the ceremony's guest speaker, explained what some of those responsibilities would be.

Stuart emphasized points stated in the NCO Charge and NCO Creed. Mann emphasized those points with his remark: "Saving lives and taking care of Soldiers is what we do."

Sgt. Melissa Hall sang "The National Anthem" and several future NCOs donned uniforms signifying the varied characteristics of NCOs, including Soldier fighting skills and job professionalism.

A video presentation prepared by Sgt. 1st Class DeWayne Smith showed each of the inductees in their daily mission and training within MEDDAC.

Three MEDDAC NCOs performed a candle-lighting ceremony while reciting portions of the NCO Creed.

Spc. Aja Rucker sang "Lean on Me," adapting the lyrics a little with words to fit the occasion and the future demands of being an NCO.

The inductees returned to the stage while all NCOs in the audience stood and joined them in reciting the NCO Creed.

The ceremony

The induction commemorates the rite of passage and is a celebration of the newly promoted Soldier joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps.

The tradition can be traced to the Army of Fredrick the Great.

Traditionally, only newly promoted sergeants are inducted into the NCO Corps. It is assumed that staff sergeants and above made the rite of passage when they were promoted to sergeant.

During the ceremony, inductees walk under crossed sabers when their name is called and a fellow NCO voices his or her sponsorship for the new NCO.

The crossed sabers symbolize the rite of passage to the threshold of the NCO Corps with the Soldier finally crossing the bridge from junior enlisted ranks to the noncommissioned officer corps and accepting higher expectations, more duties and more responsibilities.

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Military Policemen strain for chance to do it all again

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

That blister is killing you; the shooting pain almost sends you to your knees.

You just passed mile 10; five more to go.

Your pack grows heavier, seemingly filled with the entire weight of the hot summer sky beating down on your back.

Sweat rolls down your forehead to sting your eyes, making it harder to keep your head up to see more than the ground one or two steps ahead of you.

Forget the blister. Forget the distance. Forget the weight. Forget the sweat. The end of a grueling and demanding week waits a little farther down the road.

You tell yourself, "Stay motivated. Don't quit. Keep going. Go the distance."

If you make it and score better than your fellow MPs, your reward will be the chance to do it all again Sept. 16-19 – at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. – and win the distinction of being one of the Military Police regiment's elite Soldiers.

Pfc Michael Gibson of the 300th Military Police Company and Sgt. Samuel Brown of the 977th Military Police Company finished first in the E-1 through E-4 and noncommissioned officer categories, respectively. They scored highest of 18 Soldiers who began the week that included the 15-mile road march, a 400-meter run, 9mm pistol and M-4 carbine marksmanship, the Army Physical Fitness Test, an obstacle course, a 100-question common task test and land navigation course.

19th PAD/Hanson

Sgt. Joshua Limanen of the 300th Military Police Company sits in some shade and tends to a few blisters after finishing the 15-mile road march that was part of the Warfighter Challenge.

19th PAD/Hanson

Pfc. Sean Kolar of the 300th Military Police Company finishes the 15-mile road march first June 23, as part of a Warfighter Challenge.

Pfcs. Sean Kolar and Kirk Williams, both of the 300th MP Co., finished second and third, respectively. Sgt. Adam LeCroy of the 342nd Military Police Company finished second among noncommissioned officers competing.

Warfighter Challenge tested physical and mental abilities of 924th Military Police Battalion Soldiers June 17-23, said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Desjardins of the battalion's S3 office. Sixteen MPs began the final test – the road march – June 23. They began the morning by sprinting 400 meters uphill while wearing full combat gear then started the grueling 15-mile march.

Fort Riley's winners now face teams from every battalion in the MP regiment "to see who is the best of the best in the regiment," Desjardins said.

Desjardins said Warfighter Challenge was more than a selection process to find the post's top MPs for the regiment competition.

"It was also a great opportunity for each Soldier to receive some good training that could benefit them in a real-world scenario. We used all the basic events to duplicate a wartime situation," Desjardins said.

"If you take the whole-person concept, some Soldiers are better mentally and some are better physically. This (Warfighter Challenge) takes and averages them all out across the board."

19th PAD/Hanson

Sgt. Samuel Brown of the 977th Military Police Company, finishes the 15-mile road march.

Two Soldiers, two civilians retire

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

After 123 years of combined work, two Soldiers and two civilian employees retired from military and government service June 30 and received honors for their long and outstanding careers.

Both Soldiers received a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony at Ware Parade Field in front of the post's headquarters building.

The medals recognized their outstanding military service.

Retirees' spouses received certificates of appreciation recognizing and thanking them for the contributions and support they gave to their sponsors' careers.

Of the four retirees, at least one plans to stay in the area.

Darca Ridley of Dental Activity, retired after 33 years of service.

She will retire in the area and plans to continue working part-time and to enjoy spending time with her grandchildren.

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Soto of 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS), retired after 28 years of service.

He will retire in Harker Heights, Texas, where he plans to attend school and relax.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Shy of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, retired after 20 years of service.

He will move to the southeastern United States, where he plans to attend technical school and own and operate an automotive shop.

Larry Douthit of the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization retired after 42 years of service.

He plans to travel extensively and visit relatives.

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Publisher-Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore
Printer-John G. Montgomery
Fort Riley Editorial Staff:
Editor-Mike Heronemus
Staff writers-April Blackmon, Jamie Bender
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Circulation 8,800 copies each week
By mail $20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce

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Commentary

Pen Points

Hats off to NCOs who maintain tradition

Mike Heronemus

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

In more than 24 years in the Army, most spent as a noncommissioned officer, I saw and experienced many things. One thing I missed was being inducted into the NCO corps.

If you would have asked me two weeks ago, "Did you really miss anything by not going through the induction ceremony?" I would have answered, "No."

On July 1, I attended the NCO induction ceremony for 14 "noncoms" of the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity at Fort Riley. Today I would answer that question, "Yes, I did miss something important."

I don't know if going through that rite of passage would have made any difference in my performance as an NCO. I don't know if it will make a difference in how those 12 sergeants and two staff sergeants will perform their duties as NCOs.

But, sitting in the audience and watching these new NCOs affirm their commitments to taking care of Soldiers, living up to the high standards of the NCO corps and accepting more responsibility in their Army careers meant something to me as a former NCO. I can only assume it meant something to them, because they will be an integral part of the backbone that keeps the Army standing straight and tall.

Rites of passage are important to those making them. Accomplishments mean less when they are not shared with others or recognized by peers.

That is why Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart and other senior noncommissioned officers of MEDDAC deserve a pat on the back for making sure these new NCOs start their new path of leadership on the right foot.

Well done.

View from Iraq

Mail may be most important S1 mission

By Rick Ledesma
1st Bn., 5th FA, S1

Besides going home, ask any Soldier what they look forward to more than anything else while in Iraq and the overwhelming response is mail. Soldiers love getting mail, especially boxes.

Getting mail means that someone back home is thinking about them; someone back home misses them. It also brings that little taste of America to the Arab world we live in right now. Soldiers can't even get a Coke without Arabic writing on the side. It's also nice to get a bag of Snickers or a bag of Doritos that tastes like good old American Doritos.

All that mail goes through your friendly battalion S1 office. A typical day in the S1 office consists of getting, sorting and distributing all of this wonderful mail for Soldiers, along with taking care of any other personnel actions in the battalion.

Even though my office takes credit for all of the goodness surrounding mail, we promise that it is not our fault for delayed delivery or lost packages. Funny how we can take credit for the happiness involved with mail and not the disappointment.

Some of the hardest working Soldiers in the battalion work in the S1 office. I know we aren't out risking our lives every day like other Soldiers, but we are just as important to the daily function of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. I like to refer to my guys as the unsung heroes of the battalion.

First, there is Sgt. 1st Class Travis Childers, who is responsible for everything that goes on in the office. Then there is Staff Sgt. John Reeder, who takes care of the re-enlistment side of the house. Then there are Spc. Clifton Barton, Spc. DeAndre Tell and Pfc. Eugene Hernandez, without whom this S1 office would be useless.

Soldiers come in and out of our office every day asking for assistance with their pay or with their records, and we are glad to help. Sometimes they just come in to ask, "did we get any mail today?" Barton is always quick to answer, "not yet, but I have to pick it up at 10," or "nope not today." No one likes to hear that there is no mail. Some days everyone loves the S1 office because there is mail. Other days I think we are looked at like we failed the battalion if there is no mail.

I guess you have to learn to take the good with the bad, which is how it is with everything we do in this office.

For example, when Soldiers have pay problems, they bring them straight to us. If we can fix it right away, we are great. If we can't fix it, then we've failed, and no one likes an S1 office that can't fix pay problems; I know I wouldn't.

In Iraq we have proven to be quite beneficial to Soldiers. Because of the lack of computer equipment, Internet access and other shortcomings, we have been able to provide Soldiers with technological assistance. We have scanned documents and e-mailed them to the States. We have turned in promotion points for Soldiers and sent all the letters that Soldier's mail to the States. We make sure that your husband or son is getting paid all the additional hazardous duty pay.

We stay pretty busy out here.

Barton busts his tail every day with the battalion's mail. Hernandez takes care of promotions and the addition or removal of restrictions; again, an area where a Soldier will either love or hate us. Tell takes care of finance problems and leaves and passes.

Reeder helps your husband or son re-enlist for a great tax-free bonus and Childers and I help out wherever we can.

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*

Check Army One Source for Protection Tips

There are steps you can take to reduce your risk of identity theft and protect your personal information.

One of the best ways to guard against identity theft is to review your credit report every year. Three main credit bureaus provide personal credit reports: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. For a small fee, you can order a copy of your credit report. Check it carefully for accounts or inquiries that you did not initiate.

Never leave a purse or wallet in the car. Stealing purses and wallets is one of the most common ways thieves get personal information.

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Hospital dedicates room to amputee

IACH/Clark

Dr. (Maj.) Robert Williamson puts his arm around Spc. Adam Zaremba during a ceremony dedicating a room at Irwin Army Community Hospital in Zaremba's honor.

By Jan Clark
IACH

A positive attitude and willingness to do whatever it took to get better in the face of adversity made Spc. Adam Zaremba "an inspiration to us all," said Victoria Jurgensmeier.

The head nurse of Ward 2B and the Special Care Unit at Irwin Army Community Hospital recalled that about a former patient who will be remembered by everyone who treated him. She spoke during a ceremony June 23 to help dedicate room 4 on the ward in honor of Zaremba.

Zaremba received war injuries in July 2003 and was transferred to IACH, where he underwent numerous operations to save his left leg.

Those attempts were unsuccessful and Zaremba decided doctors should amputate the leg. Doing so would give him 90 percent to 95 percent usage of that leg once a prosthesis device was attached.

Several people connected to his treatment and rehabilitation shared the special moment with Zaremba.

Members of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, who treated Zaremba in Iraq when he was injured, former IACH Commander Col. Julie Martin and Brig. Gen. C. William Fox Jr., commander, Great Plains Regional Medical Command, attended the ceremony.

"This young man is everything you would want in a 20-year-old son. He never complained, never said, 'why me?' He always asked, 'what do I need to do to get better?'" Jurgensmeier recalled.

When the various surgical procedures failed to give him the mobility he desired, Zaremba declared, "I don't want to live this way, I want to get on with my life. Let's take it off," Jurgensmeier said.

Throughout his recovery, Zaremba "never lost his smile and he never quit," Jurgensmeier said. Zaremba was scheduled to return home late in June.

Maj. Robert Williamson, the physician in charge of Zaremba's care, said Zaremba's positive attitude throughout his ordeal was infectious.

"He was and continues to be an inspiration to myself and the hospital staff. His determination and persistence allowed him to rehabilitate about three times faster than normal," Williamson said

Zaremba said IACH was the first hospital he had ever been admitted to. "It was amazing. The whole hospital staff was wonderful."

Zaremba said the injury and amputation hasn't changed his attitude about the way he acts.

However, Zaremba said he believes he has changed. "The change has been in that before I took things for granted. Now I take a second look and enjoy things more.

"In regard to my prosthesis, I never really sit and ponder much on it. If I did, it would bother me, so instead I act like it's normal," Zaremba said. "I just believe that everyone should keep a positive attitude, because the outcome is always great," he said.

Zaremba plans to attend a local community college his first year home then transfer to a four-year university to get a teaching degree and later teach physical education.

Postal service to rush ballots

USPS/DoD

The Department of Defense and the U. S. Postal Service are launching a series of initiatives intended to expedite the delivery of absentee ballots to U. S. military personnel abroad for this year's general election.

Postal employees at the local level will contact each of about 3,000 county election offices throughout the country to coordinate the mailing of absentee ballots. County election officials are accepting voter registrations and requests for absentee ballots.

Once ballots are prepared for mailing, local post offices will facilitate the initial mailings of ballots via overnight Express Mail to the three military gateways (San Francisco, Miami and New York). This will take place 30 to 45 days before Election Day.

After initial ballot mailings, remaining ballots will be expedited on a daily basis from local post offices to military gateways. USPS will determine the number of ballots per location at the gateways, sort by destination and then place in specially marked containers providing visibility to give the highest priority while being transported to their destination.

The Military Postal System will then take over to ensure that ballots are given priority handling at overseas destinations and will make every attempt to deliver as expeditiously as possible. The MPS is a division of DoD and is operated as an extension of the USPS.

The MPS will ensure each completed ballot is given a proper, legible postmark at the time of mailing and will also place balloting materials in easily identifiable containers to ensure they are given priority in transportation back to the USPS gateways. The ballots will then be given priority processing for delivery to county election officials.

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Fort Riley
Sports & Recreation

Friday, July 9, 2004 America's Warfighting Center Page 7

Sports news in brief

Font performs well at meet

Fort Riley students have participated in different track and field events as part of the Manhattan Track Club.

One of the athletes, Natalia Font, is a third-grader at Fort Riley Elementary School. In May she won first place in the long jump with a jump of 11 feet, 5 inches.

More recently she participated in the Missouri Valley Track Meet and placed third with a jump of 11 feet, 8 inches.

Center offers hunter course

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center will offer a hunter education course from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 22 and 23 and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 24, at the center, building 9011 on Rifle Range Road.

The class is limited to the first 30 people who sign up. A deposit of $10 is required to sign up. The deposit will be refunded on the first night of class.

Children 11 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Park to host Carp Derby

Two-person teams will compete July 17-18 at Prairie Dog State Park near Norton, Kan., to see who can catch the most weight in carp during the two days.

Anglers can fish from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 17 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18.

For more information, call (785) 877-2501.

Fort Riley Prairie Run

The July 24 Fort Riley Prairie Run consists of three races: 10 miles, five miles and two miles race. Each race is open to the Fort Riley military community and the general public.

The 10-mile race will be used to select runners for an active duty Army team to represent Fort Riley at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

For rules and qualification information, contact the Sports Office at 239-2172.

The two-mile race is not a fun run. Dogs, strollers, baby joggers, skateboards, roller skates, motorized vehicles, bicycles and headsets are not allowed on the race course.

Runners must pay a $10 entry fee if registering before July 16. A T-shirt will be included in the entry fee. Runners must pay a $12 entry fee if registering after July 19. A T-shirt is not guaranteed for late registrants.

Checks to pay for entry fees should be made out to IMWRF (Installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund).

Runners will start and finish at King Field House, building 202 on Main Post.

Runners may pick up packets and register between 6 and 6:45 a.m. July 24 for all three races. The five- and 10-mile races begin at 7 a.m.. the two-mile race begins at 7:10 a.m.

An awards ceremony is planned for about 9:15 a.m. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each gender and age category for each race. An overall first place award will be given to the top male and female finisher of each race.

For more information, call 239-2172 or 239-2813.

July 4 in Iraq

USMC/Fitzgerald

Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team watch a softball game from their dugout July 4. Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen supporting 1st Marine Division played in the 1st BCT-hosted tournament.

Soldiers celebrate in American fashion

By Paula M. Fitzgerald
1st Marine Division

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq – On the heels of helping to make Iraq a sovereign nation, Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team took time to celebrate America's independence July 4.

The brigade, which supports the 1st Marine Division, hosted a softball tournament and barbecue-style lunch to commemorate Independence Day. The brigade invited Marines, Sailors and Airmen operating from Camp Ramadi to participate.

"We wanted the Soldiers to have a few hours to take their minds off the stressful

See Iraq, Page 8

Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team watch a softball game July 4. To celebrate Independence Day, the brigade hosted a softball tournament and barbecue-style lunch. *USMC/ Fitzgerald*

24th ID remains battalion leader

HHC, 24th ID, team remains top contender

Staff report

Undefeated 24th Infantry Division (Mech) continued their winning streak in battalion level slow-pitch softball June 28.

The team won its first game against 70th Engineer Battalion by forfeit and took the second against the same team, 13-9.

In company level play, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Inf. Div., won all three of its games, defeating 300th Military Police Company 18-14 June 28 and Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, 9-5 and 342nd Military Police Company 20-12 June 30.

The 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), company level team also bagged its three games, beating Det. D, 15th PSB, 19-5 June 28 and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 18-7 and Battery C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, 10-8 June 30.

The 4th Bn., 1st FA, team took both games in its battalion level double header June 28 against 125th Forward Support Battalion, 11-0 and 11-9.

In the 4th Bn., 1st FA's, company level play, Battery A defeated 172nd Chemical Co. 12-1 June 28 and 596th Signal Company 10-8 June 30.

It was later smoked by Company C, 70th Engineer Battalion, 21-1.

Battery B, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defeated the 523rd MPs 9-8 June 28 and defeated Det. D, 15th PSB, 16-4 June 30.

The field artillery battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters

See Softball, Page 8

Employee feels need for speed

Drag racing hobby takes Fort Riley man to 16th place at Heartland track

By Kristen Hamilton
KSU intern

"It's pure acceleration. It feels like being shot out of a cannon. Everything is a blur," said Tom Williams, employee at Fort Riley's Public Works office, describing what it feels like to race his dragster.

"Drag racing is the only kind of racing there is. You go from a standing stop to 140 mph in one-eighth of a mile," Williams said about his 31-year love affair with drag racing.

Williams said he got into drag racing at the age of 16 after discovering his love for cars and speed. "I always liked cars, working on cars and going fast."

Williams said he started out in the lower classes and worked his way up to the super-pro class, in which he competes almost every weekend.

The super-pro class is extremely competitive, Williams said. "I'm happy with where I'm at, but it's very competitive. We usually go to the big money races in places like Manhattan, Topeka, Denver, Memphis, Iowa or Missouri. The national races require five days off work. With the big money races, you can do two or three in one weekend."

Williams said he usually races his silver 2003 Mullis dragster. "It's the newest of my three cars, and it has a $24,000 engine."

He recalled one of his most memorable experiences came in 1992, when he made it to the final round of his first national competition. "Before the race began, I was thinking I couldn't believe I'd made it to the final. I figured even if I lose, I made it to the finals."

Williams said once the race began he knew he'd left the starting line in good time, but thought his hopes of winning ran out of fuel.

"The other guy just barely passed me before the finish line, so I figured I'd lost," Williams said.

"I looked up and saw all the TV cameras and a guy giving me the thumbs up. I figured he was just trying to say 'good job runner-up.' But then the girl handed me the slip at the end of the track and I saw winner marked by my name. It hit me that I'd won! I couldn't believe I'd just won $14,000," Williams said.

Not every big race has ended so well for Williams. "Last September I lost the $1 million race in Memphis by four-thousandths of a second," Williams said.

In spite of that loss, Williams said he is proud of his 14 wins last year. Ten of those wins came at the local Midwest Raceway in Manhattan, he said. "Midwest is a great raceway because it's local, cheap and there are so many classes you can enter — everything from an Impala up to the super pro class."

Williams planned to race at Midwest again on July 10, but said his focus right now is on the races at Heartland Track in Topeka.

He ranks 16th of 184 drivers in the points system at Heartland. "We're competing to qualify for the elapsed time finals."

Drag racing has become a family affair, Williams said.

"Through the years my wife and kids have traveled with me. Now two of my kids work at Midwest Raceway and my wife works in the tower there," he said.

Williams has been working at Fort Riley for almost as long as he's been racing.

"I just got my 20-year pin here at Fort Riley. For 16 years, I worked at the ranges repairing targets and equipment," he said.

For anyone interested in racing, Williams suggests starting out in the lower classes, such as the trophy class, and patiently working up.

"I think there are a lot of people from Fort Riley who would really enjoy racing either as a spectator or participant. I would really encourage them to check out the racetracks in the area," he said.

Tom Williams smokes the wheels of his 2003 Mullis dragster in preparation for the staging segment of a Super-Pro class race at Heartland Park in Topeka in March 2004.

Family photo

Post/Blackmon

First baseman Kerney Day of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, chases Michael Wallace of 125th Forward Support Battalion, June 28 during a battalion level slow-pitch softball game. The 4th Bn., 1st FA, second baseman rushes to cover first base while pitcher Richard Bowyer watches the play unfold.

Softball

continued from page 7

Battery beat its Service Battery 11-9 June 28 and the 523rd MPs 13-7 June 30.

Forfeits by 172nd Chemical Co. and 568th CSE gave wins to Service Btry. June 30.

Battery C lost its three games.

The first two losses came at the hands of Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 15-13 and 172nd Chemical Co., 17-10 June 28.

The third loss came courtesy of the 10th ASOS, 13-8, June 30..

Three other teams reigned victorious in company play June 30.

U.S. Army Medical Department Activity beat 523rd MPs 7-5 and 10th ASOS 5-0.

The 342nd MPs defeated 596th Sig. Co. 11-4 and nudged Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., 13-12.

Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, forfeited to Co. A, 1st Bn., 13th Armor.

Post/Blackmon

Jose Nevarez stretches to make a catch for Btry. B, 4th Bn., 1st FA., June 30.

Post/Blackmon

Jared Bosman of Det. D, 15th PSB, applies a hard tag on HHC, 24th Inf. Div., runner Robert Miller June 30 in company level play.

Iraq

continued from page 7

and difficult work they do here every day," said Col. Arthur W. "Buck" Connor, brigade commander. "They're just having fun playing America's greatest game."

The colonel had the brigade's engineers build the softball field, named Devil Field, several months ago because he wanted to "connect the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen to their fellow Americans back home."

Connor said he realizes being away from loved ones is difficult for servicemembers, especially during holidays.

"This is the kind of stuff people back home are doing for the Fourth of July," Connor explained. "What's more American than playing softball?" he asked.

The tournament began two weeks earlier with the championship game planned for the Fourth of July, said Maj. Thomas V. Traczyk, brigade adjutant.

At the end of the day, the top three teams were presented with plaques.

"These kinds of events help Soldiers to avoid becoming complacent," Traczyk said. "When Soldiers do the same things every day, like manning observation posts or sniper posts, it gets to be routine. They need a break from the mission."

Although Spc. Daniel C. Nelson, a "track" vehicle mechanic, would have rather celebrated the day at his home in Mineral Wells, Texas, he said he "had fun" during the tournament.

"This is something these people are going to remember for the rest of their lives," Connor said. "Twenty years from now, they'll tell stories about playing softball in Iraq on Independence Day."

Freedom Run

Post/Heronemus

Dennis Hardy (left), commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, completes the annual 10K Freedom Run in Junction City in 49 minutes, 49 seconds. It was the first race he'd run since 1995. Frank Kearney (right), assistant division commander for maneuver, crossed the finish line in 48 minutes, 31 seconds. Fort Riley's Eric Corbett and William Boberg finished third and fourth, respectively, in the men's 25-34 age group in times of 42:38 and 43:31. Fort Riley's Jose Aquilar finished second in the men's 35-39 age group with a time of 38:34.

Women's competition

Fort Riley's Kathy Cabrey finished third in the 30-39 age group with a time of 48:47. Fort Riley's Colleen Shanklin finished third in the 40-49 age group with a time of 53:21.

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Fort Riley
Community Life

Friday, July 9, 2004 | America's Warfighting Center | Page 9

Community news briefly

Babysitting class offered

Red Cross will conduct a course for youths ages 11 and older who are interested in babysitting. Youths must be 12 years old to be placed on the babysitter referral list.

Cost for the class is $10 and prior registration is required.

Upcoming classes are scheduled for July 10 and Aug. 7 at building 5800. Call Central Enrollment Registration at 239-9478 to register.

School, sports physicals set

Irwin Army Community Hospital School and Sports Physical Fairs will be July 24 and Aug. 7. Appointments for these two days will be available for scheduling beginning July 1 by contacting the Tricare Service Center appointment line at (784) 784-1200.

About 950 appointments are available during these two days. Limited appointments also are available in the Primary Care Clinics for children requiring physicals before July 24. Parents of children requiring physicals should pick up their school and sports physical forms at the hospital's Patient Assistance Desk on the first floor before fair dates.

No appointment is necessary for children requiring immunizations only. Walk-in hours for the Immunization Clinic are Walk-in hours for the Immunization Clinic are 7:45 to 11:15 a.m. and 1 to 3:45 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 1 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday; and 7:45 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday.

Service needs musicians

The Contemporary Protestant service meeting in Kapaun Chapel needs acoustic and electric guitar players as well as an additional keyboard player.

Services are Sundays at 11 a.m.; rehearsals are Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

Anyone interested should call Chaplain (Maj.) James Paulson at 239-3359.

Latinos offer free classes

The Geary County Latino Organization Inc., offers free English classes at the Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St. The classes are offered through the Community in School Program in Junction City.

Classes begin July 13 and will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Free childcare for children 18 months and older will be provided, if needed.

For registration and more information, call 238-2885. Spanish speaking assistance is available.

Society seeks tour docents

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley needs docents who can volunteer two hours every few months to share the post's history with others.

HASFR docents give group tours of the Custer House and tours of Fort Riley. The training is free and provided by museum curator Bill McKale.

For further information, call Alicia Broadwater at 717-3266.

America on stage

Post/Heronemus

Fort Riley family member Ashley Locklear sings a solo during the Junction City Little Theatre Summer Youth Production, "We the People," at the Geary County Historical Society's annual Gala to kick off the city's Fourth of July weekend celebration. Thirteen Fort Riley children were part of the 52-member cast that earned thunderous applause from about 500 people in the audience when the final note faded to silence.

Fort Riley kids share spotlight in youth production

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fifty-two youngsters, 13 of them children of Fort Riley families, helped Junction City open its annual Sundown Salute celebration of Independence Day July 1, with a history lesson presented in a patriotic musical, "We the People."

The Junction City Little Theatre's Summer Children's Theater group presented the musical during the Geary County Historical Society's annual Gala dinner and program in the Municipal Building using the preamble to the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights to tell America's story in vignettes, song and dance.

The youngsters also presented the show three times on the Junction City Little Theatre stage during the city's weekend-long July Fourth celebration.

The play culminated about three weeks of learning lines, songs and dances and attending rehearsals. Robyn Harmon, the 12-year-old son of Staff Sgt. Ray Harmon, said being in a theater production "would be a good experience" for anyone interested in acting.

Robyn played one of the committee members who come up with the idea for an Independence Day play based on the preamble to the Constitution.

It was her first real stage experience, although she had been rehearsing for a school play last year before having to take emergency leave and missing the performance.

Ashley Locklear, 9-year-old daughter of Ron Locklear, said she liked being in the musical a lot. Her favorite part of the show was the very beginning, "because there was lots of movement on stage," she said.

Ashley said she liked all the singing and dancing in the play and appeared excited about the upcoming opening performance after the final rehearsal July 1. But, she wasn't nervous, Ashley said. "I'm ready to go."

The overall experience apparently convinced Ashley she liked being in the spotlight. "I want to do it again," she said about possibly being in the next Summer Children's Theater show.

Dustin Nangle, 11-year-old son of Capt. Chad Nangle, got lots of laughs from his role in the show. He and Joshua Childs played two old men recalling the hard lives they had lived as children.

"You got to wear shoes?" Dustin responded to Joshua recalling how he wore out four pairs of shoes walking to school. "My brother got to wear shoes. All I got were the boxes," Dustin added in their verbal game of one-upmanship.

Dustin said he liked that part of the show best but didn't like to dance. He and others were taught a western line dance and how to do-si-do with a partner. "Actually, it's fairly easy," Dustin said, even admitting that it was kind of fun after he learned it.

Ashley Thomas, the 11-year-old daughter of Maj. Bobby Thomas II, was the most experienced actor among the four youngsters interviewed. This was her second production with the Summer Children's Theater.

Last summer she performed in "T.H.E. Club," a play centered around a group interested in protecting the environment, she said.

She also performed in a fifth-grade play at Fort Riley Middle School. "I played an Indian."

Ashley said she's definitely interested in continuing to perform on stage. Her favorite actress is Katharine Hepburn.

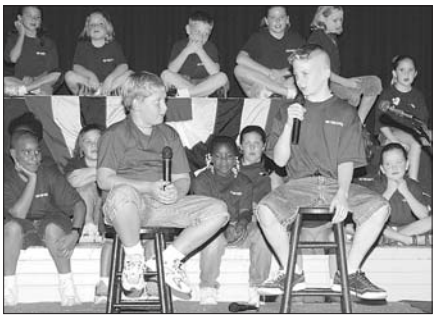
"We the People" became a learning experience for her, Ashley said. She honed her thespian skills by learning how to memorize her lines faster and also learned to line dance.

When the final note of the final song faded, about 500 people at the Gala showed their appreciation with thunderous applause for all the young actors and actresses.

The Cast

*Alissa Brummund
Mercedez Cabrera
*Michelle Cameron
Joshua Childs
Candace Cooper
Allison Day
Olivia Diestelkamp
Matthew Echevarria
Lauren Echevarria
Mezzan El Sayed
Alexa Faulkner
Courtney Goetsch
Daniella Gonzalez
*Kylee Gray
*Kim Harmon
*Robyn Harmon
*Brooke Harmon
Nicholas Heath
Jordon Heath
Maggie Hoffman
*Emily Hottinger
Charles Jarnot
Mimi Khoury
Connor Klamert
Haley Kohlmann
Jennifer Landes
Spencer Laster
*Ashley Locklear
Eric Luce
Kaitlyn Maldonado
Kaellyn Marra
*Sawyer McDaniel
*Kennedy McDaniel
Sarah McMillin-Beckman
Hannah Myers
*Dustin Nangle
Savanna Osborn
Alexa Pappal
Taylor Pender
Payton Pender
Lizzi Petite
*Emma Quintas
Elisa Rombold
Laura Rook
Joy May Spickelmeir
*Chandler Stage
Jill Stewart
Max Stuckey
Sarah Tajchman
Ashley Thomas
Shelby VanCleave
Jione' Williams

*Indicates Fort Riley family member



Post/Heronemus

Dustin Nangle (right) and Joshua Childs play old men and keep the audience in stitches with their tall tales of how hard life was while they were growing.

The play committee (from left) played by Candace Cooper, Robyn Harmon, Spencer Laster, Connor Klamert and Max Stuckey, decide the preamble to the U.S. Constitution would provide the basis for a Fourth of July play, "We the People."

Post/Heronemus

City tips its hat to Army, nation

Fort shares celebration, sends large contingent

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

"Let Freedom Ring" may have been the theme of this year's Sundown Salute parade in Junction City July 3, but the message expressed to many along the parade route was gratitude for what Fort Riley Soldiers and others have done to preserve freedom's ringing throughout the world.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, shared grand marshal status with a Medal of Honor recipient, retired Lt. Col. Charles Hagemeister.

Connie Hall, director of the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau and parade coordinator, expressed pride in having a larger number of Fort Riley Soldiers marching in this year's parade compared to last year.

More photos

See more parade and ceremony photos on page 11.

Besides Hardy and his wife, Diane, post participants included "Hamilton's Own" Colonial Color Guard of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery; 24th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela and his wife; Sgt. Rowan Leehue and Staff Sgt. Gary Moore of Fort Riley's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club; the commander, colors and staff of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, recently returned from Iraq; 3rd BCT battalion commanders, battalion colors and Soldier contingent; the 937th Engineer Group commander, colors and staff, also recently returned from Iraq; the 541st Engineer Battalion commander, colors and Soldier contingent, also recently returned from Iraq; the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), commander, division colors and brigade staff; the commanders and guidons of the 977th Military Police Company, 300th Military Police Company, 19th Public Affairs Detachment and 266th Transportation Company; members of the personnel services and finance detachments on post; and a Fort Riley military ambulance.

The 778th National Guard Company based in Manhattan and

See Fourth, Page 11

Post/Heronemus

The staff and Soldiers representing 3rd Brigade Combat Team lead the troop contingents from Fort Riley taking part in the Sundown Salute Parade in Junction City July 3.

Post/Heronemus

A baby robin perches on a piece of wood in front of the podium at the Kansas Vietnam War Memorial July 3 as Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, gives the keynote speech during the veterans ceremony.

Post/Heronemus

The Blue Line 4-H parade entry was one of several that proclaimed the support and appreciation for Fort Riley Soldiers.

Post/Heronemus

Staff Sgt. Nicholas proctor of the 312th Army Band plays "Taps" during the veterans' ceremony. Molly Anderson (center) sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and Chelsee Henderzahs interpreted the anthem in sign language.

A firing squad from 541st Maintenance Battalion render a 21-gun salute during the veterans' ceremony in Heritage Park after the parade.

Post/Heronemus

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2x3 Arts in the Park July 2004

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1X3,COTTONWOOD * JULY

BOX N SHIP
3 x 3"
Black Only
3X3 BOX N SHIP

Fourth

continued from page 1

the 312th Army Band based in Lawrence also participated.

Several of the more than 200 entries displayed signs expressing their support for the post's Soldiers. One sign listed the names of all Fort Riley Soldiers who have died in Iraq.

A ceremony honoring veterans and the 50 states followed the parade at about 11:30 a.m. in Heritage Park. Hagemeister was introduced and Hardy spoke to a crowd of about 300 people seated and standing in front of and beside the Kansas Vietnam War Memorial listing the names of all Kansans who died in that war.

"Many people think we lost that war," Hardy said. The post's commanding general expressed a differing view in light of the world's current condition.

The United States remains the world's only super power, he pointed out.

Junction City Mayor Mick Wunder thanked the post and its Soldiers for what they have done for the community and the world and urged all citizens at Sundown Salute to say "thank you" to any Soldiers they see in uniform.

Hardy thanked the community for all it has done for the Soldiers of Fort Riley and promised that the Army would continue to protect the nation and its citizens.

The Friends of Animals float displays a theme that several parade entries expressed -- appreciation for the service of Soldiers at Fort Riley and America's military in general.

Post/Heronemus

Post/Heronemus

Mounted members of the Fort Riley Riding Club follow the float they entered in the parade.

Post/Heronemus

Spc. Eric Poe of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, Colonial Color Guard posts the U.S. flag at the beginning of the veterans' ceremony July 3 in Heritage Park. Other members of the color guard are Pfc. Victor Smith (center rear), Pfc. Sun Kim (center front) and Staff Sgt. Robert McCormick.

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHA

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST C H

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 SCREEN MACHINE (TF)

DAILY UNION
6 x 12"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTO RY

Hatch Act limits political participation

By Courtney Hickson
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — As the 2004 election draws closer, Soldiers and Army employees face restrictions on political activities different from those applied to the general public. Violating those restrictions could result in termination of employment or other penalties, officials said.

Federal and state employees fall under the guidelines of the Hatch Act and its amendments. Political restrictions for Soldiers are detailed in Army Regulation 600-20.

"The statutory and regulatory guidance pertaining to the political activities of Soldiers and government employees is difficult to summarize in a short article," said Maj. John Muehlheuser of the General Law Branch, Administrative Law Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General.

Legal restrictions are placed upon Department of Defense personnel because they are public servants.

A long-standing DoD policy prohibits DoD personnel acting in their official capacity to engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue.

Among other restrictions, federal employees may not solicit or receive political contributions or engage in political activity while on duty in a government office, while wearing an official uniform or while driving a government vehicle.

Additionally, many federal and state employees are not permitted to run in a partisan election. According to the Office of the Special Counsel Web site, the process for running for this type of election begins when the candidate begins to collect signatures, schedules fundraisers, files a nominating petition, makes an announcement to the press or puts a campaign committee together.

Under the provisions of AR 600-20, paragraph 5-3, a Soldier on active duty may not participate in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions, including the solicitation of votes or political contributions for a particular candidate or issue.

Muehlheuser said changes in the duty status of National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers change the rules applicable to their political activities.

For example, Soldiers ordered to extended active duty must adhere to additional restrictions on political activities. Muehlheuser said requests for guidance on political activities issues have been more prevalent over the past year or two as a result of mobilizations to help fight the Global War on Terrorism.

"This office will prosecute Hatch Act violations in an even-handed and vigorous fashion," Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch stated in a recent press release. "As we enter the 2004 national election cycle, it is important for federal employees to be well aware of the prohibitions on partisan candidacy, coercion of partisan support and political activity while on the job."

The Army Materiel Command Web site states while on active duty, a Soldier may do the following:

— Register, vote and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues as a private citizen, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces;

— Promote and encourage other Soldiers to exercise their voting franchise so long as it does not constitute an attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election;

— Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform;

— Serve as an election official if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while out of uniform, and has the approval of the installation commander;

— Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot so long as the signing does not obligate the Soldier to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces;

— Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the Soldier's personal views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign or concerted solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan political cause or candidate;

— Make monetary contributions to a political organization, party or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates subject to statutory dollar limitations;

— Display a political sticker on the Soldier's private vehicle.

Government employees with questions regarding the propriety of prospective political activities or concerns about possible violations can contact the Hatch Act Hotline at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, (800) 854-2824 or e-mail: HATCHACT@OSC.GOV or www.osc.gov.

Oregon Soldiers discover it's small world

By Paula M. Fitzgerald
1st Marine Division

CAMP AR RAMADI, Iraq – It took an assignment to Iraq for three 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers from a small Oregon town to meet each other.

Capt. Kyle B. Teamey, Staff Sgt. Mick E. Rose and Spc. Christina D. Scotton had never met before coming to Iraq even though they all hail from Klamath Falls, a 40,000-population town about five hours drive north of Portland.

"Oregon is a relatively unpopulated state, and Klamath Falls is a relatively small place," said Teamey, plans and targeting officer.

He said when fellow Oregonians come across one another a bond forms almost immediately.

"Chances are you both know some of the same people," 28-year-old Teamey added.

Teamey has run into people from Oregon before but never anyone from his hometown. Neither have Rose or Scotton, who were equally as shocked to learn of the coincidence.

"Someone in my office asked me where I was from and I said Klamath Falls," recalled Scotton, an intelligence analyst. "They went and told Capt. Teamey because they knew he was from there, too."

While talking to the captain about home, he told Scotton about another Oregonian.

"I thought it was like a slim to none chance that I would ever run into someone from my hometown, let alone two other people," Scotton, 20, said. "It's weird because we all also work in the same area here."

Scotton and Teamey work inside the same building, and Rose works in the motor pool behind it.

"I see the captain almost every day, and we sometimes talk about Klamath Falls," motor sergeant Rose, 34, said.

"We both used to go fishing at the same fishing hole at the Klamath River Canyon," he said.

Through talking, the Soldiers also discovered each one had graduated from one of the three high schools within Klamath Falls.

"I went to Mazama High School, the captain went to Henley and Sgt. Rose went to Klamath Union," Scotton said.

Scotton said she remembered a bit of a rivalry between Klamath Union and Mazama.

"When I was sophomore, some people from my school wrapped the bells of Klamath Union in Saran Wrap," she said.

Rose also recalled the rivalry.

"The schools shared a football field. Every year we had the Canal Bowl, and whoever won that got to keep the football from the very first Canal Bowl."

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Community news briefly

Special needs rodeo planned

The Junction City Rodeo Association will host the Eighth Annual Special Needs Rodeo July 17 at the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center on Spring Valley Road in Junction City. Cowboys and cowgirls will need to arrive at 5:45 p.m. Children ages 5-12 with special needs are welcome to be rodeo participants.

For more information, call the Exceptional Family Member Program at 239-9435. Please RSVP no later than July 9 if you plan to have a child participate.

BOSS hosts band contest

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will sponsor a Battle of the Bands 2004 at 9 p.m. July 16, at Rally Point.

Battle of the Bands is a competition among local bands open to all genres of music. A $5 cover fee will be charged at the door. First prize will be $600; second prize will be $300; third prize will be $100.

Seven bands of three or more members will compete for prizes.

Crafts center sets classes

July 11 – Scrapbooking Get-Together, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

July 12 – 3D Buildings in Glass, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 12 – Quilting Workshop (Rocky Road to Kansas), 9:30 a.m.

July 12 – Wood Safety, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

July 12 – Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.

July 12-13 – Black & White Photography Orientation, 2 to 4 p.m.

July 14 – Ceramic Painting (Sunflower), 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

July 14, 15, 21, 28, 29 – Stained Glass, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

SFSC activities:

July 9 – Newcomer's Orientation, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

July 14 – PCS-Germany Briefing, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Teen Center:

July 9 – Kansas Cosmosphere trip, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

July 10 – Worlds of Fun trip, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

July 16 – Exploration Place trip, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

At the movies:

Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is $3 for adults, $1.50 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

July 9 – The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13)

July 10 – 2 p.m., Shrek 2 (PG)

July 10 – Raising Helen (PG-13)

July 11 – Shrek 2 (PG)

July 15 – The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13)

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GRANDVIEW AUTOMOTIVE
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Black Only
2X5, GRANDVIEW AUTO

Classifieds
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Black Only

Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisuretime ideas

Junction City:

Geary County Free Fair — Exhibits, entertainment, 4-H displays, auctions, pedal pull, tractor pull, barnyard olympics, fun run, BBQ, pie bake-off, and horseshoes; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 21-24; 1107 S. Spring Valley Road.
For more information, call 238-4161.

Rodeo — Annual pro rodeo; begins at 7:30 p.m. July 16-17; 1107 S. Spring Valley Road, Geary County Fairgrounds.
For more information, call (785) 762-5525.

Manhattan:

Riley County 4-H Fair — 4-H and open class exhibits, parade, livestock, children's tractor pull, carnival, turtle races, and rodeo; opens 6 a.m. July 22, 8 a.m. July 23-25 and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 26; Cico Park/Riley County Fair Grounds. For more information, call 537-6350.

Beloit:

St. John's Festival — Bingo, dance, food, children's games, rides, farmer's market, drawings, and carnival games; 5 p.m. to midnight July 24; 701 E. Court. For more information, call (785) 738-2851.

Salina:

Smoky Hill Contra Dance — Music by Gary Hughes & Friends; caller to be announced; all dances taught; no partner or experience necessary; wear comfortable, casual clothing and soft-soled shoes; bring water to drink; lessons at 7 p.m., dance 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. July 24; 146 S. Santa Fe, Dance Elite Studio.
For more information, call (785) 819-3292 or visit ww.kansasfolk.org/contra/salina.html on the Web.

Minneapolis:

Ottawa County Fair — Large county fair with small town feel; tractor pull, pig scramble, music, food, rock climbing, pedestal joust and entertainment; 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 21-24; S. Mill St., Ottawa County Fairgrounds.
For more information, call (785) 392-2103.

Lawrence:

Sidewalk Sale 2004 — Bargains galore as merchants slash prices on their inventory; 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 15; downtown and throughout the city.
For more information, call (785) 842-3883 or visit www.visitlawrence.com on the Web.

Washington:

County Fair — County 4-H fair featuring exhibits, livestock shows, carnival, parade and much more; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. July 27-31; D Street, fairgrounds. For more information, call (785) 325-2121.

Ottawa:

Franklin County Fair and Rodeo — Pro-rodeo, exhibits, outlaw truck and tractor pull, 4-H displays, and livestock auction; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 15-18; Franklin County Fairgrounds.
For more information, call (785) 242-1411.

Meriden:

Threshing Bee — Old-fashioned threshing bee, arts, crafts, quilts, vintage farm equipment, steam engines, blacksmith shop and working general store in 1870s setting; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 16-18; one mile east on Kansas Highway 4. For more information, (785) 863-3092 or (800) 896-3198.

Cuba:

Harvest Festival — Road rally, horseshoe tournament, sand volleyball, entertainment, food and street dance; 9 a.m. to midnight, July 17; City Park. For more information, call (785) 729-3631.

Blue Rapids:

Marshall County Fair — Parade, 10K run, 4-H and open classes, livestock, demolition derby, Figure-8 race, motocross, kiddie land and carnival; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 16-21
Marshall County Fairgrounds, aka Riverside Park. For more information, call (785) 363-7306 or visit www.skyways.org/towns/BlueRapids on the Web.

Matfield Green:

Covered Wagon Train Adventures — Travel with prairie folks from varied walks of life in original wagons; delicious campfire meals and pioneer activities; 9:30 a.m. July 17 to 1 p.m. July 18 by reservation only. For more information, call (316) 283-2636 or visit www.kscoveredwagon.com on the Web.

El Dorado:

Prairie Port Festival — Ice cream social, queen pageant, celebrity concert, parade, arts/crafts, dance and bingo; hours vary by activity, July 22-25; Downtown, East Park. For more information, call (316) 321-1841 or visit www.prairieportfestival.com on the Web.

Fly like Wright

Exploration Place

A visitor to Exploration Place in Wichita uses an abdominal control pad and hand controls to guide an image of the Wright Brothers' plane to see how far she can fly before landing – or crashing.

Exploration Place takes visitors on discovery journeys

If you go:

Open: *Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday*

Cost (exhibits only): *$3 for children 2-4, $6 for children 5-15, $8 for adults and $7.50 for adults 65 and older*

Theater attractions: *CyberDome showing Secret of the Cardboard Rocket, Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon Cosmic Light Show, Chirpie's Amazing World Adventure and Stars of the Pharaohs; Simulation Center showing Dino Island and The Rattler Roller Coaster Ride; and Kemper Studio showing Ice Island.*

Route: *From Fort Riley, take Interstate 70 west to Interstate 135; take I-135 south to the Kellogg exit; take Kellogg west to McLean Boulevard; go right on McLean Boulevard and look for Exploration Place on the right side of the street.*

For more information: *Call (316) 263-3373 or visit www.exploration.org on the Web.*

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

WICHITA – Three hours fly by faster than a jet airplane for those visiting the flight and design exhibit at Exploration Place in Wichita.

The unique hands-on exhibits will keep adults and children occupied without a thought about how fast time is disappearing.

The flight exhibit is one of several that encourage visitors to explore with their minds, eyes and hands while marveling at what is displayed.

Exhibits in the Flight and Design area let visitors experience the Wright brothers' powered flight while lying on a platform with controls to simulate flying the plane shown on a video screen in front of the pilot.

Crashes occur often and dramatically, but the modern-day flyers live to try their hand at other exhibits, including a flight simulator that takes the pilot and passenger soaring over Wichita; computerized flight controls that let visitors try their hand at taking off, flying and landing – or crashing – a single-engine plane; a computer program that lets the operator design his or her own 200-passenger commercial airplane; plus lots more.

In other exploration exhibits, visitors can wander through a Kansas cave, excavate for fossils and touch a 20-foot tall tornado. They can make dams with their hands in a flowing stream table, talk with meteorologists as they prepare for a television weather forecast and visit a miniature Kansas town complete with children playing, men working, an operating carnival and narrated stories about the state's past and present.

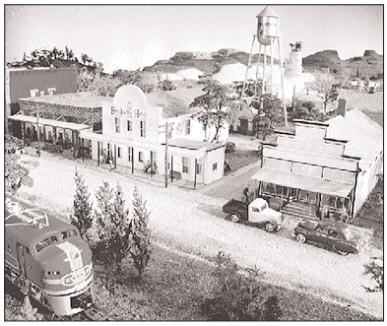
Another exhibit gets visitors close to human life with displays that show and explain how the body works and large models of some of the body's organs.

A long stairwell offers visitors the opportunity to register the effect climbing those stairs has on their heartbeats.

Just for fun, and not just for kids, the Garden of Gizmos will intrigue visitors with each display's antics.

Visitors can make the garden gizmos do all sorts of actions by turning knobs and wheels or doing other things to cause the gizmos to jiggle, jump and sway.

Exploration Place will hold the visitor's attention span for hours and leave them all wanting to come back and see and try all the things they didn't have time to do in one visit.



Exploration Place

A model town shows visitors common Kansas farming town sights, including children on swings hung from trees and men chopping wood and changing a car's tire

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6 x 5"
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