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Weather Forecast	Today High:99 Low:71
Saturday High:101 Low:73	Sunday High:95 Low:69

Fort Riley Post




Bands battle it out
Six bands from local areas competed in the Battle of the Bands 2003 at Rally Point July 11.

FRIDAY

July 18, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 28

Deployed troops welcomed home

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Fort Riley's first combat companies came home Sunday, where they were greeted by family members holding banners, balloons and roses.

It was a moment that Shelly Hampton had been waiting for since her husband deployed in March. She sat anxiously with her family holding a banner that said "WELCOME HOME DAVID." Her plan was to rush to him and give him a big hug and kiss.



A little girl holds up a sign, welcoming the soldiers home July 13.

"It was the most wonderful feeling in the world, to be able to hold him in my arms and kiss him," she said after being reunited with her husband, Pfc. David Hampton, Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

The couple were married 14 days before he deployed, so she said the few months they were apart felt like an eternity.

ny C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor. Both companies were part of the same task force in Iraq. These soldiers led the ground war into Iraq with hopes to establish a stable, peaceful and democratic form of government for the people of Iraq, said Maj. Cameron Kramer, executive officer, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. It was a dangerous mission, but an important one, he said.

"During the ground war, the battalion secured Tallil Airbase, clearing it out to 10 nautical miles and air combat operations. (The battalion) also helped to clear the city of As Samawah, which allowed the 3rd Infantry Division to continue its attack toward Baghdad. After the liberation of As Samawah, the task force successfully opened up Highway 8 to coalition logistic traffic," Kramer said.

It was a difficult deployment.



Pvt. 2 Phillip W. Hedgepeth, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, tracks a target during Javelin gunner's training.

Soldiers receive Javelin skill identifier

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

After three weeks of training, soldiers from 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division received an additional skill identifier as Javelin gunners. A hand-off ceremony held at the completion of their training signified the unit's completion of Javelin fielding. "Javelin is the Army's new medium-range, man-portable, anti-tank weapons system," said Maj. Steve Milton, Javelin fielding officer.

extremely reliable and accurate, precision fire-and-forget capability that can defeat current and future armored threats, said Milton. "Javelin is a significant improvement to the Dragon system," he said. "It has twice the effective range, a decreased firing signature and dual modes of attack," Milton said. "The fielding of the Javelin system provides 1st Brigade with additional capabilities against armor threats, ultimately resulting in greater lethality and improving gunner survivability. "Javelin is not just designed for tanks," Milton explained. "It can defeat armored

personnel carriers; it can defeat thin skin vehicles, and it can defeat enemy helicopters. During training, soldiers shot 10 engagements that were worth 10 points each. The top gunner for the class is Pfc. Michael Fulton who shot for over 900 points. Fulton said the class was one of the best he has attended since he has been at Fort Riley. "I really liked the hands on because you got a little more understanding," he said. "The instructors did a great job explaining the information. They added humor to help hold our attention and remember things."

Military Police company teaches Iraqi women at police academy

By Juliana Gittler
Stars and Stripes

Two women in the group are married to the same man. Two others are pregnant. But in a week, all 27 will be police officers in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya.

The women are the first females to enroll in the coalition forces' new police academy designed to make cops in a hurry out of former Iraqi soldiers and ordinary citizens.

By the end of April, U.S. forces had dissolved the Iraqi police and then started opening academies run by military police to teach a week-long course on the fundamentals of policing.

Army's 977th Military Police Company from Fort Riley, Kan., will have created 1,600 to 2,000-person force to patrol the streets and bring order to the postwar chaos.

"We're teaching it exactly how the military does it," said Sgt. Katherine Weber, from Lander, Wyo. "We made up a code of conduct. They have no laws here."

The Iraqis can amend the training once the government and legal system are restored, she said. But the class is helping to fill an immediate need.

"The first class was all the old Army special forces and their officers," Weber said. Their general told them to show up for the class.

"They're not used to females yelling at them."

—Sgt. Katherine Weber, 977 Military Police Company

defense, search techniques, ethics, crime scene protocol and other basic police skills. The new force wants to clean up the streets as well as improve the pre-war

relationship between community and police.

The former police force was rife with corruption, Weber said. So it took time convincing people the new police were honest. The quality of applicants improved as the community gained confidence in the force "once they found out we wanted to get rid of the corruption," Weber said. "It'll serve its purpose if we don't put bad police officers back on the streets."

The graduates are already on the job in new blue uniforms with armbands and weapons. Most have fared well, Weber said, but there have been cases of corruption. Others passed the course, collected their pay and disappeared.

But many make it and start working in their communities, she said. The best of

the graduates will join a second phase of training that will sharpen skills.

"I'm here to help people," said Iraqi Army Capt. Ali Abd al-Haniza Naem, a student turned academy instructor.

For him, the challenge as instructor is weeding out unqualified or unmotivated students, he said. MPs have had to dismiss as many as half a class for incompetence or other problems.

The students despise certain parts of the training. "Physical training, very hard," Naem said. "But we have a big benefit from it."

The students also took time getting used to having women in charge.

"They're not used to females yelling at them," Weber said, adding that a tough

Commanding General speaks to news media on current affairs

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Several members of the local and international media attended a press conference held by Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, Wednesday.

The purpose of the press conference was to introduce the new commanding general to the surrounding communities and area media.

Hardy began by addressing the freedom enjoyed by Americans. "As the operations the last couple of years during the War on Terrorism have demonstrated, freedom doesn't come without a price," he said. "In fact, you have got to defend that freedom, and you have got to take your defense, possibly to foreign soil. There is a cost in terms of human life. After

227 years of America's history, we are still out there defending. We remain very much engaged around the world today."

Hardy also spoke about the soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "This has been a combined fight, not only with the other services, but from the Army perspective, we have active Army, Army Reserves, and Army National Guard involved," he said.

Hardy mentioned some of the Reserve forces that have returned home, as well as the active duty soldiers who were recently welcomed back to Fort Riley.

"On the 4th of July, we got the 226th Engineer Company back from operations in Iraq in support of the 3rd Infantry Division, which led the attack for Army forces into Baghdad and also supported the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force," he said. "We have some of our active soldiers home

to Fort Riley as well, such as the 1st Maintenance Company and back the first major combat forces the 82nd Medical Company. Just from Fort Riley. The first contin-



Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy answers a question from a news reporter at a press conference held Wednesday on post.

gent from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, about 300 soldiers, returned from Iraq to their families to rejoin the soldiers that have done an important mission for the nation with their families."

Hardy also talked about the soldiers who are still in Iraq.

"Unfortunately, we still have a lot of soldiers deployed," said Hardy. "I say unfortunately, not because they are not doing a great job, they are doing a wonderful job, but because it is a tough situation in Iraq. . . . If you ask soldiers on the street, their first question is when are the soldiers coming back. Truthfully, I don't know the answer to that. . . . We are assuming that we are going to be deployed for quite a while. Quite a while, to me, means at least a year. . . . If the situation continues as it is today, we know we are the nation's Army. We know that we are the only ones who can do what

we're doing, and we accept it. We are professionals."

Hardy also addressed what our soldiers are doing while deployed. "We are accomplishing some good things in Iraq — some things our soldiers are very, very proud of," he said. "Not just the warfight, but in terms of shoring up the Iraqi people. They are restoring freedom to the Iraqis, something they haven't had for 30 years. On a daily basis, progress is being made with regard to setting up the Iraqis to eventually govern themselves so that we can get out of there and bring our soldiers home."

After his opening remarks, Hardy took questions from the media from Junction City, Manhattan, Topeka and Paris, France. The local In Step with Fort Riley program was also on hand.

Hardy said he has had a great

See Press Conference Page 4

Reenlistment or not? Look at all options before deciding

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Reenlist or get out of the Army? That is a question all soldiers will ask themselves when their reenlistment window approaches.

Before a soldier answers that question, he or she should inquire as to what could be offered for reenlisting. The best source for this information is the unit reenlistment noncommissioned officer.

"The soldier should expect the company reenlistment NCO to have the updates on reenlistment incentives that are put out," said Staff Sgt. Les Coleman, company reenlistment NCO, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion. "They should also expect the NCO to provide them with information on the B.E.A.R. program, which is the Bonus, Extension and Retraining program."

The process of reenlistment for soldiers should begin the day they arrive to their unit, regardless of

when their window opens.

"The unit NCO should do an initial assessment of each soldier as he comes into the unit so they will know how to tailor the counseling process for the soldier when the time comes for him to reenlist," Coleman said.

After a soldier receives his initial counseling from the commander and reenlistment NCO, the soldier should have follow-up counseling sessions with the NCO so he can get a better understanding of his options, said Coleman.

"It (counseling) gives the soldier more time to think about the options, rather than if he waited until his window opened," said Coleman.

Depending on how many times a soldier has reenlisted, as well as how many years he has been in the service, will dictate what type of incentives will be offered.

"Soldiers should have an idea of what they are eligible for, which will depend on if they are an initial term soldier, mid-career soldier or career soldier," he said.

"Once soldiers have reached the mid-career and career soldier level, they will have different reenlistment options available to them. The initial term soldier will have, more than likely, all of the reenlistment options available to him. The higher up in rank a soldier is, the harder it is for the soldier to receive options."

Some options for reenlistment may not be available to soldiers if they do not meet the necessary requirements. That is why it is a good idea for the soldier to acquire the information on what the requirements are prior to the window opening, Coleman said.

By having that information earlier, the soldier will give himself more time to achieve those requirements, he said.

"It's very important for soldiers to do the homework, and a lot of that will be taken care of during the counseling process. Through the career counselors, the soldier will be able to know what is out there for them. If they wait until the last minute, it can frustrate the soldier because they may want something the Army isn't able to provide for them," he said.

In addition to reenlistment options, soldiers could receive cash bonuses.

The bonuses are based on how under-strength a Military Occupational Skill is or how critical the MOS is to the Army, said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kelly, command career counselor, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

This will determine what type of bonuses are offered to the soldiers, he said.

When a MOS is under-strength, or considered to be critical, it will be authorized to give the soldiers a cash incentive to stay with that MOS, he said.

Soldiers are not limited to their company level reenlistment NCO for seeking out information.

If a soldier feels he needs more information than what is provided at the company level, he can bring it to the next level, Kelly said.

"They can go right to their Brigade Reenlistment Office, where they can talk to a school-trained career counselor," he said.

"Normally, in the Army we like soldiers to go through their chain-of-command, but when it comes to reenlistment they are always

welcome at the Brigade Reenlistment Office."

Something Kelly said soldiers should be aware of is that even though their window opens up only 12 months before they are scheduled to get out of the military, they can see a career counselor 13 months before their separation date.

Soldiers shouldn't put off reenlisting until the last moment.

"Soldiers have up to 90 days prior to their separation date to reenlist. Once they are within 90 days, chances are they won't be reenlisting. To do so would require an exception to policy," Kelly said. "If they wait too long, they stand a chance of limiting their options. The best thing to do is to take care of the action as early as possible."

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of stories on reenlistment. The second part of the series, Soldier Incentives, will be in next weeks Fort Riley Post, followed by part three, After the Oath, on Aug. 1.

Re-enlistment series



Infantry continued from page 1



but Kramer said he was happy to make a difference for the people of Iraq.

"We spent quite a bit of our time helping to rebuild their communities - trying to get them back toward a normal way of life."

The unit worked with police to establish security. They also worked with doctors in local hospitals to reestablish their services and helped get utilities, such as electricity and water, up and running again.

People were happy to see United States soldiers, because they knew they were there to give them a better way of life, which was a rewarding feeling, Kramer said. It was especially rewarding to see the children rush to the streets to wave at the passing soldiers.

"It made you feel good about your mission," he said.

For their efforts, these soldiers are heroes, according to Sen. Sam Brownback, who spoke at the redeployment ceremony. They are heroes to the American people and to others around the world, he said.

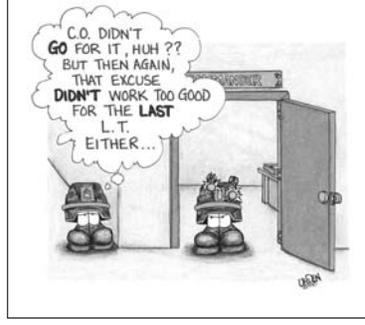
"Throughout the past six months, you've gone into harms way to fight for your country and give the Iraqi people one of the most valuable gifts that one group of people can give to another - the gift of freedom," Brownback said.

For some families, the redeployment of troops means finally being able to turn off their television sets. Even after the major combat had ended, Tamara Wible said she still watched the news every chance she got.

"They say you shouldn't watch TV, but I couldn't help it," she said.

"I just had to know what was going on during the war. Now I know that my husband is home safe, and I do not have to worry about him," Wible stated after the ceremony.

Grunt By Wayne Uhdén



Glenda Hampton hugs her son, Pfc. David Hampton at his unit's redeployment ceremony July 13, Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry and Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor were the first combat units to return to Fort Riley.

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News from the Front

Armor battalion soldiers save family

What started as a sweep through a Baghdad neighborhood for improvised explosive devices like those that have wounded U.S. soldiers during the last few weeks, turned into a rescue mission for 3rd Brigade's reconnaissance troop.

During the mission, two rocket propelled grenades slammed into a store and a hand grenade was tossed into a house two blocks from the store. Both structures were set ablaze by the grenades.

The explosions occurred moments after the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor discovered IEDs near the store, placed approximately 75 meters apart.

The unknown attackers original plan had been to lure the sol-



News from 3rd BCT:
Spec. John Wollaston reporting

2nd Bn., 70th Armor, displayed heroism by rushing headlong into the burning store to rescue the owner, his wife and three daughters, who were trapped on the roof of their house located above the building.

"Anyone would have done it," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Dirks, 2nd Platoon.

"When we went in there, it was just an automatic thing. I wasn't worried about my safety. My only concern was getting anyone trapped in the building out safely."

The store's owner and his family were rescued safely from the blaze. None of the family members or the soldiers received any injuries in the incident.

diers of the Quick Reaction Force to the area with the blasts, then detonate the IED when the reaction force approached. Because of the discovery of the explosives by the BRT, and the speed in which the soldiers cordoned off the area, the attackers were unable to proceed with the second part of their attack.

The soldiers of 2nd Platoon,

Talk Around Town

"What are you doing to cope with the heat?"



"I am drinking lots of water and other cold drinks. On top of that, I have been taking my wife and kids out to Milford Lake swimming at least once a week."

Spec. Dwight A. Sandeen
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
24th Infantry Division



"I go to the pool and stay in the a/c."

Pvt. William Campbell
U.S. Army Garrison



"I hydrate, stay inside during the hottest part of the day, 12-4, and exercise early in the morning or late in the evening. I avoid carbonated or caffeinated drinks."

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Powers
Co. A, 2nd Battalion,
291st Training Support Battalion

Citizens elect Baghdad City Council

By John S. Wollaston
3rd BCT PAO

Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division are helping the people of Baghdad take their first steps toward democracy. For the first time ever, a truly democratic election took place in Baghdad with the election of six primary and four alternate members to the

newly formed Baghdad City Council. The election, held at a former Iraqi Hunting Club, is an outgrowth of the neighborhood and district advisory councils established shortly after the arrival of the 3rd Brigade in Baghdad.

While elections like this are routine in the United States, the votes cast in Baghdad are the

country's first steps toward democracy and self rule after generations of government run by either monarchy, dictators or more recently, Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Socialist Party.

The elections are the culmination of efforts by the 3rd Brigade to do their part to get Baghdad and the country of Iraq back on its feet.

Four 3rd Brigade units see changes of command despite deployment

By John S. Wollaston
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Tis the season for changes of command. Despite the heavy demands of command in a combat area, especially one as dangerous as Baghdad, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division is continuing to conduct changes of command of their company and battalion level commanders. With Baghdad serving as the backdrop of these ceremonies, they serve not only to welcome and honor the new and outgoing commanders, but also to remind them just exactly where they are beginning or ending their command, in a combat zone. The battalion level changes of command within 3rd Brigade began several weeks ago at a museum, where an emotional Lt. Col. Steve Greene turned over the reins of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment to Lt. Col. Rick Bowyer. "Tighten your saddle and sharpen your spurs," Col. Russell Gold, commander, 3rd Brigade, advised Bowyer. "You're in for the ride of your life."

Change of command number two came on July 7 at Camp Payne. The former armored car factory that now serves as the Brigade Support Area and home to the 125th Forward Support Battalion said goodbye to Lt. Col. Harold Marty. "I'm just as proud standing here today," Marty told the soldiers and guests, "as I was 24 months ago when I took com-

mand of this battalion. Marty is returning to Fort Riley to become the assistant chief of staff for logistics (G-4) for the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized). His replacement and the man Marty is replacing is the G-4, Lt. Col. John Hinkley.

On July 8, Lt. Col. Anthony Wright took the guidon and command of the "Kodiak's" of 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat) from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Bjarne "Mike" Iverson. "It's fitting that this (ceremony) takes place on Saddam Hussein's parade ground," Iverson said to those gathered at the ceremony.

Iverson, who's spent over 13 years of his life in Southwest Asia and speaks fluent Arabic, isn't leaving Iraq. He is taking his skills as a Middle East Foreign Area Officer over to 5th Corps and Joint Task Force 7 headquarters, where he will be a special advisor to Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez for the next six months.

The fourth and final change of command came just two days after the 70th Engineers, when 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment said goodbye to Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram at the former Republican Guard Special Forces Training facility that is now 2nd Bn., 70th Armor's Headquarters. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ingram and the 2nd Bn., 70th Armor lived up to their reputation as the Army's "first independent tank battalion" and one of the most decorated battalions in the Army

by serving with elements of four different divisions. Their work with all three brigades of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) earned the battalion nearly 50 Bronze Stars with "V" Devices for valor and nearly 100 medals over all for it's soldiers. Since they've rejoined with 3rd Brigade, the Thunderbolt Brigade has worked tirelessly to clean up and re-vitalize one of the poorest sections of Baghdad, the Abu Garib market area, something Gold describes as an "incredible transformation from what it was just a couple months ago."

"You are the only heavy battalion in the Army that crossed into Iraq on the 20th and 21st of March," Ingram said to his soldiers. "Because of you, our Army and our nation are the most powerful in the world and can accomplish any mission they're given."

Ingram will join Marty in building 500 at Fort Riley as the assistant chief of staff for operations (G-3) for the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech).

The new Thunderbolt 6, Lt. Col. Leopoldo Quintas, the former assistant chief of staff for civil affairs (G-5), 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), told the soldiers and the invited guests that he was "honored and humbled to take command of such a superb team of warriors."

"I pledge to you my utmost efforts in accomplishing our mission and returning us safely home to our families," he said.

Division welcomes new command sergeant major

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

The installation welcomed its new division command sergeant major Monday.

Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, said he was honored to welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela to the command group.

"You will serve as my eyes and ears for the troops on the hill, their families, for the great civilian work force we have here and for the community," Hardy said.

"I will lean on you to help set the standards and to train our soldiers and our leaders to ensure our combat readiness - our ability to go to war anytime, anywhere."

While serving at Fort Riley, Hardy said Canuela would meet some great people, both on post and in the surrounding communities.

"I know they will inspire you as much as they have inspired me," Hardy said, "and I know they will reach their arms out to

you as they did for Diane and me in the short two months that we have been here. Welcome to Fort Riley - hooah."

Canuela is a career soldier, who has served in a variety of challenging positions since he joined the Army in 1978. He previously served as command sergeant major, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

"He brings a wealth of experience and understanding of our Army, and an understanding of the soldiers and the requirements for readiness," Hardy said.

Canuela is a soldier who is all about standards, and that is exactly what the noncommissioned officer corps represents, Hardy said.

Standards are the backbone of the Army, and he said Fort Riley's new division command sergeant major is well disciplined and has the ability to understand, enforce and sustain good standards as the installation develops the leaders of tomorrow.

"He understands how to work with people and how to develop them for the future," he said.

"Gen. Patton once commented that while wars may be fought with weapons, victories are only won with men. It takes great leaders like Sgt. Maj. Canuela to build the type of formations, the men and women of today's Army, so that they can continue to win the victories of tomorrow."

Canuela has arrived to an installation that is both deployed and training at the same time, with both active and reserve components, and he said he is looking forward to working with these soldiers during his assignment at Fort Riley.

He said his job is not only to be the division command sergeant major, but also to train the future objective force. His promise to the soldiers of Fort Riley and its three enhanced brigades is that he will provide the best leadership he can, he said. "The soldiers are my top priority, Canuela said. "I will make sure you are trained for any mission that the Army gives us."

Canuela has a wife, Robin, and two daughters, Noelani and Rachel.

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Briefs

Childcare Openings

The Fort Riley Child Development Center 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 CYS Central Registration, 239-9478 or 239-4847, for information and an appointment.

Changes of Command

The Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Division, Battalion Change of Command is scheduled today, 9 a.m. at Calvary Parade Field. The incoming commander will be Lt. Col. James W. Gray. He is coming to Fort Riley from duty at Scott Air Force Base, where he was the force protection officer, Transportation Command. Leaving Fort Riley CID will be Lt. Col. Michael R. French. French is retiring after 21 years of service. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at King Field House.

Construction

Fort Riley's new Waste Water Treatment Plant is under construction. This plant will replace the three existing plants, which were built in the 1940s and 1950s. As part of the construction, the contractor will need to close some roads in order to install new underground pipes. For the next 60 days, Caisson Hill Road closure starting just north of Irwin Army Community Hospital will be closed. For more information, call 239-6942.

Prairie Run

Fort Riley's annual Prairie Run will take place July 26. The run will consist of a 10-mile, 5-mile and 2-mile race. All races are open to the Fort Riley community and the general public. The 2-mile race begins at 7 a.m. The 5 and 10-mile races will begin at 7:30 a.m. Same-day registration begins at 6 a.m., and all races start and end at King Field House, building 202.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers of each gender and age category in each race. An overall first place award will be given to the top male and female finisher in each race. The entry fee is \$10 if registered before Monday and \$12 after that. Register early to be guaranteed a free T-shirt. Pick up your registration form at any fitness center on post or contact the Fort Riley sports office, 239-2172 or 239-3945.

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.

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.

Special Needs Rodeo

The Junction City Rodeo Association will be hosting the Seventh Annual Special Needs Rodeo tomorrow, 6 p.m.

The kids will have their own "rodeo outfits," and each child will be paired up with their one-on-one cowboy or cowgirl partner. The partner will escort the child to each of the events. Kids can also take a horseback ride at the end of the arena. The children can finish up their evening watching the Junction City Rodeo, where they and their families will be special guests.

The Special Needs Rodeo will be held at the 4-H Senior Citizen Center on Spring Valley Road, Junction City. For more information or to RSVP, contact Laura McCauley, Exceptional Family Member Program, 239-9435.

Standards of Conduct Reminder

Only duly appointed contracting officers can obligate the government contractually. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an "unauthorized commitment" - an agreement that is not binding solely because the government representative who made it lacked the authority to enter into that agreement on behalf of the Government. Unauthorized commitments must be investigated, and the perpetrators are subject to adverse actions. Ordering officers may, by virtue of their written appointment, obligate the government up to their designated approval limits.

Also, government purchase cardholders may obligate the government when funds are certified by an approved funds certifier, so long as they remain within designated single purchase and monthly purchase limits. For additional information, contact the Director of Contracting, 239-0468.

Employment Readiness Program

The Employment Readiness Program is offering several Orientation/Intake briefs for members of the Army family. Attend an orientation to learn about the employment assistance offered, get information about the current Kansas job market and complete your enrollment for job search assistance. Orientation briefs are scheduled for Tuesday, 9 a.m. - noon at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact the Employment Readiness Program, 239-9435 or 239-9437.

Human Patient Simulator

Fort Riley medics are invited to schedule time for using the Human Patient Simulator. Irwin Army Community Hospital will only have the Human Patient Simulator for a 90-day 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.

Praise Team Leader/Pianist Needed

The Contemporary Protestant service in Kapaun Chapel is looking for a Christian praise team leader and pianist for their praise team. Service meets Sundays at 11 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesday, 6 p.m. and Sunday, a.m. These positions are paid, contracted positions. In addition, volunteer bass and lead guitar players are needed. If interested, call Chap. Paulson, 239-3436.

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.

Mail Training

The Official Mail Training class will be offered Aug. 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at building 319, CPAC. An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" class will be offered Aug. 6 and 20, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

Soldier Retirement Info

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

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Thursday:
7 p.m.
2 Fast 2 Furious
(PG-13)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$5
Children - \$1.50

Press Conference continued from page 1

impression of Fort Riley since his arrival.

"It's a wonderful post," he said. "If you talk about what our responsibilities are to the nation in terms of readiness, this post is delivering. We have provided forces directly into the warfight. We have provided not only the active forces from Fort Riley, but also the Reserve components have mobilized here. This fort has made an important contribution to the warfight."

How families are getting information to and from deployed soldiers was an issue he discussed.

"The first question on everyone's minds is, when are the soldiers coming home. The second question is, how can I talk to them?" he said. "Given the lack of infrastructure to support something as simple as e-mail or telephone calls, this is something we are trying to work through right now. Commanders have made extraordinary efforts, both down-range and back here at Fort Riley, to provide the soldiers the opportunity at least once a month, if not more frequently, depending on

where they are located. We take it serious. There are improvements that are being worked on by the Army and by the Department of Defense to help further the infrastructure in Iraq."

He also talked about how the soldiers are doing in Iraq and how they are being taken care of.

"Most of our soldiers are doing quite well down there," he said. "They are still living every day in harms way, but they are getting quite a bit of cooperation from the Iraqi people. Facilities are improving for our soldiers. (The soldiers) are well fed, and they are well watered. The base camps that are being set up are getting air-conditioned. Even our scouts, who are usually out front and brag that they don't need air conditioning, are getting air conditioning. We are taking care of our troops downrange. The commanders down there are doing it."

Hardy finished the conference by saying he is proud of everything everyone has done. He talked about the several missions of the Fort Riley soldiers while deployed.

"They operated for four or five different positions in Iraq," he said. "It may take some months to unravel exactly what all they did accomplish. They are a great demonstration of the capabilities

power projected out of Fort Riley."

Hardy also thanked the surrounding communities for their support.

"We appreciate everybody's help... There is nobody here who has done this by themselves."

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More Briefs

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.odesper.army.mil/Retirement

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 time and services to projects. The second purpose of ESC is to foster and promote recreational and social activities among the members while providing a support system for the enlisted spouses of Fort Riley.

For more information on the club or upcoming meetings, call 784-3191.

Adopt-a-Room

Fort Riley organizations are invited to participate in the 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. In early May, the Protestant Women of the Chapel adopted a room and decorated it in a Noah's Ark theme.

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 Itara, 239-7434.

Breast-feeding Class

The Women and Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free classes on Breast-feeding Babies on the third Wednesday of each month. A dietitian will address the nutritional requirements for breast-feeding moms and a lactation educator will talk about the advantages of breast-feeding and how to prepare for successful nursing. Information on breast-feeding techniques, troubleshooting advice and where to find support will also be offered. Classes are held in the Obstetrics classroom on the third floor of IACH, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call Maj. Susanna Itara at 239-7434.

Cancer Support

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting will be Aug. 6, 6 p.m., at Irwin Army Community Hospital, on the first floor, in the patient waiting area of the Combined Surgery Clinic. Participants are asked to bring any news articles pertaining to their cancer diagnosis.

Military service members, their

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family members and Department of Army Civilians are welcome to attend.

Participation is encouraged for persons who were recently diagnosed with cancer, family and friends of persons with cancer and cancer survivors.

Child Car Seat Inspections

Child car seat inspections are available through Irwin Army Community Hospital's Community Health Nursing.

Assistance with correct placement and positioning of your child's car seat and information are part of the inspection. Active duty uniform servicemembers, their families, retired military and Department of Defense civilians are eligible for this service.

There is no fee. Car Seat Inspection appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Inspections will take place in the IACH parking area.

To schedule a car seat inspection, call Community Health Nursing, 239-7323.

Prenatal classes

The Women Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital will be offering a prenatal class tomorrow, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the 3rd floor classroom at IACH.

Expectant mothers between their 12th and 40th week of pregnancy are eligible to attend. The prenatal classes are free.

Expectant mothers are asked to bring their spouse, significant other or birth coach.

The class is limited to 20 participants. The prenatal classes will

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continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at IACH. For more information, call Maj. Susanna Itara, 239-7434.

To register for prenatal classes, call the Fort Riley TRICARE Service Center, 784-1200, or toll free, 1-888-874-9378.

No cost tobacco cessation classes

Community Health Nursing of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free Tobacco Cessation classes. This is a four-week program, which meets once a week and is run by trained medical professionals.

Participants may choose to quit smoking without medication or healthcare providers may prescribe Zyban. Nicotine patches are also offered during the class.

For those concerned about gaining weight after kicking the tobacco habit, a dietitian teaches healthy ways to avoid weight gain.

Military servicemembers, their families and DoD civilians are eligible to participate.

To register, call Community Health Nursing at 239-7323.

Pregnancy Physical Training program

Pregnancy Physical Training is held every Monday and Friday, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m., at the Armed Forces YMCA, 16th and Washington St., Junction City, and on Wednesdays it is held at Normandy Chapel, building 7865.

The program is designed to serve the special needs of the pregnant soldier by providing appropriate physical training and a health education program. Pregnancy PT supports the Fort Riley

units by offering consistent health guidance for pregnant soldiers.

Every Tuesday is an hour-long education program, which is held in the Education Bay, fourth floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Short presentations given by health care staff members cover a variety of topics, such as infant car seats; skincare during pregnancy and the common discom-

forts of pregnancy.

Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier, are welcome to attend.

Participation in the Pregnancy PT program is encouraged, although participation is not mandatory.

Limited openings are available for this program. To participate in the Pregnancy PT program, call

Sgt. Carrie M. Jensen, Headquarters Platoon, 568th Engineer Company, 239-4260.

Organizational Day

DOL will be closed today, for an Organization Day.

The Office of the Inspector General will be closed Aug. 1 for Organization Day.

Military Police continued from page 1

posture early on helped.

Iraqis recognize U.S. females can be in charge, Naem said, and the men will get use to female officers among them.

As for the women students, most will do searches of females at the jail and at least one will become an investigator, Weber said.

They have a modified uniform that includes a long skirt and head cover.

The women say they aren't afraid to be cops. They're confident and ready to go, several said. Others added that develop-

ing a female police is the first step toward a free Iraqi society.

"They were more open than I expected them to be," said their instructor, Spc. Rosalee McLain from Keystone Heights, Fla.

While some of the students drop out or don't make the cut, most are in it for the right reasons, the good of their country's future, Weber said.

"Some come to make a difference."

Shaker Abass, a lawyer now going through the academy, "I want to [save] my society from the thieves," Abass said.

He also hopes to change the face of the police force.

While some of the students drop out or don't make the cut, most are in it for the right reasons, the good of their country's future, Weber said.

"Some come to make a difference."

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Kansas considered one of best soldier friendly states for education

The Army's dedication to the improvement of its soldiers through education is apparent in its many offerings, classes and rewards, such as promotion points, for increasing an education. Even so, certain soldiers and many military families were put in the position of having to pay out of state rates for education due to the frequent moves inherent in the military life.

In a letter sent to state governors, David Ward, president, American Council on Education, said, "most (but not all) states charge active duty service members in-state tuition, but less than 25 percent of them treat family of military personnel in the same manner."

Fortunately for those military members and families stationed in Kansas, both active duty soldiers and military families are given in-state rates at all state schools, according to Marian C. Moore, chief, academic programs, Fort Riley University.

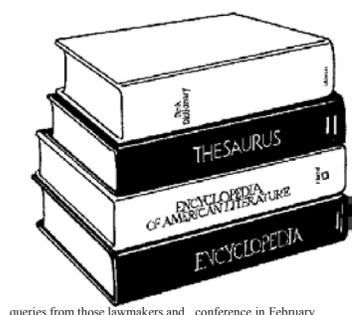
According to Moore, in some cases family members may be required to get a Duty Verification Form signed by the company commander verifying the individual is still on active duty. The Office of the Registrar at each individual school will also provide additional information concerning the law and its interpretation.

tion at that school. Moor said. Last November's Army Family Action Plan identified the financial hardship placed upon military families, due to varying in-state college tuition rules as families move from state to state due to military reassignment, as its number one issue. The difference between average annual in-state and out-of-state tuition costs ranges from \$3,000 to more than \$17,000, according to research done by Mike Tevnan, an education specialist at the Total Army Personnel Command.

For example, the difference between average in-state and out-of-state tuition in North Carolina is \$17,921.

That disparity can often make the difference between a soldier being able to afford sending a family member to college or not, said Patty Shinski, wife of former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shiniski and host of the annual Army Family Action Plan meeting for the past four years. Soldiers and their families shouldn't be penalized by virtue of the many moves their service to the nation often requires, she said.

Army officials are prohibited by law from lobbying — in other words, leaders cannot call up lawmakers or their staffs and tell them what the Army wants. Army officials can, however, respond to



queries from those lawmakers and staffs about what the Army is interested in and talk about the issue through established normal lines of communication between lawmakers and the Army. It can also use its civilian aides to the secretary of the Army to let legislators know military favorable in-state tuition rules are important to the Army.

The tuition issue was a prominent part of a presentation by assistant secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Reginald Brown at the Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army

conference in February. Tevnan credited the Georgia and Texas CASAs for immediately getting the issue in front of their state legislative bodies. That action was particularly timely in Texas, where the legislative body only meets formally once every two years.

In addition to Kansas, there are 15 other states that the Army considers to be soldier-friendly in meeting it's in-state tuition desire, said. Those states are Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico,

Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah.

Col. Gina Farissee, Army adjutant general, gave out to the CASAs in-depth information packets about how each state handles its in-state tuition rules for the military and family members and what the Army would like to see. She is forwarding similar packets to each state adjutant general and the commanders of every Army installation in the United States so they will be prepared to discuss the issue with lawmakers and their staffs if the proper opportunity presents itself.

While most states meet at least two of the Army's criteria, Tevnan said, seven have policies that are considered unfavorable to the military or no policy at all. Those states are Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.

Kansas state law defines non-residents as people having lived in the state for less than one year but adds the following justification - The State Board of Regents may adopt rules and regulations authorizing the following to pay an amount equal to resident fees: Employees of the university or college and their dependents, persons in the military and their dependents if such personnel are assigned full-time to a duty station in Kansas and are living in

Kansas, other classes of persons having special domestic relation circumstances, persons who have lost their resident status within six months of their enrollment and persons and their dependents who were recruited or transferred to full-time employment in Kansas.

For more information on specific schools and rates, active duty personnel and family members should speak with an education counselor at their assigned learning center on post. Family members can receive information specific to the Kansas college or university they plan to attend by contacting the school registrar or office of financial aid.

Editor's Note: By Joe Burlas, Army News Service, and Ryan D. Wood, Post staff writer.

Fort Riley soldiers help clean up Baghdad

By John Wollaston
3rd BCT PAO

Soldiers of 3rd Brigade are taking to the streets in an effort to help residents of Baghdad clean up their neighborhoods.

The program is called Task Force Neighborhood, a program to help Iraqi's in some of the more neglected areas of Baghdad clean up, fix and otherwise renovate areas that have been ruined by years of war and decades of neglect by the former government of Saddam Hussein.

The soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment were the latest 3rd Brigade unit to tackle a project for Task Force Neighborhood. Over a period of three days, the tankers renovated a local playground, soccer field and fixed plumbing and electrical problems in an elementary school and pediatric hospital.

However, the effort to rebuild this particular area was not accomplished by the soldiers of Company B alone. According to their commander, Capt. Jason Pape, the community turned out to help as well.

"We had about 70 people from the neighborhood come and help us paint and fix the (playground) equipment," Pape said.

Before Task Force Neighborhood, the newly repaired soccer field had become a landfill and a bone-yard for broken down garbage collection trucks.

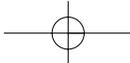
"We hired a local contractor to clear all the trash from the field that had been dumped there, then they fixed the trucks so they could be used for garbage collection," Pape said.

Day three of the project found soldiers taking on the repair jobs in the school and the hospital. While some minor repairs still need to be done, the repairs enacted by the soldiers upgraded the conditions of both facilities.

According to Pape, the residents of the neighborhood where his soldiers worked were "very pleased and supportive" of their efforts, and he said he hopes the residents appreciate the efforts put forth by the soldiers and keep the neighborhood in the condition it is now. "Hopefully, they'll keep it that way and continue the job that we started," he said.

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Korea 50 years ago -- Truce talks reconvene as Reds turned back

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

Sgt. Gilbert C. Collier of the 40th Infantry Division earned the Medal of Honor 50 years ago in Korea as a Chinese offensive was driven back and truce talks resumed.

SEOUL, Korea, July 17-20, 1953 — The South Korean counteroffensive that began yesterday continues to drive Chinese communist troops northward. By July 19, ROK troops they hold the high ground south of the Kumsong River after chasing the Reds back across. The terrain on the north bank is not critical enough to risk more soldiers' lives. The ROK 6th Infantry Division digs in to hold the line for the rest of the war.

The enemy had gained six miles and deflated the Kumsong bulge in the Eighth Army line above the river, but they had lost about two divisions worth of men doing it. Eighth Army officials estimate that the Chinese suffered 28,000 casualties.

June 19-20 — A six-man patrol sets out from the 40th Infantry Division line near the Punchbowl in X Corps. Sgt. Collier is the point man on the moonless night, and occasional showers make visibility even worse.

About two miles into no-man's land, Collier takes a step into thin air, gives an involuntary yell and falls down a 60-foot cliff. Patrol leader, 2nd Lt. Richard S. Agnew, comes forward to investigate why Collier yelled, and he, too, goes tumbling down the cliff. He lands beside Collier.

In addition to scrapes and

bruises, Collier suffers a wrenched back that makes it painful to stand. Agnew has a twisted ankle that's too painful to stand on. They still had their weapons and canteens, and Agnew held onto his radio.

Agnew radios the patrol to get back to their lines before daylight, after failing to convince Collier to go with them.

The patrol radioman says they'll return that night to retrieve them.

The two men realize they can't just lie at the bottom of the hill until their buddies return, so they start the painful climb up the cliff. Agnew falls once, losing his rifle and radio. Collier, despite the painful back injury, goes back down and helps Agnew back up the steep slope.

As they suffer through the day, each man's injury worsens. Agnew's ankle balloons to twice its size. Collier's back is excruciatingly painful.

After dark falls, they decide to head back to their line. About 300 yards from their goal, they're found by a six-man Chinese patrol. Collier screams a warning to the lieutenant.

He fires at the enemy, hitting two. The remainder lobbs grenades at the Americans, wounding both. Collier begins crawling away from Agnew, to draw the enemy to him. He shoots until he runs out of ammo. Then the Chinese fall on him, stabbing and beating him with feet and rifle butts, and

Agnew can only watch.

Even while he's being beat over the head with a rifle, Collier manages to draw his bayonet and bury it into one man's stomach. The other three continue to pound him, but he lashes out and stabs another in the throat.

That's enough for the last two enemy soldiers, and they run away, leaving Collier pulverized and bleeding.

The rescue team has heard the beginning of the fight and arrives right after the enemy leaves.

They get Collier and Agnew back to the aid station. On the way, Agnew tells them repeatedly about Collier's actions.

Collier has lost too much blood and has sustained fatal injuries from the beating.

Maj. Charles A. Brown, battalion commander, tries to ask Collier about what happened to him, but receives little in reply.

"Although he was dying, Sgt. Collier kept asking me if Lt. Agnew had been rescued and if he was all right," Brown says.

Collier dies later that night.

His wife will receive his posthumous Medal of Honor in the Pentagon Jan. 12, 1955.

Collier is the last soldier to earn the Medal of Honor during the Korean War.

July 19-23 — Truce talks reconvene at Panmunjom July 19. With the Chinese latest offensive stopped, the Reds seem ready to arrange a cease-fire.

Lt. Gen. Nam Il, North Korean

head of the communist team, has several items yet to settle. South Korea has denied Indian troops permission to enter the country to carry out their duties of caring for the non-communist prisoners who don't want to go back to North Korea or China. Nam wants to settle that question before the truce is signed.

He also, as was expected, wants to renegotiate the demarcation line.

Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison Jr., U.N. chief delegate, tries to hurry the process along. He tells Nam that the Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, whose personnel will watch the non-communist prisoners, are ready to begin their duties. Nam will not say when the Polish and Czech teams can be ready.

The cease-fire is set to begin within 12 hours after parties sign the truce agreement.

That afternoon the communists suggest that the chief delegates retire and let staff officers work out the details of the four remaining areas to settle. There is a team from each side determining the demarcation line and the demilitarized zone; where the prisoners from both sides, as well as the anti-communist prisoners will be taken; time when the commissions created by truce will begin operating; and arrangements for signing the cease-fire documents.

Staff officers start working immediately.

On July 22 ROK President Syngman Rhee releases a statement that he keeps the right to "follow our own course of action" if the political conference that fol-

lows a truce does not produce results within 90 days.

The statement also says that he considers written promises made to the U.S. government to be "conditional" on certain promises made by the U.S. government, which have not yet been delivered.

Also on July 22, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles tells reporters that Rhee has twice promised in writing to abide by a truce arranged by the United States, even if he doesn't agree with it.

Peking Radio charges July 23 that Rhee is trying to "wreck" peace efforts, but that he could only do so with American "connivance" and "encouragement."

July 20-22 — U.S. government officials are discussing plans with their Indian counterparts July 20 to fly 2,000-3,000 Indian soldiers to the neutral zone in Korea. They will guard the non-communist U.N. POWs there. On July 22 the U.S. assures the Indian government that its troops will be safe there.

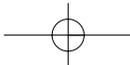
July 22 — The Defense Department announces that there were 1,026 American casualties in Korea for the week ending July 17. That brings the overall casualty figures to 139,272, including 24,965 dead.

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



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Letters to the Front

"To all of you guys and gals: Thank you for all you've done and continue to do. We miss you all bunches. Hurry home! Stay safe, and we'll see you when you come home." - Sheri Bellville, ACS volunteer supervisor, Fort Riley

"I am writing today to all of you to thank a man that some of you may know. He has had a definite impact in my life, like many people have had on yours. Not only am I writing today to thank him, but also to thank the men of his unit and all the men and women who are currently serving in our United States Armed Forces. Sgt. Sean Winterson and his unit, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, left to go to Iraq on April 5. They are over there in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

All of them left a loved one of some sort behind. The only contact they have is the letters and

packages sent to them and the occasional phone call they get to make. This is not the first time most of them have left someone behind, nor will it be the last. They train everyday for what people are protesting in the media and in the streets today. They are constantly away from their families, putting stress on themselves and their loved ones.

They all signed that 'dotted line' of their own free will; no one made them, and no one held a gun to their head or told them they would be arrested if they did not go serve their country. They all signed voluntarily, knowing that someday they might have to put their lives on the line. Well, that day has come. They are all putting their lives on the line for us now, ready to die for people they only know as their fellow Americans.

Most people in America take our rights for granted. If it weren't for our military force constantly putting themselves in danger, we

wouldn't have any of those rights. Yet, none of them expect a thank you. That is just a part of their job. Well, I think it is more than a job. It is a noble service that only a few men and women are brave enough to do. They are preserving our lives and our freedoms. Right now, they are over there protecting my mother, my father, the rest of my family and my friends. They are protecting you, your loved ones and your friends. They are over there protecting the United States of America and its entire people.

The men and women of our Armed Forces are the bravest and most courageous people I know, and they get the littlest of recognition. It only takes a couple of seconds to thank someone for risking their life for yours. If it wasn't for Sgt. Winterson and the rest of the Armed Forces throughout the years, I would not be able to write today, with my freedom of speech, and attempt to thank

them.

So, thank you Sgt. Winterson for protecting me. Thank you for risking your life for me without praise. Thank you for facing the fierce bullets, intense riots and vicious snipers. Thank you for enduring the long days, the hot sun and the severe sand storms. Thank you for dealing with the horrific scenes that most of us cannot even imagine and will probably never see.

Finally, I am here to say that I am proud to know Sgt. Winterson, and even prouder of the things he does on an everyday basis for our great nation." - Jessica M. Griffin

"I would like to let my husband, Sgt. Serna, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, know how proud I am of him. I'd like to tell him that I miss him very much, and I love him more and more each day. I'm waiting here patiently until you get back sweetheart! I also hope for the safe return of all of the sol-

diers overseas, especially those in 1st Bn., 13th Armor. You all have been through this for too long. Just come home soon and be safe out there!" - Cynthia Serna, military spouse, Fort Riley

Dear Kristine Erickson: Happy 23rd birthday! You have been saying all these years how you rarely spend your birthday in Joliet. Did you ever think you would add Iraq to the list of places you have been on your birthday? I hope all is well with you since you rejoined your 937th Engineer Group. I miss you! Just a note to let you know everyone is praying for you! Dad and I are planning on purchasing the VW in Minneapolis in July. Thought you would like to know we passed the American Association of Blood Bank inspection!" - Love, Mom

"To the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor: Thanks to all of you, of which our son is among you!

None of you are ever far from our thoughts and are always in our prayers! We are very proud of what you have done, are doing and will do! Come home soon, Nati!" - Dave and Peggy Sanders, Adair, Iowa

"My son, Ryan P. Gleich, is serving near Baghdad right now from Fort Riley. We are so very, very proud of him and pray every moment that God will put a shield of protection around him at all sides!" - From his family in Grove City, Ohio, Jane Gleich

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

Fort Riley soldier pursues college degree while serving his country

K-State Release

Master Sgt. McDonald Jacob has had a lot of accomplishments in his nearly 20 years in the military, but it has taken his entire career to achieve his goal of a bachelor's degree.

Jacob -- a married father of three daughters ages 27, 23 and 12 -- has been taking classes through K-State at Fort Riley since he was stationed in Kansas last summer. He has been working on his degree for years from various bases around the country.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go to college full time like my daughters had," said Jacob, who is originally from the U.S. Virgin Islands. "I believe education is the key to success in any area and for any individual, and I wouldn't give that up in any way."

Jacob set a goal for himself to

finish his degree by the time he reached the 20th anniversary of his enlistment. He's going to do it -- give or take a few months. He will celebrate his 20th anniversary in September, and he should wrap up his criminology degree by the end of this year.

He is eagerly anticipating the receipt of his degree from Saint Leo University in Florida, which he will finish through transfer credits from Kansas State University and online courses.

Ironically, Jacob's family didn't move with him to Kansas because his middle daughter is in her senior year at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Georgia, and she wanted to complete her degree there.

One might think that between his graduation and his landmark anniversary that this soldier might be ready to retire from the military and start his new criminology

career. But Jacob has no immediate plans to retire. He recently was accepted into the Sergeant Major's Academy, which stipulates he will serve at least two more years after course completion.

He admits it might be harder to take classes at this point in his life than it would have been when he was younger, but, at the same time, "in a sense it is easier. I'm more grown up so I pay more attention to the things that are important." As a young man, Jacob said, he might not have appreciated what he was learning like he does today.

Jacob is quick to encourage other adults -- of any age -- to take the plunge and go back to school. "Go for it. I do believe there is nothing that can prevent someone from getting what they want. Don't allow age or any personal reason to get in the way."

Don't wait to schedule school physicals

The Irwin Army Community Hospital's School and Sports Physical Fair will be held on July 26 and Aug. 9, 7:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. School physicals are required for children 8 years of age and under enrolling in a Kansas school for the first time. The physical must have been completed within the last 12 months prior to school entry or 90 days after school entry. School physicals may be obtained in one of three methods. School physicals may be obtained by appointment from IACH during the School and Sports Physical Fair by calling the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200.

School physicals may also be obtained by appointment in the local healthcare network administered by TRICARE by calling the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200. The TRICARE Service Center will provide the name and location of several network providers willing to provide School physicals. TRICARE will fully cover the cost of the school physicals for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries between the ages of 5 and 11 years old. School physicals may be obtained in the local healthcare market by calling local healthcare providers, clinics or county health departments or clinics. The beneficiary will be required to bear the cost of this service out of pocket (approximately \$30) if the child is not under the age of 5 or older than 11.

Sport physicals are required for students partic-

ipating in interscholastic activities and most community sporting activities (sports, cheerleading, drill team). The physical must be completed prior to the first day of practice but not prior to May 1 of the previous school year for middle and high school teams. Sport physicals may be obtained by appointment from IACH during the School and Sports Physical Fair by calling the TRICARE Service Center. They can also be obtained by appointment in the local healthcare market by calling local healthcare providers, clinics, or county health departments/clinics. The average cost of these physicals in the local market is \$15.

Many licensed daycare providers also require a physical or health assessment prior to accepting children into established programs. These health assessments may be from IACH for those children attending daycare provided by the Child Development Center on post. Child Health Assessments are available by appointment for these children in the Community Health Nursing section and may be scheduled by calling 784-1200. The assessments may also be obtained in the local healthcare market by calling local healthcare providers, clinics or county health departments or clinics. The beneficiary will be required to bear the cost of this service out of pocket.

Irwin Army Community Hospital

US ARMY REENLISTMENT-ARMED FOR
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
W address: CEF./#366344, 357 4370

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"
RED/Post for July



BROWN & WILLIAMSON-AFC
6 x 21.25"
FULL COLOR/Archie in...#368575

