



Weather Forecast		Today		High:93 Low:70	
Saturday		High:98 Low:73	Sunday		High:101 Low:74

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Prairie Run Reminder

The Fort Riley Prairie 10-5-2 Run will be held on Saturday. The run consists of three different races, the 10-mile and 5-mile races start at 7:30 a.m. and the 2-mile race starts at 7 a.m. The winners of the 10-mile event will go on to run in the Army 10-mile race.

Packet pickup and same day registration for all three races will be 6 - 6:45 a.m. All events start and finish at the King Field House gymnasium.

For more information call the King Field House at 239-3868.

August 2, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 45, No. 31

Soldier, firefighter appreciates mission

By Roy Gomez
14th PAD

UNITY, Ore.-After fighting fires at the age of five, one soldier never thought he'd return home to lo it again.

Pvt. Brian Hanna, Troop D, 4th Cavalry, an Oregon native, is deployed with Task Force Destroyer from Fort Riley to help fight the Monument Fire.

Although Hanna is familiar with Oregon and fighting fires, his mission is as new to him as it is to the other soldiers. "My dad was a firefighter, and he used to take me with him when there were fires, but we never went to any wildland fires. We were always in the city," said Hanna. "Fighting the fires up here will be something I've never done before."

Growing up in Oregon, Hanna is familiar with the yearly fires that burn through the mountains. The devastation caused by the fires always made the headline news, but Hanna said he never had the opportunity to do anything about them. Now mechanic at Fort Riley, he is happy to have the opportunity to set his wrenches, screwdrivers and other tools aside for 30 days and pick up a

shovel and axe to help the more than 750 firefighters who are already fighting the mountain blaze.

"I think I appreciate this mission a little bit more than everyone else," said Hanna. "I'm getting the opportunity to give back a little bit of what Oregon gives to me. I love this state and everything it has to offer ... I want to save as much as possible."

And save as much of Oregon as possible is something Hanna, other Troop D soldiers and soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, will be doing the hard way. With shovels, Polaski and chainsaws, the soldiers will be giving more experienced firefighters the opportunity to advance into the heart of the fire.

"The soldiers will contribute to put out the fire by allowing type one crews to go where they are most needed," said Dale Rankin, camp superintendent.

When Strike Force Destroyer soldiers finish their mission, they will return to Fort Riley to continue training for battle. But one soldier will be going back Kansas with the satisfaction of helping his state in addition to serving his country.



Staff Sgt. Ivan Tudela, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, right, leads Team 22 into the Oregon wilderness to fight the Monument Fire in Unity, Ore. This is the fourth time in 19 years that Tudela has gone to war against fires. For more information on Tudela and stories on Task Force Destroyer, see page 6.

New workweek schedule gives soldiers more predictable hours

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

The 70th Engineer Battalion, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment and the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), have been piloting a new workweek schedule since April.

There are several facets to the intent of the program. One facet reflects the intent to maximize efficiency and effectiveness during the morning hours. Another facet reflects the intent to enhance predictability in the daily schedules of soldiers and their families by specifying the start and end of the workday.

Among the major changes, soldiers in the test units begin their workday at 7 a.m., conduct physical training at 4 p.m. and end the duty day at 5 p.m.

Spouses and families were surveyed on the program in a July 18 meeting at the 70th Engineers' headquarters building. This was an opportunity to provide details of the pilot program to family members, solicit their perceptions, as well as giving them an opportunity to make recommendations to Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, on feasibility and suitability of the new schedule.

It was noted at this presentation that

leaders appreciated the extra time to train, but some soldiers were still adjusting.

Lt. Col. Mike Iverson, 70th Engineer Battalion commander, said "many of my leaders and soldiers like the new schedule. Some like PT in the evening, though not all. All feel this schedule enhances training with the five straight hours of uninterrupted training, services, maintenance, or whatever's on their schedule."

Some spouses felt that PT in the afternoon was much more difficult and even dangerous, regardless of how much water soldiers were encouraged to drink during the day. Some thought the program would be great if scheduled so that dur-

ing the summer PT was conducted in the morning and during winter PT was conducted in the afternoon.

"We evaluate constantly," said Iverson. "The matrixes we evaluate include such areas as sick call numbers, maintenance rates and physical fitness test results. Reports are gathered from the participating units regularly and compiled."

The other major focus of the program is to make the week more predictable to both soldiers and leaders. Daily formations at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. for reveille and retreat provide accountability as well as a definitive structure for the day, according to Iverson.

Another goal was to make as much of the workday as consecutive as possible.

According to Maj. Scott Johnson, battalion executive officer, "Under the old system there seems to be a lot of downtime. PT is over at 7:30 a.m. and then there's an hour and a half of downtime before the start of work."

At the end of the meeting, after much open forum discussion with the spouses, Johnson put it to a simple choice. "Do you prefer the predictability of having your spouse home shortly after 5 p.m. or the current schedule where they may get home for lunch." After further discussion, the consensus was a preference of having them home shortly after 5 p.m.

Training intensifies as Hickory Sting rolls along

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

As Operation Hickory Sting moved into its third week, training intensified as 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade soldiers prepared for their upcoming rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., next summer.

"My biggest concern for next summer's deployment to NTC was not getting a chance to practice," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Gattis, state Command Sergeant Major, North Carolina. "I think this gives them (soldiers) confidence in the things they may do all along, but the rotation is only 10 months away and this is good practice."

Fort Riley's training sites took center stage for the operation, as soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams gave their Hickory Sting counterparts the best training experience possible in simulated battles.

"This has been the best training we have ever had," said Gattis. "I like our soldiers to come out and train in an area such as this, and they are loving the opportunity to train on the skills they were trained to do."

"In North Carolina and on the East Coast, we don't have the line of sight as they do here, and type of terrain here at Fort Riley gives our soldiers a tremendous opportunity to practice their war fight-

for these soldiers."

The North Carolina National Guardsmen weren't the only ones participating in this operation. About 8,000 soldiers from two-dozen states helped to make sure this operation had all resources available.

"Everything was taken care of when the bulk of the soldiers arrived," said Maj. Gen. William Ingram, North Carolina Adjutant General. "There was a life-support area here when the brigade arrived, they had a place to sleep in, dining facilities to eat in and they had the equipment staged."

Ingram also commended the training his soldiers received and spoke of how tremendous the training facilities are at Fort Riley. The post's maneuver training areas is more than 70,000 contiguous acres.

"The 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, along with other units

best possible training," Ingram said.

"Fort Riley is the perfect place to come and train. The facilities here are outstanding. Having an integrated division here and the oversight of Maj. Gen. Metz and his staff gave us an outstanding opportunity to do everything from rail loading to air movement to having a great battlefield. If NTC is the World Series, then this experience has been the playoff game."

Ingram added that he was elated at the synchronization that took place between units that had never before worked together.

The Hickory Sting soldiers will begin to roll out of Fort Riley and make their way back to their home units within the next week.

Collier agreed that the mission rehearsal exercise was one of the better preparations he could find for his North Carolina troops to prepare them for the NTC. "The only other thing would be to go to NTC twice," he said.

As "America's Warfighting Center," Fort Riley is planning another mission rehearsal exercise for 2004, when it will prepare the 48th eSB from Macon, Ga., for their NTC rotation.

For more stories on Hickory Sting, see page 7.

Editors note: Tune into FOX 43 (CH 6) this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for more Hickory Sting.



Reserve component changes command

By Christie Vanover
Staff Writer

A few dozen soldiers gathered on Ware Parade Field July 26 to represent the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) and to welcome Col. Gasper Gulotta as he took command of the brigade from Col. Robert Townsend.

The unit is a multi-component brigade consisting of 700 reserve and active duty soldiers. Its units, located throughout the Midwest, include the 1st Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas; 2nd Bn., 291st Av. Reg., Fort Riley; 3rd Bn., 382nd Logistical Support Reg.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; 1st Bn., 383rd Reg., Des Moines, Iowa; 2nd Bn., 383rd Reg., St. Louis, Mo.



"These soldiers are active and citizen soldiers, working to provide theater commanders with trained and ready forces," said Townsend, during his farewell speech. "Our observer controllers are supported by a team of the best government civilians I've ever served with, and it's been a privilege and an honor for me to serve with all these great Americans."

Townsend took command of the brigade from Col. George Webb in July 2000. Webb and his predecessor, Col. John Finlay, were both present for the ceremony. Finlay served as the brigade commander from 1995 to 1998 and is currently the inspector general for the North Carolina Army National Guard.

"Bob Townsend is a great soldier and a great friend. I'm here to honor him and what he does," said Webb, Kansas' senior Army advisor for guard.

Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby, commander, 75th Division, agreed with Webb. "The most important thing that I take away from this relationship is that, Bob, I count you as my friend and fellow soldier-one that I can call upon anytime for anything," he said, following the traditional passing of colors.

"He's had an immediate positive impact on the readiness of the Army through his great leadership skills. Through his forward thinking, resourcefulness, he has formulated the unit's vision and

Residents should take care with household hazardous waste

Did you know that thousands of products you use in your home and car are considered hazardous? Household cleaners, home improvement products, pesticides and automotive products can be flammable, corrosive, and/or toxic. When these products are used and stored correctly they are not a threat. However, when we use, store and dispose of them improperly, the hazardous substances in them threaten our health and safety and damage the environment in which we live.

A household hazardous waste (HHW) is one that poses such a

threat. Although it seems like pouring solvents, automotive products or pesticides down a drain or disposing of them in a landfill doesn't create any problems; it does. When Fort Riley households dispose of HHW that way, it adds up to a big problem and creates health and environmental hazards.

What can you do? Begin by buying only what you need. If you end up with extra, share it with your neighbor. When you have HHW that must be disposed of, make sure you know and follow Fort Riley's HHW program.

HHW should not be put in the trash, down the drain, into storm drains, into waterways, burned or buried.

allows housing occupants to dispose of common household products. Products accepted are items such as abrasive cleaners, ammo-

available for reuse to housing occupants on post. If you are moving or need to dispose of HHW, or if you want to get some of the free issue products, call 239-6796 for an appointment to turn in or pickup these items. The center is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Remember the three R's of HHW: Reduce the amount and toxicity of products that enter and leave your home; Recycle or reuse everything possible and Reject products whose use or disposal is harmful to the environment.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates there's as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the average American home.

I would like to thank those of you who have participated in this program. If you haven't participated, I would encourage you to take any unneeded household products to the EWMC and to stop by and pick up any of the reusable products they may have. By properly storing, disposing of and using HHW, we can help ensure the safety of our homes and Fort Riley's environment.

Around Fort Riley: By Col. Philip Pope, Garrison Commander

The Directorate of Environment and Safety's Environmental Waste Management Center (EWMC), building 1945 in Camp Funston, is the home of Fort Riley's HHW collection and reutilization program. The program is designed for use by housing occupants and is a permitted site with the state of Kansas. This program

nia based cleaners, drain cleaners, rug and upholstery cleaners, disinfectants, herbicides, insecticides, paints, varnish, photographic chemicals, used oil and filters, antifreeze, automotive fluids and car batteries. These products are accepted at the EWMC and stored until they are reused. All items that are turned in are

Civilians experience Fort Riley action at Operation Hickory Sting

By Sgt. Jason Shepherd

19th PAD

Sunday morning came early for 9 people from the Junction City and Manhattan communities as they visited Fort Riley to observe training and meet soldiers out in the field during Operation Hickory Sting.

The day started at 6:45 a.m. with a briefing about Fort Riley and Operation Hickory Sting from Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, and Maj. Kevin West, training officer, 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade.

After the briefing, the attendees got into Humvees and traveled to a training area near the Multi-Purpose Range Complex to watch a battle between the 30th eSB, a National Guard unit from North Carolina, and members of the 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams from Fort Riley. The visitors stood on a ridge and watched the battle below them with binocu-

lars. "Everybody was very focused on their mission," said Dr. Mary Devin, superintendent of the Geary County School system. "It's pretty clear what that mission is; one group was supposed to penetrate the other group. I think that we saw strengths on both sides, and as they go through their (after) action reports they will talk about what they've learned."

After the battle, the attendees climbed back into the Humvees and traveled to a couple of M1A1 Abrams tank crews that had just participated in the training exercise. There, they were able to talk to crewmen and crawl around inside the tanks to get a better understanding of the battle they had just witnessed.

"I thought it was really exciting," said Annie Moulin, an administrative specialist from the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. "I've seen tanks in movies, but when you actually get in one, it's so cramped, and they fit four people in there. It was really inter-

esting to get down inside one and see what was going on."

After looking at the tanks, the party moved to a shady location in the field to eat lunch, which consisted of a Meal Ready to Eat. Attendees got their pick of more than 40 different kinds of MREs. Then most participants found an area beneath a tree and heated their meals, after a quick lesson on how to prepare them.

When the lunch was over, the participants were taken to the Close Combat Tactical Trainer, which provides training for armor, cavalry and mechanized infantry platoons. There, they got to see first hand the future of Army training.

The CCTT system is the first fully distributed interactive simulation compliant training system in the Army. It has networked vehicle simulator manned-modules, Semi-Automated Forces workstations with Computer Generated Forces, Combat Support workstations and after-action review systems.

The CCTT manned-modules at Fort Riley include the M1A1, the M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Fire Support Vehicles and the Humvee. The participants got to climb in and shoot and run the controls of the simulations during their tour of the CCTT complex.

"The simulators were really cool," Moulin said. "I got to shoot a lot of tanks and watch them explode right in front of me. It was just like a very expensive video game."

The last stop for the participants was Cavalry Parade Field,



Post/Shepherd

Participants visiting Fort Riley listen to a briefing about the M1A1 Abrams tank during their visit to a training area near the Multi Purpose Range Complex.

where the attendees got their photo taken in front of the Custer House with members of the Fort Riley Honor Guard.

The members of the community that participated in the event ranged from city commissioners to bank presidents. Each had their view on the value of the training and from experiences garnered throughout the day.

"The training was valuable to me because it helps me talk more intelligently about what Fort Riley does out here," said Connie Hall, the director of the Junction

City Convention and Visitors Bureau. "I didn't know what I was going to be seeing, but it's very impressive. Seeing the forces fight, and having the opportunity to see it is just great."

"The training out here was very impressive," said Richard Allen, president of Mercy Health Center in Manhattan. "One doesn't appreciate the size and scope of (Fort Riley) until you're out here to see it."

Operation Hickory Sting is preparing the 30th eSB for their National Training Center rotation

next year.

"Operation Common Ground was an opportunity to bring our local communities out to Fort Riley to see and experience what it's like to be a soldier. Events like these can only make our communities stronger," said Maj. Todd Livick, Fort Riley public affairs officer. "The Manhattan and Junction City communities play an important role in the well-being of our soldiers, and we wanted to give them the chance to see how their support enables our soldiers accomplish their missions."



Post/Shepherd

Carol Moore, a Manhattan Chamber of Commerce staff member, observes an ongoing battle.

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Soldiers transition to police jobs

By Lillian Flegle
Staff Writer

Some soldiers planning to leave or retire from military choose a second career serving communities in civilian law enforcement.

"Soldiers are educated, in good physical condition, are team leaders and players, maintain strict discipline and always get the job done; regardless of how many hours it takes," said Jeanetta Chart, manager, Fort Riley's Army Career and Alumni Program. "Companies look for soldiers to fill their jobs because of these qualities."

James Jensen, Geary County Sheriff, explained that soldiers compete for jobs offered by the Geary County Sheriff's office just like everyone else.

"Some soldiers are already familiar with the GCSO because they've worked as Fort Riley liaisons with the GCSO while on active duty," Jensen said. "We don't recruit, but our advertisements draw military personnel to apply. We can't hold openings for soldiers, but they sometimes work in the confinement center until an opening comes up."

According to Master Sgt. James DeMaroney, Provost Marshal Sergeant Major, military police are unique because they're

divided into different sections, such as the Military Police/K9 units and Military Police Investigations.

"The K9 unit is unique because they're already trained," DeMaroney said. "Agencies are anxious to hire K9 police because of their training."

DeMaroney also said that military police go through a number of classes held for civilian police officers at state-certified schools in Kansas. He believes these classes provide valuable and marketable skills to soldiers transitioning into civilian law enforcement.

"MPs have to go through classes like Field Sobriety Testing, Traffic Investigation Techniques, Credit Card Fraud and how to properly interview suspects to get to the truth," DeMaroney said. "All of this training gives soldiers a better chance at securing civilian law enforcement jobs."

Mario Rios who retired as the 1st Sgt. of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, started the transition process from a combat engineer to a Kansas highway patrolman about a year before retiring. He said that since there weren't many compatible jobs in the combat field and he wanted to continue serving in the community; he decided to join the Kansas

Highway Patrol.

"I went to one of the Fort Riley Job Fairs where I met a Kansas Highway Patrol representative. I picked up an application, then researched the requirements to qualify," Rios said. "It's a long selection process, which I started in June of 2001 and finished with academy training in January of 2002."

"After 20 weeks of training at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy, I'm now a Kansas highway patrolman," Rios said.

Chart encourages soldiers to go through the three-and-a-half day ACAP workshop prior to leaving or retiring from the military.

"Fort Riley's ACAP makes it easy for soldiers to target their career goals," Chart said. "We have our own network of employment agencies, plus ACAP centers-especially for careers in civilian law enforcement. Agencies like Homeland, as well as Airport, Security, which fall under the Department of Transportation, are big on hiring military soldiers. We call the different law enforcement agencies throughout the country, research the specific requirements and help the soldiers get their foot in the door. You tell us what type of career you want to pursue, and we'll help you try to achieve it"

For more information on ACAP, call 239-3946.

Talk Around Town

"How did Operation Hickory Sting affect you?"



"It's kept us busy. We might be tired at the end of the day and hurting, but it's good for business."

Rose Lindsey
barber
Post Exchange
Barber Shop



"We've gotten a lot of medical evacuation missions. Yesterday we had eight missions - heat related."

Sgt. Christian Pugsley
flight medic
82nd Medical Company,
Air Ambulance



"Business has been great; at least a 25 to 30 percent increase in business."

Rhonda Massey
Supervisor
Fort Riley Restaurant

Help needed with mosquito control

By Heather Pope
Radford Univ. Intern

Haunted by the buzz of mosquitoes? Help is on the way! DES has contracted pest controllers," said Management Agronomist John Barbur.

According to Barbur, there are two types of controls, adulticide, also known as fogging, and larviciding. "Adulticide kills adult mosquitoes present while the fog is there, and larviciding is done in pools of water with a biological control tablet that doesn't hurt people but affects the larva," he said.

Basically this prevents larvae from becoming and adult mosquito that could reproduce, said Barbur.

Mosquitoes can carry a number of diseases, and although 85% of

the mosquitoes on Fort Riley aren't disease carriers, preventative medicine has monitored light traps to analyze different species and abundances, said Barbur.

"We check mosquitoes based on species and when females get to a certain level, that's when we call for fogging," said Bill Wildman, Environmental Health.

According to Wildman, the spraying knocks down the number of mosquitoes, but more importantly the females who could lay more eggs.

Most of the spraying is done around the housing areas on Main Post and Colyer Manor because they are closer to the river where there are high populations of mosquitoes, said Barbur. "This is not to say we don't spray other places as well, but because of the mosquito population factor, we watch those two housing areas," he said.

The spraying takes place mainly in May and June because of the higher rainfall attracting mosquitoes, explained Barbur.

A good common sense reminder for when the fogger comes around, don't go stand near it, although it isn't harmful to humans, its better to just go in for a bit, Wildman said.

"Two principle issues on personal protection to keep in mind are draining any containers that can hold water for any period of time so that mosquitoes aren't produced, and to use mosquito repellent while being outdoors," said Barbur.

The most popular mosquito on Fort Riley can travel between 15 and 20 miles said Wildman. This is why it's so important for residents to help by emptying and changing the water in swimming pools and birdbaths, he said.

Hays reservists will deploy soon

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

A reserve unit from Hays has been training on Fort Riley for the last two weeks. These soldiers are deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom within the next week.

About 25 soldiers with the 388th Medical Logistics Battalion began arriving on Fort Riley July 18 to train with members of the 101st Forward Support Battalion for their upcoming deployment.

"The training was pretty effective," said Sgt. Andrea Bontrager, 388th Med. Log. "We're getting everyone qualified with our weapons and the 101st is taking good care of us."

"The training went extremely well," said Capt. Christopher Richie, assistant operations officer with the 101st FSB. "This was the first time in recent years that the 'Guardians' had the opportunity to train a Reserve unit. The battalion was thoroughly impressed by the 388th Med. Log.'s

motivation, enthusiasm, willingness to learn and high standards upheld. The 388th had several tasks to accomplish while operating on a condensed timeline."

These tasks included going to the mask proficiency chamber, participating in common task testing and basic rifle marksmanship.

The unit has been on deployments before, including Operation Desert Storm and Germany.

"Due to world events and the (area of responsibility) in which the 388th could deploy," Richie said, "it is imperative that we deploy well-trained, confident and competent soldiers."

The soldiers from the 388th are ready for their upcoming deployment according to Spc. Benjamin Bird, 388th Med. Log.

"I'm excited about leaving," he said. "I can't wait to visit a new country and see a place I've never been before."

"I'm excited, too," Bontrager added. "I can't wait to do our part and help with the anti-terrorism effort."

Reserve continued from page 1

his awesome training mission that we have," said Dalby.

Townsend is confident that Gulotta will continue with the division's mission.

"This sad day of relinquishing command is made better knowing the terrific command team and community supporters you're going to have in Gasper and Joanne Gulotta. I can't imagine my better-qualified people to come after us," he said.

Gulotta, a Master Army Aviator, came to Fort Riley from the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is a 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds a master of science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, a master of science from the Nuclear Engineering Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master of arts in Strategic Studies from Air University.

"The troops of the 3rd Brigade, 5th Division, standing before us are representatives of thousands of patriotic Americans that are today fighting and winning America's war on terrorism," said Gulotta after taking command of the unit. "Active Duty troops, reserve component troops and government civilians are all pulling together to accomplish their sacred mission-the preservation of the American way of life. I can think of no greater time in our history to have the privilege to command our troops than in times

such as these."

Dalby welcomed Gulotta and charged him with three tasks. "Number one — take care of your soldiers at all times, number two — support the mission and number three — enjoy what you're doing when you can," he said.

Gulotta said he looks forward to doing his part to achieve his military mission while also helping his unit make its mark on Fort Riley to make it a better place for our soldiers and families to work and live.

Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley, local community

members and neighbors welcomed Gulotta and his family upon their arrival. Joanne was also honored with a welcoming ceremony at the Custer House by senior spouses of Fort Riley.

Editors note: Tune into FOX 43 (CH 6) this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for more on this story.

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Briefs

Retirement Ceremony

The Post Retirement Ceremony was held July 31 at 9 a.m. on Ware Parade Field.

The following soldiers were recognized: Command Sgt. Major Henry Toney, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Johnson, HHC 2nd Bn., 10th Armor; Sgt. 1st Class Rommel Cannedy, Battery A, 1st Bn., 10th Field Artillery; Staff Sgt. James Doll, 24th Transportation and Staff Sgt. Thomas Cammann, r., HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor.

Garrison Commander Departs Aug. 9

Fort Riley will conduct a departure ceremony for Col. Philip Pope, Fort Riley garrison commander on Aug. 9 at 9 a.m. on Ware Parade Field.

Pope is being assigned to the Pentagon. His replacement will be Col. John Simpson who is arriving from the Naval War College in Rhode Island.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted at King Field House.

OCSC Events

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club of Fort Riley will host a luncheon on Aug. 29th at 11 a.m. at Riley's Event Center. This will be the annual FYI luncheon, with displays from numerous local vendors and community organizations. Menu choices for lunch are Petite Beef Wellington or Chicken Caesar Salad. Call Jina Greene at 784-2884 to make reservations. Childcare is available through the Armed Forces YMCA in Junction City as well as through the CDC. Call Denna Coulson at 784-2404 to make childcare reservations.

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club of Fort Riley will be hosting their annual Welcome Tea on Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. in the morning. All spouses of active duty, reserve and retired officers and warrant officers and spouses of government employed civilians GS-7 and above are invited to attend. Spouses who have been members of OCSC in the past are encouraged to bring a new friend! Dress is casual (simple dress or jacks). Childcare is available through the Armed Forces YMCA in Junction City as well as through the CDC. Please contact Denna Coulson at 784-2404 to make childcare reservations. For more information on this event, call Stephanie Butler at 784-7734.

Women of the Chapel

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. The meetings will be at Normandy Chapel.

Renovations

Fort Riley is planning to renovate building 226, which is located within the Main Post Historic District on the fort. The Main Post Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information about this project, contact Fort Riley's Historic Architect at 239-4443.

Microchip ID For Pets

All Fort Riley residents are required to have their pets implanted with a microchip ID. The Fort Riley Veterinary Services will microchip all dogs, cats and equine through Wednesday, on a walk-in basis. The microchip

costs \$17 for the first animal and \$15 for every other animal implanted the same day.

Appointments are still required if pets need vaccinations or need to be seen for other health concerns. Veterinary Services is located at Marshal Army Airfield, building 814. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Ball, noncommissioned officer in charge of Veterinary Services at 239-3886 or 239-2732.

Tuition Assistance

Effective Oct. 1, 2002, 100 percent TA (Tuition Assistance) will be paid for soldiers enrolled in postsecondary courses. Soldiers may use 100 percent TA up to \$250 per semester hour and up to \$4500 per year. See an Army Education Counselor for details and to enroll.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop is seeking volunteers to help with merchandising, sorting and pricing donations, pulling expired items, straightening shelves, customer service and consignments. Thrift Shop business hours are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tuesday - Thursday and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteer benefits include first choice of new merchandise, discounts on donated items and a friendly working environment. Childcare expenses are reimbursed. In addition the Thrift Shop is seeking persons interested in serving on next year's board. Positions open include chairman, vice chairman, secretary and publicist. For more information about a specific position, please contact the Thrift Shop at 784-3874 during business hours.

The Shoppe

Please stop by and see our wonderful selection of handcrafted gifts and antiques. We have many new items in and lots of Americana. You never know what you will find in our ever-changing inventory. The Shoppe is located in building 259 on Stuart Ave., west of the Fort Riley Honor Guard Stables. Call 239-2783 for more information. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

Child And Youth Services

Summer youth programs are in full swing, but there are still openings in some programs.

Summer Discovery Day Camp has openings for children ages 5-11 years. Children must have completed Kindergarten. Hours for Day Camp are 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m., through Aug. 16. Children need not attend camp for the full day and can register for days or weeks at a time. Activities are based on the theme, "Around the World." Each week a different country is studied. Field trips are scheduled throughout the summer. On field trip days, children must arrive at camp in time to leave on the bus. Day camp is located in building 6620 on Normandy Drive. Phone 239-4847 to register.

Commissary News

Make room in your pantry and clean out your garage! The Second Annual Worldwide Case Lot Sale is coming. The sale will feature everything from canned goods to paper goods at significant savings. Most commissaries will have special deals on cereal, juices, soups and health and beauty items as well as meat and produce specials. Check www.com-

missaries.com in early September for more information.

Funded Legal Education Program

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 15 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense, if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2003 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judged Advocated General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of 2nd Lt. through Capt. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the fall offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at PERSCOM, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT, 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received no later than Nov. 1. Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 200, Patton Hall, 239-2217, for further information.

School Age Services Registration

Registration for SAS Before and After School Program, for those who have been previously enrolled, will be Monday through Aug. 16, 3 - 5:30 p.m. at Central Enrollment Registry, building 6620, Normandy Avenue. Enrollment will be held during those two weeks according to the following schedule: A-C Mondays; D-H Tuesdays; I-R Wednesdays; S-Z Thursdays and make-up will be on Fridays. If you have any questions or need to register a child in the Before and After School program for the first time, call CER at 239-4847. First-time registrations are by appointment only and take approximately one hour to complete.

Middle School Camp

A Middle School and Teen Summer Camp is being held for youth, 11-18. An 11-year-old must have completed 6th grade. Camp runs daily through Aug. 16. Activities and trips are planned daily. Crafts, cooking, swimming, bowling, and field trips will be centered around a different theme each week. Field trips will be taken to: Wamego, to see the Dutch Wind Mill; Lindsborg, to see how the Swedish Dala horses are made; Sedgewick County Zoo in Wichita; Rolling Hills Wildlife Park near Salina; Kansas City, to see the steamboat Arabia museum; Westridge Mall and the Combat Air Museum in Topeka and Kansas City's Worlds of Fun.

Babysitting Classes

An American Red Cross babysitting class will be held at Youth

Services on Aug. 15. Classes are for youth 12 years and older. There is a \$10 registration fee. Each class will be one-day only, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break. A Red Cross certificate in babysitting will be awarded upon course completion. There will not be any infant/toddler Cardiovascular Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) offered with these classes. A Red Cross certified instructor will be teaching the classes. Graduates will be eligible to be placed on a babysitting referral list at CYS Central Registration. Call Central Registration at 239-4847 for information and to register.

MOMS Club

MOMS Club of East Manhattan is a non-profit club designed for stay-at-home moms, or dads. It provides moms with an opportunity to interact with one another while their children participate in various daytime activities all month. Most events are for moms and their children to participate in together during the day, while some are especially for moms with optional child-care available. Children are welcome at all activities. About one-third of the membership consists of military wives stationed at Fort Riley. A monthly business meeting is held the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at First Christian Church, not affiliated, Manhattan. Annual dues are \$18, but try it out without obligation. For more information please contact Christi Oldham 539-9224 or at rcaoldham@earthlink.net.

Museum Gift Shop

The museum gift shop reopened in May. It is under operation of the U. S. Cavalry Association, which is a private organization on post. The store's official title is, Sutler's Store and carries a variety of merchandise associated with the cavalry and Fort Riley - to include books and special order going away gifts and prints. The store's operating hours are Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call the store at 239-2743, for more information.

Housing Termination Brief

Residents may now attend the Housing Termination briefing on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. The briefings are held on the third floor of the housing office at 2 p.m. The information provided helps residents understand their responsibilities and options when clearing government quarters.

New OB Class

The New OB Class is held every Tuesday morning, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., in Ward three B of Irwin Army Community Hospital. A positive pregnancy test is required before scheduling your attendance of the New OB Class. Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier or military dependent are welcome to attend. Expectant mothers will be introduced to the IACH OB/GYN staff members; fill out their OB charts, review medical and genetic history with an OB/GYN staff member, and will also be provided information on available resources offered on the Fort Riley post or local communities. The New OB Class is not a labor and delivery class. To schedule your attendance of the New OB Class, call the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 or dial the toll-free number 1-888-874-9378.

Instructors Needed

Instructors are needed in piano, other musical instruments and cheerleading.

Instructors must be experienced and pass background clearances before teaching. All instructors are hired through non-appropriated fund contracts.

For information please contact Cathy Spiegel, supplemental programs and services director at 239-9850.

Mail Training

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" class will be offered on Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at building 808 in the conference room and again on Aug. 21, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., building 319, CPAC. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll. DOD 4525.6-M, Vol II, DOD Postal Manual, requires each commander who has a unit mailroom to appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer(s). Each mailroom must also have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternate(s), no more than three. Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (20 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers (if not involved in mail handling duties) only need to attend the class; they do not have to take a test. If unit postal officer is involved in mail handling duties, then they must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail test. Call Sylvia at 239-5411 for more information.

Geary County Head Start

The hours for Geary County Head Start are 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Acceptance is based on income guidelines, but extenuating circumstances can be considered. The program can take 10 percent who are over income guidelines. Registration is open on walk-in basis, anytime during business hours. Individuals may go on waiting list, which moves quickly. Military personnel should bring in their LES. The W-2 or Income Tax form is no longer required. The program is no cost to those who qualify. Children should be 3 or 4 years old by Aug. 31 of current school year to enter for the Headstart school year 2002-2003. There is no requirement for toilet training and children can not be turned away if they qualify. For more information, call 238-1042.

Music Nights Weekly

Sports USA has begun offering weekly music theme nights. Dance music Friday nights will transition to the Latin Night format beginning at 11 p.m. Dance music Saturday nights will transition to the urban and hip-hop "Late Night with Monroe" show also beginning at 11 p.m.

Use ICE

Tell us what you think! Use ICE to provide feedback on a wide range of services provided at Fort Riley. The ICE system has

grown since we implemented it in November 2001. You can now comment on recreational, educational, training, housing, guest lodging, shopping, military finance, dining facilities, information management, facility maintenance, logistical and personnel support services. There are currently 109 services on which you can comment and we are continuing to add new areas for your feedback on a regular basis. Your feedback helps to insure that we deliver quality services throughout the installation. You can access ICE to make your comments by clicking on the ICE logo on the Fort Riley Homepage (www.riley.army.mil) or by going to the main ICE Homepage at <http://ice.disa.mil> and clicking on Fort Riley. ICE can be accessed from ANY computer with internet-access. Your questions or suggestions regarding ICE should be directed to the Strategic Planning Office, phone 239-2540 or e-mail SPO@riley.army.mil.

Spanish-Speaking Counselor Available

We have a Spanish-speaking counselor available at the Family Life Ministries Center. She is from Paraguay, and speaks Spanish, German, Portuguese and English. Please call 239-3436 to set up an appointment. As with all counseling at the Family Life Ministries Center, spiritual issues can be part of the counseling if you choose. However, they are not forced upon the counselee. For more information, call Chaplain (MAJ) Jim Paulson at 239-3436.

NAF Job Fairs

The NAF personnel division will sponsor a job fair on Tuesday at Riley's Conference Center. Upcoming job fairs will be held on: Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Applications will be accepted from 9 - 9:45 a.m., for immediate vacancies in Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities. Interviews will begin at 10:15 a.m. with job offers made as selections are made. Contact the Fort Riley CPAC NAF office at (785) 239-2325 for additional information.

Club Beyond

Club Beyond and Club Beyond JV are designed for high school and middle school youth, respectively. These meetings include a Christian devotional and the three "F's" of youth ministry: food, fun and friends. Club Beyond meets Sunday nights and CBJV meets Friday nights. Both clubs meet from 7 to 9 p.m. in the basement of St. Mary's Chapel on Main Post. The mission of Club Beyond and CBJV is to develop meaningful relationships with military dependent youth, to lead youth into relationships with Christians and with Christ, to help youth grow in Christian faith and to involve youth in Christian service.

For more information, contact Don Ericson, Club Beyond Director, at 238-4436 or dericson@nqks.com. You can check out Club Beyond on the web at www.nqks.com/clubbeyond.

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New uniform regulation now in effect, can be found online

By Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

The most current uniform policy regulation went online June 25, and clarification of the Army'sattoo policy is only one of two lozen changes or updates that took effect on Aug. 1.

The one change people won't see in the regulation is: males retaining the authority to carry umbrellas. The Army is not ready for that change, said Master Sgt. Kittie Messman, the uniform policy noncommissioned officer for the Army's G1.

Last December the Army announced that changes were being staffed, and the tattoo policy is one that underwent the most modifications.

"Under the old regulation, it stated that tattoos were prohibited on the face, neck and head. ... Now, it states that tattoos are not to be visible in the Class A uniform with trousers. So there is a common standard for both males and females," Messman said.

Soldiers who currently have tattoos on their hands will be "grand-fathered" and allowed to keep them, Messman said, as long as the tattoos are inoffensive.

Counseling requirements for commanders with soldiers who have tattoos are also outlined in the updated regulation. Offensive tattoos anywhere on the body are prohibited, but tattoos that are not offensive need to be documented in a written report at the discretion of the commander.

To eliminate subjective opinions from one command to the next, the soldier will present the written documentation at his new assignment, Messman said.

Other items that were revised include hair, nails, contacts, cell phones, pagers, headgear, "camel-

backs," desert battle-dress-uniform insignia, regimental distinctive insignia, physical fitness uniform wear and pregnancy, the explosive ordnance detachment badge and the black mess uniform.

The beret, which is a new clothing item, is addressed in the updated regulation. When soldiers are not wearing the beret outside, they should be carrying it, Messman said.

Soldiers should not attach headgear to the uniform, hang it from their belt or put it in a uniform pocket. This headgear policy has always been in effect, Messman explained. However, in maneuver environments placement of the utility cap is at the commander's discretion, she added.

What people have to remember is that the Army regulation is the only publication that accurately spells out proper wear of the uniform, Messman said. Regardless of what media sources put out, soldiers should first seek clarification from AR 670-1, and focus on what the regulation states now, and what will go into affect in August, she added. The uniform regulation was last revised in 1992, but in order to keep up with the pace of changing times the regulation is periodically reviewed.

"The regulation has to change with time," Messman said. "If not we'd still be wearing uniforms from the Civil War."

A new policy regarding cell phones and pagers is one addition to the regulation that was generated by technology, Messman said.

Under the regulation only one electronic device will be authorized for wear on the uniform in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell

phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4 X 2 X 1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, bag or in some other carrying container.

At one time, cell phones and pagers were only common practice for people in the medical field, but now the Army has downsized, and people are doing more than one job at the same time, said Lt. Col. Margaret Flott, chief of the Individual Readiness Policy Division for Army G-1. Soldiers have to be able to go out and do their jobs without being tied to their desk, she said.

Messman is the principal adviser for changes to the uniform policy, but she said the changes that were made came from recommendations.

"We depend a lot on leadership in the field," Messman said. "They know the young soldiers of today. I get their input on when it's time to allow something that wasn't allowed before, or when something starts becoming a distraction and needs to be addressed."

The policy change authorizing braids and cornrows is an example of items that were once seen as inappropriate in the workplace, but now considered conservative and business-like, Messman said. And the policy clarification that prohibits two-toned manicured nails is an example of a growing trend that has no place in the work area, she added.

People usually have the hardest time accepting the grooming policies, Messman said. "We don't want to rob people of their individuality," Messman said. "But the Army has never professed to be a leader in fashion. Our goal is

to create a conservative, professional image and some of the more trendy styles will not accomplish that goal."

Other highlights of the changes are:

Dreadlocks are prohibited for all soldiers. Prohibited hair dye colors include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors. "If soldiers use dyes, tints, or bleaches, they must choose those that result in natural hair colors," Messman said.

Women are authorized to wear braids and cornrows; baldness is authorized for males, either natural or shaved.

Males are not authorized to wear nail polish and they must keep nails trimmed to the tip of the finger. Females must keep nails trimmed no longer than 1/4 inch, as measured from the fingertip. Two-tone or multi-tone mani-

cures and nail designs are prohibited. Prohibited nail polish colors include bright fire-engine red, khaki or camouflage, purple, gold, blue, black, white, and neon colors.

Tinted or colored contacts, and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited, as they are not medically required. The only tinted contacts authorized are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear corrective vision lenses.

All soldiers are exempt from wearing headgear to evening social events (after retreat.)

The Army flash is the only one authorized on the black beret, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted (i.e., OPFOR) before June 14, 2001.

Commanders may authorize the use of a camouflage hydration system (commonly called "camel-backs") for field duty or on work

details. Soldiers will not use these devices in a garrison environment, unless directed by the commander.

Sew-on insignia is now authorized for the desert BDUs. Soldiers may wear the same insignia and awards as are worn on the woodland camouflage battle dress uniform.

Soldiers who are pregnant should wear the PT uniform until the uniform becomes too small or too uncomfortable. At that time, pregnant soldiers may wear civilian equivalent workout attire. Leaders will not require soldiers to purchase larger PT uniforms to accommodate the pregnancy.

Wear of the RDI on the AG 415 class B shirt is optional.

The category of the EOD Badge is changed from group 5 to group 3. A wear-out date for the female officer black mess uniform is Sept. 30, 2003.

Prairie 10-5-2 Run tomorrow

By Christopher Selmek

19th PAD

The Fort Riley Prairie 10-5-2 Run will be tomorrow. Awards, donated by area vendors, will be given to the top three finishers in each gender and age category of each race.

An overall first place award will be given to the top male and female finisher in each race also. The winners of the 10-mile event will also go on to run in the Army 10-mile race.

"It (the Prairie Run) is an instrument that we will use to determine who will compete in the Army ten-miler, not to say that it is a qualifier," said Jan Bradfield, sports facility coordinator. The Army 10 miler will be run Oct. 20 near the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

The entry fee for tomorrow's race is \$12 per individual on race day and a t-shirt will be given until supplies run out.

As of July 29 there were 12 people registered for the 10-mile race, six for the five-mile and two

for the two-mile race. "It all depends on the weather and what people are doing," said Bradfield. "We'll probably get twice as many this week, and a lot are probably waiting to register race day. They'll probably be a lot more people, we hope."

Packet pickup and same day registration for all three races is between 6 and 6:45 a.m.

All events start and finish at the King Field House gymnasium.

The three different races, the 10-mile and 5-mile both start at 7:30 a.m. and the 2-mile at 7 a.m. Races are open to the Fort Riley community and general public.

Dogs, strollers, baby joggers, skateboards, roller skates, motorized vehicles, bicycles or headsets are not permitted on the course during the race for the safety and convenience of the runners. For more information contact the King Field House at 239-3868.

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Soldiers issued chainsaws

By Roy Gomez
14th PAD

Soldiers, who learned to assemble, disassemble and use their rifle in basic training, have been issued a new weapon—a chainsaw.

Fifty-one soldiers are training to use chainsaws to help other soldiers from Task Force Destroyer, who are currently using shovels and polaskis, to fight the Monument Fire in Unity, Ore.

With two-man sawyer crews on every firefighting team, soldiers will be able to extend their firelines at faster rates. The chainsaw's ability to cut through timber and thick brush offers a relief from having to cut and move everything with their hands and non-powered tools.

"Having the chainsaws on the line is important because if all we have are shovels and polaskis to

build a line, it would take 10 times longer," said Winston Rall, lead instructor and program manager for chainsaw training and certification for Region 6 of the U.S. Forrester Services.

The sawyers must be able to move quickly as they lead teams of soldiers constructing firelines to contain the blaze.

To keep the sawyers rested and working effectively, the sawyers work in two-man teams. While one soldier uses the chainsaw to cut a walking path, his partner, known as a swamper, clears the path of debris. Since both sawyers are qualified to use to chainsaw, they can alternate shifts cutting and clearing the path.

"The sawyer and the swamper have to learn how to work as a unit so they can do their job while staying safe," said Rall.

Safety is a big issue when soldiers are working with saws. The

saws are designed to cut through logs and other thick material and can injure a soldier.

"The chainsaws don't cut skin like a knife," said Rall. "They will take a quarter-inch of skin and bone out of a person."

Two days of preparation and training have lowered the danger of any soldier getting hurt. Including a four-hour classroom session, each of the 51 soldiers turned sawyers received hands-on training.

With proper training and practice, the soldiers look forward to joining their peers in the battle against the fire.

"I want to get out there and clear the way for the soldiers. I want to do everything I can so we can put this fire out," said Sgt. Joshua Yeager, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.



14th PAD Photo

Pvt. Wayne Burnsworth and Pvt. Benjamin Roberts, both from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, assemble a chainsaw during chainsaw training and certification.

Tudela on 4th mission using firefighting skills

By Roy Gomez
14th PAD

The Monument Fire in Unity, Ore., marks the fourth time in 19 years that Staff Sgt. Ivan Tudela, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, has gone to war against fires.

"I do whatever my duties are wherever I'm sent," said Tudela.

While stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash., Tudela fought fires in Montana in 1988 and Oregon in 1989 and 1990. With every firefighting mission, Tudela learns something new that he uses to help his soldiers.

"He's (Tudela) like a deer; he knows his way around the forest so well," said Pvt. Salvador Diaz, Service Btry., 1st Bn., 5th FA. "He's always guiding us and telling us what we should be doing and how to do it right."

After Tudela's three deployments, fighting fires is getting easier for him.

"Fighting this fire is a lot easier than the previous ones," said Tudela.

Tudela's polished firefighting techniques and the fire's ease are allowing him the opportunity to refine other skills important to him and his soldiers. With the long hours of hard work and miles of hiking that Tudela's firefighting Team 22 does everyday, he focuses a lot on his soldiers' morale to ensure they are safe, physically and mentally.

"The Big Kahuna (Tudela's nickname) is always looking for ways to help the group members and increase our morale," said Diaz. "He treats us like we're all family members."

After the next three weeks are over and Team 22's firefighting mission is completed, its soldiers will return to Kansas having done something new as a team, but Tudela will return a four-time firefighting veteran.

Task Force practices MEDEVAC procedures

By Chris Smith
14th PAD

UNITY, Oregon - Adrenaline coursing through his veins, he grabs his gear and runs for his Blackhawk. The call had come in; a 21-year-old male has fallen near the fire line and suffered a compound fracture to his right femur.

Now in the air, Sgt. Matthew Whitehead, 54th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), Fort Lewis, Wash., is going over in his mind what he must do. After they touch down, Whitehead runs up to the casualty and prepares to cut his pants, but then he finds out ... it was just an exercise.

"I was about to cut (the casualties) pants off when I was told it was an exercise," said Whitehead.

His not knowing, only helped to make the exercise more realistic, though he admitted it would have been nice to have known.

"This (was) the first of several MEDEVAC exercises to build the confidence of our soldiers and civilian fire fighters on our ability to quickly get them to appropriate medical care," said Lt. Col. David Byrn, Task Force Destroyer commander.

The exercise was held at the Monument Fire near Unity, Ore. The 54th has been deployed here to provide MEDEVAC support to assets involved in the incident. According to Whitehead, the unit needed little preparation to deploy.

"This is what we do daily at home," he said.

Though what they're doing here is similar to what they do at home, the soldiers of the 54th will gain valuable experience.

"I'm going to get more experience," Whitehead said. "This is a different type of environment and situation than normal."

The change of scenery is something that has excited some of them as well.

"I think it's a good assignment," said Spc. Ryan Cook, 54th Med. Co. "It gives us a chance to help out some people and do some good."

The 54th arrived earlier in the week with two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters equipped for medical evacuation. They are part of Task Force Destroyer, a unit made up of elements primarily from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, out of Fort Riley, Kan.

Now on site, the soldiers are currently working 24 hour, day on, day off shifts that will continue until the end of their deployment.

Firefighters on the frontlines of the fire admitted feeling better with the presence of the MEDEVAC unit. They said it's comforting to know that they will be taken care of quickly if an accident were to happen.

With soldiers and firefighters knowing they're in the sky, the Monument Fire has been made a little safer by the 54th, and they don't plan on letting them down.

"We're here to do the same job we do back at home," said Cook. "We are always ready."

Fire safety top priority for troops in Oregon

By Melissa Bernazzani
14th PAD

While scaling terrain and maneuvering through debris, Task Force Destroyer soldiers must remain prepared for any situation on the fireline ... most of all, safety.

The Monument Fire in Unity, Ore., is a prime example of the importance of safety.

In just one day, six Task Force soldiers were injured on the fireline. This was only a few days after their initial firefighting training, which included the basics on fire safety.

Staff Sgt. Marty Kerekes, Team 10 of Task Force Destroyer, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, said he keeps in constant communication with his soldiers and frequently reminds them of the safety precautions. He said it is an effective way to prevent accidents.

"They (the soldiers) really have to be aware of their environment," said Kerekes. "A soldier can seriously get hurt."

Kerekes said keeping command and control can be challenging, but leaders must make sure soldiers are doing the right things and watching for hazards.

"Our lieutenant and sergeants give us daily briefings on the weather, terrain and maintaining communications. Anything changes, they inform the teams," said Spc. Michael McFadden, Btry. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA.

Team 10 has a zero accident rate to date, only minor blisters from adjusting to the terrain.

Prior to heading out to the

fireline, soldiers sharpen their tools, inspect each other's gear and stretch their muscles.

The soldiers know the importance of safety as they walk through the rough landscape.

"Foot safety is very important out here," McFadden said, pointing out piles of sheet rock and holes from fallen trees.

"Our (military) advisor reminds us of what to look out for and many tips of the trade (firefighting)."

Safety is one of the most important issues when dealing with firefighting, according to a Dale Rankin, Task Force Destroyer military crew advisor and captain with the California Department of Forestry.

Whether assigned to mop up the burned out area or face-to-face with the blaze, soldiers and even experienced firefighters must revert to the basics of safety.

The acronym LCES is taught in the first class of the soldiers' firefighting certification training.



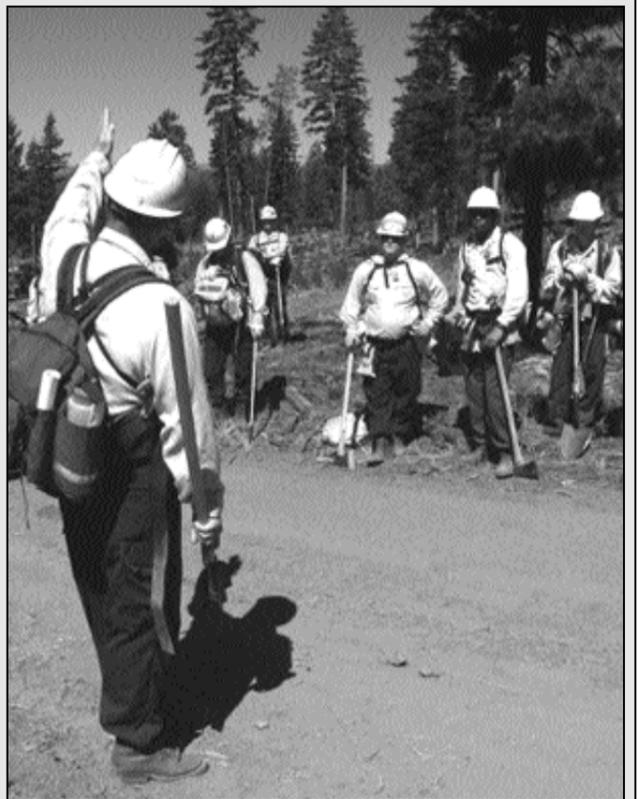
14th PAD Photo

A soldier attached a safety device to his shovel.

and it is used constantly. It stands for lookout, communication, escape routes and safety zones.

The key word is safety. Soldiers also are given protective and mission essential equipment, by the National Interagency Fire

Center. With proper communication and guidance, the Task Force soldiers feel confident about accomplishing the firefighting mission. "I have no worries what so ever," McFadden said.



14th PAD Photo

Task Force Destroyer soldiers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, receive a safety briefing prior to hitting the Monument Fire fireline in Unity, Ore.

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Riots, protesters part of training at Operation Hickory Sting

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Ten local civilians slowly march up to the military police gate, waving banners and yelling obscenities at the American soldiers lined up in front of them. They demand the man who hurt one of their brothers, telling the soldiers that they are standing in the way of bringing him to justice.

The MPs at the gate try to halt the advancing protesters, who duck and dodge the outstretched hands of those trying to keep them back. Finally, five more MPs come to help out and stop the protesters in their tracks.

"We want Tew," one protester screams, yelling for the man who hurt his buddy. "He should pay for his crimes."

Reporters with cameras follow closely behind the throng, snapping pictures of everything that happens. They throw questions at the MPs, who evade them with glaring looks and promises of answering them at a better time.

Finally, a major comes out and calls the leaders over for a quick meeting. After a ten-minute talk, the leaders come back and announce the end of the protest. As part of their settlement, the soldiers promise monetary compensation as well as an apology

during a meeting to be held later. This is just one scenario that was played out frequently during Operation Hickory Sting, an exercise that brought about 9,500 soldiers from 26 different states to Fort Riley. These soldiers, mostly from the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade out of North Carolina, are training on post as practice for their scheduled National Training Exercise rotation next year.

Thanks to the help of civilians on the battlefield, Operation Hickory Sting was more like a real battlefield, which is important for the training of the soldiers out in the field.

"Scenarios are developed from real world situations that U.S. Armed Forces are dealing with around the world," said Capt. Mike Crisman, intelligence plans officer with the 24th Infantry Division (Mech). "They are designed to expose soldiers and leaders to situations that they could be exposed to when deployed. These role players provide realism to the training and allow multiple interactions to reinforce and validate unit standard operation procedures when encountering civilians and media on the battlefield."

Soldiers from the 248th Military Intelligence Company from Atlanta played the civilians during the exercise. Since many of

the men have military haircuts, soldiers try to make themselves look the part by donning Middle Eastern clothing.

There were many roles that the 248th soldiers played as part of the exercise: armed insurgents, local government officials, displaced civilians, non-governmental agencies, injured civilians, local farmers and families in the region, according to Crisman.

All the civilians involved were required to wear the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System, or MILES gear. If a civilian was 'shot' by the laser, the MILES gear would beep and the medics would have to treat the civilian.

"Civilians and media on the battlefield are a factor that all units have to prepare for," Crisman said. "This training will not only prepare them for their national Training Center Rotation next summer, but more importantly, actual mobilization and deployment into any theater worldwide."

There were also soldiers and interns from the Public Affairs Office who played media on the battlefield for the exercise. It's their job to make sure that soldiers are ready to be interviewed by a journalist out in a foreign country.

"Many soldiers have never been interviewed before," said



Post/Selmek

Military Policemen stop protesters at the front gate of Camp Funston during a recent civilians on the battlefield demonstration as part of Operation Hickory Sting.

Sgt. Kevin Doheny, a journalist with the 19th Public Affairs Detachment. "This type of training is important because there are things that the media shouldn't know, like operational security and future operations. We just give them some practice so they

won't be so nervous when they're really interviewed."

After all COB scenarios, the fake civilians gave after action reviews to the soldiers on the things that they did well and things they can improve on for the next time.

"It's all a learning experience," Crisman said. "AARs give quick feedback to the soldiers out in the field. That way, they can make sure that the next time they deal with the civilians, they can perform without making a mistake. That's why we do this training."



Post/Selmek

Second Sergeant Thomas Ng, Peace Prairie Detachment from the Republic of Singapore Air Force, re-fuels a Chinook helicopter during Operation Hickory Sting.

NC Armor troops run training lanes before taking on Fort Riley's OPFOR

By Jason Davenport
NC National Guard PAO

The 1st Battalion, 252 Armor, headquartered in Fayetteville, N.C., and commanded by Lt. Col. Gary Thompson, fine-tuned its combat skills by running "lanes raining" last week.

Lanes training simulated the battlefield conditions for the battalion to rehearse its wartime tasks of maneuver, direct fire and breaching operations.

The battalion was preparing for a mock war against the Opposing Forces. The tanks had seen little of the OPFOR at that point. However, a tank driver from Company A did boast of getting a kill on an OPFOR vehicle from 3,000 meters out with his M1 Abrams tank.

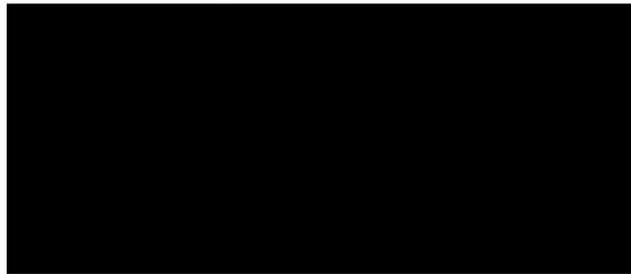
The battalion has companies located in Sanford, Southern Pines, Parkton and Red Springs, N.C., Company C, 120th Mechanized Infantry out of Whiteville, N.C., with a detachment in Lumberton and the 105th Combat Engineers, headquartered in Rayford, N.C., were attached to the 152nd.

Engineers from the 105th were also busy last week. They practiced breaching obstacles separating friendly forces from the OPFOR using the M58 Mine Clearing Line Charge.

The MICLIC is a rocket projected explosive line 350 feet in length, containing five pounds of

C-4 explosive per linear foot. It is effective against conventionally fused mines and can clear an area up to 14 meters wide and 100 meters deep.

Because of this intense training, 252nd Armor and its attached forces were ready to meet their mission.



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Singapore soldiers at Hickory Sting

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

A small group of soldiers from the Republic of Singapore Air Force have come to Fort Riley to participate in Operation Hickory Sting.

The 90 soldiers participating in this operation are from the Peace Prairie Detachment associated with the Texas National Guard. This detachment has been in operation since 1996 and has been specifically formed for the training needs of Republic of Singapore airmen in the United States. A shortage of land has required the Republic of Singapore Air Force to relocate part of its training assets in other countries.

"I think the major difference here is that we have very limited airspace in Singapore," said Maj.

Vincent Lim, deputy commander for the Peace Prairie Detachment. "As you are aware, we are a tiny island of only 265 square miles."

"The environment here is very conducive for training," said Maj. David Cheong, operations officer for the Peace Prairie Detachment. "All the guys here look forward to a second tour, even before the first tour finishes."

Operation Hickory Sting is Fort Riley's mission rehearsal exercise for more than 8,000 soldiers from 26 states. Singapore brought with them only aviators and aviation technicians to complete their training mission.

"We have aviators as well as the ground crew supporting the second line and first line to help ourselves in repairing the aircraft," said Cheong.

"We get ourselves acclimatized to the training environment," he

said "and learn as much as possible and shorten the learning curve. That helps us a lot to prepare ourselves for the deployment back, and then the next group will come."

The Singapore aviators are also very pleased that it is often possible to bring their family to America for what is usually a two-year tour.

"The exposure here is very good as an operator, especially being a pilot," said Cheong. "Bringing your family over helps a lot because we can focus more on work without having worry about our family's worrying about us."

"America is a nice place," said Lim. "We enjoy our stay here, enjoy lots of amenities. This is a beautiful country, there are lots of places to see."

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