



<b>Weather Forecast</b>		<b>Today</b>  High:95 Low:63
<b>Saturday</b>  High:93 Low:66	<b>Sunday</b>  High:97 Low:68	

# FRIDAY

# Fort Riley Post



Soldier Show entertains

The Army Soldier Show 2002 will have two performances tomorrow at K-State's McCain Auditorium. There will be a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. Free tickets are available through ITR.

August 9, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 45, No. 32

## Garrison commander bids farewell to post

By Heather Pope  
Radford Univ. Intern

Fort Riley will honor outgoing Garrison Commander, Col. Philip Pope during his change of command ceremony this morning on Ware Parade Field. Pope came to Fort Riley in September 2000 with high expectations.

"My goals were to provide the best support possible to the soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees that train, live, work and visit Fort Riley," he said.

**"My goals were to provide the best support possible to the soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees that train, live, work and visit Fort Riley."**

—Col. Philip Pope

in any organization. When Col. Pope saw the opportunity for improvement in the feedback process through implementation of Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE), he established very aggressive goals for implementation and education of the customers on its use," said Helen Gough, deputy garrison commander.

Pope said he wanted to make sure needed systems were put into place to ensure that the customers knew what to expect and where to go for help. "Systems also allow

the workforce to more effectively and efficiently accomplish their task," he said.

Although Pope was unable to achieve all of his initial goals during his time at Fort Riley, he feels there are a number of important things that were accomplished.

"First, there have been a significant amount of resources committed to ensuring we have a safe and wholesome community," he said. Steps taken by the Director of Community Activities to improve mayor training and sponsorship unit support have been effective also, he said.

"Then, there is the day-to-day support provided by the provost marshal and the great MP's that serve the community everyday, the efforts that have been made by the director of public works and the garrison command sergeant major to identify and solve com-

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## Troops begin redeployment

By Jason Shepherd  
19th PAD

With temperatures reaching into the hundreds and rain scarce, soldiers from the 206th Corps Support Battalion from Brooklyn, N.Y., are sweating it out at Camp Funston, getting all the vehicles loaded on rail cars for the long trip home after Operation Hickory Sting.

The 35-member detachment has been working with soldiers from several different states to get this enormous mission accomplished on time and without injury.

"We have soldiers from New York, Connecticut, Alabama, Michigan and North Carolina," said Maj. Mark Friszolowski, operations officer for the 206th CSB. "They are all working side-by-side, all doing different jobs and speaking different languages. I'm extremely proud of the way the (non-commissioned officers) have handled this mission, this very complicated mission."

Even though the mission is complicated, according to Friszolowski, the soldiers in the rail yard have set two new records.

"We did 161 rail cars in one day, and we finished by (3 p.m.)," he said. "Our challenge is, can we do 200 the next time? And that's not me, that's the soldiers saying that we can do 200, no problem."

The soldiers from Brooklyn shattered the old record of about 120 rail cars in one day, according to Lt. Col. Peter Sammarco, commander of the 206th CSB. They also loaded 229 rail cars in two days. Not only did they do a quick job, they also saved money by cutting the number of cars going out. Sammarco credits his junior troops for such a quick, smart and safe job.

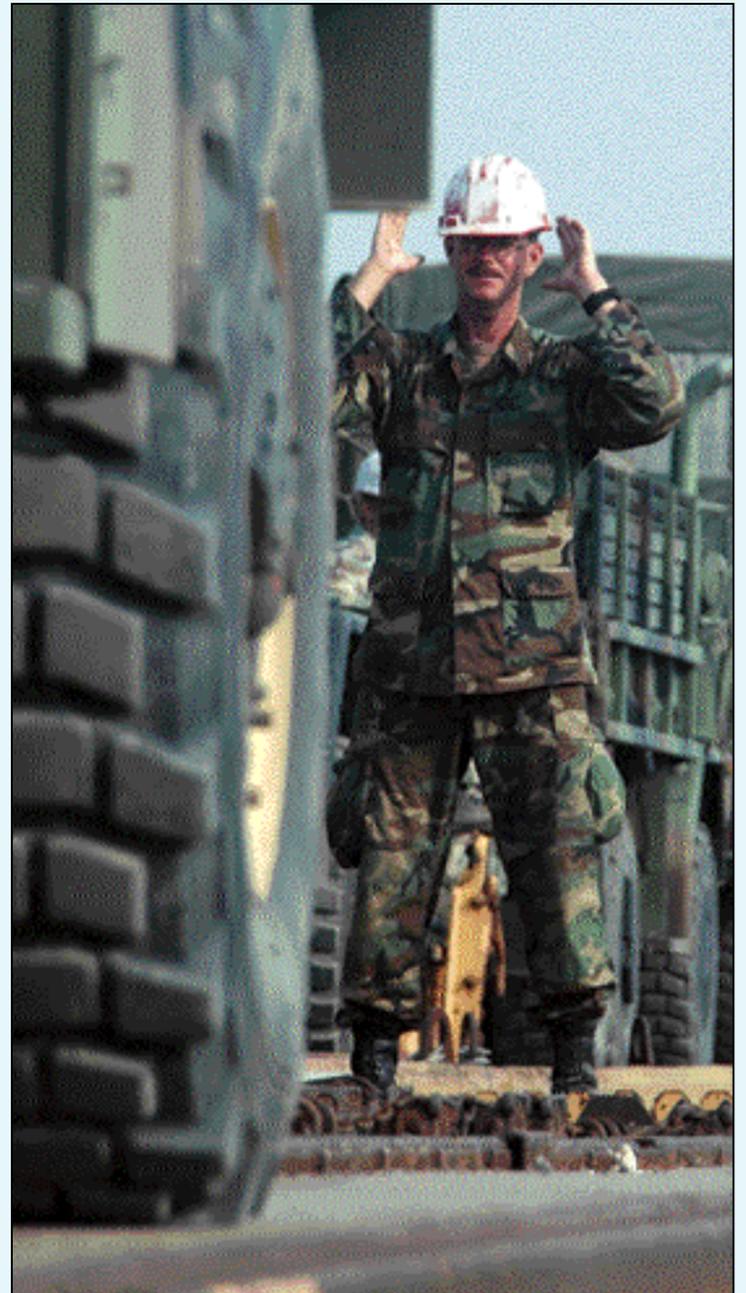
"We had (specialists) guiding vehicles in," he said, "telling battalions and brigades when to come in. From the standpoint of their own personal leadership development and competency, they got the chance to be put in the position that they normally wouldn't."

"The training for us as National Guard soldiers is great because it's hands on," Friszolowski added. "It's a mission that's very demanding for us because the soldier will be challenged. It's not something he's done before so it's something that requires a plan, and that's where the officers come in, and then it requires execution."

Because of the heat, NCO's had to make sure the soldiers in the rail yard were safe.

"We provide lots of water and breaks," said Sgt. Troy Williams, an NCO with the 206th. "We checked on them every once in a while to make sure they were o.k."

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Staff Sgt. Ron Jones, 694th Maintenance Battalion, Newborn, NC, signals a 5-ton vehicle onto the railhead at Camp Funston.

## Fort Riley pays tribute to Wojdakowski with departure ceremony

By Steven Cooke  
Staff Writer

Fort Riley troops, civilians and family members paid tribute to Brig. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, assistant division commander Forward, 24th Infantry Division Mechanized) and deputy commanding general (South), First J.S. Army, for two years of outstanding service during a ceremony held Aug. 1.

Wojdakowski travels to V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, where he will serve as deputy command-

ing general. Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, currently the assistant chief of staff, Operations KFOR (Main), Film City, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, will assume Wojdakowski's duties.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (MECH) and Fort Riley, served as reviewing officer for the ceremony, held on Ware Parade Field. During his remarks, he voiced strong praise for the leadership of Wojdakowski and the good fortune of Fort Riley to benefit from it.

"When the Good Lord decided

to make him, he went into the soldier parts bin — and he added a tremendous emphasis of leadership parts, and thus gave us one of the finest soldiers and leaders that I have ever had the privilege to serve with," Metz said.

"Hundreds of us at Fort Riley, a couple dozen at Fort Jackson and thousands across First Army have been made much better soldiers and leaders because of General Wojdakowski's assignment," he added.

"He was the right guy, at the right place, at the right time," Metz said. "The Chief of Staff of

the Army could not have picked a better officer to make the integrated division concept work."

During Wojdakowski's remarks, he said that when he and his wife visit Fort Riley they always think, "It must be great to be assigned at a one-divisional post. You can feel the atmosphere, command climate, togetherness, three outstanding brigades, a post in full support of mission accomplishments. It is always a pleasure and honor for us to visit Fort Riley."

Wojdakowski praised the determination and spirit of the

24th Division.

"They say a division can do anything it puts its mind to in today's Army. The 24th is certainly that good. Hickory Sting is an indicator of how well this division can perform whatever mission it is given — in this case, bringing together all the components of the Army for a successful exercise," he said.

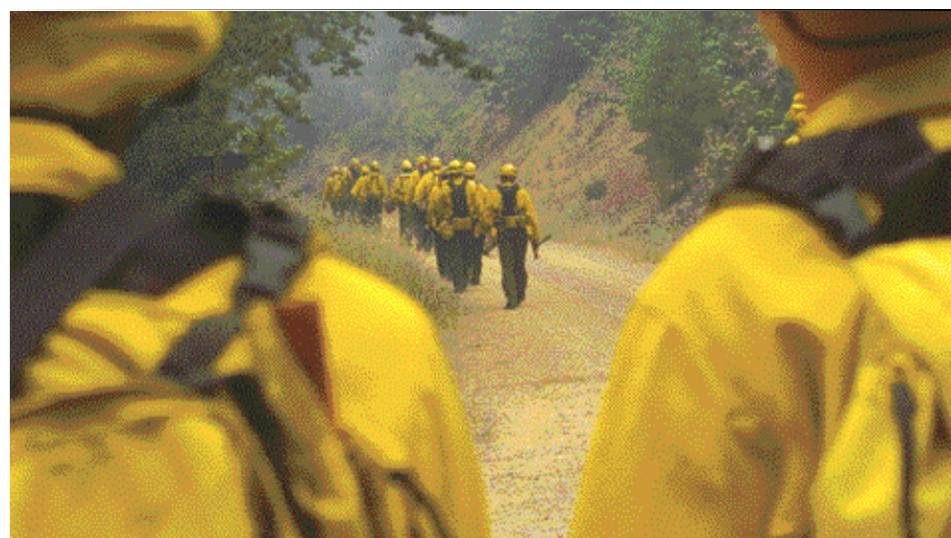
Wojdakowski commented on the maturing of the integrated division, and expressed enthusiasm for his new assignment.

"It's been a distinct honor to watch the integrated division - the

24th — mature over time. Hickory Sting, again, is an indicator of how mature this division has integrated," he said. "We've become one with our brothers in the reserve component."

Wojdakowski said he is looking forward to going back to Germany. "The Fifth Corps is a great Corps. I'm looking forward to the missions."

During the ceremony, Wojdakowski was presented the Legion of Merit. His wife, Candy, was presented the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.



## Local troops relocate to second fire

By Christie Vanover  
Staff Writer

Military and civilian firefighters, including Fort Riley's 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, helped contain the Monument Fire near Unity, Ore., and are now refocusing their efforts on a new blaze within the state, the Tiller Complex Fire.

The forest fire, located on the Tiller Ranger District and in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Area, east of Tiller, Ore., was caused by a massive lightning storm on July 12, which ignited 116 individual fires.

Through natural extinction and the efforts of firefighters, the

Almost half of the 31,000 burned acres is in one single fire, but each is a separate management issue because it has a separate perimeter, he added.

The soldiers known as "Hamilton's Own" relocated to the Tiller Complex on Aug. 1 after working the fireline of the Monument Fire and mopping up burned fuels 500 feet inside all perimeters. That fire is now 90 percent contained.

The Tiller Complex fire, however, will be slow and difficult to fight because of safety concerns, according to Maj. Kirk Sessin, executive officer, 1st Bn., 5th FA.

"Our big concern is with the number of different fires," he said. "A crew could be fighting at one fire and have another fire up

The wilderness areas are also heavy with poison oak and are difficult to travel to because there are limited access roads.

Task Force Destroyer's 550 soldiers joined with 1,000 other firefighters and the Pacific Northwest Team 3 to conduct direct and indirect attacks.

Indirect attacks involve clearing brush and smaller trees away from existing roads, so the teams can light burn outs. "In real rugged country, we back away quite a bit from the fire to build firelines-as much as a couple miles," said Ferguson.

By attacking the fires indirectly, the controlled fire is allowed to connect to the wildfire, stopping its forward momentum.

# Ordnance soldiers practice for dangerous, explosive situations



Capt. Steven Elder, 774th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company looks down in a hole after the explosion of some ordnance during training.

By Kevin Doheny  
19th PAD

Most people hear about a "bomb scare" and don't think much about it.

They don't realize the potential for danger in these types of situations. For those individuals who make sure all situations involving possible explosives or ordnance are taken care of, the amount of precaution they take in their approach to the situation is precise. Part of the 774th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company's duties includes just that, and making sure Fort Riley stays ordnance-accident free.

The 774th EOD has responsibility, over a four state region stretching up to South Dakota, to make sure professionals handle dangerous explosives or ordnance situations.

"We provide a 24-hour EOD emergency response support to this region," said Capt. Steven Elder, company commander for the 774th. "We support the local law enforcement, ATF and FBI in all military ordnance incidents and with many Improvised Explosive Devices or homemade bombs."

The job of the EOD soldier is unique to say the least. Their skills are tested only by putting themselves in potentially dangerous situations, but they ensure when doing their training, that they take safety seriously.

"The single most important thing about our job is safety," said Elder.

"Safety for other EOD members, other soldiers and civilians.

We live by the motto 'Initial success or total failure.' There isn't a lot of room for mistakes. Being able to disarm or destroy a piece of ordnance or IED, either on or off post, that could possibly hurt or kill another person is satisfying, and working with soldiers who love what they do on a daily basis is enjoyable."

For training on their wartime mission, soldiers of the 774th have to handle large rounds of ammunition to simulate what type of ordnance they would actually have to dispose of in a field or wartime environment.

Before they even get on the ranges, soldiers figure out what they need, how to set up and how to properly stage the operation so the explosion properly disposes of the round as effectively as possible.

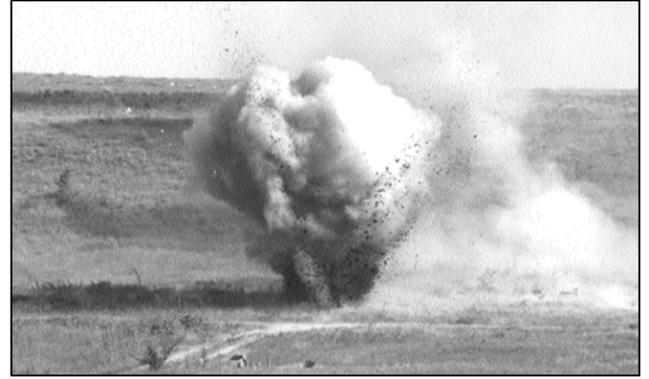
This was the case a few weeks ago, as they headed out to the range for more training to stay proficient at their jobs.

"We have a wide range of missions," said Staff Sgt. David Gomez, team leader and training noncommissioned officer for the company. "One of those is to be able to dispose of a large quantity of unserviceable and serviceable ammunition, usually things which have fired and miss-fired. For this training we brought out some 120mm tank rounds, which gives our guys a chance to experience some of the different things we dispose of during our normal job sequence."

Soldiers of the 774th feel that the more highly trained, skilled and knowledgeable they are about the explosives, the more proficient they are.

"The EOD soldier is a highly trained and skilled bomb technician, whose daily mission responsibilities include the positive identification of every type of ordnance, foreign or domestic, and either rendering that ordnance safe or disposing of it by other means, usually detonation," said Elder.

The 774th may be considered a small unit compared to others on Fort Riley, but their mission isn't small by any means.



An explosion occurs when detonated by the EOD soldiers during training recently on Fort Riley.

## Farewell continued from page 1

nunity issues; all combined to have a positive affect on the community," said Pope.

"We've also gone through a good bit of change, that in my view has been positive for the installation," said Pope. "We have implemented better business practices that have made us more effective and saved the installation millions of dollars."

A couple of examples include combining contracts and eliminating overhead while still accomplishing the same work at a significantly reduced price, he said.

"The installation's decision to use sole source vendors created healthy competition in the community and resulted in lower prices and better service for the Fort Riley community," said Pope.

Pope believes Morale, Welfare and Recreation services have also improved in the last two years on Fort Riley.

"Joe Krasnican of DCA provided a vision for his operation and has implemented management controls, empowered his managers and required a customer focus of everyone that works within the DCA," said Pope.

Fort Riley's business operations now have a corporate image that is positive and continuing to improve and its club system has made a complete turn around,

according to Pope.

"For years, Fort Riley clubs were rated last in FORSCOM; this year we will either be number one or two. I am really proud of this accomplishment," said Pope.

This improvement has allowed us to reinvest into our club systems, provide additional funding to the BOSS program, double the unit fun dollars for FY02 and pay a portion of the pet micro-chipping fee for all soldiers on the installation, he said.

We have made great improvements in our ability to communicate with our residents, customers, workforce and all who do business with us, through the Community Action Council and new website, said Pope.

In addition to supporting community members and soldier, Pope is responsible for 3,600 civilian employees.

"I am proud of the improvements we have made in civilian training and recruitment; they are showing positive effects and will enhance the installation's ability to meet its mission well into the 21st century," said Pope.

"This installation also enjoys fantastic support from the local communities and has a world-class civilian workforce that sup-

ports the soldiers and their training environments better than any place else in the Army," he added.

While Pope is quick to recognize his staff for their accomplishments, Gough compliments Pope's leadership. His foresight led to a comprehensive Historic Master Plan that will lay out historical significance of buildings, potential uses and pave the way for SHPO approval for future renovation and demolition within the historic district.

"He has a great concern for people; both the people we're here to serve as well as the people who are providing the support and service," said Gough.

Being the Garrison Commander isn't an easy job, said Fyffe. "Juggling the support for Fort Riley, the outlying community and relationships you have there, and still providing the service and support our warfighters deserve and need, is an art and Col. Pope has proved to be a consummate professional," he said.

"I leave Fort Riley with warm feelings and a positive attitude," said Pope. "I feel good about the change that has occurred in the last two years and what is planned for the future."

"I am impressed with the great

civilian workforce and am grateful to the senior civilian leaders who trained and coached me in the early days of my command and also for their willingness to embrace change and explore new options. I leave Fort Riley with many new friends. Fort Riley and the surrounding communities will have a special place in my heart, and has been one of my most rewarding assignments," he concluded.

## Grunt By Wayne Uhden



## 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. For more information, call 238-1042.

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3 x 10"  
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Out here they depend

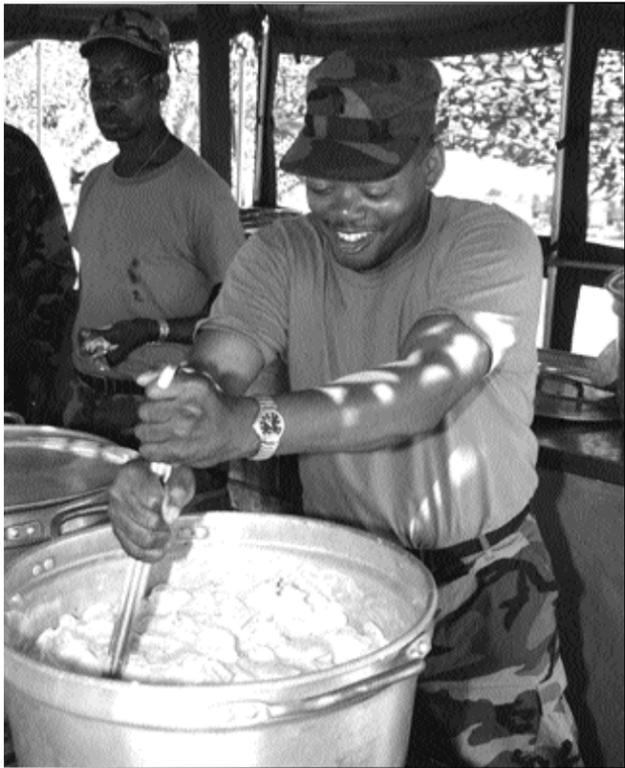
## Homeschool Support Group

Meetings in August of the Homeschool Support Group include a field trip on Aug. 16 at 8:30 a.m., a trip to Sunset Zoo on Aug. 16 at 9 a.m. and piano every Tuesday at noon at The Glens. For more information, call Lisa Mason at 784-2799 or Krista Persing at 784-7576.

HOUSE ADS  
2 x 6.5"  
Black Only  
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

## COTTONWOOD THEATERS

1 x 3"  
Black Only  
new times



Post/Selmek

Spec. Phillip Bulley, 449th Aviation, stirs a vat of scalloped potatoes to be served to soldiers participating in Operation Hickory Sting.

# MKT, better way to feed soldiers in field

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

Mobile Kitchen Trailers, which have come to replace dining tents as the Army's primary feeding method, are being used to feed participants in Operation Hickory Sting.

The MKT is part of the Army's commitment to providing soldiers nutritious meals in garrison and the field.

Hot meals prepared by cooks have been a luxury. At the beginning of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, troops mostly ate Meals, Ready to Eat and only ate an occasional cooked meal.

The chief advantage of the mobile kitchen trailers over the traditional mess tents is their ability to be set up and torn down quickly and by only a few workers.

"We have everything contained on that trailer," said Sgt. 1st Class Sterling Marshall, food service sergeant, 131st Aviation Battalion. "It's mobile, and it only takes four men to set up."

Other soldiers believe the number is even fewer, meaning that

any unit can quickly set up an area for the preparation of hot meals within the first day of moving into an area.

"Actually, two people can set it up, if they know how," said 1st Cook, Sgt. Wendell Borom, 131st Aviation Battalion.

Despite its more compact size, the MKT is just as versatile as any mess tent and the rations served are just as tasty as anything provided by garrison.

"The quality of the food is the same as garrison," said Marshall. "My cooks out here put forth the little extra effort to make everything enjoyable."

"We can bake, fry or grill, almost anything we need to do in the MKT's," added Borom.

The MKT's are set up to provide for over 300 soldiers a meal, 700 if there are two MKT's adjacent, though their limits can be pushed to much more when need-

ed. "We usually serve enough for 350 personnel," said Marshall. "That includes two hot meals a day, breakfast and dinner, and an MRE for lunch."

Points are set up upon formation, where soldiers can go to be picked up and driven back to the MKT to eat. This ritual occurred twice a day for the soldiers during Hickory Sting, each during a one and a half hour window for breakfast and dinner. Lunch is also provided by the MKT.

"They have it set up so that when you have breakfast, you grab an MRE on the outbound," said Capt. Michael Zapata, aviation brigade logistics.

The MKT's serve fresh fruit and meat that comes to them frozen in packages. They then simply boil the food and prepare it the same way they would if they were in garrison.

"Normally, we don't serve food that comes in a can," said Borom. "We serve fresh meat and fresh fruit. It's very nutritious and soldiers like it a lot better than an MRE, I can tell you that."

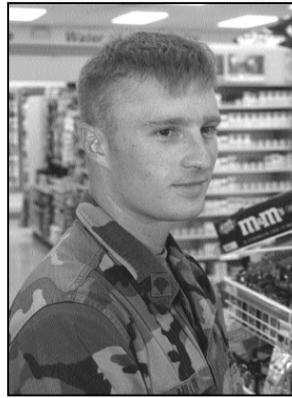
Though the MKT's are now themselves being replaced by new Containerized Kitchens, the MKT is still the most widely used feeding method for soldiers in a field environment. The new units are said to be even more tactically efficient than MKT's.

Operation Hickory Sting is Fort Riley's mission rehearsal exercise for more than 8,000 soldiers from 24 states. The units involved brought MKT's with them into this field exercise as the meal standard.

"If you go around the active duty soldiers, they'll tell you they've been getting some good meals," said Marshall.

## Talk Around Town

### "How are you coping with the summer heat?"



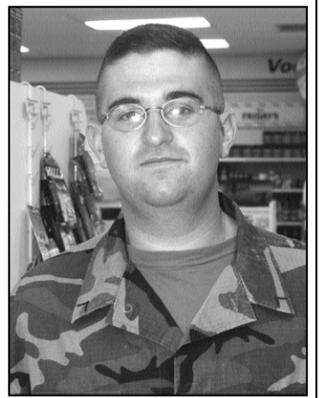
"I am drinking water and using common sense. That's about all you can do."

Spec. Toby Miller  
Multi-channel Operator  
596th Signal Co.



"I am trying to stay hydrated and staying indoors. Also, drink lots of water."

Teresa Poppert  
Sales Associate  
Camp Forsyth Shoppette



"It's hot and I'm just getting by. I drink water and just do what I am told."

Pvt. 2 Dustin Surginer  
Cannoneer  
4th Bn., 1st FA



Post/Cooke

Brig. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, assistant division commander (Forward), 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and deputy commanding general (South), First U.S. Army, and his wife, Candy, visit with attendees of their departure ceremony on Aug. 1. Wojdakowski leaves to become deputy commanding general for V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, in Germany.

## Support continued from page 1

We had a couple of heat casualties, but no major injuries," Friscolowski added.

"We sat down and looked at the safety record of Fort Riley prior to our deployment and we saw that there had been some serious injuries in the past. The last thing we want is for a soldier to go back with something on his body that he'll remember from the rail yard."

According to Sammarco, the soldiers of the 206th are assigned the mission of rail unloading at the National Training Center at

Fort Irwin, Calif. next summer. He credits Fort Riley for getting his soldiers ready to that mission.

"The training was excellent," he said. "We got a chance to exercise ourselves as far as a staff, planning and making the rail yard operational. Doing the whole military decision-making process was a great exercise for the staff. Fort Riley's been great. It's been hot but a lot of fun," he said, adding, "Fort Riley is a good place to train for NTC, and other

units should take the opportunity to come here."

Sammarco said that on a normal guard drill weekend, there are only two days of training, so the only thing we can do on a normal weekend is common task training, weapons qualification or classroom instruction.

The difference between a normal drill weekend and coming out to the rail yard is deploying with the transportation detachment and

the other units...and working with them as far as staging, loading and preparing, he said.

"You have an enhanced brigade that's fighting the battle and their priority is on that battle," he said. "And as combat service support, we want to give them as much support as we can, so we had a solid plan. We did a lot of

drills before this and what really topped it off was execution. We really made our money here."

## Fire continued from page 1

vulnerable to insects and dead component increases. The current blazes are burning along forest floors and are not killing a lot of big trees," he explained.

"A few years from now we'll have a healthy resilient forest," he said.

Fort Riley's soldiers were called to duty because the nation reached Preparedness Level 5, meaning two or more areas are experiencing incidents which could exhaust all agency fire resources. The battalion is scheduled to return in late August.

(Sgt. Chris Smith, 14th Public Affairs Detachment contributed to this story.)

As the forest continues to grow and accumulate fuel, it becomes

Once contained, Ferguson anticipates that the burned acreage could double, but his team is focused on safely containing the fire not minimizing the acres burned.

"In general this has beneficial ecological effects," said Ferguson. We get a lot of lighting, and nature wants it to burn."

As the forest continues to grow and accumulate fuel, it becomes

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Black Only  
chinese chef summer

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Black Only  
Game Guy TF

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KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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Great Bend

## Briefs

### Garrison Commander Departs Today

Fort Riley is conducting a departure ceremony for Col. Philip Pope, Fort Riley garrison commander this morning at 9 a.m. in 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.

### Women's Equality Day

There will be a Women's Equality Day celebration at Riley's Conference Center on Aug. 21, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. This celebration is sponsored by the 24th ID (M) and Fort Riley Equal Opportunity Office.

### Marriage Enrichment Class

Want to make a good marriage better? Want to better understand your spouse?

Want to have your spouse better understand YOU? Come learn how to deal with misunderstandings, and how to stop the argument cycle at the monthly Marriage Enrichment Class on Aug. 10 from 7-9 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, room 10. Free child care will be provided if you bring your child's shot records.

Register by Aug. 19 by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chaplain MAJ Paulson, the Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

### Enlisted Spouses Club

The Enlisted Spouses Club is having an Ice Cream Social on Aug. 21, 7 p.m., at Custer House. Come have a free ice cream sundae and find out what ESC is all about. ESC is open to all enlisted spouses, E1-E9, active duty, retiree or widowed. For more information, call 784-3191

The Enlisted Spouses Club will have a meeting on Aug. 28, 7 p.m., at ASYMCA 111 East 16th St. in Junction City. Come be a part of a group of people who have a lot of fun while helping out Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. Daycare is available on-site. For daycare reservations or more information, call 784-3191 or 494-2094.

### 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. Consignments are accepted from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. - noon on open Saturdays. 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.

### DRMO Closure

DRMO will be closed Aug. 22 for employee training. They will accept no customers for turn-in or R/T/D on that day.

### The Shoppe

Make it one-stop-shopping with The Shoppe and the Fort Riley Thrift Shop. Both are located on Stuart Ave., just a few buildings from each other. Gifts and collectables, as well as treasures for your home are available at The Shoppe and a variety of used items to solve your needs are at the Thrift Shop. Please stop by The Shoppe 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.

### ACAP Job Fair

The Army Career & Alumni Program is sponsoring a Job Fair from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Aug. 23 at the ACAP Center on Main Post, building 210, room 7, Custer Ave.

There will be employers present to talk with and interview prospective employees for positions throughout the United States and some overseas locations. A list of employers invited to this Job Fair will be posted in the ACAP Center, building 210, room 6. Visit or call the ACAP Center, 239-2278/2068 for more information.

In addition to the monthly Job Fairs, ACAP sponsors employers that want to visit Fort Riley to interview and conduct testing on prospective new employees. The following organizations will be

coming to Fort Riley soon to do just that:

Sergeant Garron Carter, Recruiter from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, will be in the

ACAP Center for Job Fairs on Aug. 23 and Sept. 20. Carter will also be conducting tests for employment with the Highway Patrol from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on both days. For more information and to reserve your seat, contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol recruiter at 1-800-796-7000.

Officer Jason Smith from the Salina Police Department will be recruiting for police

officer positions during the ACAP Job Fair on the Aug. 23. Smith will also

provide a written tests from 1-4 p.m., following the Job Fair. To arrange for testing

visit, Smith during the job fair, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Commissary News

Make room in your pantry and clean out your garage! The Second Annual Worldwide Case Lot Sale is coming Aug. 16-17, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Check [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) in early September for more information. The Commissary Focus Group meeting will be on Sept. 25, 10 a.m. It will be held in the Commissary training room. For more information please contact Alice at 239-2921.

### 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 Judge Advocate 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.

### Employees Awarded

William Pennington was recently recognized as Employee of the Quarter at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He received a time off award.

Wilson Austin was selected as the Public Works' Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter, FY 02. Austin is currently employed as an Assignment Inspector in the Housing Division. His selection was based on his excellent customer service skills, professionalism and willingness to accept extra tasks. He received a Public Works Certificate of Appreciation, a 16-hour Civilian Time-Off Award and a reserved parking space at his place of duty for the quarter. Other Public Works employees nominated this quarter for their outstanding performance were: David Young and James McCarrell, Operations & Maintenance Center; Carlos Gonzales, Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services and Michael Goreham, Engineering Resource Management Division.

The G3 had two employees selected as Employees of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter FY02. They are Master Sgt. Domingo Gauna, Reserve Component Support Division and Samuel Leonard, range control. Gauna will receive a four day pass and Leonard will receive a 16-hour time off and monetary award.

### Organizational Day

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will close at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 23 for their Organizational Day.

### IACH School/Sports Physicals

Irwin Army Community Hospital is booking appointments for the 2002-2003 School/Sports Physicals. Appointment times available are Tuesday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3 - 5:50 p.m. The School/Sports Physicals appointments are available only to Tricare Prime beneficiaries. Parents or guardians are required to book an appointment for School/Sports physicals through the Fort Riley TRICARE Service Center. No walk-ins will be accepted.

No physicals for the Fort Riley Children's Development Services; Head Start, daycare physicals or physicals for children under 4 years of age can be taken during the time of School/Sports Physicals.

If your child plans on participating in school sports, Kansas law requires students currently in the fifth-12th to have a yearly sports physical. Before your child

is allowed to participate in the school's athletic programs, the coaches must have a current sports physical exam for 2002-2003 school year. Last year's sports physical form 2001-2002 is not renewable.

A school physical is required for children under 8 years of age who will be enrolling in the Kansas Public School System for the first time.

For appointments call your local TRICARE Service Center, Fort Riley at 784-1200 or toll free, 1-800-874-9378.

### 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.

### Scouting School Night

The Quivira District of Coronado Area Council, Boy Scouts of America announces the registration for Cub Scouts on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. Registration will take place at Custer Hill Elementary, Morris Hill Elementary (Jefferson Elementary will also recruit at Morris Hill) and Ware Elementary. Boys in first - fifth grades may sign up for Cub Scouts at their respective schools. The point of contact for school night is Russ Black, 238-5684.

### Free Beginner Golf Lessons

On Aug. 15th, Custer Hill Golf Course will implement a new program for beginner golfers. The program is designed to teach a number of skills, including golf rules and regulations, golf etiquette, as well as general golf instruction. Beginner golf clinic will be held every Thursday and Friday from 6 - 8 p.m., until the season closes. All are welcome, any age or gender, and the instruction is given at no charge. Custer Hill Golf Course is located at 5202 Normandy Drive, across from Fort Riley National Bank. For further information, please call 784-6000.

### Soldier & Family Support Center

Advanced Level II & Level III classes are held each month at the Soldier & Family Support Center,

Family Readiness Center. Classes are held on the first and third Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m. There is no child care provided. We appreciate interested people calling ahead of time so that we have enough packets ready for the class, but it is not mandatory. Call 239-1831 or 239-9435 for more information. The scheduled classes are: Sept. 4 and 18, Oct. 2 and 16, Nov. 6 and 20 and Dec. 4.

Level I classes are offered at Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) located at 111 E. 16th St. Junction City. These classes will be on the first and third Fridays each month, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ASYMCA will provide on-site free childcare during the class. The parents must register the child/children the week prior. Children will not be eligible for the free childcare if the child is not registered with ASYMCA. To register, call 239-1831 and speak to Becky Willis, Program Manager. ASYMCA will also offer free transportation to the class if needed. Arrangements for transportation can be made by calling 239-1831. There Dates for Level I classes at ASYMCA are: Sept. 6 and 20, Oct. 4 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22 and Dec 6.

Classes are also available in German, Korean and Spanish, as well as literature written in those languages.

### Club Beyond

Club Beyond and Club Beyond JV are designed for high school and middle school youth, respectively. Club Beyond meets Sunday nights and CBJV meets Friday nights. Both clubs meet from 4 - 6 p.m. in the basement of St. Mary's Chapel on Main Post. For more information, call 238-4436.

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# Local soldier competes against FORSCOM's best

By Dan Elder  
3rd Bde, 75th Division



A Fort Riley soldier will soon be on his way to represent the fifth United States Army at the Forces Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition.

Sgt. 1st Class James O'Hara, an observer controller/trainer

assigned to the 2nd Battalion, (AV)(TS), 291st Regiment, will travel to Fort McPherson, Ga., in August to compete in a comprehensive, hands-on competition against FORSCOM's best NCOs.

This annual competition brings together some of the top candidates who vie for the honor of selection at the major command

level. The winner of both the soldier and NCO category will go on to the first ever United States Army Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year board, to be held later this year.

O'Hara has been assigned to Fort Riley since July 2001 as part of the 2nd Bn., 291st Reg., 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support). His climb to excellence started when he competed for and won 3rd Brigade's board in Feb-

ruary, held at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He represented his Brigade in Houston, Texas, in early March, where he beat out candidates from the Division's three other Brigades.

In the final week of March, he was pitted against NCOs from across the entire Fifth Army area in a board held in San Antonio.

Among the candidates, representing all Army National Guard states and Army Reserve units

west of the Mississippi, along with active duty AC/RC advisors, O'Hara was rated the best and received recognition from Fifth Army Commander, former 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley Commander, Lt. Gen. Freddy McFarren.

The FORSCOM competition will include such areas as leadership and counseling, battle focus training, land navigation, a physical fitness test and other military related categories.

Sgt. Maj. Charles Richardson, 2nd Bn., 291st Reg., Sergeant Major, said O'Hara is a "good solid NCO who knows his job," and is "the type of high quality NCOs we have in this unit."

A recent inductee to the Fort Riley Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, O'Hara is a signal support sergeant who provides training assistance to communication personnel of supported United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard units.

# DES driving class teaches people to be less aggressive

By Steven Cooke  
Staff Writer

Aggressive driving is not just tailgating, speeding, gesturing at somebody or weaving in and out of traffic according to Paul Burns, safety and occupational health manager, Directorate of Environment and Safety. It is a combination of any of these.

"Say you are running late and in your rush you tailgate the car in front of you to move them along," said Burns. He explained that this starts a very dangerous cycle.

"When you tailgate, you cause the other driver to become angry. Now you have two angry drivers on the road because of choices you made earlier that caused you to be late."

The cycle continues.

"If you get in an accident, the emergency personnel are taking care of your accident instead of other emergencies," said Burns.

These components of aggressive driving can lead to road rage.

In an effort to keep Fort Riley soldiers and members of the Fort Riley community safe, DES Safety Division offers aggressive driving classes one Saturday each month.

"The Fort Riley Aggressive Drivers program on Saturday's is for uniformed personnel only," said Burns. "The intent behind the program is to change the soldiers driving behavior, where the old program focused on laws and the 'thought shall and thought shall not' method," Burns said. "Our goal is to get the soldier to be part of the driving community in which we all belong."

If aggressive drivers are not stopped early, they could get out of control.

"Some start to use their vehicle as a weapon," said Burns. "It can escalate when two drivers get out of the cars and get into fisticuffs."

Burns gave an example of an incident of two mothers that were in competition with each other by speeding and tailgating. This led to them arguing back and forth,

and finally they got out of their cars to discuss the issue. One mother shot the other, leaving one mother dead, the other in jail and two families in devastation.

Though nothing so extreme has happened on Fort Riley, Burns believes the program is needed here.

"Most of the accidents on Fort Riley this year have exhibited aggressive driver like tendencies," said Burns.

The DES offered class is not an option for some soldiers.

The Aggressive Driving class is mandatory for all Fort Riley military personnel who earn nine points or more on their drivers license, Burns said.

"At nine points we get a list from the Provost Marshal's office," explained Burns. "We then send a letter to the soldier, through the unit chain of command, informing them they have to show up at such and such time at such and such place."

A soldier's commander can refer them to the program at any

time, regardless of points, if they feel the soldier needs help.

If a soldier reaches nine points and fails to show up for the assigned class, his or her drivers license will be revoked by the Garrison Commander according to Burns. If the soldier does not show to the assigned class when referred by a commander, it is up to the commander to take corrective action.

The mandatory class is four hours of classroom instruction consisting of workbooks, videos and quizzes.

"The best educational part of the course is the interaction between the students," said Burns.

The program is in conjunction with Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision and has been in effect since July 1988..

Burns said that Forces Command is currently funding teams to go around to installations teaching another version of the class. FORSCOM's program is contracted with the American

Institute for Public Safety. That program also teaches volunteers at installations how to teach the class. The FORSCOM program has not come to Fort Riley yet. Burns is currently teaching Fort Riley's program.

Burns said that the reasoning behind the FORSCOM class may be because bulk of FORSCOM fatalities have been related to aggressive driving. As of July 2 there were over 50 privately owned vehicle fatalities in FORSCOM. That total exceeds

that of fiscal year 2001 and almost that of fiscal year 2000.

Burns said that the statistic includes privates, sergeants and officers. He said younger male soldiers seemed to be more at risk. He also noted that female soldiers are catching up quickly though.

Of the students Burns has taught so far, he said he sees positive results.

"Soldiers say they have learned something," said Burns. "I know they walk away better drivers and better people."

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Post/Selmek

**Soldiers undergoing the combat lifesaver litter obstacle course must carry their patient up and down hills and through rough terrain in order to reach the ambulance helicopter at the end of the trail.**

# Artillery soldiers hone life-saving skills

*By Christopher Selmek*  
19th PAD

The combat lifesavers of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, performed extra training recently that few other combat lifesavers have to go through. Last Friday, soldiers from 4th Bn., 1st FA ran through a litter obstacle course that included real battlefield scenarios.

The obstacle course that these soldiers ran through is the exact same course that field medics have complete when trying to earn the expert field medical badge.

The normal requirement for re-certifying as a combat lifesaver is attending class for two days and completing the final exam of putting an IV into a classmate. "Most combat lifesavers, either just being re-certified or coming up first to be a combat lifesaver, just go through a daily class and stick somebody," said Riley.

The 4th Bn., 1st FA expands on this, making the class a full week and putting emphasis on litter carrying commands and a trip through the litter obstacle course.

"Everybody should go through this course now because this really sets the standard," said Spc. Cameron Brown, 4th Bn, 1st FA.

"This type of training gets us ready for war. It gets us ready to do our job and save a persons life if need be. In a stressful situation, and it can help us show our calm,"

said Pfc. Christopher Riley, 4th Bn., 1st FA.

Throughout the entire obstacle course, noncommissioned officers shout at the soldiers and try to put some pressure on them, similar to a basic training environment. This simulates the stress that would be present in a combat environment.

"I really think it's a good thing," said Riley of the course. "It's definitely very good for a person who hasn't experienced anything that can actually be considered as a life or death situation."

The most difficult part of the course, as agreed by the majority of participants after they had finished, was in the middle, when the

soldiers had to low crawl with the litter underneath barbed wire.

Along with the stress of NCO's and the barbed wire, canisters of riot control gas were also thrown at that point, just before, or sometimes while, the soldiers were already beneath the wire, forcing the soldiers to struggle for their gas masks and attach them at combat speed.

"I think most of us can say that the barbed wire was the biggest challenge we faced out there," said Riley. "The walls were nothing, all we had to do was work together and lift, but the barbed wire we had to low crawl, but it was with the CS and people yelling at us. It can give us a sense

of togetherness and being able to do our job."

"The barbed wire was the hardest, and when the gas can was thrown," said Brown. "We were unprepared; it was humbling. Before, I thought we could pull the masks on in under nine seconds, but then ...we didn't make it."

There are a total of nine obstacles on the course. Others included wading through a mud pit, sliding the litter over a four-foot wooden wall, sliding the litter beneath rope netting and running with the litter up and down relatively steep hills.

At the end of the course, soldiers had to approach a running helicopter and lock the litter into position inside.

"The best part of the course was working together; just getting a feeling of all those soldiers coming together," said Riley. "Just being able to know that we can save a soldiers life, and that really counts."

All involved looked at this training as an overall positive experience, and hope for continued training and improvement in this area.

"I think we did alright for our first time go, but as people go through more and more, our times will be shortened and we'll get more proficient," said Brown. "It's pretty rough, going the first time, but I think the next time we'll be better."



Post/Selmek

**Soldiers had to apply dressings to entry and exit wounds on their patients.**

# Junction City Police use Fort Riley ranges, practice weapons safety

*By Kevin Doheny*  
19th PAD

The Junction City Police Department held training at one of the ranges on Fort Riley July 23 - 24, and made sure their policemen and women were up to speed in regulated training requirements.

"Training is just as important in law enforcement as it is in the military," said Timothy Brown, captain of investigations or JCPD. "The State of Kansas requires us to train for at least 40 hours a year per officer. This training keeps us sharp."

The JCPD used scenarios to give the officers a chance to keep sharp with their weapons and comfortable with moving into positions when on the move.

Officers made the short trip to Train Fire 9 to make sure they were up to speed.

"They come out here and are required to meet a minimum standard on this combat course," said Brown. "This is good training for our department because we practice as if we were on the streets."

"This type of training is unique because we don't just stand still and fire

at the targets. We actually get to maneuver to obstacles and fire on different targets," said Vicki Pearson, JCPD police officer. "It doesn't always happen on the street where you have a chance to stand still."

Even though these officers hope they won't ever have to use these skills in a real-life situation, they know the consequences of not being prepared. They also know being able to complete the training will give them the ability to handle a situation if called to do so. "It helps us to stay proficient with our weapons," said Pearson. "You don't fire everyday, and

hopefully you will never have to actually fire, but this type of training keeps us prepared in the case we would ever need to use our weapons."

Brown also said his policemen and women take this training seriously. They realize the importance of this type of training and know how vital it is to their everyday jobs.

"This training is vital," said Brown. "The department had an officer killed in the line of duty last year, and everyone realizes the importance of being proficient with their weapons."

"We get various types of training deal-

ing with the different aspects of our job, but this could help save someone's life, or even our own life," said Pearson.

And, just as their military counterparts, the officers practice safety when out on the ranges.

"We practice running with the weapon by holding away from our feet," said Pearson. "Whatever you practice is naturally what you're going to do when on the streets. We practice the safety things, that way if we are in a situation in which we may need to draw our weapon, we know how to handle it."

# Harvested tank engines save Fort Riley money

*By Steven Cooke*  
Staff Writer

In an effort to improve the performance of Fort Riley's M1A1 tanks, an engine harvest with Fort Hood has been set into motion.

"Fort Riley has the oldest tanks in the Army," said Maj. Steve Crusinberry, deputy G-4 for Fort Riley. "They're 10 to 15 years old."

Crusinberry explained that the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood is being fielded new tanks and turning their old M1A2 tanks over

to storage. Before they do turn in their old tanks, they will switch their M1A2 engines for our older M1A1 engines, he said. Ensuring quality control for the harvest will be an E-7 from G-4, three engine mechanics from the 937th Engineer Group and a civilian field service representative from General Dynamics Land Systems, explained Crusinberry.

Crusinberry explained that though the engines are not brand new they are better than what Fort Riley currently has.

"With the 45 brand new tank engines we bought, and these

(other engines), we just about replaced half our fleets' engines; which equates to having tanks that can drive on the battle field as opposed to being dragged," said Crusinberry.

Since May, Fort Riley has swapped 25 engines with Fort Hood, with more to come between Aug. 1 and Sept. 20.

"We're looking to get 50 engines," said Crusinberry.

The swap, according to Crusinberry, is saving Fort Riley a lot of money, said.

"The replacement doesn't cost anything. In the long run we're

probably saving close to a million dollars."

Crusinberry mentioned that one new tank engine alone costs over a hundred thousand dollars.

The newer engines will, in the long run, save Fort Riley's mechanics a lot of heartache.

"Our tank mechanics do a tremendous job," said Crusinberry. "They spend all their time trying to keep the tanks running. If we can help them out with these engines, then that's what we'll do. I wish we could give them new tanks instead, but we can't, so this is the next best thing."

# All honorable soldiers qualify for naturalization without delay

*By Frances Walsh*  
JA Civilian Attorney

By Executive Order of the President, all non-citizen soldiers with honorable federal military service since Sept. 11, 2001, are now eligible to apply for citizenship without the need to meet residency or time in military service requirements.

Prior to the Executive Order, permanent resident soldiers applying for naturalization based on military service had to have three years of honorable service before applying for naturalization. With the new Executive Order, those persons serving honorably in an active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period beginning on Sept. 11, 2001, may apply for naturalization immediately. This includes lawful permanent residents and non-citizen nationals.

Soldiers interested in applying for naturalization may contact 1st PSB, Soldier Actions, for assistance. Soldier Actions is located at 7806 Graves St. on Custer Hill and can be reached by telephone at 239-5901/5057/5966.

# Thrift Savings Plan good option for retirement saving

*By Jamie Bender*  
Staff writer

As of October 2001, members of the uniformed services have been able to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan.

The TSP is a retirement and investment plan, similar to 401K plans that are offered by civilian employers. The plan allows servicemembers to contribute up to even percent of their basic pay to be invested into any or all of five investment funds.

As a defined contribution plan, TSP is retirement income that can be received depending on how much is contributed, plus the earnings that those contributions make. This is different than the uniformed services retirement system, where servicemembers are paid according to the amount of time that they served and the rank they held at the time of retirement. The TSP funds are money that belongs to the servicemember, no matter what the length of service.

One of the benefits of TSP is

that the money contributed is taken out of servicemembers pay before taxes, therefore, only the money that is left is taxed now, said Staff Sgt. Louis Pemberton of the Defense Military Pay office on Fort Riley. "It can lower your taxes right now, and then you pay the taxes on the fund when you withdraw it, similar to a regular IRA," he said.

The contributors to TSP can allocate any whole percentage of their total contributions to any one or combination of the five. The TSP offers flexibility in allowing you to choose the plan or plans you wish to invest in, said Pemberton. "With a pin number, you can change anything you like on the Employee/Member Self Service website."

Once contributions are made to the fund from basic pay, an individual may choose to invest up to 100 percent of any incentive or special pay you receive, including bonus pay.

There are some changes coming to the TSP in September, Pemberton said. "Two of the biggest changes are that the plan

will be going from monthly accrual to daily accrual, and statements will have all transactions shown in shares and share prices, as well as dollar amounts."

There are two ways to enroll in TSP, said Pemberton. The long way is to fill out form TSP-U-1 that can be picked up at each unit's PAC office, he said.

Once the PAC office sends it to the Defense Military Pay office, they input the information into the system, he said.

The second way, and the easier way, to enroll he said, is to go to

the TSP website and input the information there. "It is paperless and almost instantaneous," said Pemberton.

There are two times a year, called open seasons, when soldiers can enroll in TSP, he said. The next season is Oct. 15 - Dec. 31 of this year. After that, the next opportunity will be April 15 - June 30, 2003. Those dates will be the open seasons from now on, said Pemberton.

For more information on TSP and the coming changes, visit the TSP website at www.tsp.gov

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