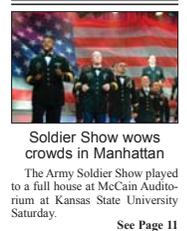


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Weather Forecast	Today  High:91 Low:71
Saturday 	Sunday  High:86 Low:62

Fort Riley Post

Friday
August 16, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 45, No. 33

Soldiers returning from fires

By Roy Gomez
14th PAD

Task Force Destroyer soldiers are scheduled to return today from their deployment to Oregon. During their stint at the Tiller Complex Fire in Tiller, Ore., soldiers worked hard to bring water to the fire front.

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, laid 5,000 feet of fire hose in preparation for a burn out to help control the Tiller Complex Fire.

"The soldiers are doing what we (firefighters) call plumbing the line," said Fire Captain Len Cudney, military/civilian advisor. "The hoses are necessary to safely burn the greens between the fire and the fireline."

As fires get close to established firelines, more than 1,800 gallons of water are pumped through the hoses every 15 minutes.

"We usually rotate five tankers just to keep the bags full. They can go dry as soon as we fill them up," said Dave Henshaw, water tender operator, Dave Larsen Water Services in Oregon.

Having water, in addition to shovels and pulaskis on the front-line, made the soldiers' efforts and mop-up duties easier and faster.

"Having the water out here is like having toast with breakfast," said Henshaw. "It completes the job."

Although setting up the water hoses was difficult, it was something the soldiers enjoyed.

"I'm enjoying the hard work

out here," said Pvt. Andres DeJesus, Battery B, 1st Bn., 5th FA. "We weren't expecting the water, but I'm glad it's here now."

With more than two weeks of firefighting behind them, the soldiers appreciated any new tools and responsibilities on the fireline.

"We wish we could do more out here," said Staff Sgt. Ramon Ruelas, Battery B, 1st Bn., 5th FA. "We want to get closer to the fire so we can put it out."

Although Task Force Destroyer soldiers never got close enough to get burned by the fire, MCADs and everyone else were not complaining. To completely accomplish the mission, soldiers used every available tool in order to get everyone safely home.

West Nile spreads into Kansas

By Lori Bultman
Editor

Apply insect repellent containing DEET (diethyl-meta-toluamide) when outdoors!

Wear long-sleeved clothes and long pants treated with repellent and stay indoors during peak mosquito feeding hours, dusk until dawn! And, limit the number of places available for mosquitoes to lay their eggs by eliminating standing water sources from around your home. These are just a few things the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend people do to keep mosquitoes from biting them.

In recent weeks, new human cases of West Nile virus have been found in several new states, including Kansas where an unvaccinated horse in Cowley County became sick and died. Testing at Kansas State University spotted the disease.

West Nile was detected earlier in Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, 31 other states and Washington D.C.

The CDC reports that, as of Aug. 12, state health departments have released information on



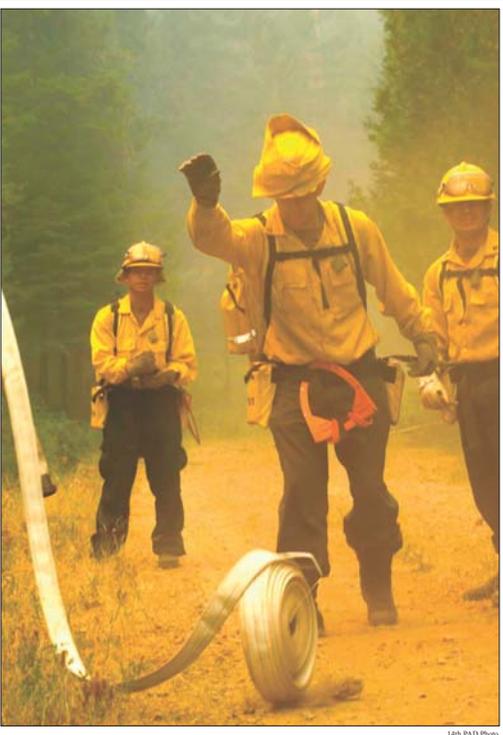
more than 140 cases of West Nile virus related human illness this year, including eight deaths.

Before panicking though, keep in mind that in areas where the virus exists, according to the CDC, very few mosquitoes are likely to be infected and less than one percent of persons infected develop severe illness. The CDC also reports that in order to get the

virus, infected mosquitoes must transmit it to humans or animals while biting to take blood. The virus is more common in the people over 50.

According to the CDC, the West Nile virus is not transmitted from person to person, it is transmitted when an infected mosquito

Graphic courtesy of the CDC
See West Nile Page 3



Soldiers from Team 13, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, unroll a water hose in preparation for a controlled burn at the Tiller Complex Fire in Tiller, Ore. For more on Task Force Destroyer, see page 8.

Simpson new garrison commander

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Soldiers and civilians of Fort Riley said good-bye to the garrison commander and welcomed a new one in a change of command ceremony held last Friday on Ware Parade Field.

Col. Phillip T. Pope passed the garrison colors to Col. John A. Simpson Jr., symbolizing the start of Simpson's tenure as the garrison commander. After the

passing of the colors, Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, thanked Pope for a job well done.

"I've known Phil for only nine months," he said. "But my appreciation for who he is and what he does has grown exponentially over those few, short months. He's probably had more impact on soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families than any one person I have known in my four-year experience at Fort

Riley.

"Each day on Fort Riley, we focus on one purpose," Metz said. "That purpose is trained and ready soldiers and units to support the combatant commanders at home and abroad. At the conclusion of each day, when we're sure we've achieved that objective, the very next thing I think of is how we have ensured that Fort Riley remains a center of excellence in all that it does for the next several generation of leaders and soldiers."

"Daily, I must turn to the garrison commander to answer this question. I know of no officer to whom I would turn and ask about the current and future status of Fort Riley than Col. Phil Pope."

Pope departs Fort Riley for Washington, D.C. where he will serve as the Senior Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. However, he told the audience that he would always remember the people of Fort Riley.

"It's not about Col. Pope," he said. "It's about the senior leadership in the division that we were given. It's about the people down in the trenches, who marched off, pulling on the rope in the same direction, for the common good of the installation."

Pope also said that he thinks the Army picked the right man to replace him as garrison commander.

"Together (the senior leadership) has overcome many obstacles and change," he said. "I'm convinced that with what's in place today and with the leadership of Jay Simpson, Fort Riley will continue to improve. Jay, after working with you the last week, I'm more convinced than ever... that you will absolutely lead this installation superbly. I wish you the best in garrison command."

During his speech, Pope also thanked the Fort Riley commander.

See Garrison Page 3



Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, passes the colors to Col. John A. Simpson Jr., the incoming garrison commander.

Hickory Sting exercise successfully completed

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Operation Hickory Sting came to a close last week as hundreds of vehicles and tanks were loaded onto rail cars at Camp Funston and shipped home to several different states. This ended the month long exercise on Fort Riley.

Hickory Sting was designed as a preparatory training rehearsal for the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade for their scheduled National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., rotation during the summer of 2003.

According to Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, Operation Hickory Sting was a complete success.

"I'm very satisfied with the overall outcome of Hickory Sting," he said. "We learned many good lessons and we did it all safely. We built a tremendous rapport with the (North Carolina) State task force; they are confident we gave them 100 percent."

"They, and all the visitors, agreed that Fort Riley is the best place to do a pre-NTC (Mission Readiness Exercise)," he added. "I don't know if we can pull a like exercise off here next year, but we will begin immediately to bring Georgia's 48th eSB here in 2004."

Operation Hickory Sting brought over 11,000 active, reserve and National Guard units from 26 states to Fort Riley. According to Lt. Col. Charles

Sexton, 24th ID operations officer for the reserve component, moving these soldiers and their equipment was the equivalent of moving a city roughly 10 times the size of Ogden over half way across the country and back in 30 days.

"Fort Riley was selected over other locations in order to take full advantage of the modern training facilities and the ample training and maneuver area of over 70,000 contiguous acres," he said. "The training area here at Fort Riley gives a mechanized or tank battalion commander the ability to fully deploy his unit as he would during actual combat."

According to Maj. Dan Bowen, chief of the Installation Material Management Center, approximately 75,000 Meals Ready to Eat were issued during Operation Hickory Sting, along with around 230,000 gallons of fuel, 750,000 rounds of blank and 1,600 rounds of live ammunition. About 650 rail cars and 100 commercial and military aircraft were required to deploy both equipment and personnel to Fort Riley.

"Hickory Sting validated Fort Riley as a premier force projection platform and as a world class warfighting center," Metz said. "Given the number of assets which came and went from Fort Riley, effectively, efficiently, safely and timely, no one can argue our force projection capability - world class."

Maj. Kevin West, training officer for the 30th eSB, said the

See Hickory Sting Page 6

Back to school safety top priority for parents, drivers

With summer coming to a close, school will be ready to start once again. We want this school year to be a success. To ensure this, we all need to keep safety in mind. Whether children ride in a bus, on a bike, in a car or walk to school, an accident is always possible. During the school year, children can suffer from injuries related to trips and falls, playground accidents and sports injuries. I ask everyone to take into consideration the following information to help our children stay safe.

School bus transportation is safe, even safer than riding in a car according to the National Safety Council. Even so, the NSC reported 26 deaths and almost 9,000 injuries as a result of incidents involving school buses last year. Most of the injuries or deaths did not occur in vehicle crashes, but happened while children were getting on or off the bus. When children are waiting

for a bus, they should have a safe place to wait away from traffic. I have asked the military police to vigorously enforce traffic and parking in and around the schools with the purpose of making these high trafficked areas as safe as possible.

Upon entering or exiting the bus, children should always use the handrail to avoid slips and falls. They should take their seats and be quiet once inside the bus, and should remain seated until the bus comes to their stop. If children need to cross the street, they should walk along the side of the road at least 10 feet ahead of the bus, until they can turn and see the driver signaling them to walk across the street.

Children who walk or ride a bike to school have to be especially careful. It is important to teach children to cross the street at a corner and, whenever possible, at

a crosswalk. If they are near a school, children should cross with the help of a crossing guard. Low-light conditions create an additional hazard, so light-colored clothing or reflective materials can be worn to help keep children visible during these periods. Fort Riley requires all bicyclists to wear a helmet, and children should be taught the importance of this practice. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that wearing a helmet reduces the risk of brain injury from bike crashes by 88 percent. Let's make the wearing of bike helmets a priority.

According to the CDC, 200,000 children a year are seen in emergency rooms due to accidents related on playgrounds. Nearly all of these accidents result from children climbing or jumping from playground equipment. However, another playground

hazard is children wearing clothing that have drawstrings around the hood or neck. Children have died from drawstrings catching on slides or other playground equipment. Constant adult supervision is one of the best ways to help keep children safe on the playground.

The CDC also states that sports injuries are the number one reason for emergency room visits by children. Each year, more than 775,000 children under the age of 15 are treated for sports related injuries in emergency rooms. Many of these accidents could be avoided if parents would get involved and make sure their children wear protective gear, follow the rules of play and are physically prepared to play the sport.

For more information on back-to-school safety, contact the Directorate of Environment and Safety at 239-2514 or visit the intranet at <https://intranet.riley.army.mil/des/>

Safety/Safetyhome.html You can also visit the CDC's Safe at School website at www.cdc.gov/safeusa/school/safe_scho.htm

I am asking all parents to teach their children these safety precautions. Furthermore, we all need to stay aware to help keep our children safe at home, school and where they play. Children are our future and our most precious resource.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and successful school year.

Around Fort Riley: By Col. John Simpson, Garrison Commander

BOSS program benefits soldiers, community

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program is tasked to make soldiers lives just a little easier by focusing on three areas: community service, quality of life and recreation and leisure.

"The BOSS program does a lot for the soldiers here at Fort Riley," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hearson, command sergeant major, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

"For one, it gets them involved with the communities in such program as Habitat For Humanity. Soldiers visit veterans at the VA Hospital every month. We have soldier involved with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program in Junction City.

"BOSS also works alongside the chain of command to improve the living conditions and recreation of single soldiers. It is not, however, designed to conflict with or challenge any aspect of the Army.

"Our program is not designed to undermine the chain of command, it's designed to work with it," said Dunlap.

"Years ago, people thought BOSS could stop the first sergeant from going through your barracks. That kind of stuff is going to happen," he said.

Dunlap also said that, although the name of the program stresses its significance to single soldiers, most of the activities are just as much fun for soldiers with families.

soldiers believe. Though they fulfill much the same purpose, 239-BOSS is operated entirely by the general's staff.

BOSS is also not directly affiliated with Army Information, Tickets and Reservations, although ITR does provide many valuable services when organizing events.

BOSS representatives are an important part of the program.

BOSS is an organization made for and planned by soldiers. Representatives are chosen from among every military operating specialty on post, and any soldier interested in becoming a BOSS representative can.

"It's an additional duty position. All BOSS reps on this post come from a very wide variety of MOS's," said Dunlap.

"By Army regulation, rank is not an issue when appointing representatives," he added. "BOSS reps are chosen based on who we think will do a good job, nothing to do with rank."

A soldier does not have to be a representative to attend the meetings though. Meetings are held on

the first and third Tuesday of every month at different locations. Anyone interested in attending need only talk to his or her units BOSS representative.

One of the events that BOSS currently has on the schedule is Ozzfest on Aug. 20, which will feature 26 bands. BOSS will assist interested soldiers in obtaining tickets and transportation to and from the concert.

On Aug. 25th, BOSS will be hosting a trip to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo. This trip will be free to soldiers and includes transportation, ticket and a meal for single soldiers. Interested soldiers need to sign up by Aug. 19 at the ITR office.

Also, on Sept. 20, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will be hosting BOSS Appreciation Day in the 937th Engineer Battalion area around Long Gymnasium. There will be contests, a DJ, a radio station and free food.

For more information on these or any other BOSS sponsored events, contact your unit BOSS representative or call Dunlap at 239-8147.



CHINESE CHEF
2 x 4"
Black Only
chinese chef summer

"With this all said, I believe our program does a lot for the soldiers. It also gets them out of the barracks and allows them the opportunity to meet other soldiers. In my time dealing with this program, Fort Riley has one of the best I have seen," Hearson said.

For many soldiers involved in the program, BOSS keeps getting better and the trips more exciting.

"The BOSS program has been steadily improving over the past three years," said Spc. Jason Dunlap, Fort Riley BOSS president. "I think it's better now than it was last year and hopefully it will be even better in a year."

"We've been getting better participation for events and they have been getting more successful," he added.

"This means we have more money to do more exciting things, like, this year for our summer trip, instead of going somewhere close by, we went to Disney World. Next year we're thinking about a cruise," he said.

All the money that BOSS uses to pay for trips comes from fund raisers throughout the year, said Dunlap. The fundraising events are as much fun as the activities they pay for, he added.

According to Spc. Tiffany Verly, 24th ID BOSS representative, one of the chief concerns of BOSS is publicizing the events, though attendance has been improving.

"Word's getting out about BOSS; about the fun trips and everything. It's just hard for people to get out of work if they want

to go," she said.

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OAK AND ELEGANCE
3 x 7"
Black Only
OAK AND ELEGANCE

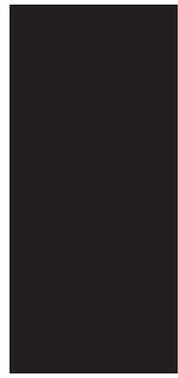
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Garrison continued from page 1

der for his mentorship and ability to get the job done.

"My personal thanks to Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Metz for their strong support and leadership," he said. "Sir, the command climate that you created here made serving at Fort Riley a true pleasure. You allowed this simple soldier to work based on your mission and intent, did not micromanage, and I truly appreciate all you've done for me."

Pope entered the Army in 1971 as a private and served as a rifleman, 90mm recoilless rifle gunner and squad leader. In 1977, as a sergeant, he entered Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a lieutenant in Infantry in 1978. He holds undergraduate and

graduate degrees from Auburn University and a master's degree from the National Defense University.

Pope is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College and the National War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab and Parachutist Badge.

Before leaving for Washington D.C., Pope added that he will remember his time at Fort Riley and will miss the people who made this a great experience.

"My family and I depart today," he said. "We're departing with warm memories, great satis-

faction and close friends that we did not have two years ago. I've never had a better job in the Army than the one I gave up today. I thank the Army, I thank God and I thank everyone for all that you've done to make this a wonderful experience for us."

Simpson is coming from the Naval War College as a professor teaching national security strategy and future force structure. However, he is no stranger to his new unit and state of assignment.

"As you can see, I've served in the 24th Infantry Division before," Simpson said. "I've also served in Kansas, and now I again have the opportunity, honor, to serve with them together at Fort Riley."

Talk Around Town

"What service does Fort Riley currently not provide that you would like to see in the future?"



"More instructors for music lessons and things like that for the kids."



"A rec center with free pool tables."



"I think there should be a musical MOS on post. Every post should have an Army Jazz Band."

*Staff Sgt. Lisa Bennett
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,
125th Forward Support Battalion*

*Spec. Caleb Englert
Company B,
1st Engineer Battalion*

*Pvt. Timothy Sprague
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
2nd Battalion,
34th Armor*

West Nile questions, answers

Q. What is West Nile encephalitis?
A. "Encephalitis" means an inflammation of the brain and can be caused by viruses and bacteria, including viruses transmitted by mosquitoes. West Nile encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain caused by West Nile virus, a flavivirus commonly found in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. It is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis virus found in the United States.

Q. How do people get West Nile encephalitis?
A. People become infected by the bite of a mosquito infected with West Nile virus.

Q. If I live in an area where birds or mosquitoes with West Nile virus have been reported and a mosquito bites me, am I likely to get sick?
A. No. Even in areas where the virus is circulating, very few mosquitoes are infected with the

virus. Even if the mosquito is infected, less than 1% of people who get bitten and become infected will get severely ill. The chances you will become severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small.

Q. Who is at risk for getting West Nile encephalitis?
A. All residents of areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of getting West Nile encephalitis, persons over 50 have the highest risk.

Q. Can you get West Nile encephalitis from another person?
A. No. West Nile encephalitis is NOT transmitted from person-to-person. For example, you cannot get West Nile virus from touching or kissing a person who has the disease.

West Nile continued from page 1

bites a human or animal.

West Nile virus can cause encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain that sometimes leads to death according to Cpt. Robert Russell, Preventive Medicine, Irwin Army Community Hospital. "The virus is transmitted to humans only through the bite of an infected mosquito."

But West Nile is not the only way to get encephalitis.

"West Nile virus by no means is the number one cause of encephalitis," said Russell. He explained that symptoms of the virus are severe headache and fever with possible rash, loss of consciousness, lethargy or excessive sleepiness in infants.

The CDC added that most infections are mild and a more severe infection may include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and sometimes, but rarely, death.

Anyone with these symptoms, regardless of age or general health, should see a doctor to be checked.

There are several methods of checking for the West Nile virus, and results usually come back in less than a week. If someone were to have the virus, supportive treatment would be given, said Russell, and infection does lead to immunity.

It is not known how long West Nile has been in the U.S., but CDC scientists believe the virus has probably been in the eastern U.S. since the early summer of 1999, possibly longer. "From 1999 through 2001, there were 149 cases of West Nile virus human illness in the United States reported to CDC and confirmed, including 18 deaths. In 1999, 62

cases of severe disease, including seven deaths, occurred in the New York area. In 2000, 21 cases were reported, including two deaths in the New York City area. In 2001, there were 66 human cases of severe disease and nine deaths."

According to John Barbur, Director of Environment and Safety of the West Nile Virus has not been found on Fort Riley.

According to the CDC, mosquitoes become infected with the virus when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood. Finding dead birds in an area may mean that the virus is circulating between the birds and the mosquitoes, in that area. On Fort Riley, if a dead bird is found, do not pick it up. Sgt. Kelly Miller, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Fort Riley game warden section said, anyone finding a dead bird on post should call the Military Police desk at 239-6767 and give the location of the dead bird. MPs will then be dispatched to the location to collect the bird he said. "The MPs know to wear gloves and to double bag the bird when it is collected," said Miller.

"Precautions are taken during collection to protect against the transmission of other disease associated with any dead animal," said Russell, adding, the virus can not be transmitted by a dead bird.

After a dead bird is collected, it is then transported to Veterinary Services, where it is prepared for shipment to a diagnostic laboratory according to Sgt. Carrie Fox, NCOIC, Veterinary Services.

"The birds are only brought to us if no cause of death is seen. Also, the birds have to be deceased less than 24 hours," Fort Riley Veterinary Services has only received two birds Fox said, and both came

back negative for West Nile virus.

Fox added that the government-owned horses on Fort Riley have blood drawn every quarter and tested, they also have been vaccinated for the virus.

The key to preventing West Nile virus is keeping mosquito populations down and several things are being done on Fort Riley to control those populations.

"Quick knockdown is obtained by contracted application of pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes (fogging)," explained Barbur.

"Spraying knocks down the number of mosquitoes, but more importantly the females who could lay more eggs," said Bill Wildman, Environmental Health.

There is a drawback to spraying though, according to Barbur. "This operation only kills adult mosquitoes that are present during the time of the fogging." He said that a longer lasting control is to apply insect-specific bacterial agents to pools of standing water to kill the larva.

In addition to collecting mosquitoes at the regular, permanent collection points, Preventive Medicine is also collecting spec-

ic species of mosquitoes directly related to the West Nile virus for a joint study being done with KSU and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment said Wildman.

"We are using CDC light traps that are portable and rapid traps to catch those mosquitoes," he said.

When unacceptably high numbers of mosquitoes of the species that carry disease are present, a request is made to DES for control of the mosquitoes, he added.

"It is the female mosquito that does the biting and it is those that we try to control." Wildman also believes that the further into summer we get, the more mosquitoes that are able to transmit this virus there will be. Mosquito populations are dependent on heavy rains, if we continue to have a dry summer the mosquito numbers we have seen so far this summer will remain low, he said.

There are joint efforts ongoing to ensure the safety of Fort Riley personnel and residents.

"Fort Riley Conservation Division and Preventive Medicine per-

sonnel are also networking with local and state agencies to keep informed of detections of West Nile Virus," Barbur said.

Individuals are encouraged to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites as well.

"When you are outdoors, wear repellent; empty bird baths; don't leave pools full of water when you go on vacation. This is a disease that affects the young and elderly, which is not the general

population of Fort Riley, but parents of small children must be aware. Mosquito netting should be used on strollers, and everyone should use common sense," said Wildman.

For current information on West Nile virus as it relates to Kansas, visit the Kansas State University, Research and Extension website at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/west-nilevirus/current_info.htm

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Black Only
Country Melody

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Black Only
new times

GAME GUY
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Black Only
Game Guy TF

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
2 x 2'
Black Only
Health Benefits

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Black Only
ACAPPELLA IN CONCERT



Briefs

Women's Equality Day

There will be a Women's Equality Day celebration at Riley's Conference Center on Wednesday, 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.

Sept. 19, 2 - 2:45 p.m. The start time for the Women's Open, Women's Masters and Men's Masters is 3 p.m. The Men's Open start time is 3:45 p.m. For more information, call the Sports Office at 239-3945.

Tuition Assistance

Effective Oct. 1, 2002, 100 percent Tuition Assistance will be paid for soldiers enrolled in post-secondary courses. Soldiers may use 100 percent TA up to \$250 per semester hour and up to \$4,500 per year. See an Army Education Counselor for details and to enroll.

Apple Day

Join in the celebration for Apple Day 2002, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Cavalry Parade Field. There will be apple pies, historic encampments, a veterans' tent, honor guard demonstrations, a night vision display and more.

DRMO Closure

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

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 Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Room 300. Free child care will be provided if you bring your child's shot records.

Register by Aug. 19 by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chap. (Maj.) Paulson, the Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

Enlisted Spouses Club

The Enlisted Spouses Club is having an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, 7 p.m., at Custer House. Come have a free ice cream sundae and find out what ESC is all about.

Open to all enlisted spouses, E1-E5 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.

Musicians Needed

Fort Riley's Contemporary Protestant service needs musicians for their praise band. They play contemporary Christian music and need musicians for the following instruments: bass guitar, lead guitar, conga drums, strings keyboard. Practice is on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Services are Sundays at 11 a.m. If interested, call Chap. (Maj.) Jim Paulson at 239-3436. If no answer, please leave a message.

Cross Country Championships

Fort Riley Battalion Level Cross Country Meet will be on Sept. 19 at Custer Hill Golf Course. The deadline for a roster of battalion team members to be forwarded to the Sports Office, building 202, is Sept. 10, close of business. Packet pickup will be

related to the theme of "Army Transformation." It will also focus on the lessons learned, inherent risks and reassessing the division's mission post Sept. 11. A Family Readiness Group Forum will run concurrently with the conference.

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.

Organizational Day

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

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 Lieutenant through Captain.

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. 2209-2194, 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.

CGSOC Phase I

The 11th Bn (CGSOC) is again offering the Classroom Option of

the non-resident Command and General Staff Officers Course Phase I in Topeka, Kan. Tentative classes will be conducted at the National Guard Armory. This is one weekend per month class that runs from October 2002 through May 2003. It is conducted in the Small Group Instruction style used Resident CGSOC. The curriculum is the same curriculum used in the resident course, tailored for instruction in a Reserve Component setting.

Student must enroll on ATRRS and complete a form 59-R. There can be a maximum of 16 students in the course, and a minimum of 10.

For more information, contact: Lt. Col. Marcos O. Navarro, (913) 684-8431, (DSN 552), fax (913) 684-8137, or email: marcos.navarro@leavenworth.army.mil or marcos.navarro@us.army.mil

Scouting News

Come join the fun! From kindergartners to adults, The Girl Scouts have something for everyone. The age groups are: Daisies-Kindergarten; Brownies-1st-3rd grade; Juniors-4th-6th grade; Cadettes-7th-9th grade and Seniors-10th-12th grade. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact the local Girl Scouts. On Fort Riley call, Pam Gonzalez, 210-1208 or for the Kaw Valley Council, call 1-800-432-0286.

Scout Night for the Girl Scouts is Aug. 29, 7 p.m., at Ware Elementary School gym.

The Quivira District of Colorado 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.

Pack 260 of Fort Riley Elementary will have their school night for scouting activity/registration on Aug. 29 also, at the Custer Hill Bowling Alley, 6 - 8 p.m. Pack 260 is having several back-to-school activities. On Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m., the pack is hosting a "Join Scouting Bowling Party" at Custer Hill Bowling Center for current and prospective Cubs. In addition, there will be a back-to-school picnic on Sept. 12.

Post Wide Yard Sale

The Post Wide Fall Yard Sale is scheduled for Oct. 5 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Beginner Golf Lessons

Custer Hill Golf Course has implemented 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.

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Commander's Conference

The 3d Brigade, 75th Division Training Support will host the FY 02, 75th Division (TS) Commander's Conference at Fort Riley, Sept. 27-29 in order to provide a venue for the 75th Division Commander and subordinate brigade command groups to address command responsibilities, missions, readiness and other significant Army and command issues as it

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

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More Briefs

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.

Museum Gift Shop

The Museum Gift Shop is open. It is under operation of the U.S. Cavalry Association, which is a private organization on post. The store's official title is, Sutter'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.

Mail Training

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" class will be offered 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 need 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. 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.

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 Chap. (Maj.) Jim Paulson at 239-3436.

NAF Job Fairs

The NAF personnel division will sponsor a job fair on Wednesday at Riley's Conference Center. Upcoming job fairs will be held on: 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 JW 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 4 - 6 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. A Youth Rally is planned for sixth-12th grades on Aug. 24 at Junction City High School, 6 - 9 p.m. For more information on Club Beyond events, contact Don Ericson, Club Beyond director, at 238-4436 or dericson@nqks.com. Check out Club Beyond on the web at www.nqks.com/clubbeyond.

Blood Drive

The 937th Engineer Group will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive Sept. 17 - 19 at Long Fitness Center, building 8069, Normandy Drive on Custer Hill. Hours each day will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Blood donors must be 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in general good health. Most medications do not cause a donor to be unable to give blood. Due to current restrictions related to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or more commonly known as Mad Cow disease, people cannot donate blood if he or she has, since Jan. 1, 1980 spent (lived or visited) a cumulative time of six months or more in any combination of countries from the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Oman and/or Turkey. Further, a person is deferred if since January 1, 1980 spent (lived or visited) a cumulative time of three months or more in the United Kingdom or had a blood transfusion in the United Kingdom.

Blood donated through the Fort Riley Blood Drive helps the Central Plains Red Cross Blood Region supply the blood needed by the Irwin Army Community Hospital as well as the hospitals in Manhattan and Junction City. They also cover Fort Riley blood requirements for the national military blood reserve.

If you have questions about your eligibility to donate blood, you can call the Central Plains Red Cross Blood Region in Wichita at 1-888-719-8929. Supervisors are reminded that

employees may be granted excused absence to donate blood. Employees released from duty may be authorized, not to exceed, a total of four hours excused absence on the day blood is donated. The actual time authorized is dependent upon the amount of time needed to travel to and from the blood donation center, donate the blood and recuperation following the donation. The employees shall be required to furnish documentation supporting the absence.

Pregnancy PT

Pregnancy Physical Training (PT) is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, on the basketball court at Long Fitness Center, 8069 Normandy Dr. from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. The program is designed to serve the special needs of the pregnant soldier by providing appropriate physical training and a health education program. Pregnancy PT supports the Fort Riley units by offering consistent health guidance for pregnant soldiers.

Every Tuesday there is an hour-long education program, which is held in the Education Bay, fourth floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Short presentations by health care staff members cover a variety of topics, such as infant car seats, skin care during pregnancy and the common discomforts of pregnancy. Spouses or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier are welcome to attend. Participation in the Pregnancy PT program is encouraged although participation isn't mandatory.

For more information, call Sgt. Carrie Jensen, HQ Platoon, 568th Engineer Company, at 239-4260/1777 or leave a message at 762-7012.

Cancer Support Group

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting will be Sept. 4, 6 p.m., in Irwin Army Community Hospital, first floor, in the patient waiting area of the Combined Surgery Clinic. Participants are asked to bring any news articles pertaining to your cancer diagnosis.

Military servicemembers, their family members and Department of Army Civilians are welcome to attend. Participation is encouraged for persons who were recently diagnosed with cancer, family and friends of persons with cancer and cancer survivors. The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting is usually held on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information call 239-7163.

Child Car Seat Inspections

Child car seat inspections are available through Irwin Army Community Hospital, Community Health Nursing Assistance with correct placement and positioning of your child's car seat and information that is part of the inspection. Active duty uniform service members, their families, retired military and DoD civilians are eligible for this service. There is no fee.

Car Seat Inspection appointments are available Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon. Inspections take place in the IACH parking area. To schedule a car seat inspection, please call Community Health Nursing, at 239-7323.

Diabetes Education Class

The diabetes education class will be held Sept. 5, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Nutrition Care Division Classroom at Irwin Army Community Hospital. This is a four to five hour class that will cover diabetes types and symptoms, hyperglycemia, nutrition, exercise, glucose monitoring, oral diabetes medication, insulin therapy and standards of medical care for diabetic patients.

To enroll in the Diabetes Education Class, patients must have a referral from their primary care manager or a community-screening program. Patients who have a referral for the Diabetes Education Class are to call the local TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 or call toll free 1-800-874-9378.

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

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Commentary

Professional development for NCOs happens online weekly

Whether you are a leader or not, time always moves on. "I've done it, you've done it and many are still doing it." That was the leadership style of the past. By that, I mean sticking to the techniques used to train and develop soldiers and NCOs 30 years ago. These techniques may not necessarily apply to nor meet the needs of today's soldiers and noncommissioned officers. We have old problems out there that are still unsolved because we continue to apply old solutions to them.

I had the privilege recently to participate in a Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development (NCOPPD) discussion. It's something I've missed since

leaving the Army. This session happened at 2 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, just as it does on every Sunday afternoon. There was a worldwide presence of NCOs of all ranks and at least four Command Sergeants Major, that I could count, although one of them, whose name we won't mention, is retired. Squad-Leader.com <http://www.squad-leader.com>, is a web site created by Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder.

These are planned discussions with topics selected by the NCOs who frequent the site. It's a population that seems to grow every week. I don't always get in there, but when I do, I experience professional conduct and a frank exchange of

ideas. The discussion is freer flowing and more candid than I ever experienced in person. Maybe it's the degree of anonymity associated with the Internet experience, or maybe it's just that this is a method of interaction whose time is here and is understood by the generation that using it.

This week's invited guest, and there's no invitation required here, was Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett, Command Sgt. Maj. of the Combined Arms Center. She entertained questions from a list of topics presented by NCOs before the discussion started.

We discussed NCO promotions, specifically the shift in boards that will

cause there to not be a board for Sgt. 1st Class selection in 2004 and the promotion criteria for Sgt.

There was discussion about the Sgt. Maj. selection process of which Pritchett participated, the NCO role in the transformation, possible changes to the PDIs for NCO schools, the importance of civilian education and probably several more that I didn't mention.

It was an excellent exchange, considering the limitations of the Internet chat environment. So, we extend a salute to Pritchett for sharing her time with us.

For those of you not yet sure about the value of this site, I invite you to drop into the discussion forums, where each sub-

ject area is watched over by a peer mentor who has the task of keeping discussions professional. They do a good job of it too.

As for these weekly discussions, I can think of no better way to give and get worldwide feedback than the manner in which I participated today.

This is a concept borne of the times and technology. Time keeps moving and leaders have to keep moving with it. Stop by and visit sometime.

As the hotel commercial says, we'll leave the light on for you.

J.D. Pendy

NCO, Soldier of Quarter honored at awards ceremony, luncheon

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Fort Riley's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter, were honored at a luncheon and award ceremony Aug. 8, at Riley's Conference Center ballroom.

Staff Sgt. Louis Pemberton, 1st Finance, is the NCO of the 3rd Quarter, and PFC Michael Huddleston, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery is the soldier of

the quarter.

Pemberton is from Deerborn, Mich., and joined the Army in 1986. He was a unit level maintainer and a M1 tank crewmember at his first duty station in Fort Stewart, Ga. He later became a finance specialist.

Pemberton received the Command Sergeant Major's Coin of Excellence for outstanding support of National Guard and Reserve pay. He was selected as NCO of the Year twice while assigned to the Defense Finance and Accounting Center in Indiana. He is currently a squad leader and section supervi-

sor for the processing section at the Defense Military Pay office on Fort Riley.

Huddleston joined the Army Reserve in 1999 and served for six months before becoming active duty in Jan. 2000. He is currently a dismount radio operator and driver. Huddleston is also the Soldier of the Year for Fort Riley and FORSCOM.

The soldiers were presented with several items at the ceremony. These items included a plaque to recognize their achievement, two \$100 savings bonds, a set of winter Battle Dress Uniforms, an

Army medallion and certificate of excellence, \$100 cash, an engraved wrist-watch, a weekend get-away to Kansas City, Mo., and the keys to a vehicle for their use for 10 days.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, spoke after the presentation of the items and thanked the donors for their generosity. He then spoke about the success of Operation Hickory Sting and the value of the soldiers at Fort Riley.

"Today we recognize the cream of the crop," said Metz.

Pemberton is grateful to be the last NCO from 1st Finance to be chosen for NCO of the quarter, he said.

"I am also thankful that my family was so supportive of the time I spent studying," he added.

Huddleston said his story proves that if you put forth the effort, anyone can succeed.

"I am a high school drop out and I have been able to take this all the way to FORSCOM Soldier of the Year. You can make it happen with effort," Huddleston said.

DCA provides many different types of services to soldiers, families

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

The Directorate of Community Activities is an organization that provides recreation and leisure activities as well as soldier and family services.

These programs include the Arts and Crafts Center, Outdoor Recreation and sports programs, in addition to services like the Child and Youth Services and Army Community Services.

The mission of the DCA is to provide services that contribute to the well being of soldiers and families in order to contribute to Army readiness, said Steve Tully, DCA strategic planner. A strong family and personal life allows soldiers

to focus on their missions, he added.

The DCA is funded in two ways, said Tully. One is with appropriated funds. These are funds that are received from the government. A large portion of funding for fitness centers comes from appropriated money, Tully said. Soldier and Family Support programs are partially funded by appropriated money.

The second way is with non-appropriated funds. These funds come from any fees that a soldier pays for while using the service, said Tully. "These fees directly support a percentage of the cost of running the service, a very important percentage," he said.

Some programs that have operated more on appropriated funds are now operating more with non-appropriated

funds, said Tully. "Some programs that have struggled in the past have made a dramatic turn around," he said. "This is due, in large part, to a change in management. There are talented new managers at Sports USA and the bowling center and the new director of the DCA has a strong business background," said Tully.

Programs are showing improvement in profits due to better business practices and better programming, he said. "Sports USA has moved toward providing what soldiers and families want and is currently making a profit," Tully added.

The DCA faces the same challenges as the rest of the Department of Defense, said Tully. "We are tasked to provide services efficiently and to provide quality services," he said.

"We have control over our own destinies," Tully said. "If we are good at business and provide services the community wants, we can generate the funds we need."

The DCA has a part in many of the Moral Welfare and Recreation events on Fort Riley. "We are like an umbrella company," said Tully. "When people think of DCA, we want them to think of MWR, but we are also provide other services," he said.

"Organizations like the Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club register with DCA and we provide some oversight," Tully said.

The Soldier Risk Reduction Program also falls under the DCA umbrella. "The drug testing that is done [at Fort Riley]

goes through us as well," said Tully.

The DCA works in partnership with local businesses that provide sponsorship for events such as the Memorial Day Concert that was held last May.

"Sponsorship pays for a significant part and brought ticket prices down," Tully said.

A significant tool for the DCA is the Interactive Customer Evaluation system on the Fort Riley homepage. "All programs can be evaluated on this system and the customer feedback is important. We want to know what they think," said Tully. Since early May, DCA has received more than 400 responses with a more than 90 percent satisfaction rate, he said.

Hickory Sting continued from page 1

exercise was the best National Training Center preparation that a heavy eSB could have taken part.

The brigade built combat power, conducted stability and support operations, dealt with role players replicating civilians on the battlefield, press and local officials and conducted company lanes training. The brigade staff also executed realistic training by having to produce attack and defend orders with a constrained timeline, he added.

"Because we had fewer days to train the 30th," West said, "we had to complete many of the same tasks in a quicker amount of time. Hickory Sting may have been more difficult than NTC."

Role players from the 248th Military Intelligence Company from Atlanta, 19th Public Affairs Detachment, 24th ID G-2 office and 3rd Brigade Combat Team provided the participants in Hickory Sting with tough, realistic and challenging training, according to Capt. Mike Crisman, intelligence officer with the 24th ID.

"The civilians on the battlefield, friendly and hostile media and insurgents replicated real world events that soldiers have to

deal with when deployed," he said. "The training assisted units with refining and developing standing operating procedures and tactical training plans that will assist them as they prepare for their NTC rotation next summer, but more importantly for actual alert, mobilization and deployment in support of real world operations."

Col. Russell Gold, 3rd BCT commander, added that his unit's role as the opposition force helped more than the 30th eSB get ready for NTC.

"The 3rd BCT provided a tough, dynamic, uncooperative OPFOR that challenged all of the 30th eSB systems and soldiers just like the NTC OPFOR will," he said. "I am extremely proud of our soldiers' professionalism and teamwork with our Reserve Com-

ponent partners. It was great training for us and allowed my brigade to practice our operating systems in preparation for our upcoming NTC train up."

Soldiers involved in Hickory Sting participated in both live fire and Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System exercises that honed their combat skills, said Sexton.

"I hear no negative comments about Fort Riley on our effort to create the best training event possible," Metz said. "All recognized the value of Fort Riley as a terrific training center, with its power projection capabilities and the other factors which make us a Warfighter."

"They learned of our great terrain, and those who knew something about ranges realized we have about the best there are," Metz added. "The fact that we have no environmental challenges we can't handle and minimal encroachment will be a tremendous plus for Fort Riley for many years to come."

Metz said even though Operation Hickory Sting is over, it's a good bet that there will be more exercises in the future that will showcase Fort Riley's as "America's Warfighting Center."

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Aircraft loading exercise tests soldiers', airmen's mobility skills

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

With the rapid deployments servicemembers have to be prepared for in today's military, the Air Force and the Army must work side by side for successful missions.

Not only do they work together in combat situations, but also they work together in the transporting of equipment and troops to areas around the world.

At Topeka's Forbes Air Field Aug. 7, unit movement officers from all three brigades on Fort Riley teamed up with soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group, to participate in training on loading vehicles onto an aircraft.

"We were able to bring the C-5 from Travis Air Force Base in California, which gave the trainees a chance to physically get on the airplane and load their vehicles as they would have to in a real situation," said Warrant Officer Gregg Waterman, mobility warrant officer for the transportation office.

Soldiers from the 937th traveled to Topeka with Humvees and five-ton trucks to give the unit movement officers a chance to practice some of the procedures they would have to run through in a real-time situation.

"There were a lot of soldiers who had never been in a C-5 aircraft before, and this gave them the opportunity to become familiar with the aircraft," said Waterman.

"The soldiers from all three brigades on Fort Riley attending the Air Load Planners Certification Course got the chance to actually go inside the aircraft and

visualize the proper way to load the vehicles."

The C-5 Galaxy on the ground at Forbes Air Field gave the trainees realistic practice at these procedures.

Before loading the vehicles on an airplane, soldiers must perform checks on their vehicles and have a plan ready so the loading process can go as smoothly as possible.

Also, the vehicles must be loaded in a certain way, so the airplane is loaded to its maximum potential.

"It's different than listening to the instructors telling them how to do it properly," said Waterman. "Instead of seeing it in a book, they can cement it in their minds and know the proper way of loading the C-5."

This realistic training on the Air Force's plane is a plus to the soldiers participating in the class. They have the opportunity to assist the drivers onto the aircraft, move the vehicles into their proper place and then tie them down.

The C-5 is used by Air Force flying crews while in the air, but

once the aircraft lands, the Army can take advantage of it being on the ground.

"After the crews on the aircraft are finished with their training, the Army gets a chance to use the aircraft for training while it's on the ground," said Capt. Brett Hoover, Air Force theatre liaison officer at the logistics office.

"They can practice all of their loading and unloading procedures with the Air Force. Both services take advantage of the training exercise," he said.



Post Doheny

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group, watch as the C-5 Galaxy is loaded with vehicles during training at Forbes Air Field in Topeka.



Post Doheny

A soldier from the Air Load Planner Certification Course loads a Humvee into the C-5 Galaxy during training.

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Soldiers to be welcomed home from firefighting duty in Oregon

By Sherri Reed

14th PAD

While most soldiers are trying to escape the heat, Task Force Destroyer soldiers were beating the heat, the heat of fires in the state of Oregon.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, got a chance to enhance their soldiering skills while providing much needed personnel resources to two separate fires in Oregon.

The military has a proud history of supporting civilian authorities and protecting communities throughout the history of our country. Now, 1st Bn., 5th FA, has added its own chapter to the history books.

"They (Task Force Destroyer soldiers) have met the challenge physically and mentally. They were dedicated and well disciplined to do the (firefighting) job," said Joe Stuter, incident commander for the Monument

and Tiller Complex fires.

However, before any pulaski, shovel or chainsaw could blister a soldier's hand, the soldiers had to undergo firefighting training to ensure they knew what it takes to fight a fire and the necessary safety precautions.

The battalion was organized into 25 20-man firefighting crews. Each crew received individual firefighting training at Fort Riley conducted by military/crew advisors.

The crews also received firefighting equipment that included a fire-safety shelter to protect the soldiers in case they are over run by a fire. With initial training completed, the crews deployed to the first incident site.

After a short flight to Boise, Idaho, 1st Bn., 5th FA, crews loaded into buses and headed to the Monument Fire near Unity, Ore. Crews then received additional on-site training from their MCADs and other firefighting

trainers already at the site. The training, conducted near the fire-

line, enabled the soldiers to earn the privilege of serving on the actual fireline as two teams.

"Type two teams specialize in control of large fires and operate in extended attack modes for large periods of time," said Joel Kerley, military liaison, National Intercency Fire Center.

For eight days, soldiers worked side-by-side with more than 1,000 firefighters from across the nation to control and contain the Monument Fire. The fire was contained at 95 percent after burning more than 24,378 acres of forest.



Before anyone had time to celebrate, the soldiers were informed they were moving to help fight the Umpqua fires near Tiller, Ore. The soldiers soon realized they were headed for a much larger fire. However, the experience they received at the Monument Fire, coupled with additional training conducted at the Tiller complex, progressed the soldiers' firefighting

skills. The additional skills included pump and hose operations and drip-can operations for performing burnouts. The new tools greatly increased the efficiency of the crews and their ability to handle their firefighting tasks.

The Tiller Complex fires were started on July 12. Lightning in the Umpqua National Forest started more than 122 separate fires. More than 1,500 firefighters were already in action prior to the task force's arrival.

The Tiller Fire had consumed more than 23,000 acres of timbered land and threatened private property and residences. The fire was only 25 percent contained when military crews were put to work on it.

After assisting for more than 11 days, the fires are now more than 40 percent contained and a total of 42,490 acres have burned.

Fighting fire is, in many ways, no different than other deploy-

ments. While deployed, the soldiers worked long hours and most times in difficult terrain and conditions. Although the weather at the Tiller complex gave them an initial break, record high-temperatures during the last days of the mission made the soldiers appreciate the fact they will soon be home.

"Being away from home and family is a difficult time no matter where a soldier deploys to. But this has been a great opportunity to serve our country," said Maj. John Cotton, fire support officer, 1st Bn., 5th FA.

A redeployment ceremony is planned for this afternoon at Craig Gym on Fort Riley.

With the fire season just getting started, there are still hundreds of large fires to be put out and contained. With such a big problem, the military might again be called upon to assist if necessary.

Advisors work side-by-side with Task Force Destroyer soldiers in Oregon

By Melissa Bernazzani

14th PAD

As soldiers strapped on their gear and scaled unknown terrain, there was always an expert watching and guiding them through, every step of the way.

Those experts were Military/Civilian Advisors and they accompanied Task Force Destroyer, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, soldiers since the beginning of their deployment, July 19.

Their deployment comes to an end today.

The MCADs were first paired up with the soldier teams during the initial information and training period at Fort Riley, where the soldiers were taught the basics of firefighting and safety.

Not only have the MCADs guided the soldiers through the challenges of firefighting, but also through the soldiers' progression into a firefighting crew.

"They're doing a good job," said Larry Stafford, MCAD for

Task Force Team 11.

"You can tell by their attitudes that their mindsets are on fire and how to deal with it. Every task they've been given, they've accomplished it."

Stafford said getting to know everyone was a challenge at first, but the more he worked with them, the better they worked as a team.

Safety is a priority to many MCADs, and nothing can be more important to Stafford.

He stressed the value of safety on the fireline and hopes that all the soldiers arrive home safely.

During the Task Force's first fire, the Monument Fire near Unity, Ore., the soldiers were still learning about fires, but when they moved to the Tiller Complex Fire near Tiller, Ore., their firefighting abilities increased.

"This is a much more active fire," said Stafford. "The soldiers are more engaged here, with brush outs, back fires and now holding the line."

With an MCAD on every team,

soldiers had to learn to accept their new member. Most soldiers could only boast about their MCAD, giving the advisor high marks and complimenting them on their firefighting skills.

"He's a good guy," said Spc

Justin Beckham, Battery D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, Team 15, referring to his team's MCAD, Mike Falcone. "He has taught us a lot."

"It's a great tool to have (the MCADs) out here with us," said Capt. John Mountford, comman-

der, Btry. D. "Once we gained the competencies, they allowed us to take charge and take over the teams."

After weeks of helping save Oregon's forests from wildfires, soldiers agree that they could not

have done it without the MCADs guidance.

"They really carry out their roles as advisors because there is no way we could have done what we did without them," Mountford said.

School bus drivers contribute to fire mission

By Roy Gomez

14th PAD

During their summer vacations, Oregon school bus drivers are doing their part to save state resources while making new friends.

School bus drivers like Karen Buffington from the Mid-Columbia Bus Company in Pendleton, Ore., spend their summers driving from one fire to another throughout the state transporting soldiers, marines and firefighters.

"I started driving school buses in 1989 and worked my first fires that summer, and I've been driving every summer since," said Buffington.

For Buffington, whose husband retired after 36 years as a firefighter and has a daughter who is currently a firefighter, transporting the soldiers-turned-firefighters to the fires has many rewards.

"Doing our jobs makes us (drivers) feel like we're helping out, because we take the soldiers straight to the fire," said Buffington.

Besides helping fight Oregon's fires, Buffington and other

drivers prefer to work through their summers because of the people they befriend.

"Getting to know the soldiers is a great experience. People read, hear and see them on television, but we actually get to know them personally," said Buffington.

As the friendships between the soldiers and the drivers grow, so does the appreciation for one another.

"The soldiers are very polite and treat us with a lot of respect. They are very careful to pick up all their trash and keep the buses clean and before getting off, they

always thank us," said Buffington.

"Our drivers are great," said Pfc. Raul Morales, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

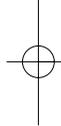
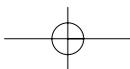
"We're always talking and joking around. They treat us like we're their friends," Morales said.

With Task Force Destroyer's mission coming to an end, Buffington said she and the other drivers are already starting to miss this year's soldiers.

"After driving for 14 years, I know a good crew when I see one, and this is definitely the best one yet."

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