

# Fort Riley Community



In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m. .... In Step  
8 a.m. .... In Step  
Noon .... In Step  
6 p.m. .... In Step  
10 p.m. .... In Step

August 28, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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A new school year began at Fort Riley Aug. 18. Michael Davies, a 6th grader at Fort Riley Middle School, stands waiting to enter the school for the first full day of classes.

## 1st AD to purchase hotel for R&R in Iraq

By Lisa Burgess  
European Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Some soldiers with the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad will soon have a chance to trade their heavy body armor for swim suits and their cramped and dirty quarters for soft beds and clean sheets, according to Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, division commander.

The 1st AD is buying an entire hotel in eastern Baghdad that will serve as a rest and relaxation facility for the troops, Dempsey said.

Operations are set to begin Sept. 1, and "the plan is to move 400 soldiers through every 48 hours," said Dempsey, who took command of the division in July and will pin on his second star in early October.

"I never thought I'd be a hotel owner, but we're going to do this, so [the troops] can be out of the fight for 48 hours and collect [their] thoughts," Dempsey said.

The 1st AD's Baghdad hotel R&R program is similar to a program already established by the 101st Airborne (Air Assault), which is located in and around the Mosul area, in Northern Iraq.

The hotel, the name and location of which are not being named for security reasons, will feature rooms with soft beds, clean sheets, private bathrooms and

television sets. The facility also has its own swimming pool and other recreation facilities, Dempsey said.

Soldiers won't be allowed to drink alcohol, he warned.

"But you will have [air conditioning], a decent bed, a chance to get some decent food and watch movies," he promised three different battalions of soldiers whom he visited at their different forward operating bases in Baghdad Aug. 9.

The 1st AD has about 35,000 soldiers deployed to Iraq, most of whom are located in and around Baghdad, Dempsey said.

The first units to use the hotel had not yet been chosen in early August, but commanders intend to give priority to soldiers who have been in Iraq the longest without a break, Dempsey said.

News of the upcoming hotel R&R program was greeted with great enthusiasm by his troops, many of whom told the general that they have been working seven days a week all summer, without a break, in temperatures that often soar beyond 130 degrees in the sun.

Dempsey said he knows that conditions are rough in Iraq for his troops. The average soldier has lost 15 pounds to the heat, he said.

See Hotel Page 15

## New statue honoring cavalry to be presented during Open House

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

Fort Riley has a new statue that honors United States cavalrymen and their days of taming the Wild West.

The 13 foot tall, 2,500 pound bronze sculpture, "Duty," stands in the courtyard next to the U.S. Cavalry Museum and faces Patton Hall.

In 1939, Patton Hall was built as additional academic space for the cavalry school. The men who trained at that school are an important part of American history - helping to settle the frontier, sculptor James Muir, said.

"This statue is a salute to the men on horses that served on the frontier from the Revolutionary War to the end of the cavalry," he said. "They are the ones who were

responsible for taming the west."

The soldier is a private, not an officer, because the strength of any Army is in the common soldier, he said. Muir added that everything is historically accurate on the statue, including the equipment and uniform for time period that he

wanted to capture with the sculpture, 1933-34. The cavalry discontinued the use of the saber in spring 1934, and Muir thought it was important to capture the last moment of the original cavalry. Muir has been sculpting for more than 20 years and is best known for his military pieces. He said cavalry days on the frontier particularly interest him, which is why he wanted to sculpt this cavalry soldier. "It just seemed natural that if there is going to be a quintessential memorial to honor the United States cavalrymen and horses, I wanted to be the one to do it," Muir said. "It is an important part of history, and the

"It just seemed natural that if there is going to be a quintessential memorial to honor the United States cavalrymen and horses, I wanted to be the one to do it."

—John Muir  
Sculptor

soldiers and animals should be honored."

Duty recognizes a lot of the founding principles of the United States, he said. The horse stands on one of the earliest crests of the United States, adopted by the Army in 1814. At his feet are the words "E Pluribus Unum," which means "Of many, one."

While the eagle is recognized as the national bird, the original crest of the United States featured a phoenix. The idea was that the nation was born out of the ashes like the phoenix after the American Revolution. However, that was misinterpreted, and it has been an eagle ever since. To recognize the original idea, the phoenix, with his outstretched wings, is carved in Bronze at the base of the statue.

The artist spent one year mold-

ing the piece of art, but the idea developed nearly three years ago. After gaining \$175,000 in private funds, Muir's dream to build the quintessential statue to honor the cavalrymen and horses was a reality — just in time to coincide with the installation's 150th anniversary.

Bill McKale, museum director, said the statue will be accepted formally at the Apple Day Open House, however it has been ready to view since Aug. 12.

"I think this will be a great addition to the post," McKale said. "It carries a lot of meaning for the United States Army and its men on horses. The mounted soldier looks right at Patton Hall, viewing the cavalry school crest. He is honoring the men and horses that are an important part of this post's history."



Small, preliminary version of the "Duty" statue.

## Ice Cream Social brings potential members together for fun, learning

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley held an Ice Cream Social Aug. 21 at Custer House as part of a membership drive.

Those attending were treated to bowls of ice cream, with all of the toppings, and were able to gather information on how to become a member of HASFR.

"This is our annual membership drive, and we're doing it in the form of an ice cream social. This gives us the opportunity to tell people what the historical society is all about," said Susie Jones, president, HASFR.

During the social, the potential members had the chance to read literature about the society and Fort Riley's history while getting the chance to meet the group's existing members.

"I joined because it will give me a chance to meet more people and to learn more about Fort Riley," said Alicia Broadwater, a new member of HASFR.

To become a member of HASFR, there is an annual membership fee that will cover the member's entire family.

"It costs \$5 per family, per year to join the society," said Jones

"So, for \$5, their entire family, regardless of how many people are in the family, can be part of the society. If people would like to join the society, they can call me. If they can't reach me, they can go through the museum curator, Bill McKale."

Once a member of the social society, there are no requirements placed on the members, only encouragement.

"We encourage our members to

come in so they can have the full experience of being part of a social society and learning about the history and just to enjoy it while they are here at Fort Riley," said Jones.

Having a love for history isn't the only reason for people to join the society.

"Being part of the society is a good way for us to spend time while my husband is deployed," said Tina Rivera - Locklear,

another new member of HASFR. "I feel it is very important to involve my daughter in the society because it gives her the opportunity to be a volunteer and understand, whether she gets paid or not, that it is important that she helps other people out."

The members of HASFR are new, due to change of duty stations for their spouses, but they are enthusiastic about carrying on the society's tradition.

"We have a real hard working board this year, and we're really excited because a lot of us are pretty new at this. We have a great year planned with a lot of events coming up, like the annual Apple Day in October," Jones said.

"We are all about trying to preserve and celebrate the history that is here at Fort Riley, and particularly this year, with it being the 150th anniversary of the post," she said.

The annual HASFR apple pie sale is currently underway. Pies are \$7 and can be ordered frozen or unbaked. Pies need to be picked up Oct. 3, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. or 4:30 - 7 p.m., at the parking lot of building 404. Deadline for ordering pies is Sept. 26, 5 p.m.

For more information on becoming a member of HASFR, contact Jones, 784 - 2019, or McKale, 239 - 2737.



Laura Buczkowski, Marilyn Balch and Christina Jones cool their pallet with some ice cream during the Fort Riley Historical and Archeological Society annual membership drive at the Custer House Aug. 21.



Ashley Locklear, 8, tops her ice cream with a spoon of chocolate during the Fort Riley Historical and Archeological Society annual membership drive at the Custer House.

# Several things must be considered when buying 'fad' exotic pets



K-State Release

The prairie dog, African hedgehog and the sugar glider, a small marsupial, are among today's top fad pets, said Kansas State University exotic animal veterinarian Dr. James Carpenter. "Fad" exotic pets, such as the pot-bellied pig of the mid-1990s, are defined as uncommon pets that suddenly become popular. However, some

**Prairie dogs are one of the current 'fad' pets.**

fad pets can be challenging to care for, and potential owners need to be careful before buying into the animal's popularity. Carpenter said prospective owners should be well informed about the pet's needs.

No one should get a fad pet simply because it is "cool," Carpenter said. They may not realize how difficult or complicated proper care can be.

"They might acquire a tiger cub, not realizing that it may

weigh over 400 pounds when fully grown and be expensive to care for, as well as dangerous," Carpenter said. "Others may purchase a small constrictor (such as a young Burmese python), not knowing that some species grow to be 16 to 18 feet — or more — in length."

The prairie dog, one of the fad pets of the moment, poses a lot of behavior problems, Carpenter said. It can be aggressive, has tendencies to dig and chew and needs

a lot of social interaction. Although the prairie dog can seem tame once familiar with humans, it is fundamentally a wild animal. It will revert to its wild instincts when exposed to any stress.

Diet-related ailments are also common among fad pets because owners don't know the nutrients animals need, Carpenter said. For instance, a common medical problem among sugar gliders is sudden hind-leg paralysis, which is caused by calcium and vitamin

deficiencies. Prairie dogs and hedgehogs often suffer from obesity, which leads to many other ailments.

Many fad pet medical problems — even hind-leg paralysis — can be treated if detected early. However, fad pets, like most exotic pets, instinctually hide signs of illness; owners may not realize their pet is sick until it is too late. Carpenter suggests scheduling regular veterinary check-ups so a professional can examine the pet.

## Kansas has first human death from West Nile Virus

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has confirmed the first known death from West Nile Virus in Kansas.

A 93-year-old from Butler county had signs of encephalitis, and died. That brings the total to 9 human cases in Kansas, from the following counties: Butler, Cloud, Decatur, Ford, Gray, Pratt, Seward and Sherman.

A total of 60 counties in Kansas has now had positive test results from either birds, horses, mosquitoes or humans.

West Nile Virus is a flavivirus, which is carried by mosquitoes. It is transmitted when a mosquito bites an infected bird and then bites another animal or a human.

West Nile Virus, West Nile Fever and West Nile Encephalitis are different terms describing the same virus, but refer to different medical states. Originally found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East, West Nile Virus was first confirmed in the United States in 1999.

West Nile Virus was first detected in Kansas in 2002 and is transmitted by several mosquito species found in the state. The virus poses a risk to many mammals, especially horses and humans, according to Kansas State University.

Positive results from horses

have been reported from Allen, Dickinson, Rooks and McPherson Counties. Additionally, there have been positive bird tests from Dickinson and Gray counties.

Fort Riley also has positive results.

"We have positive mosquitoes on Fort Riley, and it's just a matter of finding them," said Bill Wildman, environmental science officer. "Last year I found 12 mosquito pools that tested positive."

West Nile Fever is characterized by flu-like symptoms that last just a few days. Symptoms normally show up three to 15 days after the mosquito bite.

Wildman encourages the Fort Riley community to educate themselves in knowing how to protect from mosquito bites.

People need to be aware of what bug repellents they use, and how long the repellent will protect them, he said.

Products containing the active ingredient DEET, provide longer lasting protection. Products that use citronella as a repellent, where they will repel insects, last only a fraction of what DEET

products do, Wildman said.

The more DEET the repellent contains, the longer, not better, it will protect you. However, the use of products containing more than 33 percent DEET is not recommended.

Pay close attention to the product label, especially regarding use on children, according to K-State at



CDC Photo Illustration

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/westnilevirus>

"They need to take care of themselves, especially the young and elderly," Wildman said. "We can't kill all of the mosquitoes on Fort Riley, so the community will need to educate themselves on how to prevent the contraction of the disease."

Wildman would also like soldiers to be aware that they are able to have their uniforms treated with a fabric insect repellent, permethrin. Their unit is able to bring the uniforms to the Pest Control Shop for the treatment and have the cost put on the unit's credit card, said Wildman.

Preventing mosquito bites will prevent West Nile Virus infection. Some tips to prevent mosquito

## Self-Help Job Information Center closing

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will realign under the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center Management Agency on Oct. 5.

Similar to regionalization, which established the CPACs and CPOCs, patrons should expect to experience changes as they transition from the current way of doing business to the new way said Human Resources Officer, Cindy Colson, Personnel Advisory Center, Fort Riley.

"One of the biggest changes that is scheduled to occur is the closure of the CPAC Self-Help Job Information Center on Sept. 1," she said.

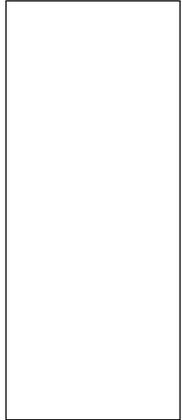
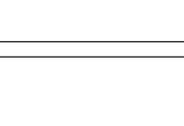
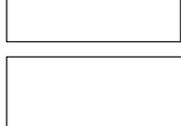
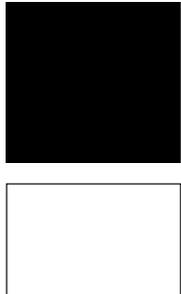
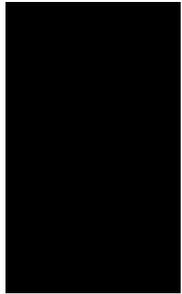
After regionalization, CPAC continued to offer job information assistance as a courtesy to external customers, individuals not employed at Fort Riley. However, with the new and emerging roles, this is no longer a viable operating function since job information and assistance is provided by local workforce centers (Soldier and Family Support Center and Army Career and Alumni Program), she said.

"You will begin seeing notices in the Fort Riley Post, local area newspapers and on Channel 2 announcing the closure of the CPAC Self-Help Job Information Center. Fort Riley employees needing job information or RESUMIX assistance will continue to receive help from their activity's administrative points of contact," she said.

"My staff and I are currently developing a transitional plan that will assist us in ensuring the quality of service to our customers is not comprised," Colson said.

"Other CPAC functional and role changes will be communicated to you and phased in as we transition," she said. "I will also be informally soliciting feedback from managers and administrative POCs on the quality of services you receive from the CPAC, and suggestions on what we can do to improve our program."

"Throughout this change, we will continue to be a key player of the Garrison Team," concluded Colson. For more information, call 239-6004.



# ITR

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is located in building 6918, across from the PX. ITR hours of operation are Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the office is closed on federal holidays. For further information, call ITR, 239-5614 or 239-4415. Check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel website, [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com), for more great deals on travel. ITR services and discount attractions tickets are available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, reservists, Department of Army Civilians and family members.

### Disney Cruise Line

A new stage show debuts aboard Disney cruise ships. The Golden Mickeys premier aboard the Disney Wonder beginning Aug. 28 and is coming soon on the Disney Magic. The show combines live-action theatre with film, video, music and colorful pyrotechnics in a toe-tapping salute to Walt Disney and his legacy of classic animated films. The most technically sophisticated stage-show at sea, The Golden Mickeys is the newest performance in the line-up of original Disney musicals aboard the Disney Cruise Line. The new, character-filled, musical review uses

all the glitz and glamour of an awards show to honor the wonderful-animated films and characters that have entertained millions for more than 75 years.

### Renaissance Festival

Step back into a time when lords and ladies ruled the land at the Renaissance Festival of Kansas City. A time when knights clad in shining armor took to battle for a lady's honor. Where jesters, minstrels and rogues entertained throughout the village in hopes of a day's wages. All this and more can be found at the Renaissance Festival, weekends only, starting Aug. 30.

The festival runs for seven glorious weekends each autumn featuring a different theme each weekend. The adventure begins Labor Day weekend in Bonner Springs...just minutes and 500 years from downtown Kansas City. Discount tickets are available through ITR.

### Six Flags Over Texas

Towering way, way, way over Texas is the newest and tallest adventure, Superman, Tower of Power! You will soar like the man of steel as you turbo rocket up and blast down as fast as a speeding

bullet. It's the thrill of a lifetime and it's only at Six Flags Over Texas. Discount tickets are available through ITR.

### Armed Forces Vacation Club

Now you can enjoy resort accommodations for two to six people for less than you would pay for most hotels! While most availability is during off-peak travel seasons, there are a wide variety of great destinations and times.

Reserve a full week for only \$249. Stop by ITR for further information.

### Worlds of Fun

Mortals Beware of a new era of scare every Saturday and Sunday from Sept. 20 through Oct. 26. Worlds of Fun will be transformed for HalloWeekends - a frightening festival of new thrills and chills. Mischievous ghouls will materialize on the midways and the park will be decked out in its most fearful finery to celebrate a season of haunts.

HalloWeekends is a Boo Blast for the entire family. Trick-or-Treat town is a make-believe street where little ghosts are treated to goodies as they stop by the storefronts.

Worlds of Fun will show older fright seekers a new meaning of fear at the 3-D Carnival of Carnivorous Clowns located in Freak Street. This walk through is rated SP for Scare the Pants Right OFF of You!

Worlds of Fun is open weekends only through Oct. 26. Discount tickets are available through ITR.

### Kansas State Football

It's Game Time! The Wildcats have been to 10 straight bowl games, including last year's win over Arizona State in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl. A Fort Riley salute is scheduled for Sept. 6 and discount tickets are available through ITR.

### Kansas City Chiefs

Experience the excitement of NFL football with the Kansas City Chiefs. Limited tickets are available through ITR. Tickets are \$60 without transportation and \$80 with transportation. Grab some friends and tailgate at Arrowhead stadium.

Support your favorite team. The home game schedule includes: Sept. 7 - San Diego Chargers, Sept. 14 - Pittsburgh Steelers, Oct. 5 - Denver Broncos, Oct. 26 - Buffalo Bills, Nov. 9 -

Cleveland Browns, Nov. 23 - Oakland Raiders, Dec. 14 - Detroit Lions, Dec. 28 - Chicago Bears.

### Military Salutes

Many theme parks, regional attractions and vacation destinations are saluting the military with free admissions and deep discounts through late fall and early winter.

Stop by ITR for additional information and low rates for hotels near those attractions.

### KCI Roadrunner

The KCI Roadrunner provides door-to-door service from home to the airport. Let ITR make your reservations. Commissions are paid back to Fort Riley's Morale Welfare Recreation programs.

### Discount Movie Tickets

Passes are available that may be used at Seth Childs in Manhattan for \$5.50. They are a great gift idea for birthdays or special occasions.

## Barlow Theater

**Tonight:**  
7 p.m.  
The League of Extraordinary Gentleman (PG-13)

**Friday:**  
7 p.m.  
Pokemon Heroes (G)

**Saturday:**  
7 p.m.  
Bad Boys II (R)

**Sunday:**  
7 p.m.  
Pokemon Heroes (G)

**Thursday:**  
7 p.m.  
Bad Boys II (R)

Higher prices:  
Adults - \$3  
Children - \$1.50

## Hotel continued from page 13

The 1st AD hotel R&R program will supplement an existing R&R program run by U.S. Central Command, which is called the "Fighter Management Pass Policy."

The CENTCOM plan gives troops a four-day pass to go to

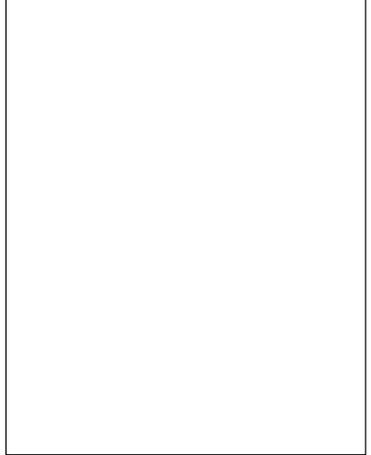
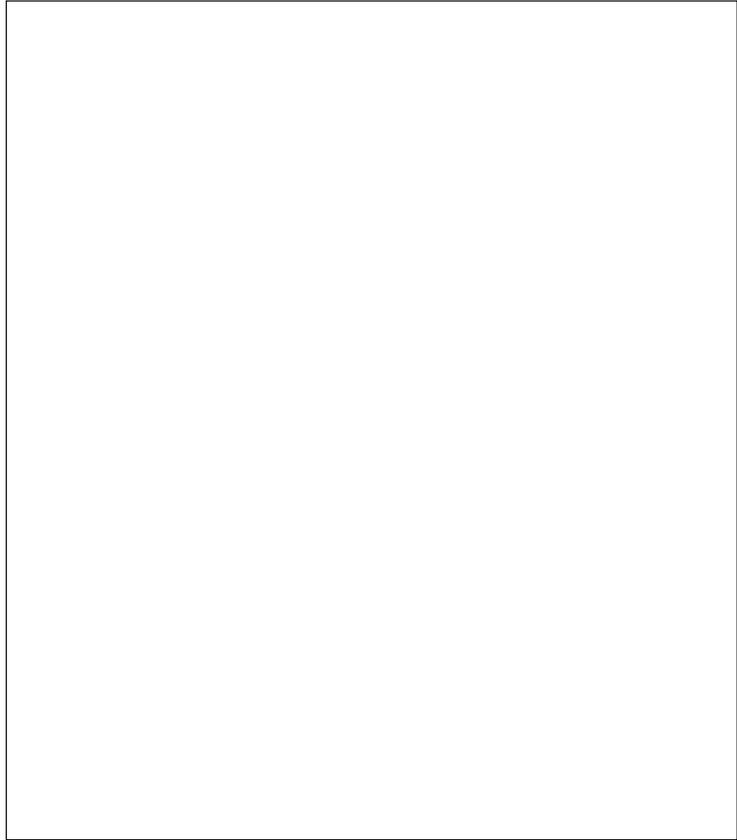
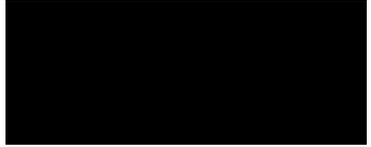
Qatar, but there are relatively few slots available, compared to the 150,000 troops deployed to Iraq.

The 1st AD has been allocated about 240 slots a month for the Qatar trip, Dempsey said.

By early August, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, which is

attached to the 1st AD, and 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, from Fort Riley, had sent some soldiers to Qatar, Dempsey said.

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# Apple Day will feature pies, displays

By Ryan D. Wood  
Staff Writer

Fall is in the air, and with Fall comes the annual Apple Day festival at Fort Riley.

On Oct. 4, Fort Riley will host the free, day-long festival and Open House, which highlights the history and current activities of Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. The post will also be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The event will be 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with all displays located on Main Post. Guests are welcome to tour exhibits, displays and demonstrations at their own pace. Refreshment booths will be located on Cavalry Parade Field, and Fort Riley's famous Apple Day apple pies will also be available.

Here are some of the events and displays that will be available to guests.

• **Apple Pie Sales** - The Fort Riley Historical and Archaeological Society will sell whole pies

and pies by the slice from the B-side of the Custer House.

• **Expo Tent** - Features a look at soldier training and readiness, support links for soldiers and their families, diverse and dynamic quality of life programs and activities and community partnership agencies. The Expo Center will be located under a large canopy in the center of Cavalry Parade Field.

• **Historical Tours** - The U.S. Cavalry Museum, the Regimental Museum, A-side of Custer House, Main Post Chapel and period vehicle displays will be open for viewing, along with a self-guided walking tour of historic Main Post.

• **Veterans' Activities** - Fort Riley will host a tent for veterans, which will feature living history demonstrations, uniforms, equipment and photographs of the American soldier.

• **Cavalry Statue Dedication** - The commanding general will dedicate the cavalry statue

"Duty," make remarks, unveil the plaque to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Fort Riley and cut the Fort Riley birthday cake at 11 a.m. ceremony in the grassy area between the U.S. Cavalry Museum and Patton Hall.

• **Emergency Equipment Display** - Police response teams, military working dogs, bomb disposal robotics and fire rescue will be featured.

• **Army Recruiters** - Active, Army Reserve, National Guard and ROTC recruiters will feature interactive displays and attractions and provide information on various programs and incentives.

• **Fort Riley Honor Guard Demonstration** - A living history, mid-1800's Cavalry encampment will feature authentic tents, period equipment, uniforms and horses. Demonstrations of equestrian skills and saber drills will be held at noon and 2 p.m.

• **Period Reenactors and Entertainment** - The HASFR is coordinating re-enactors and period

entertainers to set-up and demonstrate pioneer and military skills appropriate to the era.

• **Tactical Vehicle, Aircraft, and Weapons Display** - Interactive displays of military equipment will feature soldiers in combat gear. They will explain system capabilities and assist visitors in and through the displays.

• **Air Force Flyover** - Combat aircraft will conduct a low altitude "fly over" of the Open House site.

• **Obstacle Course** - Allows children to utilize camouflage face paint and negotiate a series of obstacles en route to a final objective.

• **Weapons Firing** - Using blank ammunition, visitors will fire an array of military weapons fitted with MILES to engage pop-up targets at various distances.

To access Fort Riley, take Interstate-70 to exit 301 and follow the signs leading to the Open House. For more information, contact the Fort Riley Community Relations Office, 239-2022.



Post/Wood  
**First Lt. Anthony William Timanus, 82nd Medical Company, holds his daughter, Samantha, after the ceremony which welcomed back the final 12 soldiers from the 82nd Med. Co. who had been stationed in Iraq. These 12 soldiers stayed an additional 10 weeks after the main body had redeployed.**

# Don't wait too late to see your financial NCO

By Ryan D. Wood  
Staff Writer

The feeling of helplessness can be overwhelming when there just isn't enough money to cover the bills at the end of every month. Credit records can be seriously damaged, and that could lead to even greater problems down the road when credit is needed for a new car or a house. To help stop financial problems before they overwhelm soldiers and their families, many posts are adopting the Command Financial Non-Commissioned Officer Program.

According to Staff Sgt. James Kirkpatrick, CFNCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), CFNCOs are specially trained soldiers whose main purpose is to help other soldiers avoid the pitfalls of financial mistakes.

The CFNCO program was initially set up in 1994 at Fort Carson, Colo., to educate soldiers on how to better deal with their finances. The concept has since evolved into today's program dealing with many different finance issues.

CFNCOs are given two weeks of intensive courses on subjects such as budgeting, check book management, credit card interest, non-sufficient funds checks and many other topics which cover the financial problems that some soldiers may face.

Kirkpatrick sees a large number of soldiers who take advantage of the services he provides but says that some of the soldiers who come to him should have come much earlier.

"I think that the biggest problem that we see in the CFNCO field is not so much the soldiers coming in here, because we get a lot of them, but they come in here when it is too late. They have already hit a point where they are in a financial crisis," said Kirkpatrick. "That's what we are trying to get away from. We are trying to get people in here when they first see a problem or don't even have a problem."

For soldiers who are unsure if they need to visit the CFNCO, Kirkpatrick gives some danger signals that may signify a serious financial problem.

"If soldiers are living paycheck to paycheck, if they have more month than money, if they are spending their money in the first week of the pay period and don't have anything left for the second week, if they are not paying their bills on a monthly basis or if they

are paying their bills with credit cards, that will just get you into trouble and that is when they need to come in and see us," said Kirkpatrick.

"They wait to come in and see us when it gets to the point that their electricity is getting shut off, and in that case, they are usually stuck," Kirkpatrick said. "It falls back to coming to see us before it gets to that point. If you are a month or two behind, swallow your pride and come in and see us."

Although junior enlisted are the primary users of the CFNCO program, Kirkpatrick said that upper enlisted are not immune from financial problems and should also visit if the need arises.

"I've seen military Star Card collection notices for E-7s, so it is not just the junior enlisted," said Kirkpatrick. "I usually deal with the lower enlisted because they are the ones that actually come in and see us, but everybody has a tuff one or two months. You just have to put it aside and come in

and get the help that you need before it escalates into something that you can't get out of."

CFNCOs are also available for the spouses and families of deployed soldiers. Kirkpatrick said CFNCOs are not deployed so as to be available to help out families of deployed soldiers, especially in those times when they may need the extra help. Spouses may feel that they have no one to go to for financial situations they may not be used to dealing with, and CFNCOs are there to lend a hand.

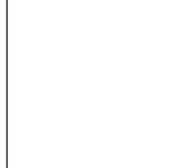
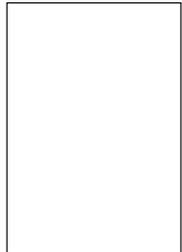
In addition to counseling, CFNCOs offer many different programs to help soldiers and their families.

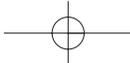
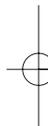
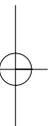
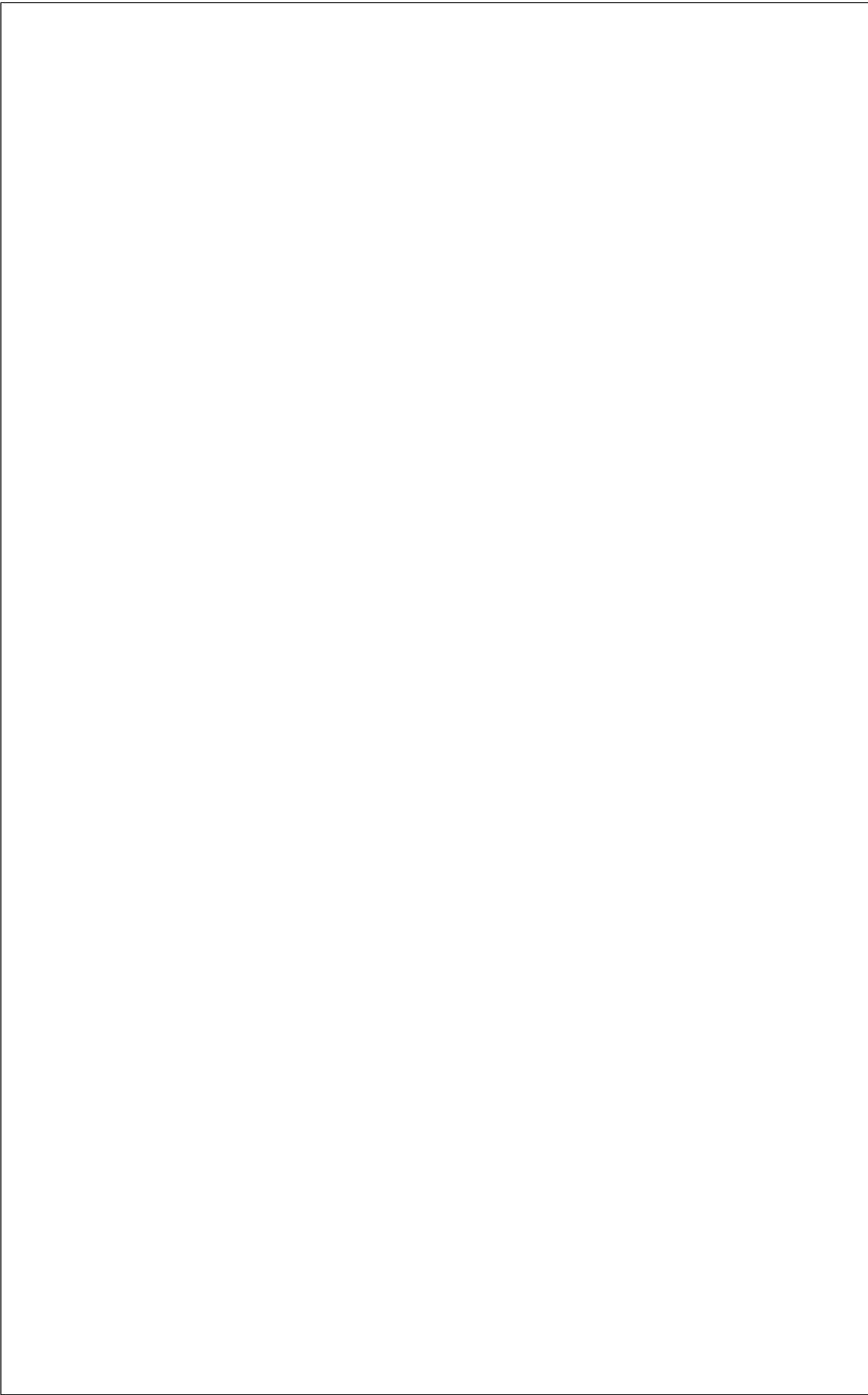
"Right now I am 100 percent on getting interest rates lowered on credit cards," said Kirkpatrick. "We do unit-based education like checkbook classes, high interest loan counseling and car buying techniques. We will help them look over the contract for the car and help them see if they can afford it. There are tons of differ-

ent programs that we offer. We have check writing and debt liquidation. They can consolidate all their bills into one, and instead of going out into the civilian side of the world and paying them to get it done, they can get it done for free."

"It is just an excellent program if people give us a chance to do what we have the training to do," said Kirkpatrick. "I can't stress enough that you need to come in and see your CFNCO at the first sign of trouble. Come in, sit down and talk with us before it becomes a problem."

Kirkpatrick recommends asking your chain of command to find out who your CFNCO is. Those interested in talking with a CFNCO may also call the Army Community Service Center, 239-9435, for more information.





# Letters to the Front

"First of all, I would like to welcome home all of the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantrymen who have returned from Iraq, fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom. My husband, our family and I are very glad to hear that many have made it back safe, and our prayers are still with those and their families who were not as fortunate. Although the majority of 1st Bn., 41st Inf. is expected to be home soon and safe, I would like to remind everyone that 1st Bn., 41st Inf. is still a company short of returning home. Company A, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. was not as fortunate as the rest of the Battalion, and my husband was one of those with many in Co. A who are still in Iraq. So again, lets rejoice for the return of our soldiers, but let us not forget those who were left behind. Again, welcome back 1st Bn., 41st Inf. for the great job and mission completed. God Bless!"  
The Casey Family

"To Spc. Chris Cearlock, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.: I hope you and the guys are safe. Everyone here is praying for you and your buddies. You are always in my heart, mind and prayers! God bless our troops!"  
Love, Paula Stropkay, New York City

"To Sgt. Matthew Rush, 4th Bn., 1st FA: Matt, I just wanted to let you know I am thinking of you everyday and praying for your safety and the safety of your fellow soldiers. Marc, Sydney, Sophie and I, and the rest of the extended family, send their love, thoughts and prayers. I am enjoying my new job and am planning on taking some night classes to pass the time until you return home. I hope this helps put a

smile on your face and I hope you and miss you very much! We are doing fine and pray for your safe return home. We are very proud of you! Be careful over there and come home soon!"  
Always and forever yours, Angie Askins, San Antonio, Texas

"I just want to take the time to say thank you for all your hard work, pain and the time you all have given to free the people of Iraq and protect our American freedoms. To us, you are all heroes. You have saved those people from a sick, evil ruler — a life like we will never know while we have troops like you serving our country. May the Lord keep you safe and protect you."  
A soldier's mom

"Prayers and best wishes to Sgt. Jonathan Whitehead and the entire 125th FSB family. We thank you for all that you do on a daily basis. You are appreciated and missed. Hurry home. Be safe. God bless."  
Gloria Whitehead, military spouse, Decatur, Ga.

"I just wanted to take a few minutes and send my thoughts and prayers to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team that is in Iraq. I just want to tell them that I am thinking about them and hope that they return home soon. To Jason, I send you my love and long for your return. Keep smiling and doing your best and you will

be home before you know it. I love you and miss you! Stay safe and be careful! You are the greatest! You are definitely a hero!"  
Love, Misti, Auburn, Ala.

"To Regina Johnson: We miss you. Danielle is a great girl, and she has been doing very well. I will miss her this summer, and I hate to move away from her. I hope that the time flies and that you are home before Danielle can blink. Thank you for what you are doing."  
Love, Lesley S. Cravey, Kansas

"As a single parent of three, I have never been one to give up, even during the most difficult times in my life. I want you all to know that the uniform that you wear and the pride you bestow upon that uniform are truly inspiring to all of us. My thoughts and prayers go out to each of you.

Thank you for making all of us back home realize the value of freedom and how proud we are to be Americans. Stand tall and be proud. We are all waiting with open arms and grateful hearts. Be safe and come home soon. Thank you so much."  
Kris, Wichita, Kan.

"To Staff Sgt. Madison: Your family misses you more than you can ever believe! I love you more than I ever have before. Every U.S. citizen is proud of you and your comrades. Keep your head down and come home to us when your job is done."  
Cheryl and the kids

"To Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick D. Grove, 4th Bn., 1st Field Artillery of Denver: We want you to know that we miss you and love you so much. We want you to know that we are behind you 100 percent. Be careful and watch out for the enemy. Also take care of your soldiers and watch each other's backs and fronts. Take care and we love you so very much. Do your job, and we have got home taken care of."  
Love, Deshun and the girls, New York.

"I would just love to tell my husband, Staff Sgt. Jose Ruiz, that his daughter, Destiny, and his wife, Sonia Ruiz, miss him more than he could ever imagine. We have so much love that awaits him when he returns. His family in Texas and around the world are so proud of him. He is a true hero in our eyes and always will be. He is the most dedicated soldier I have ever known. Nothing seems to stand in his way when it comes to fighting for his country. He has served in the Army for 16 years now and has been in Iraq for five months, and he is still stronger than ever. He is the most patient and loving man, and I am so proud to say that he is my husband and the greatest father to our daughter. She may only be three years old, but she knows when the greatest man in her life is gone. We would like to wish him a safe return, as well as all the other soldiers out there in Iraq. When I touch him with my own two

hands, I'll believe he is home! We love you!"  
Sonia Ruiz, military spouse

"To Pfc. Jim Strube: I don't know if you will see this, but if you do, please know that you are thought of every moment, and in every prayer you're included. I miss you so much it hurts, but you do what you have to do baby! Everyone misses you and is forever indebted to you and your fellow soldiers for what you are all doing. I am so proud of you! I pray to hear you speak the words, 'Baby, I'm coming home.' Until then, I wait for you."  
Michele Davis, Leasburg, Mo.

"Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - A poem written for the soldiers in Iraq--  
Yesterday I joined the Army. It was time to become a man. I wanted to see the world, but war wasn't in the plan. I am a soldier now, and my country I will defend. Through truth, honor and courage, my loyalty will never end.  
Today shots rang out! I can hear the cries. As I walk through this red sand, my tears I cannot hide. He will not remain in power, this man called Saddam Hussein, who tortures his own people. We have to end their pain.  
Tomorrow the sun will rise, high above this dusty cloud. We'll all be coming home, and our families will be proud. They say that we are heroes, but that we just can't see. For we are just one country, fighting so that another can be free.  
Thank you, and God bless America."  
Alice Viddauri, Aunt of Pvt. Charles D. Adams, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.



U.S. Army Photo Lancester

**Sgt. William Valentine, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 151st Signal Battalion, Greenville, N.C., drops mail off at the post office at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.**



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

