



Weather Forecast		Friday  High:84 Low:60
Saturday 	High:85 Low:60	Sunday  High:86 Low:60

THURSDAY

Fort Riley Post




Army wins softball gold

It was a tough battle, but the All-Army men's softball team never let up on its quest for gold during the Armed Forces Softball Tournament here Aug. 15-17.

See Page 9

August 30, 2001

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Vol. 44, No. 35

Shelton talks change

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton reflected on change and present and future challenges facing the military during an Aug. 22 interview with American Forces Information Service.

The 59-year-old Army Ranger and Special Forces-schooled paratrooper is slated to complete his second two-year term as chairman and to retire Sept. 30.

Shelton, who received his commission in 1963 through the ROTC at North Carolina State University, said he was proud of his military service and that of U.S. servicemembers performing duty worldwide. He also commented on recently enacted pay, housing and health initiatives that improve the lives of servicemembers, and of efforts to transform the military for envisioned 21st century threats.

The chairman noted that things have "changed considerably" across the military since he pinned on his gold lieutenant's bars.

"We had a draft at that time and a force that was predominately single," Shelton remarked, adding that the majority of servicemembers in today's volunteer military force are married.

The active components performed most of DoD's missions during the Cold War years, said Shelton, a Vietnam and Gulf War veteran. However, with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the ensuing drawdown, the reserve components had to shoulder more of the load.

"Today, it is a Total Force and we rely very heavily on our great troops in the Guard, as well as those in the reserves," Shelton said.

Shelton noted that today's military is 40 percent smaller than it was after the Gulf War. He said today's U.S. Army may be only the seventh or eighth in size in the world, but he "has watched it get better and better" throughout the years.

"I've seen the quality of our force continue to improve, to where today — there is no question about it — we have the finest armed forces in the world," Shelton said, adding he also has seen the quality of commissioned and enlisted leadership improve significantly.

The noncommissioned officer corps "sets the example for others throughout the world to emulate," he said. Commenting on today's officer corps, Shelton remarked, "I'm just glad I that don't have to compete against those young lieutenants and ensigns that I bump into as I travel around the world."

America's armed forces are the best in the world, but "we have significant challenges that we'll have to deal with in the future," Shelton said. One of those challenges, he noted, is to guard against complacency.

When Shelton spoke to Veterans of Foreign Wars members in Milwaukee Aug. 21, he said, he reminded them of history, and "the need to make sure that we're never surprised again."

Shelton said U.S. troops weren't ready to fight in the battle at Kasserine Pass in North Africa during World War II and in the Task Force Smith debacle during the Korean War. In both actions, ill-trained and badly equipped American units were forced to retreat.

"We were not prepared to carry out the missions our armed forces were given, and we paid a price in blood for having done that," he emphasized.

Another challenge for America's military is change, Shelton said.

"We need to make sure that we can change and transform our armed forces today to be prepared to deal

See Shelton Page 7



A set of human remains was found Tuesday by a contractor who were cleaning up this burned out quarters on Burnside Loop. U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is investigating.

Remains found in burned quarters

From Staff Reports

A set of human remains found on Fort Riley Aug. 27 was identified as Scott A. Nichols, 18.

Nichols was the son of SSgt. John English of the 24th Transportation Company. English had filed a missing person's report on his son July 30.

Nichols' remains were sent to the State of Kansas Medical

Examiner's Office in Topeka. Positive identification was made through dental records. The preliminary cause of death was deemed carbon monoxide poisoning.

The remains were discovered in the garage area of an on-post family quarters located on Burnside Loop. The quarters were destroyed by fire Feb. 4. A contractor found the remains while

cleaning up the site.

A pre-dawn fire, Feb. 4, started in the garage of Quarters # 1 and spread to two adjacent quarters.

Quarters # 2 suffered fire damage and Quarters # 3 had minor smoke damage.

Thirteen firefighters from Fort Riley's three fire stations responded and arrived on the scene within minutes. They brought the blaze under control within two-

and-a-half hours.

Fort Riley began clean-up of the site this week after receiving authority from Department of the Army to rebuild the structure in early August. Damages to the quarters were estimated at \$104,000.

No foul play is suspected. The matter is under investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

Engineer officers qualify on MK-19

By Mitchell Huth

19th Public Affairs Det.

In the hands of a trained gunner, the MK-19 40mm Grenade Machine Gun can be a formidable weapon system. Qualifying those gunners was the focus of the 70th Engineer Battalion last week on Fort Riley's Range 29.

This qualification range is the

culmination of the annual gunnery-training program conducted by the 70th Engineers.

According to Army Field Manual 23-27, the MK-19 is an air-cooled, belt-fed, blowback-operated machine gun that fires 40-mm cartridges of three types, high explosive, dual-purpose, which has armor piercing capabilities, high explosive and target practice. With

an effective range in excess of 2,000 meters, the MK-19 is employed in a variety of both offensive and defensive roles.

The requirements to qualify on this range are two hits on each of the four targets given 26 rounds to do it. Targets are at 400, 600, 800 and 1,100 meters, according to 1st Lt. Carl A. Craigo of Company C, 70th Eng. Bn. and officer in charge of the range. This task is made more difficult by the nature of the weapon and the type of ordnance that it fires.

"This is the first time I fired and it's tough because the Mk 19 is not like any other weapon," said 2nd Lt. Vincent Boncich of Company B, 70th Eng. Bn. "you kind of have to hesitate after pulling the trigger, there's a pause while the round is up in the air and you need a bit more patience (than other weapons)."

The unusual thing about the 70th Engineers is, all the gunners are officers. Due to their Table of Organizational Equipment, all the MK-19s are assigned to the platoon leaders' vehicles, said Craigo.

The very look of the weapon, like a 4-gauge automatic shotgun if there were such a thing, can be a bit

intimidating.

"Everyone's kind of gun-shy the first time you fire it, but I think I'll do okay," said 1st Lt. Shawn Wangerin of the 568th Engineer Company, "I always want to do the best I can."

The real challenge that these officers must face is the annual training received on the weapon during their time as a platoon leader according to SFC Jimmy Culley of Co. C. Firers go through four tables of Primary Marksmanship Instruction in the days prior to the range but he says more is needed.

According to FM 23-27, because the unit is a Supporting Force, they are only authorized annual qualification.

"If people had a choice, they would do this more often," said Culley.

Some of the firers, including Boncich, would like to see these skills tested in different ways, possibly through the use of tactical scenarios on the range.

Overall, the soldiers were impressed with the weapon and expressed their affection towards it.

"The MK-19 is a good weapon system," said Craigo.



Spec. Eric Fontaine observes 2nd Lt. Robert Munier, both of Company B, 70th Engineer Battalion, fire the MK-19 automatic grenade launcher on Range 29 on Aug. 22.

State Department seeks military talent

Army News Service

WASHINGTON—The U.S. State Department is seeking veterans and transitioning soldiers to fill badly needed positions as it engages in its largest expansion in decades.

The hiring drive, initiated by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, will recruit 1,433 new careerists in Fiscal Year 2002 — 43 percent above the FY 2001 level — in For-

eign and Civil Service positions.

To achieve these hiring goals, Powell established the Diplomatic Readiness Task Force with special authorization for wide-ranging recruitment efforts including a stronger focus on recruiting military personnel leaving service.

The department has many opportunities of potential interest to the military. More than 500 former military personnel have entered the department in the last two years.

State Department recruiters are targeting veterans through on-site visits to military installations in specific areas — San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle and several cities in Florida, North and South Carolina, and the Washington, D.C. area. Recruiters are also participating in military career fairs and employment panels, expanding cooperation with offices of the Transition Assistance Program and targeted advertising.

More information on Foreign Service careers is available via the Internet at www.foreignservicecareers.gov, or by calling (202) 261-8888.

Individuals with technical and administrative skills should contact Foreign Service Specialists by visiting www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/specialist/. The State Department also offers a Mid-level Entry Program, for which the 2001 deadline is Sept. 4.

Soldiers go online at SRP

By Jeremy Heckler

19th Public Affairs Det.

Soldier readiness is key for the successful accomplishment of the mission on Fort Riley or anywhere around the world. In today's Army, it not only means making sure that mind and body are ready, it means making sure that soldiers have the technical skills to prosper.

Fort Riley is preparing their soldiers for that day during Soldier Readiness Packet preparedness for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. The brigade is preparing for an upcoming deployment to the National Training Center.

"A lot of people don't want to stay in the Army because they think we're old fashioned and can't prepare them technically for life after the Army," said Maj. Matt Boehnke, 24th Infantry Division automation officer. "Our goal is to give them the tools to be integrated."

"This gives the soldiers email addresses regardless of what installation they are on," said CWO2 Chris Owens, 24th Infantry Division automation. "It allows leadership to disseminate information directly to the users."

Owens said that the service can be used to send out a wide variety of information, from promotion data as well as information on new duty stations to online Army manuals and regulations.

Soldiers from G-6 set up stations to help soldiers go online with Army Knowledge Online. Worldwide, all active duty, National Guard, reserve soldiers as well as Department of the Army civilians must have an AKO account by Oct. 1.

"We received a directive last week that everyone needed to be online and we thought of ways to make it happen," said Boehnke. "With the SRP coming up, we thought that it would be a great opportunity to get a large amount of soldiers signed up."

Soldiers lined up at the station and were told to think of a nine-digit password and to remember their basic active service date. Many were sent down to the personnel station in order to find out their date.

"Many soldiers came here and found out that they already had an account," said Boehnke. He said that there have been relatively few problems. The main problem is being locked out from the server.

The possibility of being an online soldier is a welcome new experience for many soldiers.

"I haven't been online since I joined the Army," said PFC Genaro Chavez of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor. Chavez has been in the Army for more

See SRP Page 7



Wildcat battalion exceeds goals set for 2001 progress

By Art DeGroat

Professor of Military Science

The Wildcat Battalion Cadre and staff have worked hard this summer toward attaining its vision of being a national top 20 percent program.

Last fall the unit set high, yet attainable goals and objectives.

These goals and objectives were heavily influenced by advice and recommendations from the Cadet Command Com-

manders, University officials, distinguished alumni and Honorary Colonels. The unit's summer 2001 progress report indicates that the unit has exceeded nearly every objective. Below are details from the report.

Enrollment

Increased enrollment from 84 to 106 cadets since last year equating to a 26 percent growth rate in total enrollment in one year.

Enrolled 34 freshmen exceeding the

goal of 28, in a 121 percent effort.

Enrolled seven new sophomores by lateral entry exceeding goal of six resulting in a 116 percent total effort.

Enrolled seven juniors by lateral entry exceeding the goal of six, 116 percent total effort.

Scholarships

Awarded eight of five allocated new Campus-Based Scholarships to incoming freshmen, a 160 percent effort.

Awarded two of two allocated 4-year

scholarships for 100 percent utilization rate.

Awarded three of three allocated 3-Year AD scholarships for 100 percent utilization rate.

Awarded three additional adjustment pool 4-year scholarships.

Awarded 4 new Green-to-Gold Program cadets from Fort Riley.

Awarded 10 new Kansas National Guard Scholarships.

Awarded six Kansas State University

Scholarships to new cadets for a total of \$18,000.

Scholar-Athlete-Leaders

Enrolled seven new Scholar-Athlete-Leaders comprising 14 percent of 48 new enrollments.

Camp Challenge 2001

Two of three Camp participants completed training and are contracting into our program resulting in 67 percent completion rate and a 100 percent contracting rate.

NCO promotions increase by 6,000

By Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON-This fiscal year 52,259 soldiers were selected for promotion to noncommissioned officer grades - the highest number selected in the past eight years.

But only 80 percent of those selected for sergeant will pin on the rank.

Beginning October, soldiers will be removed from the sergeant recommended list after 12 months if they have been selected for promotion, but have not attended the Primary Leadership Development Course or if they have not been conditionally promoted, said Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, personnel policy integrator for Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"We cannot accurately forecast future cutoff scores with a list that contains names of soldiers who are not qualified and cannot be promoted," Purcell said.

In May the Army announced a conditional promotions provision for specialists and corporals who have met the cutoff score, but are deployed, on temporary profile or waiting to attend the Primary Leadership Development Course. Since its implementation, commanders have not been effectively using the tool, Purcell said.

"Commanders need to understand that they need to either conditionally promote soldiers or their soldiers will be removed from the list," Purcell said. "They recommended them. They sent them to the board. Now if they're not promoting them because of PLDC, that's punishing them."

The provision tied the hands of some commanders however, by requiring that they reserve a seat at PLDC before their soldiers could be conditionally promoted, Purcell said. A lot of the commanders didn't have the ability to reserve the seats, he said.

So in early August, DCSPER

released a clarification policy message explaining that commanders can submit a Department of the Army 4187 form to their Personnel Support Battalion or equivalent indicating that the soldier will attend PLDC within a year of the conditional promotion.

"Once the commander signs the form we will accept it and conditionally promote the soldier," Purcell said.

A backlog of soldiers, who Purcell suspects are ineligible for promotion, will be cleaned up by initiating the policy to remove soldiers from the sergeant recommended list after 12 months, he said.

"When I look on the database, I see soldiers who were selected, but are ineligible because of weight problems, or they've been barred from re-enlistment or can't pass the PT test," Purcell said. "The rules clearly state that once a soldier is ineligible they have to be removed, but that's not happening."

The Special Military Occupa-

tional Specialty Alignment Promotion Program is another program that is not being used effectively, Purcell said. The program allows specialists and corporals who are promotable and in stagnant MOSs to re-enlist for certain skills that have a shortage in sergeants.

Once soldiers complete the training for that specific skill they will be promoted to sergeant. There are currently 18 MOSs in the program. Specific details on the program are on the Military Personnel Messages web site at MILPER message 01-89.

Purcell said another shortage the Army foresees in October is sergeant first class recruiters.

In an effort to ensure the best-qualified NCOs are serving the difficult mission of recruiting, he said, the Army has selected 385 staff sergeants, who were former detailed recruiters, for promotion to sergeant first class if they volunteer to re-class into the MOS 79R (recruiter).

Staff sergeants who were not

selected for promotion in their primary MOS during the calendar year 2001 were selected for promotion in the recruiting field. Soldiers can decline promotion without prejudice and remain in their current grade and PMOS.

"The numbers this year outnumber last year by a little over 6,000" said Purcell. "That shows that it is a good opportunity for enlisted soldiers to progress."

The increase in promotions is mainly due to an increase in retirements among NCOs after 20 to 21 years of service.

Promotion allocations for September are as follows; sergeant major 10, master sergeant 100, sergeant first class 994, staff sergeant 1,183, sergeant 2,500.

Soldiers, civilian retire

The Post Retirement Ceremony was held August 29 at 8:30 a.m. on Ware Parade Field.

The following soldiers were recognized: CWO 4 Gary D. Deshazer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group; MSgt. Wendell O. Cathey, HHC, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor; SFC Sherry M. Rowe, U.S. Medical Department Activity; SFC Larry Buckhannon, Battery B, 4th Bn., 1st Field Artillery; SFC Timmy L. Jarvis, Company B, 125th Forward Support Bn.; SSgt. Dean A. Mitchell, 523rd Military Police Team; and SSgt. Douglas W. Mock Jr., HHC, 1st Bn., 13th Armor. In addition, Robert W. Hertz, chief, Directorate of Community Activities retired.

POW/MIA Day set for Sept. 14 at Riley's

The National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony will be Sept. 14. Fort Riley will recognize POW/MIAs with a ceremony at Riley's Restaurant and Event Center. A Presidential Proclamation will be read at formations. Also, the POW/MIA flag will be flown Sept. 21.

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Troop D conducts gunnery

By Laurence Lang

Special to the Post

After deploying a task force to a volatile region, there are few things more important to a commander than force protection.

One of the measures the Task Force 1st Bn., 34th Armor commander has taken is to employ the skills of Troop D, 4th Cavalry.

Troop D remains vigilant, looking for potential dangers in the Kabal and routinely doing zone reconnaissance in surrounding areas.

They also remain proficient on their assigned weapons, and conduct ranges often - like the range the unit held Aug. 18.

Capt. Jeff Ramsey, commander, Troop D, 4th Cav., said the intent for the day was to conduct a section gunnery after test-firing and zeroing their weapons.

"This unit is made up of two scout platoons and one striker platoon, and the gunnery today will give them a chance to fire together," he said. "This helps them

understand each other and fight as a unit."

The scouts fired M-240B and .50-cal machine guns, MK-19 automatic grenade launchers, M-16 and M-4 rifles, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, as well as 9mm pistols - the weapons this unit would use in combat.

"This deployment teaches me leadership by working with other units and dealing with everyone on a daily basis.."

**—PFC Rex Hammer
Troop D, 4th Cavalry**

Ramsey seemed to enjoy that the desert environment offered few range limitations.

"As long as we have a solid

safety plan in place, we can pretty much do what we want training wise," he said.

The day was a great experience for the soldiers, according to PFC Rex Hammer, Kansas native and scout.

"I like being out in the field and doing my job. It helps me maintain proficiency on the .50-cal when I get to fire it," he said. "I have to be able to do my job well and successfully interact with my team."The scouts encountered a couple of their first unique training challenges in the deserts of Kuwait.

Before Troop D could fire its weapons, the unit had to play the waiting game with a herd of camels walking across the range.

Not long after the camels wandered off, the wind kicked up. However, the scouts, determined not to be defeated by Mother Nature, continued with their training objectives for the day.

After battling Mother Nature and qualifying on their weapons, Troop D scouts went back out to conduct another zone recon, practicing proper zone formations.

"The patrols give the Kabal early warnings to prepare task force combat power," Ramsey said. "This is important for the soldiers because it gives them confidence to execute their missions properly."

Hammer said he enjoyed the experience of getting a first-hand glimpse at what other soldiers' jobs were in the troop.

"It is a very well-rounded experience," he said. "This deployment teaches me leadership by working with other units and dealing with everyone on a daily basis."

"Our goal is to be prepared for combat, and we'll continue training to make sure we are the best at what we do and further our skills as a scout platoon."



50th PAD/Lang

PFC Rex Hammer, Troop D, 4th Cavalry, fires his .50 cal. machine gun during a range exercise held in the Kuwaiti desert Aug. 18.

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3rd Bn., 37th Armor Reunion

Operation Desert Storm veterans of the 3rd Battalion, 37th Armor and Task Force 3rd Battalion, 37th Armor are cordially invited to an Open House and Reunion at Quarters 100 Schofield Circle Sunday from 2-6 p.m. Spouses and guests are invited and the attire is casual. Please RSVP by Friday to Brig. Gen. David Gross at 785-239-2407 or email afzndcm@riley.army.mil

Shoppe News

The Shoppe is a shopping experience for anyone who loves antiques and homemade crafts. When you stop by for a visit, you will find a new look and lots of fall merchandise. Our crafters have been very busy getting ready for the upcoming season. Come explore The Shoppe.

The Shoppe is located in Bldg. 259 Stuart Ave. (just west of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Stables). Phone 785-239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shops currently located in Bldg. 267 on Stuart Avenue near the stables. The shop is currently closed for renovations, but will re-open on Sept. 4.

Volunteers are still needed to help set up the new location during the hours of 9:30-2:30 Tuesday through Thursday. For additional information about volunteer opportunities, call 784-3874.

Holiday care

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Primary Care Clinic #1 will be open for patient care on Friday, which is a training holiday. The clinic will be open from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for Same-Day Acute Appointments.

Acute appointments are for patients who develop a sudden illness within 24-48 hours. To make an appointment, call the local TRICARE Service Center at (785) 784-1200 or call toll free 1-888-874-9378.

Free Fair Admission

Officials at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson have designated Sept. 16, as "Military Appreciation Day." Soldiers, military family members, retirees and veterans will be admitted free that day if they show their ID cards. Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted color Guard will conduct cavalry demonstrations throughout the day and tactical military equipment from Fort Riley as well as National Guard and Army Reserve units will be on display.

Preschool Program

Part-day preschool classes are forming. AM (8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) or PM (1-4 p.m.) classes will be offered two, three, or five days a week. Classes start Monday at the Child Development Center on post. Children 3-5 years of age are eligible. Fees are based on total family income according to DoD fee guidance. This developmentally appropriate program

in our accredited center is a creative curriculum with an emphasis on discovery learning and social skills. Sign up now at Central Enrollment Registry office Bldg. 6620, 239-4847 to get on the list for the program.

Wanted: Platoon Leader

The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard is looking for a platoon leader. Requirement is for a first lieutenant with equestrian skills looking for a challenge. The position is currently open and is for one year. For information, call 239-6706

Apple Day

The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley is holding its annual Apple Day Oct. 20 at the Custer House and Cavalry Parade Field. Volunteers are needed to prepare pies, sell pies and provide event support. To volunteer call, Beth Rouse at 717-2440 or Gina Greene at 784-2884. Vendors interested in setting up a craft or antique booth should call Terry Miller at 717-3070.

MCCW Meets

The Military Council of Catholic Women will resume meeting in September, beginning Sept. 7 with a First Friday celebration at 9 a.m. at Morris Hill Chapel. We will have a mass and say the rosary, followed by a potluck brunch. For information call, 784-8210.

Spouses' Luncheon

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club in holding a sign-up and information luncheon at 11 a.m. on Sept. 20 at Riley's Event Center. The luncheon is an opportunity to join OCSC.

The program for the event will cover exploring Geary County. The guest speakers will be Connie Hall and Rick Dykstra from the Geary County Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

Lunch will be served at noon. Reservations are required. If you last name starts with A-M, call Teresa Howard at 717-2464. If you last name starts with N-Z, call Dani Wadsworth at 717-1580. Manhattan and Ogden attendees should call Hannah Fitz Gerald at 537-7824. Please call by Sept. 12 to register.

Child care is available through the Armed Services YMCA in Junction City and the post Child Development Center. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis. Call Rhonda Lysinger at 717-6468 to register for child care by noon Sept. 12

Sewing donations

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club has established a program that will help various groups in the area. For September, members are encouraged to donate fabric scraps, straight pins, safety pins, cotton thread in neutral colors, #90 sized needles and batting. These supplies will go to the Konza Prairie

Quilters. The Konza Prairie Quilters are making quilts for Mercy Medical Center in Manhattan, as well as several homeless shelters.

Prescriptions Change

Irwin Army Community Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy will be dispensing a 60-day supply of medications to patients during the remainder of fiscal year 2001. This change from the 90-day medication dispensing is due to the year-end budget constraints of FY 01, which ends Sept. 30.

This procedure includes new and refill prescriptions. The exceptions to this change in dispensing medications will be for military service members who are deploying or for controlled substance prescriptions where federal law mandates that quantities may not be altered. For information, call 239-7411.

Youth Classes

Sign up in September for ballet classes. Beginner ballet classes are available for 3-5 year olds from 6-6:45 p.m. and for 6-8 year olds from 7-7:45 p.m. on Thursdays at Bldg. 5800 in the Teen center dance room. Cost is \$25 a month.

Jazz dance classes begin Sept. 8. Classes are for 5-7 year olds 9-9:50 a.m., 8-10 year olds 10-

10:50 a.m., 10 years and up 11-11:50 a.m. on Saturdays and will be held in the Teen Center dance room Bldg. 5800. Cost is \$25 a month.

Private piano lessons are offered on Tuesdays. Weekly 1/2 hours lessons are offered at \$40 a month.

Martial Arts classes will be offered starting Oct. 6. Entry-Level is 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with Advanced level 2-4 p.m. Children 6-18 years old are eligible to enroll. Cost is \$25 a month.

Hunters Education

Outdoor Recreation Center is hosting a Hunter's Education Class, Sept. 5-7, from 6-10 p.m. at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011 on Rifle Range Road. This class is open to anyone 14 and over. Children 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up is at Outdoor Recreation.

Clydesdales Visit

The World Famous Budweiser Clydesdales, the symbol of tradition for Anheuser-Busch since 1933, are scheduled to make an appearance on Sept. 6 at the AAFES Post Exchange Parking Lot, Fort Riley.

The show begins at 5 p.m. as these "Gentle Giants," as they are often referred to arrive. Once

there, the eight horse hitch team will be harnessed and hitched to the famous Red Beer Wagon by approximately 5:30 p.m.. Their show will then last about an hour before they make their exit.

Red Cross Car Wash

The Red Cross Youth Team is holding a car wash at Water's True Value Hardware Saturday from 10 a.m. -3 p.m. All donations will benefit the Geary County Red Cross Disaster Fund

NAF Jobs

The Non-Appropriated Fund personnel division is hosting a job fair at Riley's Event Center Tuesday. Applications will be accepted from 9-9:45 a.m. and interviews will begin at 10:15 a.m. Job offers will be made the same day. For information, call the Fort Riley NAF Civilian Personnel Office at 239-2325.

Outdoor Rec

The Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011 will have new hours. Beginning Tuesday, the new hours will be Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. T

he checkout center closes one-half hour earlier than the store. Sundays through Nov. 18, cus-

tomers will be able to turn in equipment from noon-4 p.m.

Personal Property

The Personal Property and Passenger Service Work Center will be operating on a partial basis Sept. 13 due to moving the Outbound and QC offices. The counseling, storage and passenger/port call offices will be operational as usual. During this move, full service will be available to arrange transportation outbound appointments through the counselors in Rm. 119. Inbound delivery customer service will not be available Sept. 13. This office will be located in Rm. 118 after the move. All services will resume Sept. 14.

Instructor Needed

Contract tumbling or gymnastics instructor needed to teach classes to youth on post. Call Cathy Spiegel at 239-9850 or 239-4847 if interested.

Golf Tourney

The Fort Riley and Junction City Chapters of the American Red Cross are sponsoring a golf tournament at Custer Hill Golf Course, Fort Riley Sept. 8. It is open to the general public. Registration begins at 8 a.m., play at 9 a.m.

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Word On The Street

“Since you have received your beret, has your opinion changed about wearing it?”



“My opinion didn't change about it. I wasn't really looking forward to wearing it and now that I realize how much work is involved in wearing it correctly, I still don't care for it.”

*SSgt. Samantha Allen
HHC
24th ID*

“I was looking forward to wearing my beret and I enjoy wearing it now. The only thing I really don't like is that I have to wear it in the motor pool.”

*PFC Julio Lobato
HHC
1st Bn., 41st Infantry*

“My opinion did change about wearing the beret. When told we had to start wearing them, I thought they would be ugly. Now I think they look nice.”

*Pvt. 2 Adrian Arriola
HHC
1st Bn., 41st Infantry*

First sergeants graduate here

*By Luigi Martell
19th Public Affairs Det.*

Learning about leadership is now easier thanks to new technology. Ten soldiers returned to their units Aug. 24 as new First Sergeants after completing the inaugural First Sergeant Distance Learning Course here on Fort Riley.

Before there was the distance-learning course here, Fort Riley's aspiring first sergeants went to Fort Bliss, Texas for the required training.

“What makes Fort Riley's First Sergeant Distance Learning Course unique is the fact that it's a cost effective way of making excellent first sergeants,” says 1st Sgt. Clarence Stanley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade.

“There's no need to send them to Fort Bliss and have to billet them and feed them,” he said.

Soldiers from the prairie post, as well as Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Carson, Colo., make up this first-ever first sergeant course.

The Fort Riley class is digitally linked to the Hood and Carson classrooms, as well as to the main instructor stationed at Fort Bliss.

“Before when you had to go all the way to Fort Bliss to attend the course, you were isolated at Biggs Airfield and were forced to relate with others,” said Stanley, instructor for the course. “Here at Fort Riley, with the Distance Learning Course, students choose to interact and work together towards a

common goal.”

Through video monitors and microphones, students interact with one another and other classrooms in other posts throughout the country via satellite.

“Within the classrooms you get the why-to and how-to of being a first sergeant,” said Stanley. “With satellite, you get soldiers interacting and sharing knowledge and experiences.”

The heartland fort's inaugural distance learning course has soldiers from combat arms, engineering and even the medical field.

“We have a good mix in this Fort Riley classroom,” said Stanley.

“A lot of the students want to keep in touch to share common tribulations and problems they'll face as new first sergeants,” he said.

Students go to classes Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a lunch break and some study times throughout the day.

“During the breaks, lunches, and study times we get the chance to draw on each other's experience and area of subject matter expertise,” said 1st Sgt. Brent Hagel-Pitt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

“The diversification of the class environment lends to sharing this wide range of experiences which, ultimately, leads you to doing a better job as a first sergeant,” he said.

“From the interaction with

other first sergeants you pick-up on ideas which work, and others that won't, in order to come up with a better course of action,” said 1st Sergeant Douglas Dunn, Company A, 101st Forward Support Battalion. “In the end you have a higher chance of success with soldiers.”

All the students in the course have worked hard, but it hasn't been easy.

“The First Sergeant Distance Learning Course is condensed compared to the residency course at Fort Bliss,” said 1st Sgt. Priscilla Rivera, Dental Activity.

“We have a lot of outside interference at Fort Riley. Sometimes it's difficult to concentrate just on the course when you have to juggle school, work and a family life,” she said.

Instructors and students have also had challenges getting use to communicating through all the sophisticated technology that has made the distance learning course a reality.

“Our greatest challenge in the course has been getting the right books and being prepared to teach if the digital link goes down.”

During the course the digital link has gone down twice, but that hasn't stopped Stanley from teaching nor has it stopped students from learning.

“The 1st Sergeant Course has provided us with a great tool to go out and teach, train and lead our soldiers,” says Rivera who made the Commandant's List.

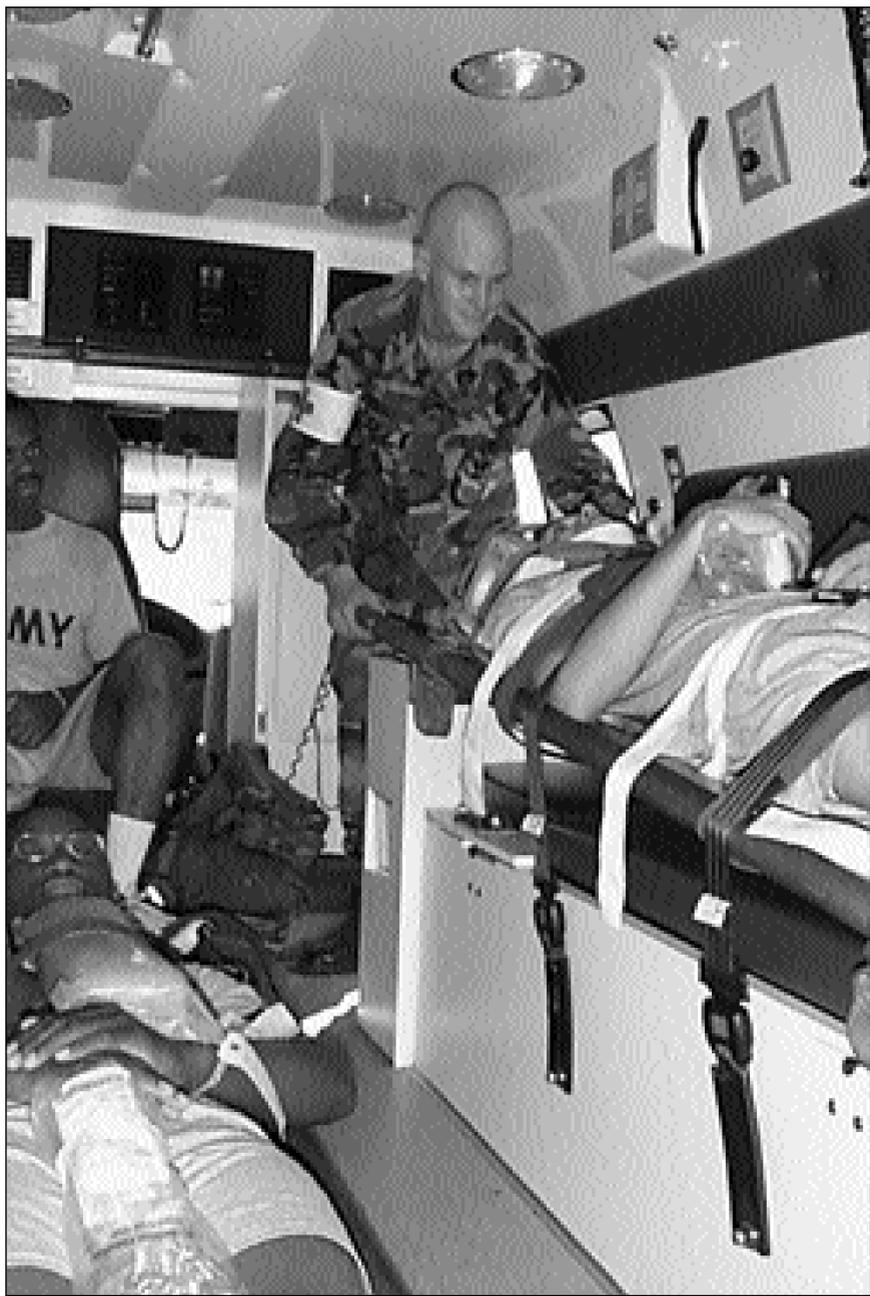
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MEDDAC/Howe

Enroute to IACH Emergency Medical Services, PFC Joseph Cisbzzon, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, sees to his patients safety. The mock casualties are from Company B, 101 Forward Support Battalion.

Fort Riley tests emergency teams

By Emilie L. Howe
MEDDAC PAO

The emergency call came to Irwin Army Community Hospital's Ambulance Services, at 9 a.m. Tuesday. At Camp Funston, a 24-passenger bus with soldiers on board and a 5-ton truck loaded with 50-gallon barrels of Super Tropical Bleach collided at the intersection of G Street. In this accident scenario for the Mass Casualty Exercise, fireman and paramedics were warned that one STB barrel had spilled when the 5-ton truck overturned upon impact with the bus.

According to Vic Dimmattia, IACH security officer, Super Tropical Bleach is used to decontaminate military equipment. It's highly corrosive as well as an inhalation hazard, he said. Emergency Medical Services of IACH, Mercy Hospital of Manhattan, and the Fort Riley Fire Department (FRFD) were alerted as to what to expect when they arrived on the scene.

Gross decontamination of the

affected soldiers will mean copious amounts of water said Capt. Gary G. Ouellette, Fort Riley Fire Department, who was the Incident Commander. The driver of the 5-ton truck that was hauling the barrels of STB went through the gross decontamination. "I've got a multiple fracture of the mandible and chemical burns on my legs," said Spec. Danny J. Guadamuz, HHC, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. He was reading his triage tag that tells emergency medical staff the patient's vital signs and sustained injuries.

Emergency Medical Technicians from IACH Ambulance Service and the Fort Riley Fire Department were on site to triage the mock casualties. Triage determines which patient has sustained a life threatening injury or who received minor injuries and could wait until the seriously injured were evacuated. Soldiers who portrayed life-threatening injuries were flown to the IACH EMS by the 82nd Air Ambulance Company.

According to Kyle Martin,

EMT of IACH Ambulance Service, the Mass Casualty exercise also featured a battalion aid station that was set-up for unit training at Camp Funston. "The medics had already transported a lot of the casualties to IACH," said Martin.

Martin was enroute to IACH with three patients - two are Code Red and the third patient was a Code Yellow. "Code Red means a high priority patient; Code Yellow is a patient who can be delayed for no more than an hour, and Code Green is a patient with minimal injuries," he said.

PFC Joseph Cisbzzon, HHC 1st Bn., 16th Inf., rode with the patients enroute to IACH. "I've done this before," he said. Cisbzzon is a medic.

"We didn't have to go to work," said PFC Trent Duke of Little Rock, Ark. He is assigned to Company B, 101st FSB.

The rest of the MASCAL featured the health care staff and providers in Emergency Medical Services and the hospital staff members.



MEDDAC/Howe

Fireman of the Fort Riley Fire Department decontaminate a mock casualty during a Mass Casualty Exercise performed by emergency teams at Fort Riley Tuesday morning at Camp Funston and Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Women celebrate equality

By Melissa McEntire
Staff Writer

The Army marked Women's Equality Day Aug. 26. To celebrate the day, the Equal Opportunity Office hosted a Women's Equality Day observance.

Although it focuses on females, the observance had many males attending as well.

"The day isn't only about the female soldier," said SFC Rodney Romano, NCOIC of the event.

"It is a day to celebrate every soldier in the Army," he said.

"Right now, women only make up roughly 10 percent of the Army. But, without female soldiers, I don't think our military would be as strong," he said.

"Unfortunately, there are still some stereotypes that still exist. They are dwindling, but they are still in today's military."

"I know when I first went to Equal Opportunity school, my views on women were different. I was a tanker, and I thought female soldiers were weaker than males. However, my views have changed drastically since. Now I think that women should be allowed to go into Combat Arms if they desire to and are able," Romano said.

"The important thing in today's Army is to overlook gender. A soldier is a soldier, no matter what their gender. And, everyone can succeed in the Army, despite what gender they are," he said.

"Hopefully, parents are raising children, both boys and girls, to respect themselves and teach them that they can overcome anything thrown in their paths if they want to reach their goal badly enough," said Romano.

"There are still barriers for women today," said Rima Britt, Director of Administrative Services and guest speaker for the event.

"However, I think that some of the barriers we still have, we impose upon ourselves," she said.

"When parents are raising their children of tomorrow, hopefully, they are not teaching them the differences between women and men in society. Hopefully, they are teaching them that every one is different, but every one can suc-

ceed in what they do," she said.

"I know when I first started working, it was a man's work force. I tried to blend in with the men, to actually try to be one of them, but then I felt it was important for every one of them to know that I was a woman and I could do the job just as well as any of them," Britt said. "Since I joined the work force, things have drastically changed for both women and men. I would say that in the last 10 years, women have started to look like equals in men's eyes at work."

"We still have a ways to go, but women sure have come a long way," Britt said. "There are laws out there now to protect women. It is up to us now to enforce them. If a woman is being harassed, for example, and does not report it or do anything about it, she is accepting less than what she is entitled to. All she is doing is hurting herself emotional."

"Society has come too far for men to think women aren't their equal. Hopefully, every female and male I spoke to today knows that," she said.

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Shelton continued from page 1

with the 21st century threats that we will face, which may look a little bit different" from those of the past, he said.

"Cyber warfare — certainly, we have to be prepared to deal with that," Shelton continued. "We've talked about (ballistic) missile defense and the need to protect American citizens against that, to include homeland security in a larger context."

Transformation isn't easy whether within DoD or in the corporate world, he acknowledged. "Institutional resistance to change is always something you have to contend with," he observed.

Military transformation is a complex endeavor, where leaders must not only prepare for today's threats, but also those foreseen in 15 to 20 years, he said. As the world becomes more automated and relies more on information technology, the armed forces need to maintain information superiority and be able to "protect our own systems from attack by an adversary," Shelton said. He also spoke of "sensor-to-shooter" technology "that will maybe even allow an unmanned aerial vehicle to respond with some type of robotic device to a threat."

Yet, Shelton emphasized that threats abound today.

"We've some nations today that concern us, [such as] North Korea," he said. "We've 38,000 great Americans in South Korea that stand guard day in and day out protecting America's interests along the DMZ."

"Over in the Persian Gulf, we

have roughly 22,000 of our troops that on any given day are subjected to potential attack by individuals such as Saddam Hussein," Shelton noted. "Making sure that we're prepared to deal with that at a low to moderate level of risk is very important."

DoD's military and civilian leaders, Shelton said, "will continue to make sure that our forces are trained and ready today, even as we modernize the force, bringing in the latest in technology to ensure that we'll always have that technological edge when we put our men and women in harm's way."

He said incorporating those new capabilities costs money, and sometimes "creates the friction" for resources among the services, none of which want to be left out.

"But, I think we've got a good game plan laid out," Shelton emphasized. "The Quadrennial Defense Review is helping in that regard. I'm confident that we'll be in great shape for the future."

Back to the present day, Shelton said he is "thankful to get feedback from our troops in the field, whether it is the young airman, young Marine, soldier, sailor, and the NCOs and the officers, because they kind of frame the issues for us here in Washington inside the Pentagon."

Feedback from servicemembers has prompted senior leaders to re-evaluate personnel policies and deployment schedules, Shelton said.

"It started off pretty heavily with perstempo and operational

tempo ... the lack of predictability in their lives in terms of knowing what was coming next. I think we've made some great headway," Shelton said. "Are we there, yet? No, we're not, and part of the Quadrennial Defense Review's goal is to try to bring all that (perstempo and optempo) back into balance."

Listening to servicemembers' issues has also resulted in better quality of life in the form of higher military pay, improvements in military housing, health care and retirement, he added.

"It helped us achieve the largest pay raise in the last 18 years," Shelton said, adding that more will be done in the military pay realm in the future. "We corrected the retirement system that had been changed back in 1986 that had made our retirement program more of a disincentive than an incentive for those that stayed for 20 years. We've been able to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses for housing for those who have to live off the installation."

Myriad improvements in the TRICARE health care system have also been made in recent years, Shelton said, to include "better business practices such as access and the management of the program, the transferability from one region to another ... reducing the out-of-pocket expenses for our active force." He recalled a visit to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he posed the question, "Have you had an experience with TRICARE?" to 1,000 people representing all the services.

"Almost every hand went up and I asked, 'How many of you had a positive experience?' I saw almost no hands go up. I asked a series of questions and I got very, very negative feedback. We found out this was something we really needed to take on," he said.

Shelton noted that access to the system was a problem that has been mostly fixed. "Once you gained access, you couldn't ask for a finer group of people, doctors and nurses," he added.

He also spoke of times when he read letters from military retirees who expressed feelings of disenfranchisement over military health care. Their concerns, he added, were acted upon. Military retirees will have access to the "TRICARE for Life."

"We made a commitment to them when we brought them in," Shelton said. "If you talk to any recruiter in the last 15 years, they'll tell you that was one of the selling points for a military career, so we said we've got to fix this."

Maintaining competitive military pay and benefits, to include retirement, helps keep good people in uniform, Shelton said. The quality of today's armed forces will "remain our No. 1 challenge," he added, as the armed services and corporate America compete for young people.

"We must continue to appeal to young men and women, to bring them into the services by letting them know of the opportunities that exist in today's environment, and what they are really signing up for," he said.

Bush nominates Myers to chair Joint Chiefs of Staff

President Bush announced Aug. 24 his nominations of Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers to become the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace to be vice chairman.

Myers has been vice chairman since March 2000. He was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, is a former commander of U.S. Space Command, and was the assistant to former Chairman Army Gen. John Shalikashvili. The current chairman, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, is slated to retire Sept. 30.

Pace would be the first Marine to serve as vice chairman. He currently commands U.S. Southern Command in Miami, and is a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan.

TSP enrollments begin Oct. 9

Servicemembers now eligible to enroll in plan

Servicemembers starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, previously available only to federal civilian employees, opens to all active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system.

SRP continued from page 1

than a year and a half. Chavez said he hopes to use the system to find out more about his next duty assignment in Korea via the Internet.

In addition to working during the SRP, automation plans to register new soldiers to Fort Riley when they inprocess at 1st Replacement Company.

They also are working on ways to get those not inprocessed during the SRP. Each unit's information management officer in conjunction with the Department of Information Management is responsible for getting their personnel online. The goal is an Army of the 21st century.

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Army looking for leagal eagles

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The Office of The Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 15 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits.

Selected officers will attend law school beginning in the Fall of 2002 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility.

This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second 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 and is non-waivable. Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the fall offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at PERSCOM, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT, 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received no later than Nov. 1.

Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact either Capt. Jeffrey Miller at 239-3117 or Capt. Chris Kennebeck at 239-6969 at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for further information.

Smoking cessation classes forming at hospital

New classes are forming to kick that tobacco habit. Irwin Army Community Hospital offers a four-week tobacco cessation

program, on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. or Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Servicemembers, their families

and DoD civilians may participate in the tobacco cessation program.

For more information, call 239-7323.

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Fort Riley Sports

August 31, 2001

News about Fort Riley Sports, Fitness and Pastimes

Page 9

Fort Riley runners earn spot on Army 10-miler teams

By Kevin Doheny
Staff Writer

The top runners from Fort Riley competed Saturday in the 17th Annual Army 10-Miler Qualifier, for the right to represent Fort Riley at the Association of the United States Army 10-Miler in Washington.

In the men's division, Benjamin Sandy from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, won with the time 56:39:00. Finishing

second was Derek Miller of 541st Maintenance Battalion, with the time of 62:28:00. Rounding out the top six, and joining both Sandy and Miller in Washington are, Robert Zuch of MEDDAC, Mark Solsetz of 101st Forward Support Battalion, Mark Crisman of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division, and Dante Calhoun of the 95th Maintenance Battalion.

Sandy, who was a former All-American at Dana College in Blair, Neb., in both the marathon

and cross-country, looks forward to competing against the best the Army has to offer.

"I want to do it," said Sandy, who had a personal best of 2:24:54 in the marathon while in college. "I just love to run. I competed in the race in Washington last year and it was very organized and competitive. I'm slotted to go to NTC, but I hope there is still a chance I can go again."

Sandy also said, besides having to run faster for the shorter 10-mile distance, a runner needs to

train in more speed running with shorter and faster workouts.

In the women's division, Karen Notarfrancesco of the 1st Personnel Support Battalion, won the event with the time of 79:10:00. Finishing second was Nikki Norwood of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, with the time of 79:39:00. Making the trip to Washington with Notarfrancesco and Norwood are, Traci Durrin of the 1st PSB, Jessica Medugno of 1st PSB, Dannielle M. Porter of

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Engineers, and Maria Mattingly of HHC 70th EN.

About the race Saturday, Norwood said, "The race was good. I slowed down at the end though. I have shin splints, and my chest started to hurt. I wish I could have done better, but I'm excited to be going to D.C."

Along with the 12 qualifiers, there will be a sergeants major team traveling to the nations capital.

Six sergeants major will battle alongside their fellow Fort Riley male and female qualifiers for the right to be called the best in the Army.

"Last year all three Fort Riley teams fared pretty well," said Sandy. "If we are all under an hour with our times, then we should fare as well if not better than last year. That should keep us pretty competitive."

In preparation for the race, the

See 10-miler Page 10

Taekwondo team takes five medals

By Claudia Berwager
Am. Forces Press Service

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa.—The U.S. military Taekwondo team captured five medals and finished ninth in a field of 19 at the 13th Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Taekwondo Championship Aug. 8-16 at Woensdrecht Air Base, the Netherlands.

A strong Korean team took top honors in the men's division and China won the women's title.

Army Spec. Yelena Pisarenko of the Army's World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo., took the silver in the women's lightweight division after a loss to Masechocha Thamae of Lesotho.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Liz Evans of Colorado Springs took the silver with a loss in the finals to Elena Asseeva of Russia.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Ivan Abudo from Ramstein Air Base, Germany scored the bronze medal in the men's welterweight division, losing to Young-Keun Lee from Korea.

Army Spec. Darrell Rydholm of Fort Bragg, N.C., earned a well-deserved bronze in the men's middleweight division. After winning two back-to-back contests, he lost to a well-versed Azat Ioussoupov of Russia.

In perhaps the most exciting contest of the entire championship, Army Spec. David Bartlett of Fort Carson met local hero Dennis Bekkers of the Netherlands in the men's featherweight division final.

It was a heated contest between two talented and "class-act" fighters.

The U.S. delegation did its best to "out-chant" the local crowd that had packed the stands.

In the end, with the contest tied 3-3, the referees awarded the gold to Bekkers for superiority.

After the battle, Bartlett won the crowd's respect and hearts as when he approached Bekkers and lifted him into the air for them to see.

The crowd went wild. It was a moment truly indicative of the CISM motto: "Friendship Through Sport."

Bartlett received the "Fair Play Award" for sportsmanship at the end of the tournament.

Rounding out the U.S. team were Air Force SSgt. Reynaldo Martinez of Sembach Air Base, Germany; Marine Lance Cpl. John Reyna of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Army Pvt. Yvonne Marte of Fort Campbell, Ky.; Army PFC Simon Behrnt of Fort Hood, Texas; and SSgt. Kevin Williams and Pvt. Louis Torres from the World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson. Army Sgt. Bongseok Kim of Camp Essayons, South Korea, was head coach, and Curtis Brown from the Air Force was his assistant.



AFPS/Kim

Air Force shortstop Jeffrey Whitaker shows off his range, but comes up short against the Army during the last game of the Armed Forces Softball Tournament at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug. 15-17.

Army unseats Marines for gold

By Kap Kim

Am. Forces Press Service

FORT HOOD, Texas—It was a tough battle, but the All-Army men's softball team never let up on its quest for gold during the Armed Forces Softball Tournament here Aug. 15-17.

The Army team went 8-1 in play, repeating what the defending champion Marine team did last year. The last time the Army captured gold was in 1995.

Army head coach CWO John Watts of Yongsan, South Korea, and assistant coach SFC Luis Ortiz of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, built their team on a strong foundation of veterans who were previous gold medalists.

Their arsenal of poised power hitters and fresh, young infielders included return players SFC Albert Kemp of Alexandria, Va.; SFC Jim Cabrera of Fort

Hood; Sgt. Elmer Mason of Fort Knox, Ky.; and Sgt. Tyrone Avery, also from Hood. Rookies included Spec. Darren Poole of Camp Humphreys, South Korea, and Sgt. Jerry Surber of Fort Myer, Va.

"Those are the guys who brought us here," said Watts, in his first year as head coach. "It was a great team effort, and it took everybody."

The Army's road to victory was an empty four-lane highway except for an Air Force roadblock. On the first day, Army beat Navy, 26-14 and the Marines, 8-6. Air Force kept pace by edging the Marines, 14-12 and dumping Navy 26-11.

During evening games, the Marines beat Navy 18-6, while the Air Force handed Army its lone loss, a close 4-3. After that game, Watts, at a loss for words, said only that his team just couldn't hit that

night.

Air Force head coach Jack Hayes, a retired senior master sergeant, credited his team's victory to a strong defense. He changed the lineup from the morning games and went with a rookie-heavy defense, which made up half the Air Force team. Airman Ryan Coe of Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., earned the nickname "Vacuum" for game-saving Brooks-Robinson-like glove work at third base that helped lead Air Force to the win.

Air Force went into the second day undefeated, but Hayes' intuition led him to say simply that it ain't over till it's over. Events proved him right.

The Army came out rockin', beating Navy, 19-16, in the morning and the Marines in close combat, 9-7, in the afternoon. The soldiers came out at night and shot down Air Force's high

with a 26-17 victory in pouring rain. The Army and the Air Force were tied with a 5-1 record.

Many of the diehard spectators at that point jumped on the Army bandwagon. The Navy and Marines at that point could spoil someone else's chances at winning the gold. They did just that.

During their last match up, the Marines downed Air Force, 18-9. That dropped the airmen's record to 5-2 and their shot at gold to slim — but there.

Army's built a dominating momentum after the team's big win against Air Force that did not slow down for even one inning. Army beat Navy 18-10 in the morning. After that, the soldiers went back to their quarters to rest for what they thought would be the game that decided who would get the gold.

See Softball Page 10

Army team dominates marksmanship

Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga.—Shooters of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit dominated the 300-Meter National Championships conducted at Fort Benning over the weekend.

The marksmanship unit hosted the 2001 USA Shooting 300-Meter National Championships Aug. 23 to 26 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. USA Shooting of 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colo., is the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States.

Four-time Olympian Capt. Glenn A. Dubis swept all the competitions, winning the gold medals in the 300-Meter Free Rifle Prone, the 300-Meter Free Rifle Three Position and the 300-Meter Standard Rifle Three Position matches. Maj. Stephen C. Goff took second place in all three matches and Spc. Trevor D. Gathman placed third in the Standard Rifle Match. The USAMU teams also swept all the team matches.

The National Championships also chose the 2001 U.S. Team that will compete in the Championship of the Americas - called the CAT Games - to be held Sept. 30 to Oct. 7 at Fort Benning.

The CAT Games, Campeonato de Tiro de las Americas, is the shooting championships for the Western Hemisphere. The event is conducted every four years. The CAT Games is one of four big international matches - along with the Olympics, World Championships and Pan-American Games - where shooters can win medals and set world records. At the CAT games, the U.S. Team will compete against shooters from North, Central and South America for the title of being the best in the Americas.

Dubis competed in the 2000, 1996, 1988 and 1984 Olympics. He is a five-time World Military Rifle Champion, a three-time World Rifle Champion and recently was a member of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire team that brought home the Gold Medal for the United States and set a new world record at CISM in Lahti, Finland. The infantry officer has served in the U.S. Army for 19 years and is a veteran of Desert Storm.

Wildcat fans place hopes on 2001 team

By Kevin Doheny

Staff Writer

In 1988, a new era began at Kansas State University.

The football program and attendance was down, and the Wildcats had multiple losing seasons.

A virtual unknown coach came to Manhattan to change the direction of the Wildcat football program.

Head Coach Bill Snyder, along with his assistant coaches, changed the program around from a consistently losing program, to gaining national prominence.

"Coach Snyder has turned things around," said Sue Smith of Manhattan. "I've been here for 20 years and the last seven have been great. There is a good feeling in the air around here about this team."

"I'm a true K-State fan and I think they are the best team in the country," said Judy Lober of Topeka.

For Snyder's Wildcats this year, the media have picked them consistently in the top 15 in most major preseason polls.

"There will be lots of interesting Saturday afternoons this fall," said Greg Sharpe, "voice" of KSU football. "This is a good football team, but they have a challenging

schedule ahead of them."

Sharpe appeared as a special guest on a local radio station during the preliminary events leading up the stadium gates opening for KSU's Fan Appreciation Day Aug. 23 at KSU Stadium.

Once the radio show was over, the gates opened, as the fans rushed toward the stadium so they could view their Wildcats working on their preparation for the season opener Sept. 8 in Los Angeles against the University of Southern California Trojans.

The fans watched intensely as both the offense and defense ran through drills and perfected plays.

During the practice, fans around the stadium were speaking of upcoming games and of seasons past. Also, with every good play the fans would show their approval by rising from their seats and cheer.

"There is a real love affair with the fans of this football program right now," said Sharpe. "I think it's because of all those years of suffering. Now they have a winner and the fans are falling in love with them. They travel to away games and they come to events like this in massive numbers."

Sharpe also believes the suffering through losing seasons has led to the fans "soaking" up their team's recent success.

For some of the fans of K-State football, the reason for loving the program so much is the family atmosphere it provides.

"It's a great family atmosphere here," said Allan Leikam of Salina. "If my family isn't at the games, then they are watching it at home on television."

"The fans really connect with the attitude of the coaches and players," Kevin Hoover of Kansas City, Kan. "My family is a K-State family, and we meet up with other families at the games and have a lot of fun."

"We are usually the underdog. The team always puts out a lot of effort and commitment. That's what the people in this part of the country are about," said Hoover.

On his beloved Wildcats, Hoover also said, "This year's team should continue to improve throughout the season. Even if they have a little trouble, they should still have a great season."

If success is measured in wins, then Snyder and his recent Wildcat teams have been very successful.

With five consecutive 11-win seasons, the 'Cats are shooting for a great season and a possible sixth.

For the fans purple pride, their Wildcats look to battle their way through another year.



Post/Doheny

Starting quarterback Ell Roberson goes through workouts as Head Coach Bill Snyder watches during the Fan Appreciation Day at KSU Stadium Aug. 24. If Roberson falters, then highly touted JUCO transfer Adam Dunn will fill the void at QB.



Down, Set, Hike!!

Fort Riley Middle School 7th and 8th grade football players run through drills during a practice Tuesday afternoon. The season starts for FRMS Thursday in Manhattan.

Post/Doheny

10-miler continued from page 9

teams will train together. "I think we can compete better if we all train together," Sandy said. "If we practice as a team, then we can motivate and push each other to work harder," said Norwood. With rank thrown aside, the 18 soldiers will travel to Washington to show off their running skills, and to bask in the glory of the nation's capitol.

Sgt. Maj. James Sands, garrison sergeant major, said Saturday's race was a terrific show by the competitors and that he was appreciative of support given by the installation and DCA.

This will be the sixth time Sands will compete in the Army 10-miler.

"This 10-miler is important to me. We have a great Sergeants Major Team with some outstanding runners," he said.

As for Sands, he said he hopes to place in the top four. An injury kept him from meeting the qualification time Saturday, but he is training hard to compete with the other Fort Riley sergeants major.

"I have to take a few minutes off my time," he said. "Right now I am trying to move from a 9-minute mile to a 7-minute mile. Over the course of the race that is a lot of time to take off.

Those who participated in Saturday's race were:

Men's Top Ten Finishers Military

- 1. Benjamin Sandy 56:39:00
- 2. Derek Miller 62:28:00
- 3. Robert Zuch 63:49:00
- 4. Mark Solsetz 64:25:00
- 5. Mark Crisman 66:14:00
- 6. Dante Calhoun 67:08:00
- 7. Kevin Schaller 67:12:00
- 8. Jim Trimble 68:38:00
- 9. Michael Smith 68:54:00
- 10. Roland Holland 69:18:00

Men's Top Finishers Civilian

- 1. Dann Fisher 65:16:00

Women's Top Ten Finishers Military

- 1. Karen Notarfrancesco 79:10:00
- 2. Nikki Norwood 79:39:00
- 3. Traci Durrin 82:24:00
- 5. Danielle M. Porter 83:10:00
- 4. Jessica Medugno 83:24:00
- 6. Maria Mattingly 84:10:00
- 7. Thao Nguyen 84:40:00
- 8. Claudia Molina 91:11:00
- 9. Angela Corbin 91:50:00
- 10. Jarrell Malaya 99:59:00

Women's Top Finishers Civilian

- 1. Nikki Vestweber 95:50:00
- 2. Anabel Ramirez 97:29:00

Softball continued from page 9

Meanwhile, the underdog Navy lineup put on a show and upset the heavily favored Air Force, 11-6. The Army's path to gold was clear and the Air Force could do nothing about it.

"That was a big loss ... that was the tournament," said Air Force second baseman Daniel Simpson, a staff sergeant from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "I guess we just ran out of gas on the bats."

Hayes said the rookies who helped win the game against the Army the first night didn't have the experience to pull out of a

slump that sent them through four straight losses.

Although Army cinched gold, the last match-up against the Air Force was important to both teams. Simpson said the last game was all about pride.

"You don't want to walk into a medal," Watts said. "You want to earn it."

So, the Army earned the win against the Air Force, 12-10. The Navy beat the Marines 26-19 in the other game.

The Army won the gold with an overall 8-1 record; the Air

Force won the silver with a record of 5-4, the Navy 3-6, and the Marines with a record of 2-7.

The big story of the tournament was the all-out dominance of Army's giant, Kemp. Through one stretch, he launched eight homers in 10 at bats. He would finish the tournament with an impressive 12 home runs. Many spectators said it was his intimidation at the plate and his absolutely towering blasts that won the Army the gold. However, Kemp was quick to say that it was all a team effort.

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www.riley.army.mil/newspaper

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Fort Riley Community

August 31, 2001

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Page 11

Thrift Shop reopens

By Kamelia Russell

19th Public Affairs Det.

On Sept. 4, a bigger and brighter Post Thrift Shop plans to open its doors at a new location.

As a result of discovering asbestos at the old location, the Post Thrift Shop had to move. After a month of searching for a new home, Amanda Bunce, chairperson of the Post Thrift Shop, found an empty, retail space.

"I found out that the old clothing and sales shop wasn't being used, so I asked Rick Mora, AAFES general manager and the command if I could use it for the shop," said Bunce. "We're lucky to get it."

As soon as she received permission to move in, Bunce wasted no time at all.

Numerous volunteers came with trucks and trailers and helped move the shop to its new location.

After three weeks of laying out and organizing the floor plan, Bunce and the Thrift Shop's volunteers prepared for the grand opening.

"It's big and beautiful," said Bunce excitedly. "The fact that it's set up for retail (helps). We just had to move in and we didn't have to worry about where dressing rooms and storage rooms were going to be. Rick Mora and his assistant Ingrid Bowman gave us an extraordinary amount of help and I want to thank them."

Many of the employees and volunteers enjoy the new location.

"It has a nice sales store set up," said Marilyn Musser, volunteer. "More volunteers will love to work here once they see how nice it is."

The Thrift Shop is still in search of volunteers. Bunce said they get discounts on Thrift Shop sale items and are reimbursed for child care.

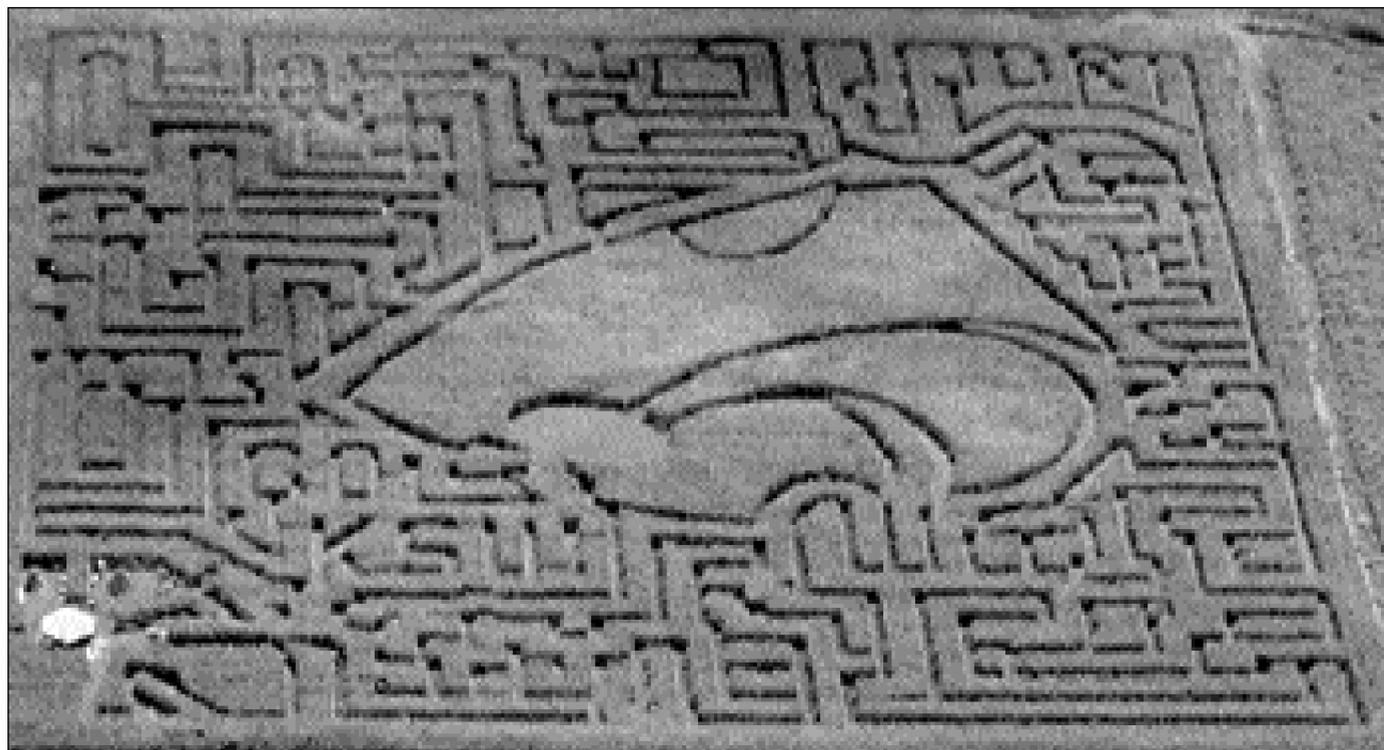
"It's brighter and roomier," said Chris Rush, a volunteer. "I look forward to coming here now."

Volunteers will sort through donations and consignments, price them, organize storage rooms and aid the manager and cashier on the sales floor. Volunteer hours will be registered with the Family and Soldier Support Center, where they can be tracked and transferred to any base. Interested volunteers can sign up with Andrea Cockrell, the store manager.

They can come in to work during any of the business hours, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only on the first Saturday of each month.

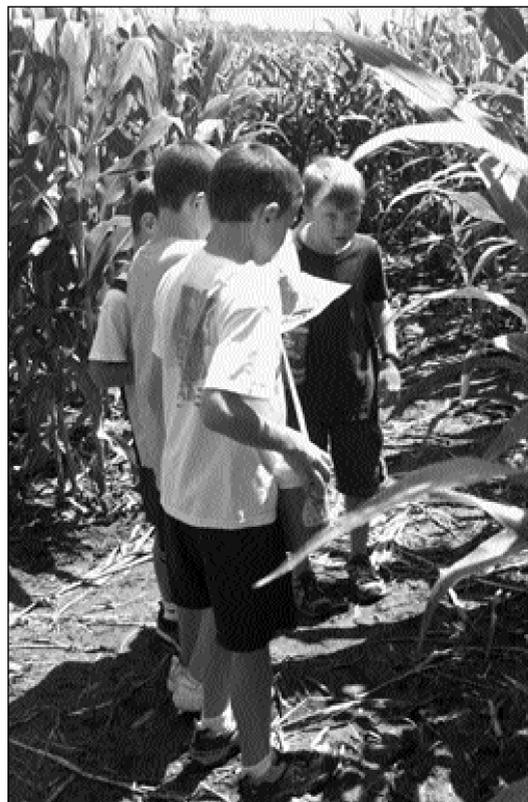
"This is great for stay at home moms," said Bunce. "It's a great environment and a good way to find out what's going on in the community."

The Thrift Shop is scheduled to open Tuesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9:30 am where refreshments and balloons will be available. The new location is in Bldg. 267, Stewart Avenue.



Post/Doheny

The Rogers family, of Manhattan, plotted out the six-acre area to construct The Power Cat Corn Maze. The family spent many long days during the two and a half week plotting period.



Post/Doheny

Youth from Marlatt Grade School in Manhattan weaved their way through the maze Aug. 22. The busload of youth used the clues from the boxes throughout the maze to figure their way back the beginning.

Maize Maze Family cuts course in cornfield

By Kevin Doheny

Staff Writer

For one local man and his family, the inspiration from the words and pictures in a 1992 issue of National Geographic gave them the opportunity to show off their "Purple Pride."

Dan Rogers, his wife Bev, daughter Ashleigh, and son Jared, spent many hours perfecting a maze constructed in a cornfield located between Fort Riley and Manhattan.

The cornfield is made up of nearly two miles of pathways, and some of the pathways form to make the shape of a gigantic Power Cat, the symbol of Kansas State University.

The maze, in its second year, took two and a half weeks to plot out and set the design.

"We worked long hours," said Dan, an Extension Biological and Agricultural Engineering professor at K-State. "We started at first light and worked until it was so dark we couldn't see."

"We worked in the hottest days of the year," said Bev, a marriage and family therapist in private practice.

"We cut the design when the field was two inches tall, and when we were done it was over

two feet tall," said Dan.

"We planted it in two different rows, and when the leaves start to touch, it's hard to see between them. You have to get it cut before they start to touch," he said.

Dan said the hardest part about constructing the maze was keeping the paths maintained.

"You can spray early, but the traditional herbicide will only last about 40 days," said Dan. "Once the herbicide is not effective, the weeds in the paths start to pop up everywhere. Once people start walking in it, the paths will be easier to maintain."

Along the pathways are, trivia boxes with questions in them. The questions range in topics on Agriculture, Kansas, Corn and Kansas State University.

Also along the paths are 10 more boxes, which are not shown on the maze map. A person must unscramble the letters on the boxes to determine a hidden message.

"The trivia questions provide a way for us to get out information we want people to know about," said Dan.

He said it's exciting to realize what he and his family have done.

"You can have a real sense of

accomplishment because something like this takes a lot of work," Dan said. "It's not that it is so hard, but it just takes a lot of time. The area is six acres, which is almost two football fields."

Dan also said the maze is an alternative fun activity and he hopes to attract people from all walks of life.

"We get quite a few college students, military families and families from the local community," said Dan. "It's a mixture of both young and old. Last year we also had a few large groups come out."

Dan said he has a few groups handing out coupons this year, and if their coupon comes back with their mark on it, then they get a rebate.

The days and times for The Power Cat Corn Maze are, Today-Oct. 28, Fridays, 4p.m.-8:30p.m., with the last admission at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., with the last admission at 7:30 p.m., Sundays, 1 p.m.-8:30 p.m., with the last admission at 7:30 p.m., and Labor Day, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., with the last admission at 7:30 p.m. also.

For reservations or questions, call The Power Cat Maze at 785-539-6340.

Soldiers, families learn leadership through classes

By Kamelia Russell

19th Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers and family members can beef up their resumes and minds through daytime college courses at Barton County Community College on Fort Riley.

Barton, partnered with the education center, administered a Leadership Skills Education Program called LSEC to make achieving a college degree for soldiers possible. The program operates at no cost to students.

"This is a unique program we are fortunate to have at Fort Riley," said Marian Moore, education services specialist at the Main Post Education Center. "We are the only post to have such a program with a wide range of classes and offering it to the family members."

LSEC has evolved to suit the needs of today's educated soldiers. When the Department of the Army first designed this program, more than 10 years ago, courses were geared toward military advancement and focused on career maps. Now, according to Moore, the program is more professional and sophisticated to meet the changing needs of sol-

diers.

"We provide an excellent range of classes," said Moore. "It's a good thing for soldiers to become involved if it works with their schedule."

Courses vary from basic Algebra to general psychology. Currently, computer classes are being added to the LSEC curriculum.

These courses, word processing, multimedia presentation, data base management and spreadsheet applications, rotate in a three-week schedule from Oct. 25 through Dec. 18.

"A person can pretty much meet most requirements for an associate degree through the LSEC program," said Moore.

Each course taught by qualified Barton instructors is three semester credits and meet for one-and-a-half hours daily, for six weeks. The course load may be higher and more demanding than taking night courses, but it meets requirements for accreditation for Barton.

"I can get a degree faster through LSEC than at a regular university," said Melody Jackson, wife of SSgt. Tolly Jackson Jr., B Company 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, who is majoring in human

"It's a good way for someone to start getting college credits . . ."

—Marian Moore, Education Services Specialist

services. "These classes have the same work load, but they go by quicker."

Two new courses developed by Barton will be available soon, Leadership Training Techniques and Technical Problems in Military Logistics, meet general electives for military members and can be used on the job.

Servicemembers, Department of the Army civilians and family members are eligible to enroll in LSEC courses if they meet the following requirements: have a GT score of 100 or more and a Test Adult Basic Education score that indicates the servicemember is capable of handling college courses and is retainable in the military.

"Every soldier should take advantage of these courses," said SSgt. Darrell

Atkinson, 2nd Battalion, 289th Field Artillery, who plans to transfer to Upper Iowa University. "This is the reason soldiers join the Army, so letting them take classes can help with retention as well."

Family members need to have a dependent identification card and be a high school graduate 18 years or older.

After enrolling for an LSEC class at one of three unit learning centers, service members need the approval of their supervisors and commanders, since classes are held during the duty day, to ensure the soldiers will not be given a mission that will make them miss class.

Furthermore, soldiers are required to wear BDUs because these courses are their place of duty.

Barton will drop students from class if they miss too many days, unless they have worked something out with the instructor and received approval. It's recommended soldiers do not enroll in a class if a temporary duty assignment is scheduled.

"If you don't attend 100 percent of class, you won't get 100 percent of the knowledge," said Moore.

Since, LSEC classes are equivalent to

college courses, they are equally transferable to any college or university.

While working at the education center, Moore ran into several first sergeants who were ready to retire, yet were never able to complete their degrees because of their work circumstances. So, they were given time to complete a degree through Barton, and according to Moore, some went on to Upper Iowa University and Kansas State, while others decided to teach at Barton.

"The LSEC program and college programs have blossomed and they have improved," said Christine Motley, a professor at Barton. "I'm just impressed at what they're doing and what they're going to do."

The LSEC program is a way for soldiers to either get a jump-start on college credits or finish their degree while in the Army. These courses are held throughout the year. Enrollment for the October term began Sept. 3.

"It's a good way for someone to start getting college credits and it gives them the momentum needed to get going," said Moore. "It's really a positive and gratifying experience."



Hospital worker excels despite disability

By *Emilie L. Howe*
MEDDAC PAO

"There is nothing you can't achieve," said Vickii L. Thomas. "A physical disability doesn't interfere with my life."

Thomas is the 2001 Army Outstanding Employee of the Year with a Physical Disability.

Official word of her award was received by Col. Arthur P. Wallace, hospital commander, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Aug. 15.

What inspired her to accept her disability and get on with her life was partly due to a novel she read. The author wrote about how his life changed at age 19 when he became physically paralyzed due to a car accident.

He wrote about his paralysis as being a new beginning of his life, she said.

According to Thomas, the workplace environment shows a monumental change for accommodating the physically handicapped compared to twenty years ago when sidewalks and public restrooms were inaccessible.

In pursuit of personal independence, she and her husband recently purchased a new van, which features complete automation.

With a push of a button, the van's side door opens and extends a chair ramp. Thomas said the van also features height adjustment - where van's body may be lowered to inches above the ground or to curb height.

"I haven't personally," she said when asked about encountering discrimination due to a physical handicap. "All depends on the person. Is it a barrier or is it not -

your personal confidence and being confident about your job. It all comes to the individual."

"I love my job most days. It's very diversified," she said. Thomas is the Director of Medical Records at IACH.

She oversees the documentation of approximately 20,000 patient records a month.

Her responsibilities entail transcription services, and assuring that patient records are handled according to the guidelines of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Her career in the civil service began in June 1981.

"I came on board in the Clinical Support Division and got assigned to the Patient Administration Division within six months," she said.

Thomas and her husband Richard have been married for 33 years and reside in Junction City.

"We spent some of these years in Herington," she said.

Her husband retired in May 2001 after 30 years as a high school instructor and librarian at Herington High.

"His new title is 'Street Rod Hobbyist,'" she said.

Thomas has a color photo of her husband's brother and sister-in-law seated in their bright red 1932 Ford convertible.

She said they plan to go to car shows.

Our child is grown and my husband and I do a lot of traveling.

We go together with my sister-in-law and her husband. Thomas and her husband have one son, Patrick, of Herington, who travels 100 percent of the time for Nortel telecommunications.



MEDDAC/Howe

Vickii L. Thomas, IACH, was named the 2001 Army Outstanding Employee of the Year with a Physical Disability.

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Paintball Trader
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Paintball Coupon 1/2

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2 x 6"
Black Only
We'll pay you (Russian)





Information, Ticketing & Registration is located in the Leisure Travel Center, Bldg. 6918 (across from the PX) and has current information and tickets to surrounding area attractions, dinner theater, concerts, stage productions and movie theatres. Before making vacation plans, check out the maps and travel brochures from across the U.S. ITR also assists in group travel plans.

Active/retired military, Department of Army Civilians and family members are authorized to use the ITR Office for leisure travel services, Call 239-5614/4415 for further information.

Tickets are available for purchase with cash, check, MC, VISA and AE. Prices are subject to change.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. closed on Sundays and holidays.

Discount Movie Tickets—are available for Carmike Theater in Manhattan and Westside Twin in Junction City at discounts. Buy several as they can be used within a year of purchase.

Kansas City Renaissance Festival—Waste not this opportunity for revelry!! On behalf of King Henry VIII and Queen Anne Boleyn, I invite you to gather a merry crew and join us this fall at the 25th annual Kansas City Renaissance Festival! Visit our 16th century village of Canterbury! Our site is situated on nearly 16 acres of shaded lanes. Browse and shop from over 160 artisans and their hand-crafted wares. Entertainment awaits your group on any one of our 13 stages, as well as live interaction with the colorful characters roaming the lanes of the village! This year brings the return of Robin Hood and his merry men! Be a spectator at the Ultimate Gladiator Games! Witness live jousting in

our dynamic new jousting arena at the Renaissance Downs!

KCI Roadrunner—Kansas City's International Airport Service provides door to door service. Make your reservations at ITR and commission will be paid back to your Morale and Welfare Recreation Fund.

Bi-Centennial Center Upcoming Concerts—Dwight Yoakam in concert with special

guest Allison Moore will perform Sept. 29, at 7:30.

Heartland Park—Year 2001 will be the 13th year for Heartland Park Topeka, and certainly will be the busiest ever. Upcoming discount race tickets are available through ITR. Championship Off Road Racing Truckstop 2001 is scheduled for Sept. 22 and 23. Discount tickets must be ordered one week in advance.

KC Royals—You Gotta Love These Guys!!! ITR KC Royals Tours are Aug. 23 vs. Chicago and Sept. 1 vs Texas. Limited seats available so make reservations early. Tickets are also available without transportation.

Kansas City Chiefs—Ticket sign-up available through ITR. Tickets are \$55 without transportation and \$65 with transportation.

Six Flags Over Texas—Don't

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We're still the Entertainment Capital of Texas, with the biggest

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Friday:
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Legally Blond
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96 Minutes

Saturday:
7:30 p.m.
Final Fantasy
The Spirits Within
(PG-13)
106 Minutes

Game Guy
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Black Only
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Nutchies Bar B Que
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Black Only
Nutchies BBQ

Westside 4 Cinema
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Black Only
new times

U.S. Optical
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Black Only
NO BULL - COUPON

USE faithlut-duplicate acct.
2 x 9"
Black Only
ROOM GROUP EXPRESS

USAA Corporation Advert. Serv
3 x 10"
Black Only
No Matter How Many

The Martin Agency- Alltel
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Black Only
O412



Remember swimming safety during Labor Day weekend

By **Melissa McEntire**

Staff Writer

Summer is almost over. That means swimming season is almost over as well. However, that doesn't mean that being safe has to end, too.

Labor Day weekend is usually the last big swimming weekend. With the holiday upon us, it's important to remember water safety rules.

"First of all, every one needs to swim only in designated areas," said Joe Zelko, occupational and health specialist for the Directorate of Environment and Safety.

"Unfortunately, many drownings happen outside of designated swimming areas," he said.

"Secondly, every one, including the most experienced swimmers, need to wear needs to be wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver of the correct size," he said.

"A lot of deaths could be avoided by just wearing a life jacket."

"Those rules just touch the surface of swimming safely, however," said Zelko.

"People also need to remember to swim with a buddy, follow the rules of where you are swimming, dive only into

waters of sufficient depth, and children need to be supervised at all times," he said.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 350 children under five years of age drown each year in swimming pools, many in residential pools. The Commission estimates that another 2,600 children under age five are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year following submersion incidents. Some of these submersions result in permanent brain damage.

"It is important that parents keep their eyes on children at all times. They can't

look away for even a second," Zelko said. "It is simply too dangerous."

Though swimming is a favorite summer pastime, it will not be the only water activity this weekend.

"A lot of people will be boating and skiing over the holiday as well," he said.

"For boaters, they need to remember to check their leaks and defects before leaving shore and ensuring they have all of the necessary equipment, such as life preservers, fire extinguisher and the engine kill switch," he said.

"There needs to be at least one other person than the driver in the boat, so to be

the skier spotter. They can tell the driver what the skier is doing so the driver does not have to keep turning around to check on him," said Zelko.

Also, the boater and skier both need to be familiar with the water they are in.

"They both need to avoid underwater objects, such as trees, rocks and sand bars," he said.

And of course, he added, everyone needs to be in a fitted life preserver.

"If everyone just keeps a clear head this weekend and obeys safety laws, then it should be a safe weekend for everybody," Zelko said.

Society hosts ice cream social

By **Melissa McEntire**

Staff Writer

A sense of nostalgia and a passion for history led to an old-fashioned ice cream social this

week at the Custer House.

The Historical and Archeological Society hosted its ice cream social Wednesday evening to try and rejuvenate its membership.

"We wanted to get the word out

there on what our society does," said Rachelle Boslego, president of the Historical and Archeological Society.

"Because the summer is such a popular moving time in the Army, we have lost some of our members. Tonight, we are hoping to get some new ones," she said.

The society helps promote the historic beauty of Fort Riley, as well as helping to maintain it.

"We do things such as Apple Days, the Ghost Tours, both in October, and we raise the bronzed plaques that can be seen on Fort Riley," Boslego said.

"We also have docents available to give historic tours of Fort Riley, give fund money to the museum, and maintain Side B of the Custer House," said Terrie Miller, vice president of the society.

"We also have an archeologist on board who keeps us up to date on new artifacts found here," she said.

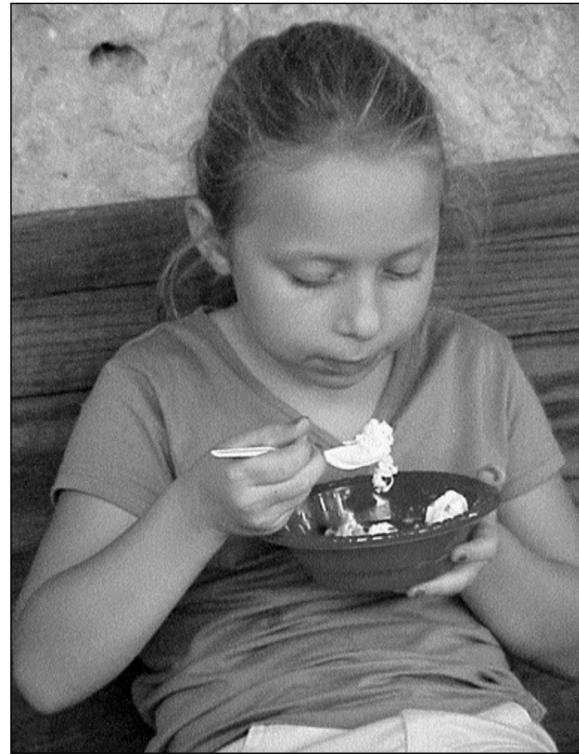
It takes quite a few members to help out with all of that.

"We felt that an old fashioned ice cream social would help make the society more visible to the community," Boslego said.

"It was something different to do," she said.

To become a member of the society, there is a \$5 family fee. "That includes a monthly newsletter and a free gift," Boslego said.

"I felt that the ice cream social was a pretty big success. We had about 100 people come in and quite a few became new members. If we had just gotten one new member, we would have been successful," Miller said.



Post/McEntire

Kirsten Ware, age 7, enjoys a big bowl of ice cream at the Historical and Archeological Society's Ice Cream Social.

Ed Schram Dodge 3 cols x 18"; Full Color; -240; [No File]

ITR passes Disney final exam

By **Melissa McEntire**

Staff Writer

Information, Ticketing and Registration on Fort Riley is ready to assist soldiers and their families with travel plans, and tickets to local events.

The ITR staff is now qualified to send a family to see a mouse. Doesn't sound like a lot of fun? Well, this is one special mouse.

The ITR staff took a course to enable them to put together an extended package to send soldiers and their families to Walt Disney World or Disney Land to see, well, the special mouse everyone calls Mickey.

"We do the course through the mail and we fax our tests in," said Teresa Mayes, manager of ITR.

"And, yes, there is a final exam," she said.

"The course gives us an overview of the entire park, to include the rides, family activities and hotel availability," she said.

"After completing the course, we are then deemed as Disney specialists," she said.

"Then, if a person buys the tickets through ITR, there is quite a bit of savings. For example, for a four-day pass, a person will save about \$22 a ticket," Mayes said.

And the option for buying tickets through ITR is open for active duty, family members, Reservists, National Guard members, retirees and DoD civilians.

"Anyone with a military identification card is eligible to use the ITR office," she said.

ITR doesn't just deal with Disney, however. The staff can schedule vacation packages anywhere, as far away as the coasts and as close as Kansas City.

"We also have a new program called the Armed Forces Vacation Club," Mayes said. "It enables a military family to rent condominiums for an entire week all over the United States at a reduced cost."

Locations include Virginia Beach, Va., Reno Nev., and Brechin, Ontario, Canada.

"It is a wonderful deal for military families," she said.

And if money is a little tight for this year's vacation, ITR can help.

"We have programs where a family can come in and buy one ticket per month, or they can combine the cost of all of the tickets and pay a little at a time, sort of like a layaway system," she said.

"Unfortunately, a lot of soldiers don't know what all the ITR has to offer them," Mayes said.

To get the word out, ITR is holding a Disney Open House, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m., until 5 p.m.

"We will have Disney information, but it also gives soldiers a chance to see what else we have."

Jennifer's Ad 1cols x 6"; Black Only; [No File]

Coop's Awards 2cols x 5"; Black Only; [No File]