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Weather Forecast	Today	High:51 Low:41
	Saturday	High:56 Low:36
	Sunday	High:58 Low:41

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post




November 14, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 46



Two more soldiers killed in Iraq

Staff Reports

The Department of Defense announced two Fort Riley soldier were killed Nov. 8 in Fallujah, Iraq.

Dead are Staff Sgt. Mark D. Vasquez, 35, of Port Huron, Mich. and Staff Sgt. Gary L. Collins, 32, of Hardin, Texas.

Vasquez was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He joined the Army in April 1993, and has been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2002.

He was assigned to the unit as a squad leader and deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Vasquez was in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that was struck by an improvised explosive device. He died of injuries sustained in the attack. The incident is under investigation.

He was the 12th Fort Riley soldier killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Collins was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry

See Killed Page 3

International officers visit post, learn about American military life

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Fort Riley played host to officers from around the world on Oct. 28 when 89 international military officers from 77 different countries toured the post.

The officers, who are attending the Command and General Staff Officer Course at Fort Leavenworth, toured the Close Combat Tactical Trainer, U.S. Cavalry Museum, Soldier and Family Support Center and ate lunch with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

During their stay in the United States, the international military officers are exposed to a variety of cultural experiences. Through a formal informational program, they visit and view examples of U.S. educational systems, judicial systems, local, state and federal government and economic and business systems, according to Maj. William Dickey, public affairs officer, International Officer Student Division.

"We try to dispel some of the pervasive Hollywood images that people think of as America," said Lt. Col. James Fain, CGSOC. "We want to expose them to what America is really like and to real Americans."

The lessons learned during the visit to the SFSC were also important for the officers to take advantage of, said Fain.

"We think that this is very important, because many of them will go back and be leaders in armies that are deploying their soldiers outside of their first time," said Fain. "They need to deal with these types of issues."

The officers also had the opportunity to speak with Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander (maneuver), 24th Infantry Division (Mech.), said Fain.

"Brig. Gen. Kearney has just come back from downrange experience in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and it's a good opportunity for them to speak to someone with recent field experience," said Fain.

The school and tours give the foreign officers a chance to compare their militaries back home with the new people and experiences here in America, said Fain.

Maj. Bayar Ochir of Mongolia compared the U.S. military to his own military while he shared lunch with his fellow classmates and the recently deployed 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Soldiers.

"You guys have a big Army. We have a small population in a large country, and our military is less than 15,000 people," said Ochir. "Your technology and supply are also big differences, along with our mandatory military service for all men."

Ochir also noted many important similarities in the two systems.

"Patriotism and morale," he said. "You guys have really good morale. You are proud to serve in the United States Army, and we are proud to serve in the Mongolian Army."

Ochir enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the U.S. Soldiers and to learn the military arts in a way that he said was

See Officers' Visit Page 8

"You guys think that the most valuable thing that you have in the United States is liberty, and I am starting to see that."

—Maj. Bayar Ochir
Mongolian Military Officer

Memorial held for fallen officer

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

A memorial service was held for 2nd Lt. Todd Jason Bryant, Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, Nov. 5, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Bryant was killed on Oct. 31, while on patrol in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the memorial, members of Bryant's company took the opportunity to pay tribute to an officer who, while only with them a short time, made a deep impression on the Soldiers he served with.

"He was a great person, a great leader, and he always put the welfare of his soldiers first," said Pfc. Robert Dedeaux, Co. C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor. "He was a leader who led by example. He always ate last. He always made sure that we were OK, that our vehicles and weapons were well maintained. He even brought the guards water during late night duty hours and would just sit and talk with us. He was a great person, and I am honored to have served under Lt. Bryant's command."

Sgt. Kenneth Wyma, also of Co. C, 1st Bn., 34th Armor spoke of Bryant's leadership style and the support gave his Soldiers while in Iraq.

"I have never before met any, one I liked or respected more,"

Wyma said. "He not only earned your respect, but gave it freely as well. He worked hard for his platoon. He would have done anything for us, and we would have done anything for him."

Wyma also told of Bryant helping him through his own ordeal when he was wounded.

"When I was injured during the first time," said Fain. "They need to deal with these types of issues."

See Bryant Page 2



Soldier remembered at memorial

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Another Fort Riley Soldier was remembered Nov. 4, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Friends and relatives mourned the loss of Pvt. Jonathan Falaniko, combat engineer, Company A, 70th Engineer Battalion, during his memorial service.

Falaniko, 20, was described as a motivated soldier who made a lasting impression on all of his fellow soldiers.

He entered the Army on May 1, 2003, after which he attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He arrived at Fort Riley in August.

While in Iraq, Falaniko's senior ranking non-commissioned officer was his father, Command Sgt. Maj. Iokimo Falaniko.

"Brothers and sisters of the Kodiak family, we gather today to pay tribute to the memory of a young man, a son, a brother, who died in the service of his country," said Lt. Col. George Geecy, commander, 3rd Brigade Rear Detachment at the memorial. "Jonathan was just at the beginning of a Soldier's journey, although he's been on our path as a family member (Kodiak) for his entire life," he said. "He came to Fort Riley eager to join his unit in harm's way, eager to serve a nation of people in need, eager to protect and serve his own country and eager to join his dad in this struggle, and he fell," Geecy said. "Jonathan fell in this fight practically at his father's feet. It is an exceptionally hard fall on all of us. For the Falaniko family and the Army family have lost their son... our brother — to this war."

"Jonathan entered the service knowing his father would be fighting in Iraq, knowing that this nation was in the midst of a great struggle. He entered into the ranks of our Army as a family member, with his eyes wide open. Jonathan came to serve our nation, to serve his father, and he

See Falaniko Page 4



Pvt. Jonathan Falaniko, combat engineer, Company A, 70th Engineer Battalion, was honored at a memorial service Nov. 4.



Commentary

Fallen Fort Riley Soldier provides lesson on selfless service

By Lt. Col. John Kem
Army News Service

GERMANY — There are very few events more poignant than a memorial service for a fallen Soldier.

The service finishes with a final roll call by the company first sergeant of the Soldier's squad members. Each Soldier in turn responds, "Here, first sergeant." Then, three times in a row, the first sergeant calls out the dead Soldier's name. Finally, after the third silent pause, waiting for a response that will never come, a lone bugler sounds taps.

This evening (Nov. 4) I went to a memorial service for Pvt.2 Jonathan Ioakimo Falaniko. Jonathan was killed on Oct. 27 in Baghdad by a rocket-propelled grenade attack. As you would expect, the memorial service was sad, but it was also a profound lesson on faith, selfless service and a

family's love. Jonathan's unit, the 70th Engineer Battalion, is part of the Army's 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade.

The senior enlisted soldier in the brigade happened to be Jonathan's father, Command Sgt. Maj. Ioakimo Falaniko.

After the company commander and a few of Jonathan's friends spoke at the memorial service, the command sergeant major stepped forward and spoke. He spoke about Jonathan as both a soldier and a son, and his words were truly inspirational. I cannot fully capture in words the profound lessons of faith and selfless service revealed in the life of Jonathan and the tribute by his father, but I think it is important to pass on a small part of it.

Falaniko read from a few of Jonathan's recent letters. For a point of reference, Jonathan was a new soldier, who has been in the Army less than six months. He attended basic training beginning

in May 2003 and deployed to Iraq in August of this year. So, his letters capture his thoughts and dreams from the last couple of months. A few things Jonathan wrote really stood out and illustrated the man he was:

- Dad, I push myself hard because I know the Drill Sergeants expect a lot out of me.
- Dad, when I first got to basic training, I didn't like getting smoked in physical training. But, now I like to get smoked ... I think it is good for me.
- Dad, I love being in the Army and I love serving my country.
- Dad, this is where I belong and this is where I need to be, with you and the other Iron (1st Armored Division) soldiers.
- Dad, this place (Iraq) is a mess and I am glad we are here to fix it.

Falaniko finished by sharing with you and the other Iron (1st Armored Division) soldiers his son as part of a close family. The kind of kid that always lends a

hand to anyone. The kind of kid that loved his sisters and sent them money on every payday just to let them know he was thinking about them. The kind of kid from a strong Christian family that demonstrates his faith by his actions every day. He concluded by saying to the hundreds of Soldiers present, from three-star general to private:

"What our country brings to Iraq is a chance for freedom and democracy...making a difference every day. My son died for a good cause.... He answered the nation's call. Just like a typical American Soldier, Jonathan was accomplishing his mission, doing what he was suppose to be doing. He had a big heart and he was proud to be a Soldier."

Then 1st Sgt. Allen called: "Private Falaniko" (Silence)

Again, he called, "Private Jonathan Falaniko" (Silence)

And finally, "Private Jonathan Ioakimo Falaniko" (Silence)

Jonathan Falaniko was a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. Both he and his father are examples of what makes our Army and our country great. The Army and our nation mourn his death. But,

he represents the best of America: strong family, strong faith, strong community and a willingness to serve and help others. Rest in Peace Jonathan ... mission accomplished.



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Bryant continued from page 1

combat in Iraq, he was the one that helped me dress my wounds. In my six years of service to this country, I can't think of a single person who I would rather have leading my platoon or fighting by my side than Lt. Bryant."

Capt. Jeffery Shaffer, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, spoke of Bryant receiving one of the highest awards that a soldier can receive — the respect of his men.

"Leaders always hope for respect," he said, "for it is a hard earned medal that is worn close to our hearts. Lt. Todd Bryant earned that medal, and it is one that time will never tarnish."

Bryant was born Jan. 14, 1980 in Long Beach, Calif. He enlisted in the Army as an administrative specialist in 1997 and completed

Basic Training at Fort Sill, Okla. prior to completing his senior year in high school.

After graduation from high school in 1998, Bryant entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 2002 with a degree in Political Science and a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. Bryant then attended the Armor Officers Basic Course at Fort Knox, Ky., graduating in December 2002.

Bryant reported to Fort Riley in January 2003, and was initially assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, where he served as an assistant operations officer. In April 2003, Bryant was reassigned to Company C, where he assumed duties as platoon leader,

3rd Platoon. He deployed with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in September.

Bryant is survived by his wife,

Jenifer, his parents, Larry and Linda Bryant, his brother, Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Bryant, and his sister, Capt. Tiffany Bryant.

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THE MARTIN AGENCY
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Exercise on Post

There is a force protection exercise currently being held on Fort Riley that will run to Nov. 18. The exercise could cause some delays in traffic at the access control gates.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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FORT RILEY POST

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Publisher-Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore
Printer-John C. Montgomery

Fort Riley Editorial Staff:
Editor-Lori A. Bultman
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Advertising Representatives-
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Circulation 8,800 copies each week
By mail \$20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce



News from the Front

Field Artillery unit working with POWs

4th Bn., 1st FA Release

On the dawn of another morning, Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery prepare for another day to provide, protect and assist in the rebuilding of Baghdad, Iraq.

Under the command of Lt. Col. Richard F. Bowyer and Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Savitski, the battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 27. After the battalion arrived in Kuwait, they were in-process at Camp Wolf and headed to Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait.

With 120-degree heat, soldiers had to adapt and acclimatize to the mission at hand as they linked up with the rest of 3rd Brigade Combat Team. The battalion deployed to Iraq without incident. The road march took the battalion 31 hours to travel from Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait to Baghdad, Iraq, stopping only for fuel and vehicle maintenance.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Paul Brent, 4th Bn., 1st FA, once the battalion arrived in Iraq, the mission was received and delivered to every Soldier. He said the battalion supported numerous, dangerous missions that were directed from V Corp, 1st Armored Division, and 3rd BCT.

Brent said that Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery is

a unit that is instrumental in providing security, placement of barriers and detaining Prisoners of War and Iraqi civilians who violate coalition governing laws. The battery is led by Capt. Robert J. Smith.

Brent said countless soldiers have worked tireless hours placing barriers at many of the traffic control points, which were strategically placed enabling the unit and other units to search and seize any illegal weapons used against coalition forces.

The battery also was tasked to guard and protect the Rasheed Bank that is in their sector. Brent said at any time, the bank transfers over \$2 million U.S. dollars. He said the battery did suffer an attack at the bank in which an improved explosive device exploded next to a M577 Troop Carrier. The explosion wounded one soldier, who is currently recovering.

With the hostility that is plaguing coalition forces, Brent said the unit provided a team to assist the brigade in detaining POWs and those who violate laws provided by coalition forces. Brent led the team as the detention noncommissioned officer in charge, expediting prisoners to the appropriate detention facilities.

Brent said his duties included furnishing a detention cell for the

detainees, protecting, guarding and transporting and completing proper documents for transfer. He said the team is authorized to search, segregate, separate, seize, keep the detainees silent and speed the detainees to the appropriate detention facility.

Brent said his team quickly adapted to the mission that was given and learned each and every procedure to assist the battalion to adjudicate the detainees within the Judge Advocate General system.

He said the detention team was involved in several raids that were directed from V Corps and the division. He said the capture of the four of diamonds and king of diamonds on the United States' 85 most wanted list was due to the quick reaction on these missions.

Brent said his team has detained over 555 detainees, including many Ba'ath Party members. These detainees were processed and transported to the proper facility within the prescribed time.

He said his team has successfully transported detainees from the battalion detention cell to 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, Camp Cropper and the Division Interrogation Facility. His team also transported detainees to Abu Grhaib, which is considered a hostile environment.

Talk Around Town

“What can people do during Military Family Appreciation Week to thank military families?”



“Soldiers can treat their spouse and children to an evening out, or at least say thank you for supporting the soldier.”



“Soldiers can express their thanks by taking their spouse out for dinner.”



“They can simply take the time to say ‘thank you.’”

*MSgt. Dan Kilpatrick
G3, 24th Infantry
Division*

*MSgt. Cicia Lynch
1st Battalion, 383rd
Regiment*

*Spc. Jayson Smith
977th Military Police
Company*

Range named for local fallen soldier

By John Wollaston
3rd Brigade PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq- During a small ceremony southeast of Baghdad, soldiers of 3rd Brigade gathered once again to remember their friend and fellow soldier, Sgt. Jacob Butler, and to dedicate the Butler Range Complex. Butler, a scout for 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment died during one of the first heavy engagements of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Sgt. Butler took the fight to the enemy so the enemy couldn't bring the fight to us,” said Col. Russ Gold, brigade commander, during the dedication ceremony. “His actions that day saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and the countless others that followed.”

Gold drew a comparison between Butler and the biblical Jacob, pointing out how both were “scouting the way for those who followed behind.”

The first range of its type anywhere in Iraq, the Butler Range Complex is capable of supporting

various types of tank, artillery and infantry gunnery training. The maneuver battalions in the brigade have already begun blasting away at targets on the range, honing their skills.

Gold closed the ceremony by reading the words at the bottom of the sign dedicating the range in Butler's memory.

“May all soldiers who use this range complex to better their warfighting skills always remember Sgt. Butler, his courage and his sacrifice.”

Killed continued from page 1

Division. He joined the Army in January 1992, and has been stationed at Fort Riley since July 2002.

He was assigned to the unit as a squad leader and deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Collins was riding in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that was struck by an improvised explosive device. He died of injuries sustained in the attack. The incident is under investigation.

He was the 13th Fort Riley soldier killed in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A joint memorial service for Collins and Vasquez will be held today, 11 a.m. at Morris Hill Chapel.

Fort Riley commanders, soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of soldiers supporting the war effort and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.

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Briefs

Operation Santa Claus

Santa's elves are gearing up for the Christmas holiday with Operation Santa Claus. A ribbon cutting ceremony is today, 10 a.m., at building 7802 to kick off the 35th year of Operation Santa Claus. Monetary gifts may be mailed to: Operation Santa Claus, P.O. Box 2427, Fort Riley, Kan., 66442. To volunteer, call 785-239-6944.

Thanksgiving Meal Hours

The hours at the post dining facilities for Thanksgiving Day are: Main Post DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 12 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; 1st Brigade DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery DFAC - Breakfast, 6 - 7 a.m.; Lunch, 12 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Dinner, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Childcare

The Child Development Center and School Age Services will offer free childcare for families of deployed Soldiers on Dec. 6 and 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Reservation must be made by 6 p.m. on Nov. 26 for Dec. 6 and by 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 for Dec. 20.

Holiday Tree Lighting

The post Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Dec. 5, 4:45 p.m. at Ware Parade Field, in front of building 500. Santa Claus will

visit and there will be light refreshments.

Christmas Boughs

Units, housing occupants and activities desiring cedar and pine boughs to decorate the interior and exterior of their buildings can pick up this material at the Public Works parking lot, Dickman Avenue, across from building 364, Main Post, on a first come, first serve basis, from Nov. 12 - Dec. 24. Extreme care should be taken in using these to avoid fire hazards. Frequent misting or sprinkling of boughs with water is recommended to retard their drying out. All units, housing occupants, and activities are reminded that cutting pine and cedar trees or branches anywhere on the installation is strictly prohibited.

Post Graduation Ceremony

Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of a local college or SOCAD college programs are invited to participate in the Fort Riley Post-wide Graduation ceremony Dec. 4 at King Field House. Counseling services at the Learning Centers will not be available on that afternoon for the ceremony. For more information, call 239-6481.

SMART Workshop

A Specific Measurable Appropriate Reasonable Time Specific Individual Educational Plans, an advocacy workshop that will be presented by Brandy Riggs. The

workshop will be held Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

Brandy Riggs has attended the SMART IEP training course and has experience in writing IEP's. Brandy has been a Parent Support Network Provider and has worked specifically with families who have special needs children in the last six years.

Learn how to write goals and objectives that fit your child's unique educational needs. Learn basic writing techniques to avoid conflict with school districts policies. Learn suggestive ideas and goals that may work to meet your child's educational needs. RSVP to the Exceptional Family Member Office, 239-9435.

EO Office Moved

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office has moved to building 319.

Visitors are asked to enter the building through the side entrance, which is handicapped accessible. The phone numbers remain, 239-3263 or 239-2595.

Holiday Craft Fair

Bring your family to the Holiday Home, Crafts and Things Bazaar for food, fun and entertainment tomorrow, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., at Marshall Air Field, Hangar 817. There will be a food court, craft vendors, children's corner with moon-bounce and face painting and much more. If you are interested in a booth or need more information, contact Sherri Weber, 537-7781. To volunteer for the event, call 784-

4228 or 784-3191.

Garrison Commander's Address

The Garrison Commander will address the civilian workforce Tuesday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Barlow Theater.

Thanksgiving Service

There will be a post-wide Ecumenical Worship Service Nov. 26, 11:45 a.m., at Kapaun Chapel. The service is for Soldiers, family members and civilian workers on Fort Riley.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop has a large selection of previously owned articles, from clothing to house wares to furniture. There

will be a 50 percent off Christmas Sale on donated Christmas items Dec. 2 - 18. Items for consignment are accepted on Tuesdays; donations are accepted everyday.

For more information on needed items or to schedule a pickup for large items, call 784-3874

DES Classes

The Directorate of Environment and Safety is offering the following classes in November: Nov. 14 - HAZCOM, Nov. 17 - 18 - ETT and Nov. 25 - ETT-Refresher. Call 239-2334 or 0446 to enroll.

Post Pools

Eyster Pool is closed until further notice. Hours of operation at Long Pool are: Wednesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lap swim-

ming and 1-6 p.m. - open swimming. Saturday and Sunday - 11a.m. - 6 p.m. The pool is closed Monday and Tuesday. Contact the sports office, 239-2172, for additional information.

The Shoppe

Come and visit The Shoppe. The Shoppe will be having an Open House tomorrow, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Come and enjoy refreshments while you shop for the holidays. In addition, all yard sale items will be marked down to one dollar!

The Shoppe offers gifts for every occasion including unit and farewell gifts.

The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Avenue., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

Falaniko continued from page 1

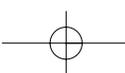
did," Geczy said. "Pvt. Falaniko quickly learned his role as a squad member," said 1st Lt. Cesar Lopez. "He was a motivated Soldier, always willing to learn new skills. He participated in several Improvised Explosive Device responses, helped remove multiple Unexploded Ordnances, qualified with his squad during Engineer Qualification Tables and conducted traffic control points," Lopez said.

Although the mood at the chapel was a somber one, mourners celebrated Falaniko's life and the fact that he was a part of theirs. "We've come here today to honor the memory of Jonathan Falaniko. To celebrate his life and times here on earth," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel Jenks. "I know his life was short, but he made significant contributions - contributions that will

outlast and have had a great impact on the lives around him. Each and everyone of you who knew Jon Falaniko can be thankful that God allowed you the time to know him and have him be a part of your life."

After the company commander and a few of Jonathan's friends spoke at a memorial service in Iraq, the command sergeant major stepped forward and spoke about his son. "What our country brings to Iraq is a chance for freedom and democracy...making a difference every day," said Falaniko. "My son died for a good cause... he answered the nation's call. Just like a typical American Soldier, Jonathan was accomplishing his mission, doing what he was supposed to be doing. He had a big heart and he was proud to be a Soldier."

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Fort Riley Community

November 14, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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Veterans honored at local events

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

Members of the Fort Riley, Manhattan, Junction City and other area communities gathered on Veteran's Day to participate in the Flint Hills Coalition Veterans Day Honor Parade on Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan.

The parade's Grand Marshal was Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley.

The parade began at City Park and ended at the Manhattan Town Center.

Marching or riding in the parade along with Hardy were Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela, command sergeant major, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech.) and Fort Riley, the Fort Riley Honor Guard, Soldiers from the 82nd Medical Company, the 523rd Military Police Team and students from Custer Hill Elementary, plus many veterans and various local organizations and schools.

Poyntz Avenue was lined on both sides with onlookers waving flags and signs showing support.

People attending said the parade was very enjoyable.

"It was unbelievable," said

Lana Oleen, Kansas State Senator. "The sun came out at the very moment the parade started. To see Soldiers, young and old, elected officials and ordinary citizens participate was quite over-whelming."

"The parade was great," said Karen Marsh, Manhattan resident. "The best part was seeing the children march in the parade."

"I thought it was wonderful," said Angie Fryer. "It was great to see the range of ages involved — from the most senior veterans to the youngest school child."

After the parade, people gathered in Warehouse Opera House for a commemorative program featuring Hardy as guest speaker.

Before Hardy spoke, winners of poster, banner and essay contests were announced and given their prizes. For the poster category, there were 1st, 2nd and

3rd place winners for each grade, kindergarten through 6th. In the banner contest, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School won. The essay contest was won by Hannah Pauls, 7th grade, Susan B. Anthony Middle School, for an essay on the theme of the day, "United We Stand."

Second and 3rd graders from Lee Elementary School then sang "Many Flags in Many Lands" and "Proud of Our Veterans."

Hardy opened his comments by saying that it was appropriate to start the ceremony with children singing.

"It was wonderful to start with our young people. This is really what being veterans and being citizens is all about," he said. "It's about our future. It's about who we are as Americans — who we are as free people."

Hardy said Veteran's Day is about celebrating the service all members of the Armed Forces

provide.

"We recognize all of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, and all the contributions you all, and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marine that came before you ... made to this great nation of ours."

Hardy went on to ask for a moment of silence to remember lost and forgotten veterans.

"We must be mindful in times like this," he said. "For as good as it is to have so many of our veterans home with us, there are many that, in fact, never returned home. They fell on the field of battle or have been lost and never accounted for. And so it is for our fallen comrades, I think in particular, we should be mindful on an occasion like this."

Hardy said his message for the day was a simple one.

"As I get older and as I travel around the world, it impresses me more the real sacrifice our veterans have made over the years," said Hardy. "Indeed, my message today is a very simple one. On behalf of our grateful nation, on behalf of all of the citizens of this grateful nation, thank you. We are thankful to you, our veterans, for all of your



A color guard from Fort Riley marches down Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, in the Flint Hills Coalition Veterans Day Honor Parade Nov. 11.

"We are thankful to you, our veterans, for all of your sacrifices, the time, blood, sweat and tears defending our frontiers of freedom."

—Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Commanding General
24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley

See Veterans Day Page 8



19th PAD/Cooke



Fort Riley's Custer Hill Elementary School students, left, showed their love of veterans by marching in Flint Hills Coalition Veterans Day Honor Parade in Manhattan. Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley, waves to the crowd while driving down Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan during the parade.

Local Boy Scout troop retires American flags during ceremony

By Gary Skidmore
Command Information Officer

Chris Kartman stood at attention until it was his turn to approach the waiting fire and ceremonially retire his America

Flag. The temperature had dipped into the 30s and the bitter cold was biting at everyone involved in the emotional ceremony. Kartman never shivered, he never complained, he just stood at attention, he knew his turn was coming. His face bore no emotion, no movement at all, this was

serious business and he wanted to get it right.

When his turn came, 13 year-old Kartman and Adam Patterson, snapped the flag parallel to the ground and side stepped toward the fiery pit. Once the flag was over the fire, he lowered the col-

ors into the flames and repeated, "Old Glory, you flew for us with pride. Today we retire you with honor," and the two slowly saluted as the tattered symbol of America burned.

Kartman and Patterson are members of Wamego Boy Scout Troop 75. They and six other members of the troop retired three American flags at dusk Saturday night, a ceremony they repeat several times a year.

According to Lorinda Sultzer, assistant troop leader, the boys have retired 14 flags since they began performing the ceremony three years ago.

"A few years ago, my husband Bob and I attended the closing ceremony at Boy Scout Camp Jayhawk. Our son, Bobby was involved," said Sultzer. "It was the first time I'd seen a flag retired. I'd never been moved so much in my life. The American Flag means so much to so many. It had never occurred to me what exactly a flag retiring was about. I knew a flag was to be burned when it was no longer usable, but when I heard the words to "Old Glory" and saw the respect these young men showed, and the care in which the flag was retired, I just needed others to know."

Sultzer decided to have her scout troop perform the ceremony and retire flags.

"I knew our scouts could do a fine ceremony, and time and time again, they always come through. They are just as proud of these flags and what they mean

when they participate in these ceremonies."

During the ceremony, a flag being flown over the gathering is taken down and as the scouts begin to meticulously fold it, Joe Plummer, 12 and one of the youngest scouts at the ceremony reminds the audience what each of the 13 folds of a flag represent.

"The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life," said Plummer.

He hesitates for a moment as the honor guard makes the first fold and prepares for the second.

"The second fold is our belief in eternal life," said Plummer.

With each fold comes another explanation of what it stands for, until he reaches the thirteenth and final fold.

"The 13th fold, the stars face up reminding us of our nations motto, 'In God We trust.'"

Larry Duch, a Department of the Army Civilian at Fort Riley, has a son in Troop 75. He contributes to the ceremony by reading, "My Name Is Old Glory," by Howard Schnauber.

"My brother, Larry Duch, has been an active part of many of our ceremonies," said Sultzer. "I like his voice when he reads. The very first time he read "Old Glory" out loud, he really got emotional. It was very moving and emotional for the entire audience. I've done it when he is



Post/Skidmore

Boy Scout Chris Kartman salutes a veteran's grave in the Wamego Cemetery after spreading ashes from retired American flags. Wamego Boy Scout Troop 75 retired three America flags Saturday.

See Scouts Page 6



Anyone can register at bone marrow drive

During any given day, more than 3,000 children, youth and adults from around the world - all victims of blood diseases, cancer and other life-threatening illnesses - turn to the National Marrow Donor Program's over four million registered volunteer donors in search of a life-saving marrow match. Sadly, some will never find that miracle match.

The C.W. Bill Young / DoD Marrow Donor Program, teaming up with Fort Riley, is working hard to improve the odds of those waiting to find a marrow donor. They hope to register hundreds of potential life-saving donors during their marrow donor registration drive. The drive is scheduled for Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at King Field House.

Bone marrow donations are needed for life-saving treatment for over 70 blood related diseases such as Leukemia, Aplastic Anemia and Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Most closely matched donations come from volunteer donors outside the patient's immediate family by 75 percent of the time. Fatal blood diseases afflict people of all ethnic backgrounds, and people of the same or similar ethnic background are the most likely match.

It takes only a few minutes to join the marrow registry. Volunteers fill out a consent form and donate a small test tube of blood that is sent to the DoD testing laboratory in Kensington, Md. for Human Leukocyte Antigen typing. Bone marrow is not taken at the drive - a common misconception. The drive is open to any active duty personnel and their immediate family members, DoD civilians, Coast Guard, drilling reservists and National Guard personnel who are between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health. There are no restrictions on front

like with blood donations, said Kelly Sutton, Fort Riley Red Cross office.

If a potential donor is matched with a patient needing bone marrow, the donor is given more blood tests and flown to Washington, D.C. for a physical examination. The donor returns home the next day and awaits a medical review by the transplant center's doctors and the physicians of the DoD Marrow Donor Program. If all is well, the prospective military donor is flown once again to Washington, D.C. and admitted to either Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington D.C. or to Fairfax Inova Hospital in Fairfax, Va. for the surgical procedure.

Under general anesthesia or an epidural, the marrow is drawn from the back of the hip, along the top of the pelvic bone with a needle and syringe. There may be

some soreness in the lower back for a few days following the procedure, but within a couple of weeks, depending on the individual donor, the donor is back to a regular routine.

Over the next few months federal law prohibits contact between the donor and the recipient. However, the donor will receive periodic updates on the condition of the recipient and, if both parties agree, after one year they can have direct contact.

For more information on the Fort Riley donor registration drive or to volunteer to help, contact Kelly Sutton, 239-1887. For more information on the C.W. Bill Young / DoD Marrow Donor Program, call 1-800-MARROW-3 or visit www.dodmarrow.com

Editor's Note: News release from the C.W. Bill Young / DoD Marrow Donor Program.



CDC Photo/Obanack

Sgt. Nathan Donham, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, and his daughter, Kailani, decorate a pumpkin at the Child Development Center's Fall Festival.

Scouts continued from page 5

not available, and it really gets hard at the last of the reading."

According to Sultzer, Troop 75 does a flag retiring ceremony three times-a-year, sometimes more.

"We do one on Veterans Day and Flag Day and whenever someone requests us to do one."

Sultzer says her troop performs the ceremony for Wamego Cub Scout Pack 75 at their annual campout.

"It's sort of become a tradition," said Sultzer. "We do this in front of about 80 kids, ages 6 to 10 and their parents. It's amazing that this audience is moved by this ceremony. Many adults get very emotional. Many just stay around and watch the fire until it goes completely out. This ceremony means a lot of different things to different people. But it has a common thread through all ages, it binds us together united as one. After all, isn't that what our coun-

try is all about?"

Kartman, a First Class Scout, has participated in four other ceremonies with the troop.

"This means a lot to be part of the ceremony," said Kartman.

"It's a sad ceremony, but a very patriotic one. People cry when we retire their flags. It's very emotional."

Plummer, seems to know more about the flag than some adults.

"What we do is treat the flag with honor," said Plummer, a first class Scout.

"The whole ceremony is moving and we're doing something that's very respectable," said Plummer.

Sultzer said she wants the scouts to know what honor and dignity is.

"I want them to know what it is to be proud of being an American. Our flag is the symbol of our country, proud and free. Many men and women have served our

country.

"Many have fought and died for the rights we enjoy today. It shouldn't be taken for granted...ever. Freedom isn't free," she said.

On Sunday, Scouts Sultzer, Patterson and Kartman met at the Wamego City Cemetery and finished what they started the night before by spreading the ashes of the flags on as many veterans' graves as possible.

"We've spread ashes on all of

the graves of Veterans buried in the Wamego City Cemetery at least once," said Sultzer.

"We've spread ashes three times, now," she added.

Kartman explained that spreading the ashes on veteran's graves was a fitting way to discard the ashes.

"When they bury a veteran, they put the flag on the coffin. They were covered once by the flag, it's only fitting to cover them again."

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Operation Helping Hand assists military families with holiday meals

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

Ham, turkey, fresh bread and a delicious, but maybe not so nutritious, dessert are all part of holiday meals shared by many families. However, there are Fort Riley families that cannot afford to purchase the supplies needed to enjoy a holiday meal.

"During the holiday season, we all want our time together as a family to be something special. A large part of that is a traditional holiday meal," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel McClure, project officer, Operation Helping Hand Holiday assistance program.

"There are families on post, due usually to no fault of their own, that cannot afford additional groceries for a special dinner," said McClure. "We're going to make sure they get it."

The main fund raising drive for the OHH holiday program will take place Nov. 17 through Dec. 7. During this time, there will be several methods used to collect donations for the project. Special offerings at chapel services Nov. 27 and Dec. 7, private donations

at area businesses and collection areas at unit headquarters are all ways in which funds will be collected.

"Donations can be made to Operation Helping Hand year-round. The main push for the Holiday Helping Hand is November and early December," said McClure. "The first sergeants major will be collecting the names of Soldiers and families who could be in need of assistance. Families will be nominated for the program using the Fund Distribution Request form."

Only Soldiers who will be at Fort Riley Dec. 15 - 31 may be nominated. The names will be submitted to a committee, who will review the need of each family.

According to McClure, OHH Holiday raised \$20,000 in 2002. OHH usually raises \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, including OHH Holiday funds. "Some are worried it could go down," said McClure. "I don't

think it will. People are generous and will take care of their fellow Soldiers."

While the Fort Riley Installation Ministry Team administers the OHH program, the holiday program requires coordination with several groups. The unit first sergeants major will be collecting the names of Soldiers and families who could be in need of assistance. Families will be nominated for the program using the Fund Distribution Request form.

Only Soldiers who will be at Fort Riley Dec. 15 - 31 may be nominated. The names will be submitted to a committee, who will review the need of each family.

If a Soldier is deployed or on temporary duty during the time frame, his or her family members are eligible for nomination, as long as they are present at Fort Riley during this time period.

The amount of aid given is based on the total amount donated, divided by the number of families eligible. The number of dependents in a family is also a factor, according to McClure.

Last year, 408 families received assistance. The base amount of assistance was \$25, with more for additional dependents. For example, a family of 8 received \$125, according to McClure.

Instead of receiving cash, the families that are selected will receive commissary gift checks. When using the gift checks, families are asked to purchase whole foods for a traditional holiday meal.

"We want people to get items for a traditional, healthy holiday meal. It doesn't have to be turkey, ham and taters, just what their family calls tradition, and is good and nutritious for the kids," said McClure.

"We have everything you could need," said Wanda Dotson, commissary director. "Turkey with all the trimmings, and everything you need to prepare the meal."

Recipients cannot purchase tobacco and alcohol with the gift checks, and the committee may impose other limits, but have not at this time, according to McClure.

When a purchase is made at the commissary, no more than \$2 in change will be given. The gift checks should be used by Dec. 31, according to Dotson.

"The money goes right back to Fort Riley," said McClure. "Who better to take care of Soldiers than other Soldiers. We really need Fort Riley to be generous."

For more information on OHH programs, contact McClure, 239-5711. "I want to see Soldiers and families taken care of. I don't want to see children with hardship," said McClure. "Let's help the neighbor's kids have a good holiday."



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Military families honored with appreciation week

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

Military Family Appreciation Week is Nov. 17 - 21, and numerous activities on post are sponsoring special family events.

A variety of donated prizes will be awarded throughout the week, culminating in PX Day, Nov. 21, when the majority of giveaways will be made, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The first 200 customers will receive a free ticket to a Kansas State women's basketball game.

One of the big giveaways on PX Day will be a free trip for four to Worlds of Fun donated by

Information, Ticketing and Registration. There will be a drawing for the trip. Three \$20 gift certificates for Outdoor Recreation and 10 free extreme bowling family passes donated by the Bowling Center will also be given away.

"This is only in its second year," said Betsy Young, installation volunteer coordinator and community life officer.

"Last year, we really had an amazing turn out. I think there were 800 people at the movie theatre and over 1000 at Commissary Day."

Several prizes will also be awarded on Commissary Day, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. These

will include 12 frozen turkeys, a shopping spree, cake and coffee. There will be a case lot sale as well.

On three separate days, Barlow Theatre will host free night at the movies at 6:30 p.m. The featured movies will be, "Finding Nemo," Nov. 17, "Spy Kids III," Nov. 19, and "Santa Claus II," Nov. 20. The movies are being presented courtesy of sponsors this year.

According to Young, this differs slightly from last year.

"We were fortunate last year that the movie theatre was just opening, so they were able to sponsor all the movie nights instead of us having to find sponsors," she said. "Also, last year we had four movie nights, but this year Ware Elementary wanted to host a movie night, which they will be showing at 6:30 on Tuesday (Nov. 18)."

The Soldier and Family Support Center and the various activity centers will be giving out free gifts throughout the week, including wristbands, coloring books, stickers, bags and magnets.

"It's a special week for us to pay respect to our military families," explained Young. "Of course, we always respect them, but this is something extra we can do to really show our appreciation."

DoD civilian jobs available in Iraq, Afghanistan

The Department of Defense announced recently that it has established an Internet site for recruiting temporary contract federal civilian workers to assist in rebuilding the nations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supporting Our Friends in Iraq and Afghanistan is a Department of Defense program that seeks to hire motivated civilian employees to help the fledgling Iraqi and Afghan governments in their quest to become full-fledged democracies.

SOFIA's web site is located at: <http://cpolsdev.belvoir.army.mil/safia>. Job skills being sought are numerous and across the spectrum, including civil engineering, banking, agriculture, education, communications and security. Interested applicants should search under the 'Available Opportunities' section for current job vacancies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Individuals will be hired by the

department through the U.S. Army, which is the executive agent, for a 12-month period with the option to extend. Applicants

do not have to be current or past federal employees.

Prospective applicants must be willing to live under field condi-

tions. Foreign language aptitude and prior military experience are helpful but are not required.

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Letters to the Front

"To Sgt. Jose Ruiz: Hello from your loving wife and daughter back home. We want you to know that you are deeply missed and needed back home. So far, you have been gone for over six months, and I am going crazy without you. I need you to know that I am so in love with you, more than ever, and I know you feel the same. When I hear your voice on the phone, my heart melts. Stay strong and don't for one second give up because we are all in this together. You know in your heart how loved and missed you are, so please come home soon! God is with you all. All of your family around the world say hello and we are all praying for your safe return. I love you!" - *Love, your daughter and wife, Destiny and Sonia Ruiz*

"Hi guys. We are keeping the home fires burning. We love you all. Stay safe." - *Military mother of Spc. Timothy Rowell*

"To all of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division Soldiers, remember you are all in our thoughts and prayers daily back home. We miss you and can't wait to see you in a few months! Stay safe and come home quickly. To Lt. John A. Sackman, you are my

true hero. I am so proud of everything you've accomplished in such a short career. Congratulations on receiving the Bronze Star. You definitely earned it! Remember, I love you very much, and I miss you with all my heart. Stay strong and come home safe." - *Your loving wife, Jodie Sackman, Boise, Idaho*

"To Pvt. Travis Sharpe, I just wanted to let you know how much we miss you and love you. We think about you every single minute of every single day. Hearing your voice during those all too few phone calls is priceless to us. Please stay safe and strong, and know that we are here waiting and counting the days until you are able to come home. We will take that motorcycle trip and ride until we can't ride anymore. We are proud of you and miss you son. We love you!" - *Dad and Mama Jo, Lexington, N.C.*

"Dear Nick: Hi there. We just wanted to let you know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you." - *Love Mike and Brenda Baker, N.C.*

"I want to say hello to my husband, Spc. Bahr, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. I love you, and I

miss you and cannot wait to see you. Stay strong and stay alive, and keep Spc. Yates and Sgt. Neely in line. I love all of you." - *Love, your Bunny*

"To my husband and best friend, Sgt. David B. Singleton, 541st Battalion, 1st Maintenance Company: I am sending you hugs and kisses from Kansas. I miss you tremendously and love you very much. I am very proud of you! I cannot wait until we are together again! You are always in my thoughts and prayers. May God continue to watch over you, the Soldiers of 1st Maint. Co. and all of the other Soldiers fighting this war on terrorism, including our brother-in-law, Staff Sgt. Ricardo Griffith, 222nd Infantry, Fort Drum, N.Y. Stay strong, take care of yourself and be safe! Until I see your smiling face again, I send you all of my love." - *Trena I. Singleton, proud Army wife, Fort Riley*

"I just wanted to tell our troops thank you. My cousin, Sgt. Christopher Tibbs, 300th Military Police Company, is over in Iraq and I just want all of the Soldiers to know we love them and appreciate everything they are doing for us. I will continue to display my

yellow ribbon until every Soldier is home from the war. I have a four-year-old who tells everyone her 'bubba' is over there fighting to keep her safe. Her birthday is Sept. 11 and it holds a special place in our hearts that Chris, along with all of his fellow service people, are sacrificing their lives to make this world a better place to live in. As a daughter of a Vietnam veteran and proud American, I can only tell them how much I thank them, yet they will never fully understand how deep that thanks is for me. I pray that each of them return home safe into the arms of their families. We are all looking forward to the day Sgt. Tibbs returns so that we can hug him and see him again. I am sure I speak for many family members when I say stay safe and hurry home. We love you all and we pray each night that you are okay." - *Angela Shy, military cousin*

"To Spc. Stephen Pierson: Steve, we are praying for you and love you very much. We can't wait for you to come home. Hang in there. You have a lot of people that love you very much." - *Mawmaw, Tammy, Mom, Uncle John, Addie, Tabby, Krissy, Momma,*

Pat, Kerry, Rick, Penny, Tasha and Kari, military family, Alabama

"To Pfc. J. Maize, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry: Be safe, be smart, be strong and call me very soon. I need to know how you feel. I love you." - *Bernadette Cilia, Sydney, Australia*

"To Pfc. James Webb, 4th Cavalry: Your family and friends back in Kingsport, Tenn. are very proud of you and the troops. God is standing beside you, and we are on the other side. We know the conditions are hard and bad. Our very special Soldier is in our hearts, minds and prayers at all times. The family and community of Kingsport, Tenn. love you." - *Jackie Gibson*

"Dear American troops: God bless you all! I am an American, and I want you all to know that

my family and I are very proud of each and everyone of you for serving your country! We love you all and respect you all. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you! We are very proud of the great jobs you are doing in Iraq! God bless you all, and keep each one of you safe and bring you back home to the U.S.A." - *Sincerely, Lisa, William and Janie Burnett, Topeka*

If you would like to send messages of support to our troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, e-mail your message to aZnpomr@riley.army.mil. Soldiers, include your name, rank, unit and hometown.

Military spouses and civilians, include your name, job and hometown. You can also drop off a message at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264, at the front desk.

Veterans Day continued from page 5

sacrifices, the time, blood, sweat and tears defending our frontiers of freedom. Frontiers not only on this continent but, over the 20th century, expanding around the world. A world today where literally we are engaged around this globe of ours, defending our freedom, our independence as well as the independence and freedom of

others." Hardy continued, "So to you veterans who are with us here today, to all our veterans, young as well as the old, your nation is grateful. And I am proud and honored to be able to represent your nation today. We thank you, as we remember, for your great service." Hardy also spoke about the

current war on terrorism. "This war on terrorism is not about to be over. It is not something we are going to win quickly. It's something that is going to require every bit of the enduring persistence and intestinal fortitude that all of our veterans have always shown." "Veterans yesterday, veterans

today and veterans tomorrow, we are indeed thankful for you," Hardy said. "We are honored; we are humbled by your service, your commitment to our nation's independence, your commitment to the independence of others, in stabilizing this very unstable world of ours," he said.

Officers' Visit continued from page 1

very different from back home. "You have a lot of people who have deployed in real combat missions. I am able to study and learn from them," Ochir said. "I really like the teaching methods in the Command College. The cooperation between the students and teachers is wonderful. In my country, teachers lecture, and that is all. It's exactly different here. There is interaction."

Since 1994, 6,500 officers representing 148 countries have graduated from the CGSOC, resulting in 25 heads of state, 309 ministers, ambassadors or representatives, 319 armed forces or service chiefs of staff and 2,337 general officers according to CGSOC.

Fain believes the officers' time in American and with the American military will be good for them and this country.

"Some of the officers here achieve the highest positions in their countries," said Fain. "This is an incredibly important opportunity for us to share with them the values we have as Americans and the values we have as the American Army. With that, we

start to forge the bonds of friendship for future interactions." As the officers prepared to depart post, Ochir summed up his

feelings on what the United States has to offer in its schools and international programs. "You guys think that the most

valuable thing that you have in the United States is liberty, and I am starting to see that."

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