



<b>Weather Forecast</b>		<b>Friday</b> 	<b>High:56 Low:37</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 	<b>High:37 Low:19</b>	<b>Sunday</b> 	<b>High:37 Low:21</b>

# FRIDAY

# Fort Riley Post



Santa buys toys

See Page 9

December 21, 2001

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Vol. 44, No. 51



SFC James Cousar hugs his daughter, Jessica, 3, after reuniting with her Dec. 17. Cousar of Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, deployed to Kuwait in August, and arrived home just in time for the holidays.

## Task Force 'home for the holidays'

By Peter Chadwick  
19th Public Affairs Det.

Deployed Fort Riley soldiers came home in time to spend the holiday season with their loved ones after a four-month Operation Desert Spring rotation in Kuwait.

Approximately 1,100 members of Task Force 1st Battalion, 34th Armor began returning to the Home of America's Army Dec 15.

Each group of 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division returning soldiers had similar receptions.

After arriving at Topeka's Forbes Air Field, the weary travelers were bussed to Hanger 817 at the Fort Riley's Marshall Army Air Field.

The task force troopers entered the building marching in single file to Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA." Family members and soldiers were on their feet welcoming the returning warriors with thunderous applause, hoots and whistles.

The TF 1-34 elements smartly formed up in front of the "Pattonic" American flag draped from the hangar wall. After rendering honors to our national banner, the troopers received their official welcome from the post commander.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley, began his welcome by telling the soldiers how his wife had reminded him all day that he once was a returning soldier and to keep his remarks short so they could join their anxiously waiting families.

"I am absolutely delighted that we were able to get you back before Christmas," said Metz. "You get with your loved ones, and you have a wonderful time."

"You have a Merry Christmas. Have a

Happy New Year. You do it all very safely and remember that we are all very proud of you. Duty First . . . Congratulations!"

Once released, the disciplined lines of desert camouflaged soldiers blended with their friends, spouses and children in long-awaited greetings.

SSgt. David Caldwell, Troop D, 4th Cavalry, couldn't take his eyes off his son. It was Caldwell's first look at his first born who entered the world Sept. 17, while the sergeant was deployed.

SSgt. Justin Hatch, Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, was practically brought down by his three-foot daughter, Emily, when she welcomed him with a flying hug.

With happy homecomings all around, some soldiers took time to reflect on the separations.

Maj. Patrick Donahoe, commander of troops, said this deployment was a little different.

"This is the first time I've been deployed since I had this little girl," said Donahoe, referring to his daughter, Peyton. "When you're just with your spouse, you know she's not going to change a lot. But just over the phone, I could here all the things this little girl was going through. That makes it very difficult."

Missing family is all part of it, but Spec. Alfred Smith, Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, said some of the simple things were also missed.

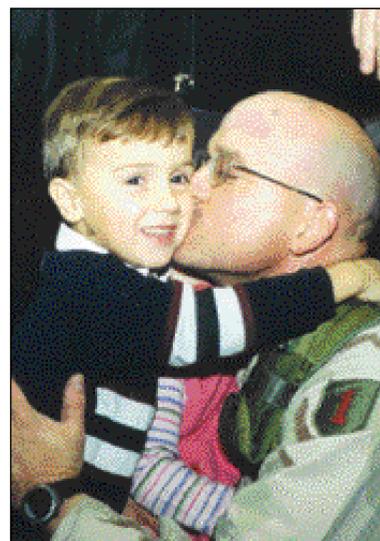
"It's kind of funny," said Smith, who plans a Houston vacation this holiday. "It was Chicken Lo Mein running through my mind. I had to get some Chinese food . . . that's my favorite."

TF 1-34, known as Task Force Centurion, returned from Kuwait where they have been stationed since August. They were part of a

rotation that is in the region to deter aggression, demonstrate regional stability and provide reassurance to the Kuwaiti coalition partners.

The task force conducted a variety of training, including maneuver and live fire exercises to enhance the task force's war-fighting edge.

TF 1-34 worked closely with their Kuwaiti counterparts by sharing their professional war-fighting training and expertise to assist them in defending their homeland.



Capt. Chris Thomas greets his son Nate, 4, with a big kiss following his deployment to Kuwait.

## Army realigns headquarters

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON—The Army will streamline its staff at the Pentagon and centralize installation management, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White announced today at a Pentagon press conference.

Funding for installations will come directly from the Pentagon instead of through major commands under the new centralized system, White said. He explained that this will not only standardize funding levels, but free up the MACOMs to focus on their primary missions.

Garrison commanders will report to the Army's assistant chief of staff for Installation Management through eight regional directors under the plan. Each of the new geographic regions will have 20-26 installations.

"That's probably the most controversial part of this transformation," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Keane about eliminating MACOM staffs from the day-to-day concerns of installation management. "It dramatically changes the way we do business."

At the Pentagon, White said his Secretariat will be aligned with Army Staff directorates. The principals of each ARSTAFF element will become the military deputy to the corresponding assistant secretary. And the principal staffs will be renamed G1 through G8. For instance, the deputy chief of staff for Personnel will answer to the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. And DCSPER will be called G1.

The deputy chief of staff for Intelligence will be G2. Operations and Plans will be G3 and the

deputy chief of staff for Logistics will be G4. The director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers will be G6 and the deputy chief of staff for Programs will be G8.

"By the way, the staff was organized by these names by Gen. Pershing," White said, "and then again by Gen. Marshall... This is going back to Army tradition."

White said the realignment will streamline the Secretariat. He said while the Army in the field has been cut 40 percent over the past decade or more, the Secretariat has grown. He pledged to "put the Secretariat on a diet."

White said he expects 700 to 800 positions to be eliminated in the realignment, but said the purpose was not to cut people, but to streamline the decision-making process. In fact, he said the military positions eliminated at the Pentagon will be redistributed to the field. The money saved by eliminating redundant civilian positions will help fund priority Army requirements, he said.

White said about 10,000 positions could be transferred to major commands under the realignment.

The transformation will create a new Contracting Command and place recruiting under an Accessions command as part of TRADOC, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. Information management will be centralized under a single portal, Keane said, referring to Army Knowledge Online.

White said one thrust of the realignment is to "centralize and clean up the lines of authority where there have been too many cooks in the stove." Another

See Realignment Page 6

## Army protects stockpile

From Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—Army officials recently announced plans for additional measures designed to increase the security of its chemical agent stockpiles.

Earth-covered, reinforced igloos will be built to protect the mustard agent stockpile that has been stored outdoors at Aberdeen Proving Ground without incident since the World War II-era. The stockpile of bulk liquid mustard agent will then be moved into these structures, APG officials said. They added that the chemical agent stockpile does not contain explosively configured weapons.

"We are implementing these additional measures to assure the public and the work force that the storage site will remain safe and secure pending disposal of the mustard agent stockpile," said Maj. William P. Huber, commander of Edgewood Chemical Activity, the APG organization responsible for stockpile storage.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Army took immediate action to increase force protection at APG and other stockpile sites in the United States. This additional measure is another phase intended to enhance safety until the mustard agent stockpile can be safely neutralized, officials said.

"We have a great work force and our procedures have been effective, but we recognize the threat for the nation has changed," said Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG deputy installation commander. "Rest assured that the security of this installation and the continued safety and well-being of our employees and the surrounding communities are my top priorities."

## Infantry conducts live-fire, moves toward Gauntlet

By Jeremy Heckler  
19th Public Affairs Det.

Members of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry took over the maneuver areas during live-fire exercises held last week.

Bradley crews and their rifle squads took on Table XI and Table XII, which normally are done on the ranges of the Multi-Purpose Range Complex, to the maneuver areas near the facility.

"This doesn't limit the platoon leader's ability to maneuver," said Maj. Rick Mitchell, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. operations officer. "This is a more realistic way to train because they have to navigate terrain as opposed to going down a road down on the range."

"Normally when you do Bradley gunnery you don't have the dismounts involved," said SSgt. Everett Lewis, Company B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. "It is pretty high speed when both of them work together as a unit."

"We started out with our dismounts performing infantry training by perfecting anti-tank and demolition skills while our mounted troops performed gunnery," said Capt. Michael Fazio, Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. "Once they were qualified we put the pieces together for Range 11, a full live fire."

Over the course of the battle, the platoon involved in the engagement fires every weapon in its arsenal from the small arms fire of an M-16 to one of the Bradley's TOW mis-

siles. "This exercise is unique because it's a live fire operation conducted in the maneuver areas," said Sgt. Major Clifford Dockter, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. operations sergeant major. "Normally this type of exercise is not done with live ammunition."

Each platoon assaulted the course, dismounting their Bradley fighting vehicles and headed for cover. With the Bradley providing fire support the vehicles headed downrange, engaging targets as they headed for the obstacle. The platoon was required to breach the obstacle and then set up and detonate a Claymore mine as part of the defensive part of the operation. The platoon's Bradleys fired their TOW missiles to end the operation.

Turn an area designed for unarmed combat into a live-fire range took the efforts of the battalion's soldiers to build targets and secure the area so that the non-combatants would not be able to enter.

"If you don't train for combat under combat conditions you won't be ready to fight," said Fazio. "Our goal is to maintain readiness for combat."

In addition to combat readiness, the unit's training is in preparation for a rotation the National Training Center next spring.

"Our goal is to be able to maneuver, to build confidence in our junior leaders in their weapons system and provide a more realistic way of



Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry occupy a support by fire position during Table XI live-fire training Dec. 13.

See Live Fire Page 6



# Soldiers enhance rifle marksmanship

By **Jeremy Heckler**  
19th Public Affairs Det.

One of the first basic tasks a soldier learns is how to put an M-16 on target, steady his-breathing and shoot it down.

Members of 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor worked on this essential skill during basic rifle marksmanship training conducted last week.

"The ranges we are conducting this week are to ensure the quick-train standard," said Maj. James Nickolas, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor operations officer. Nickolas said marksmanship training is a continual process to ensure 90-percent on all qualifications.

"This is all about combat readiness," said Nickolas. "Soldiers have to have confidence in their ability to fire their weapons systems and their crew-served weapons."

Soldiers must qualify annually to be combat effective.

Soldiers begin by "zeroing" their weapons. The goal of zeroing is to ensure that what is seen through the sight corresponds to the placement of a round through the target.

"If we are not able to get our weapons zeroed then we aren't going to be able to get a clear shot at the target," said Pvt. 2 Jonathan George, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor.

George said that to zero a weapon, a soldier must have a good sight picture every time. One technique instructors use is a dime and washer technique in which a dime is placed on the edge of the weapon. If the trigger is squeezed properly the dime will stay on.

"We teach them all of the proper techniques from how to hold the weapon to proper breathing," said SFC Mark Davidson, HHC 2nd Bn., 70th Armor who is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the range.

After instruction, troops progress to the targets.

"Each soldier is given a three-round magazine which they fire at the targets," said

George. "Once we fire our shots the three rounds are triangulated and we adjust the sight posts on the weapon to center our shots on the target."

When the weapons are zeroed, qualification targets are placed on the line. On a paper target range, soldiers shoot at 10 black silhouettes of varying sizes representing different distances.

"Soldiers are given 40 rounds to qualify in which they must hit 26 targets," said David-

son. They are given two minutes to fire in a position supported by sandbags and an unsupported firing position.

"If the soldiers can't qualify with their weapon they won't be able to protect themselves because they won't be able to hit the target," said Davidson.

"Coming out to the range is always good, especially if you like it," said George, who qualified as a sharpshooter, hitting 31 of 40 targets.



Post/Heckler

**SSgt. Austin Nightser of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor makes adjustments to the front sight-post on his M16A2 rifle during basic rifle marksmanship training. Soldiers are required to qualify on the M16A2 once a year.**

# Transportation unit named top in Army

By **Jeremy Heckler**  
19th Public Affairs Det.

Being the best means sacrificing all else to accomplish the mission, no matter the conditions.

Members of 266th Transportation Detachment make that sacrifice every day, winning the Deployment Excellence Award from the Department of the Army for a small supporting unit.

"We work our tail off to deploy people all over the world," said 1st Lt. Paul Smith, commander, 266th Trans. Det.

The detachment is Fort Riley's mobilization arm, moving men and machines around the world for both training and mission deployment.

"Last year we had 18 worldwide deployments, including deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait, Korea and the National Training Center," said Smith.

He said the detachment enables Fort Riley to fill its roll as a power projection platform for active duty, Reserve and National Guard units.

"Last year when the 1st

Brigade Combat Team deployed to NTC a blizzard affected the whole rotation by delaying our flights as well as our railhead operations," said Smith. The unit coordinated transportation at Forbes Field in Topeka as well as Manhattan Municipal Airport while conducting operations at the Fort Riley railhead.

"We moved 2,900 soldiers on 30 passenger flights and about 700 pieces of equipment by rail and air all in a 10 below zero blizzard," said Smith.

"On the way back from NTC we deployed a railhead operations team that brought back the unit in record time because we had the 4th Infantry Division coming in right behind us," said Smith.

The unit can be called on at any time to deploy soldiers.

"This unit works a lot of long hours and weekends because if we drop the ball people can't get off Fort Riley," said Smith. He added that the unit spends a lot of the four-day weekends other units spend at home working on an operation. Last year the unit worked on Christmas Eve in order

to get a unit deployed.

"They are all quick studies," said SFC Ken Brabender, 266th Transportation Det. "When I first got here almost all of them were brand new privates and winning is a tribute to them learning and performing as quickly as they did."

In addition to their deployment mission, the detachment is responsible for training the unit's on Fort Riley on the proper techniques to load equipment by air, rail or any other technique. They are also responsible for clearing off-post convoys, inspecting convoy vehicles before they leave post.

"This is a unique mission that incorporates all three disciplines," said Brabender. "There is the physical aspect of loading vehicles and equipment as well as the mental aspect of knowing proper loading procedures combined with the dedication of doing the job right."

Smith accounts the success of the unit to the teamwork and determination of the soldiers.

"The soldiers really watch out for each other and make sure that

they are up to date on training and any work issues," said Smith.

"This detachment is full of outstanding young soldiers who fill in wherever they are needed," said Smith. During the unit's Bright Star deployment, one of the unit's noncommissioned officers filled in the executive officer's position in order to keep the mission moving.

"This is an honor for the unit and it makes us want to strive for that excellence more often," said Smith. "It is easy for us as leaders to say it but for them to go out and be successful it makes these guys want to go out and win it again."

# Servicemember mail programs revamped

The Department of Defense announced last week an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all Services.

The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at [www.lifelines2000.org](http://www.lifelines2000.org) or <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers will log onto the website and choose messages for their branch of Service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

**Web-based servicemember mail**

[www.lifelines2000.org](http://www.lifelines2000.org)

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

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club rose ad

USAA- ARM FORCES COMM.  
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Service is a Responsibility

BRIGGS-WEST LOT  
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Black Only  
Briggs



# Army Chief of Staff delivers America's message to soldiers

By Lyza M. Beaudreault  
Army News Service

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki visited deployed Fort Riley soldiers in Kuwait just before they began their return home last week and delivered two messages on behalf of the American people.

"The first message is, 'Thank you,'" he said. "The second is that they are praying for your welfare."

"[Soldiers] are a long way from home," Shinseki said. "But they are not forgotten."

Following a mid-morning visit to the operations center, Shinseki moved to the gymnasium where soldiers had gathered to listen to their leader.

His second stop was to Task Force 1-34 motor pool, where soldiers were conducting maintenance and repairs on equipment they had drawn for the deployment. After delivering America's message, Shinseki recognized and congratulated the three tank crews who had

shot perfectly during gunnery. "Hearing that helps out in us knowing that we are not being taken for granted," said Sgt. Michael A. Evenson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Infantry Division.

"It makes me feel strong knowing people back home support us," said Spec. Alfred Gonzalez, nuclear, biological and chemical specialist, HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor.

Besides giving soldiers the message of the American people, Shinseki had a second mission during his trip to Camp Doha.

"We have to make sure we are doing things properly," said Shinseki. "We need to make sure [soldiers] are being taken care of whenever they're deployed."

"Having the Chief of Staff of the Army address the Task Force and personally express his thanks for our mission success means a lot to our soldiers," said Lt. Col. Bart Howard, TF 1-34 commander. "You can see it in

their eyes. They are immensely proud of the work they have done here."

"Seeing the Chief of Staff showed that a lot of soldiers, regardless of rank, are supporting us," said Evenson.

For Shinseki, the events of Sept. 11 reinforced the importance of American soldiers.

"This Army is great because we have standards," Shinseki said. "It's the [noncommissioned officers] who hold us to those standards. Soldiers have been a critical part of national policies for 226 years and defending our way of life."

He added, that the nation was founded and built upon the sacrifices of soldiers, their families and the civilians who support them.

Shinseki asked the soldiers to do something for him.

"Anytime you deploy there is risk associated," he said. "Take care of yourself, take care of each other and keep safety up front to get each and every one of you back home."

# Baking institute announces scholarships

From ACAP

A partnership established by the Army Career and Alumni Program and the American Institute of Baking has resulted in AIB Maintenance Engineering Scholarships for military personnel leaving service.

Ken Embers, director of admissions and financial aid for AIB said "maintenance engineers are in high demand by the wholesale baking industry. So much so that the baking industry will offer qualified applicants a \$500-\$4,400 tuition assistance scholarship to attend AIB's 10-week Maintenance Engineering course."

Interstate Bakeries Corp., Best Foods Baking, Earthgrains, Flow-ers, and other major employers of AIB-trained maintenance engineers, have plants in many locations across the United States. These companies offer jobs to AIB graduates.

AIB's ten-week training program is designed to train mainte-

nance engineers to meet challenges created by new technologies and the global economy.

By concentrating on basic maintenance engineering requirements such as electricity, electronics, motor controls, programmable, controllers, basic drafting, boilers and refrigeration, one can become a professional maintenance engineer. All of AIB's training is focused on practical application.

Students learn how to use technical knowledge to improve plant efficiency and safety. Troubleshooting and problem-solving are stressed.

The 10-week resident course is now offered twice a year, in the fall and in the early spring.

A one-week seminar in Maintenance Management is offered following the fall 10-week course as an option to the student.

Maintenance Engineering is a 440 hour curriculum that provides ample time for individualized instruction to meet the special needs of students. Personal attention is stressed.

Specific topics of the course are:

- Math and Physics
- Pneumatics and Hydraulics
- Low Pressure Boilers
- Maintenance Technology
- Gear Drives, Belts and Bearings
- Basic Electricity
- Basic Electronics
- Motor Control
- Programmable Controllers
- Refrigeration
- Safety
- Computers

Training takes place in a first-class environment with modern classroom facilities and lab equipped with up-to-date technical equipment.

Class size is limited to provide personal attention.

Financial assistance and scholarships are available for self-sponsored students. This program is VA approved.

For additional information on the AIB scholarships, please call the ACAP Center, 239-3946 or Embers at 1-800-633-5137.

# Cadets further education in England

By Jim Fox

Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y.—Six members of the U.S. Military Academy's bicentennial class have earned scholarships this month to study in England next year.

Three of the cadets earned Rhodes Scholarships and three were awarded Marshall Scholarships.

This year's senior class has the largest total number of cadets to be chosen for education in the United Kingdom since U. S. Military Academy students began competing for Marshall Scholarships in 1982.

The Rhodes Scholarship Trust named Cadets 1st Class Zac R. Miller, Robert J. Smith and Erica J. Watson Rhodes Scholars Dec. 8.

Cadets 1st Class Brian C. Babcock, Anne C. McClain and Kenneth W. Wainwright accepted Marshall scholarships along with 37 other Americans Dec. 3.

### Rhodes Scholars

Miller, Smith and Watson were part of 32 American men and women chosen out of 925 Rhodes Scholar applicants nationwide.

Rhodes Scholarships provide two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England.

"It's a great honor to be selected as a Rhodes Scholar," the 21-year-old Miller said. "It gives me an opportunity to broaden my education by pursuing a second bachelor's degree in a humanities field."

Miller, of Stoneboro, Pa., also won a Truman Scholarship in the spring.

An Army rugby team captain, Miller said he looks forward to the Oxford experience, as it will "allow me to interact with some of the best and brightest students from around the world."

The current mathematics and computer science double major and future infantry officer will use his Rhodes Scholarship to study politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford beginning in October. He plans to attend Ranger School first.

Smith, the deputy brigade commander for the Corps of Cadets, will work toward his master's in philosophy in economics while at Oxford.

Currently, the 22-year-old from Stone Mountain, Ga., is a double major studying international rela-

tions and economics.

"It is an amazing honor, especially once you have a chance to meet the people you are competing against," the future infantry officer said about being named a Rhodes Scholar. "Everyone had such fascinating stories for how young we all are."

Watson, another Truman Scholar, said she has had a hard time acknowledging she won a Rhodes.

"The Rhodes Scholarship is such a prestigious award, one that you tuck away as a fantasy that probably won't happen to you," she said.

"But it's so fulfilling to work so hard for something for such a long time and to finally attain that dream," the future Medical Service Corps officer said.

The 21-year-old from McHenry, Ill., plans on pursuing her masters in philosophy degree in politics while at Oxford.

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## In Step with Fort Riley

In Step with Fort Riley, the installation's new television news program will change its time slot to 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings on Fox 43 stations beginning Jan. 6.

## Shoppe News

The Shoppe continues to have many holiday gift items. The Shoppe is having a sale through today. The Shoppe is closed Dec. 22-Jan. 8. The Shoppe is located in Bldg 259 Stuart Ave. Phone 785-239-2783.

## Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will be closed for the holidays through Jan. 7. Beginning Jan. 8 the shop will once again be open from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. The Thrift Shop will also be open Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Consignments are now taken on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and open Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 267 on Stuart Avenue near the stables. Volunteers are needed during business hours to help tag and put donations on the shelves. Child care reimbursement is available. For information, call 784-3874. The Thrift Shop now has an e-mail address, [thrift@oz-online.net](mailto:thrift@oz-online.net), for customer questions or concerns.

## Sports U.S.A. bowls

College football bowl season hits high gear next week and Sports U.S.A. features 41 televisions including its four, 100-inch big screens to view the games and cheer for your favorite team.

Running down the 2001-2002 bowl line-up:

Thursday - Seattle Bowl, Stanford (9-2) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 3 p.m.; Mainstay Independence Bowl, Iowa State (7-4) vs. Alabama (6-5) 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 28 - Galleryfurniture.com Bowl, Texas A&M (7-4) vs. TCU (6-5), 12:30 p.m.; Culligan Holiday Bowl, Texas (10-2) vs. Washington (8-3), 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 29 - Motor City Bowl, Toledo (9-2) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 11 a.m.; Sylvania Alamo Bowl, Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Iowa (6-5), 2:30 p.m.; Insight.com Bowl, Kansas State (6-5) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl, La. Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 11:30 a.m.; Wells Fargo Sun Bowl, Purdue (6-5) vs. Washington State (9-5), 1 p.m.; Silicon Valley Classic, Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 2 p.m.; AXA Liberty Bowl, Louisville (10-2) vs. Brigham Young (12-1), 3 p.m.; Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, North Carolina (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-4), 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 1 - SBC Cotton Bowl, Arkansas (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 10 a.m.; Outback Bowl, Ohio State (7-4) vs. South Carolina (8-3), 10 a.m.; Toyota Gator Bowl, Florida State (7-4) vs. Virginia Tech (8-3), 11:30 a.m.; Capital One Florida Citrus Bowl, Michigan (8-3) vs. Tennessee (10-2), Noon; Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 3:30 p.m.; Nokia Sugar Bowl, Illinois (10-1) vs. LSU (9-3), 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 2 - FedEx Orange Bowl, Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 7 p.m.

Jan. 3 - Rose Bowl presented by AT&T, Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1) 7 p.m. (National Championship)

## Commissary News

The Fort Riley Commissary

Christmas holiday schedule is open Sunday and Monday. The Commissary will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, but will reopen Thursday-Dec.30.

The Commissary will be open Monday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for regular shopping. The Commissary is also expanding hours during the holidays. It will open one hour early and close two hours later on Sundays until Christmas. The expanded hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday.

## Self Help

Every unit is required to have an NCO and three school trained members on their Self-Help Team. The Public Works Self-Help School can help units establish a good Self-Help Program. The course is scheduled every month. The next class is Jan. 7-11. For information, visit the PW web site or call 239-3757.

## Museum Hours

The U. S. Cavalry Museum's hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Until further notice, the museum will be closed on Sunday's. The Fort Riley Regimental Museum (Bldg. 207) remains closed due to exhibit renovation.

Groups interested in arranging tours of Custer House may do so by contacting the Public Affairs Office or by calling the U. S. Cavalry Museum at 239-2737/2743.

## Protestant Women Meet

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is hosting Spring Bible Studies Session Kickoff Jan. 10, at the Morris Hill Chapel, at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Pam Metz. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

## Worship Service

A Protestant Liturgical Worship Service has resumed at St. Mary's Chapel every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. For information, call 239-51313/5711.

## Catholic Soldier Service

Fort Riley is now hosting a new Catholic Soldier Service at 6 p.m. Sunday evenings at Kapaun Chapel Bldg. 7806.

Volunteers are needed to help with the service. For information, call 239-2818/6684.

## Jewish Services Start

Jewish religious services are being held at Normandy Chapel for anyone desiring to attend at 6 p.m. Friday nights.

## Trash Collection

Due to the upcoming holidays, refuse will be collected from residences as follows:

During the week of Christmas—Monday, Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing, Marshall Army Air Field; Tuesday, No pickup due to Christmas; Wednesday, Petersen Heights, Montieth Heights, O'Donnell Heights and Ellis Heights; Thursday, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights; Dec. 28, South Petersen Heights, South Warner Heights, Meade Heights and McClellan Heights. Due to the holiday schedule there will not be any large item pickups scheduled. Have carts at curbside by 7:30 a.m.

During New Year's Week, the schedule is as follows: Dec. 31, Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing, Marshall Army Air Field; Jan. 1, No pickup due to holiday; Jan.

2, Petersen Heights, Montieth Heights, O'Donnell Heights and Ellis Heights; Jan. 3, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights; Jan. 4, South Petersen Heights, South Warner Heights, Meade Heights and McClellan Heights.

## 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 on the circular drive in the front (West) of Public Works, Bldg. 330, Main Post, on a first-come, first-served basis through Tuesday.

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.

## Red Cross Volunteers

The Red Cross will not have a volunteer orientation class in December. The next class is 9 a.m. Jan. 23 in the fourth floor training area at Irwin Army Community Hospital. BAT training is set for Jan. 24 in the same locations from 7:45-11:30 a.m. for information, or to register, call 239-1887.

## CIF Closure

The Central Issue Facility is closed for annual inventory through Jan. 2. Normal business will resume Jan. 3. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Clinic Closure

Irwin Army Community Hospital clinics will be closed Monday. The TRICARE Service Center will also be closed on this day. Emergency Medical Services will be open for patients needing emergency medical care.

## Special Forces

A Special Forces recruiter will visit Fort Riley Jan. 7-10. Briefings will be held at the Post-Reup building on Drum St. Briefing times are 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily. An additional brief is set for 6 p.m. Jan 8 and Jan. 10. PT tests will be conducted at Long track at 7 a.m. Jan. 9-11. Candidates will wear BDUs and running shoes. For information, call SFC Hawkins at (719) 510-4493.

## AFTB Classes

Army Family Team Building marks the seventh anniversary of the program Sunday.

The Army and Fort Riley celebrates the program's success in training thousands of soldiers, reservists, family members, and civilians since the program's initiation in 1994.

AFTB leaders would also like to recognize the achievements of all the volunteers who administer the program.

Here at Fort Riley AFTB has more than 20 active instructors, six master trainers, and two volunteer program managers/instructors.

These volunteers have contributed more than 1,000 hours to the program in 2001 and have trained more than 200 students. Interested in finding out more about AFTB? Join an upcoming classes. For more information or to register for a class, call 239-1366/9435 or email at [dcaarmy-fam@riley.army.mil](mailto:dcaarmy-fam@riley.army.mil).

## AAFES Customer Calls

AAFES Military Star and Exchange Catalog Contact Centers are open 24 hours a day for your convenience during the holidays. The contact centers will close at 6 p.m., Monday and reopen at 3 a.m. Wednesday.

## Employee Recognized

Irwin Army Community Hospital's first award recipient for the WE CARE Role Model was Mark Innes. Col. Arthur P. Wallace, hospital commander of IACH, presented Innes with a commander's coin and a reserved parking space placard Dec. 14. Innes is a locksmith and general maintenance worker for the CUBE corporation at IACH and has worked there since October 1997.

## Holiday Announced

The President has issued an Executive order excusing Federal employees from duty on Dec. 24, except those who cannot be excused for reasons of national security, defense, or other mission essential business. For pay and leave purposes, Dec. 24, will be treated as a holiday.

Employees who are excused from duty Dec. 24 will receive the basic pay they would have received if no Executive order had been issued.

An employee who was previously scheduled to take annual leave on Dec. 24 will not be charged annual leave (or any other form of paid leave or compensatory time off) for that day. (This statement does not necessarily apply to employees who receive annual premium pay for standby duty under 5 U.S.C. 5545(c)(1) or to firefighters who are covered by the special pay provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5545b.)

Consistent with mission requirements and supervisory approval, employees previously scheduled to take annual leave Dec. 24 may reschedule their

leave to avoid forfeiture at the end of the leave year.

As an alternative, employees may donate leave in accordance with the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.

Employees who are required to work nonovertime hours on Dec. 24 will be entitled to holiday premium pay under 5 U.S.C. 5546(b).

## Unit mail Course

The Postal Operations Center will conduct the next Unit Mail Service Training Course on Jan. 18 and Jan. 30, at the Digital Training Center, Bldg. 7285. Class hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Enrollment is required. For information, call 239-5411.

## Deer Hunting

Hunters will be restricted from using centerfire rifles in a portion of Fort Riley's Deer Management Area 3 from Thursday-Dec. 29 due to military training.

Deer hunters will be limited to

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## Ring in New Year at Fort Riley

New Year's Eve Parties for all ages will be offered in four settings on Fort Riley, Dec. 31.

Sports U.S.A. will feature its "New Year's Eve Bash 2002," from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Entertainment will include food, games, dancing, party bag, complimentary champagne and breakfast buffet. Tickets at the door will be \$5 and an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be served for \$3.95. Information is available by calling 784-5434. Party Shuttle Bus Service will be provided.

Custer Hill Lanes will continue its popular New Year's Eve bowling tradition for 2002 with its party set for 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Entertainment will include unlimited lineage, Xtreme bowling, live DJ entertainment, special contests and prizes galore, party favors, complimentary champagne and breakfast buffet. Tickets are \$50 per lane, up to six bowlers per lane with 40 lanes available. Early reservations for the Custer Hill Lanes New Year's Eve event are encouraged by stopping by the bowling center or calling 239-4366.

For the first time, Riley's Conference Center will host the annual Celebrate Sober New Year's Eve party, welcoming 2002 in an "alcohol-free, family setting." The party is planned

from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and features children's games, amusement machines, treasure chest, Live DJ music, Karaoke, food, a Mystery Grand Prize Tour and balloon drop. Tickets are \$5 for singles and \$10 for families. Information and reservations are available by calling 239-5614.

Finally, the Child and Youth Services Teen Center will ring in the new year with a party and lock-in from 8 p.m. New Year's Eve to 6 a.m. the following day. Entertainment will include a live DJ, dance, games, prizes and balloon drop. Information on the Teen Center party is available by calling 239-9222.

Garrison Commander speaks . . .

Holiday season a time for reflection, focus

The holidays and approaching New Year give us time to reflect on the past and look to the future. It's time to spend with family and friends, if not in person then in thought and spirit. The holiday season is also a time to say thanks for many of the things we take for granted throughout the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the commitment you have made to serve the Army and our country.

The events of Sept. 11 have changed the world and our role in it. We do not know what missions we may be called on to support but we must be trained and ready. The garrison continues to be prepared to support you and your families to maintain your family readiness posture.

Environmental stewardship is an area where we have been very successful over the last year.

The Environmental Compliance Assessment Survey Team found no deficiencies related to how our troop units conduct their business. Thank you for your continued vigilance to sustain this wonderful place we have to train

and work. I would also like to thank each of you for your support of our MWR activities.

Our focus is on you, the soldiers and families of Fort Riley. Your well-being is directly related to readiness. We will continue to

Townhall Message:

By Col. Philip Pope Garrison Commander

work hard at providing a quality service at a reasonable cost. We ask you for your support of those activities and feedback on how to make them better.

In the last month we have added to our website a mechanism that makes it simple to tell us what you think of our services. I encourage each of you to go to the Fort Riley Home page and provide your comments by clicking on the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) icon at the bottom left side of the main page. We want to hear from you and I

assure you we will address your comments.

To ensure you have all the items you need for your holiday festivities, both the PX and Commissary have extended hours over the holiday season. Both offer great deals for you and are running promotions that offer increased discounts.

Remember that a percentage of the profits from AAFES activities go back into the installation's MWR fund thereby serving you a second time.

Fort Riley has not lost a soldier in a POV accident in 162 days. Because you are important to us, we want to continue adding to those days.

The two major causes of traffic fatalities are fatigue and DUI. Ensure you get plenty of sleep prior to a long trip. Leave early enough to get home at a reasonable hour, take a break or have someone relieve you on long driving trips. By all means, don't drink and drive.

As you plan your holiday celebrations, remember to be courteous of your neighbors. Also be

aware of any fire and safety hazards particularly with Christmas tree lighting and unattended cooking. If you are leaving for the holidays, set your thermostat at 55 degrees, put your house on the MP checklist and ask a neighbor to check on your quarters to ensure the heat remains on and nothing is disturbed.

It is also important that everyone does his or her part to keep our utility cost as low as possible. The recommended setting for thermostats both at home and at work is 68-70 degrees.

We are also offering a variety of New Year's Eve celebrations at several of our facilities this year. I'm sure you will find something to fit your needs. If you want more information call the DCA at 239-3467.

If your party plans include alcohol, assign a designated driver before you start. The MPs provide a free ride home from anywhere on post, call 239-6767.

The garrison staff wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and best wishes for the coming new year.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

He grins from ear to ear as he timidly approaches the jolly old man with the hearty laugh. Santa smiles as he lifts the enthusiastic seven year-old onto his lap. "What do you want for Christmas," Santa asks.

Their eyes meet, the boy speaks not a word and yet there is total understanding, Santa replies "that is a great idea".

In our world of words so many children struggle with daily tasks.

Many watch from the outside as other children share their dreams with Santa. Yet this Santa and so many other individuals in the room are able to communicate without a word.

Laughter fills the air as pizza and chocolate smeared faces eagerly watch balloons transform into flowers, dogs, apples and hats.

Families, friends and Christmas — nothing special about this party and yet there is something definitely inspiring about each smile and each conversation.

Why are they cheering as the nine-year-old sings "We wish you a Merry Christmas"? Why is his mother wiping tears away?

Gifts come in amazing packages. The families within this room truly understand that all children are gifted. They cherish each day they discover ways to open these precious gifts, which are wrapped differently.

That simple song was the first song the precious nine-year-old had ever sang.

Through generous donations from community partners, Santa's elves at Families Together, Inc. were able to provide this unique opportunity for families which include a child with special needs.

There were no disabilities or special needs Saturday, only families and friends.

For many children, this was their first opportunity to sit on Santa's lap.

Such a small gesture for so many children, and yet a miracle for others.

Due to disabilities ranging from autism to traumatic brain injury, visiting a mall or shopping center Santa is not a pleasant experience for some children.

In their own special way, each family at this "Special Party" celebrates the gift of a smile, a word, a step and even a hug. These simple gifts are true victories for these families.

Parents watch as their sons and daughters unwrap gifts. For some these will be the only gifts they open this Christmas. The children grin as they reach into their family bag and pull out a gift for their parents.

The Families Together, KC Team would like to extend a special thank you to Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus. Their donation of toys helped make the celebration a success.

Saturday was a miracle in so many ways made possible by a community, which truly believes in all children.

There are many wonderful individuals within our state who have enabled others to share in and support the vision of real life inclusion of all individuals within our schools and communities.

Each day, with continued partnerships we discover the treasure within all children.

Leia Holley Center Coordinator KC Office Families Together, Inc.

Secretary of Defense sends holiday message

This holiday season, families all across the America will gather with neighbors and friends to rekindle old friendships, revive honored traditions, and renew the hope and love that is part of the season.

And as they do, their thoughts and prayers will naturally turn to you, the men and women whose mission it is to defend peace and freedom - especially now when they are under such unprecedented attack.

As America's Armed Forces, you are the sharp sword of Freedom. You fight without complaint on foreign seas, in dangerous skies,

and on hostile lands.

You voluntarily put your lives at risk, and sacrifice your comfort and the comfort of your families, so all of our fellow citizens can enjoy the blessings and benefits of liberty.

It is a sacrifice made even more precious by the fact that you render it so willingly.

In describing the "citizen soldiers" of an earlier era, historian Stephen Ambrose wrote, "At the core ... (they) knew the difference between right and wrong, and were unwilling to live in a world in which evil triumphed. So they fought and they won, and we - and those

yet to be born - are eternally grateful."

Like those heroes of an earlier era, you too stand against evil - the shadowy evil of terrorism. And like them, you also will be victorious. Of that, there is no doubt.

So as the stars of the winter sky shine brightly, and the prayers of people everywhere who long for peace look up to meet them, know that the hearts and prayers of Americans are with you. We salute your courage, we appreciate your sacrifice, and we pray each day for your success.

Donald H. Rumsfeld

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# KSU ROTC among best

From K-State

MANHATTAN—Kansas State University's military science department/Army ROTC program has earned national ranking among the top 20 percent of such programs in the nation.

According to military science department head Lt. Col. Arthur DeGroat, "Every few years every one of the nation's 270 Army ROTC programs is evaluated by the United States Army for mission performance and quality of Army officers produced.

This year K-State's 'Wildcat Battalion' has earned the highest ranking in its history. We are ranked 43rd in the nation out of 270 universities and colleges. We are also one of the few land grant programs in the top 20 percent."

The ranking at No. 43 made K-State's Army ROTC program

the most highly rated Army ROTC program in Kansas.

"As a result of our unprecedented success, the United States Army Cadet Command, our higher headquarters, has increased the number of federal scholarships that we are allocated for future enrollments," DeGroat said.

He said K-State also will receive more funding for cadets to attend national leadership seminars and leader development opportunities.

"We are very proud of what we have done for our university," DeGroat said, "and attribute our success to the many University, community and Fort Riley leaders who have helped us re-build our leader development program to this level of performance. Our student-cadets also deserve recognition for their individual accomplishments that enabled this significant outcome."

# Live Fire

continued from page 1

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operation here, in combat or at NTC," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said that the conditions the units train mirrored NTC's training area with a lack of restrictions on where the units could move.

"When they are at red-tight all they needed was positive identification and they could strike," said Fazio. During the exercise the

platoons were either at the red-tight condition, red-hold which meant they had to ask for permission to fire or green-clear which meant they had to place their weapon on safe and lock their bolts to the rear.

"It is nice to have free rein and be open to using the whole battlefield," said Lewis. "It's how it is supposed to be done."

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# Realignment

continued from page 1

goal, he said, was to realize efficiencies.

The centralized installation management could yield economies of mass for base utilities, housing and other functions, officials said.

The realignment plan was based on a four-month study, White said, and is part of the larger Army Transformation that began in 1999.

"No successful corporate headquarters in the world today is organized the way we are in headquarters, Department of the Army," White said when he initiated the review in late June. "We currently have two separate staffs, often performing some of the same or similar functions."

Under the realignment plan, the Secretariat and Army Staff organizations will function as a unified staff in executing Army policy, planning and resource management responsibilities, while maintaining their separate and discrete identities as required by Title 10.

"We have stopped short" of physically combining the ARSTAFF and Secretariat, White said.

A part of the realignment, though, will be the formation of an Army Executive Office, consisting of the secretary of the Army, under secretary of the Army, chief of staff of the Army and vice chief of staff of the Army. That office will eliminate two separate decision-making channels, according to the plan.

The realignment will also more fully integrate the Army National Guard and Army Reserve into key positions of authority to better accommodate key issues and concerns of all components with a single integrated staff, officials said.

"We are one Army today,"

White said, adding that 18,000 reserve-component soldiers are mobilized "doing everything from homeland security to deployed in CENTCOM," referring to the U.S. Central Command, responsible for waging the war on terrorists in Afghanistan.

The realignment will begin this month and actually be implemented next summer, White said. The U.S. Army Audit Agency will monitor the implementation and account for alignment resources.

A task force consisting of about 30 senior civilian and military members conducted the study. They were tasked to examine all aspects of HQDA functions, to include: acquisition, headquarters management, human resources, information management, logistics, installation and facilities management, operations, training, intelligence, requirements development, resource management, external affairs and civil works.

Specifically, the task force was to recommend staff realignments to enhance effectiveness by more assigning responsibility and authority within functional areas more judiciously; eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort; optimizing the use of technology; and incorporating better business practices and organizational concepts that have proven successful in major corporations where appropriate, said officials.

The resulting streamlined Secretariat staff will retain responsibility for formulating policy and providing strategic direction, as well as overseeing the execution of Army plans and programs. The Army Staff will continue to prepare plans, supervise their execution and coordinate activities Army-wide in support of Title 10 functions and combatant command missions.

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# Fort Riley Sports

December 21, 2001

News about Fort Riley Sports, Fitness and Pastimes

Page 7

## Guard soldiers ensure safety

By Thomas Kielbasa

Army News Service

When soldiers from the Florida National Guard go to the 2002 Winter Olympics they won't be seeking gold or silver medals. Instead, they'll be searching for bombs.

Members of the 221st Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit based at the Camp Blanding Training Site in Florida will deploy to the Olympics in Salt Lake City early next year, officials said.

They said the EOD soldiers will be working with local and national law enforcement agencies to search for explosives during the games.

"This is a big step for the National Guard community as far as working side-by-side with active components in a security setting like this," said SSgt. Michael Morgan, one of the team leaders for the 221st.

The majority of the 22-person unit will deploy shortly before the games and join other Guard EOD teams in Alabama before traveling to Utah.

Taking basic search tools and personal protective gear, the ordnance experts will work in two-person teams at Olympic sites providing bomb threat management support and looking for deadly explosive devices at the venues.

If a bomb is found, the teams will secure the area, assess the situation, and follow guidance of federal law enforcement officials - guidance that could include disposal or "neutralization" of an explosive device, Morgan said.

SFC James Kendrick of the 221st explained his unit is "highly motivated" to support security operations at the Winter Olympics, especially since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"They are looking at 70,000 spectators on the ground every day, 15,000 accredited media personnel covering the events, and a television audience of about 3 billion," Kendrick said. "So you know that makes it a prime target for international or domestic terrorism."

Kendrick said the EOD guard members are always ready for missions like this; they are trained in searching vehicles and buildings, x-ray inspections, ordnance and fuse identification, biochemical and nuclear incident response, using remote robots to explode or secure bombs, or disarming explosive devices by hand.

One of the most deadly factors of the EOD mission is dealing with homemade explosives, Kendrick said, similar to the kind detonated in Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 summer games in Atlanta.

"If you're talking about military ordnance, it usually functions according to a set design or pattern," Kendrick explained. "But if you're talking about improvised devices, the device or how complicated it can be is only limited by the imagination of the builder."

"So you are dealing with a human element also, and you

See Olympics Page 8



Post/Doheny

Donovan Udell practices on his game at King Field House. Udell said he has been playing basketball for most of his life. He also said he loves the feeling of making a shot when someone is covering him. King Field House is hosting the finals of the holiday tournament today, starting at 1:30 p.m.

# Hoop Dreams

By Kevin Doheny

Sports Editor

Some people grew up idolizing professionals trying to become the next Michael Jordan or Kobe Bryant.

As kids they would be at the court all day trying to perfect their game. Spending all their weeknights and weekends at the court, so the next time their friends got together, they would be able to show them up.

As they grew up, their physical abilities would grow and they would be able to do things they weren't able to do before.

"I love the game because it is a release for me," said Marques Wilson, Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor. "Not only is it a release for me it is also a game in which I can still improve and continue to do so."

Just like most sports, basketball players usually start out at a young age and continue to play until they physically can't anymore.

"I have been playing ball since I've been walking," said Donovan Udell. "I like the rush the game gives me. It helps me free my mind."

Also, some players believe playing the game helps them in their daily lives to help fight stress and other trouble in their lives.

"Everybody has their own reasons for playing the game," said Wilson. "Mine is to release my anger and bring it out on the court."

"After a hard day of work, I love to come to the gym and play," said Udell. "When I'm playing ball, I forget about what happened during the day."

Playing basketball also gives people the chance to "trash talk" and get into their opponents face and show them up.

"There isn't a better feeling than to steal the ball from your opponent, or hitting a three pointer in someone's face," said Wilson. "I know when the ball leaves my fingers if it is in or not. When I know it's good, I don't even watch it into the hoop."

"Even though basketball is a team sport, the game has its individual match-ups and that's why there is so much trash talking. There is something about hitting a shot in someone's face while they are trying to guard you."

There are two major types of basketball in which most people play, street ball and organized.

"I like street ball better because of the trash talking and the purity of the sport," said Wilson. "Street ball to me is just more fun to play because I can be myself."

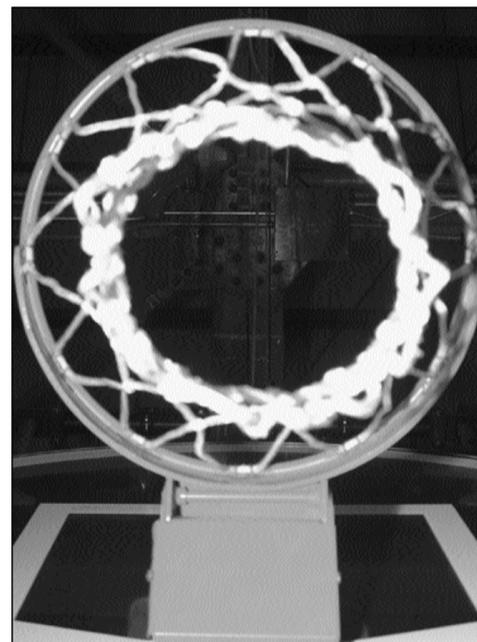
"Basketball is a team game because in most cases one guy can't win the game by himself," said Udell. "If your not feeling hot one day, your teammates can pick up the slack."

"Basketball is a great sport because, everyone who plays can express themselves in their own way," Wilson said. "Some play for money, some play for fun, but everybody has one thing in common; and that's the love for the game. The level of love is based on the certain individual."

Whether it is money or fun, basketball continues to gain popularity in not only the United States, but also around the world.

Every year American colleges and universities, along with professional basketball travel the far reaches of the planet to showcase the game, which is loved by many here in the U.S.

For some when they step out on the court, they are living their own personal "Hoop Dream."



Post/Doheny

Basketball is played by many. Some say it is the love of the game, that makes it so popular.

## Commentary

# Wildcats took fans on wild ride, now look ahead to Orangemen

By Kevin Doheny

Sports Editor

It was Oct. 20, and the Kansas State Wildcats were 2-4.

They had just lost their fourth game in a row to an average Texas A&M Aggie football team at Wagner Field.

It was an end of a stretch of games, where the biggest margin of loss for the Wildcats in their four losses, was nine points.

Fans in Manhattan had their heads down, hoping and praying the Wildcats

could possibly turn their season around and make a run at the postseason and a bowl game.

Then, something suddenly happened. The schedule got much easier.

The Wildcats had just what they needed to turn around their season.

The remedy was archrival Kansas Jayhawks. The Wildcats trounced all over the Jayhawks, 40-6, and were suddenly only one game below .500 for the season.

The win boosted a team, which had lost four tough, hard fought ball games, which included a one-point loss to then

#3 Oklahoma in Norman.

After embarrassing the Jayhawks, the Wildcats had to travel to Ames and play the Iowa State Cyclones. The Cyclones were no pushover anymore, as they used to be. The Wildcats once again battled their way back into bowl bid eligibility with an impressive 42-3 victory over the Cyclones. Bill Snyder had his team firing on all cylinders.

Next, after destroying Iowa State the Wildcats had a chance to play spoilers. They had a chance to shock the country by walking into Lincoln and beating the

Nebraska Cornhuskers. They fought valiantly, but the Cornhuskers just had too much firepower, and the Wildcats lost 31-21 to the "Big Red."

At 4-5, the picture was clear for Snyder's Wildcats. They had to win the final two games and become bowl eligible.

Just as Snyder has done his whole tenure at K-State, he won. His team beat Louisiana Tech, 40-7, and Missouri, 24-3.

All the "Manhattanites" had to do was wait and see what bowl game they would play in.

So it's set. The game: Insight.com Bowl; the team: the Syracuse Orangemen.

Snyder knows his opponent for his ninth straight bowl game, and he can make adjustments for the Orangemen.

Even though K-State struggled coming into the bowl season, the offense scored 64 points in the final two games, while the defense only gave up 10.

The offense's number one problem is finding a way to block All-American

See Bowl Game Page 8



# Bowl Game continued from page 7

Dwight Freney. Freney led the Orangemen with 17.5 sacks this season and even collected attention in Heisman Trophy voting.

The Orangemen come into the game winning nine of its last 10 games. Their only loss during the stretch was to Rose Bowl-bound Miami Hurricanes.

The Orangemen are led on offense by quarterback R.J. Anderson, and sensational running back James Mungro, who rushed for over 1,700 yards this season.

Their defense, which is led by Freney, is prone to give up big games on the ground. Boston College's William Green and Miami's Clinton Porter ran

wild over the Orangemen defense.

This means K-State must continue to run the football with senior Josh Scobey and also utilize the legs of Ell Roberson.

The Wildcat defense must be able to stop the multi-talented Syracuse offense. Mungro and Anderson can both do it on the ground, plus the Orangemen are

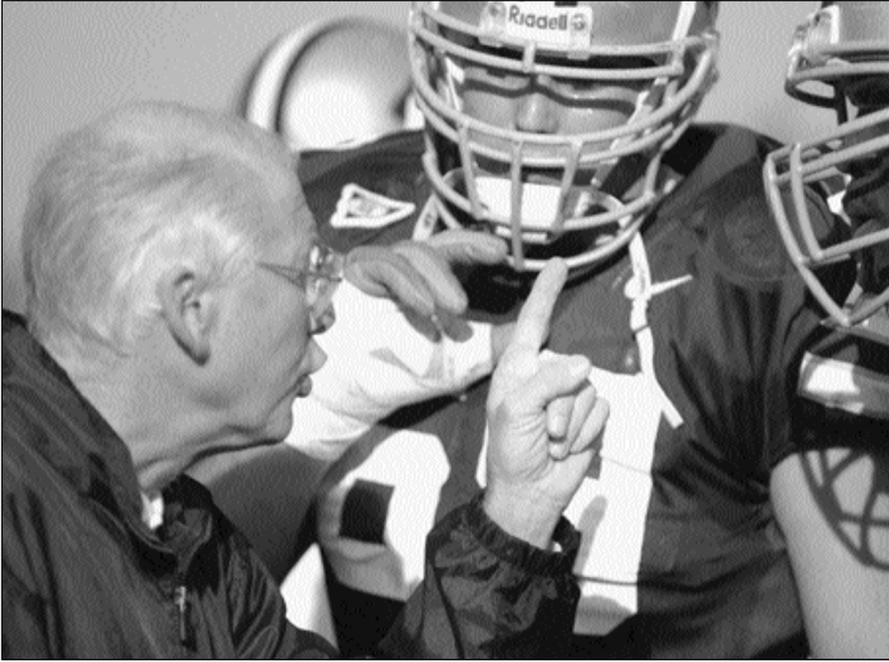
always looking for the big play down the field.

So, Phoenix is the place where the Wildcats and Orangemen will do battle. While both teams struggled early, only to see themselves comeback from early season troubles, these are two totally different football teams.

The kick-off is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Dec. 29.

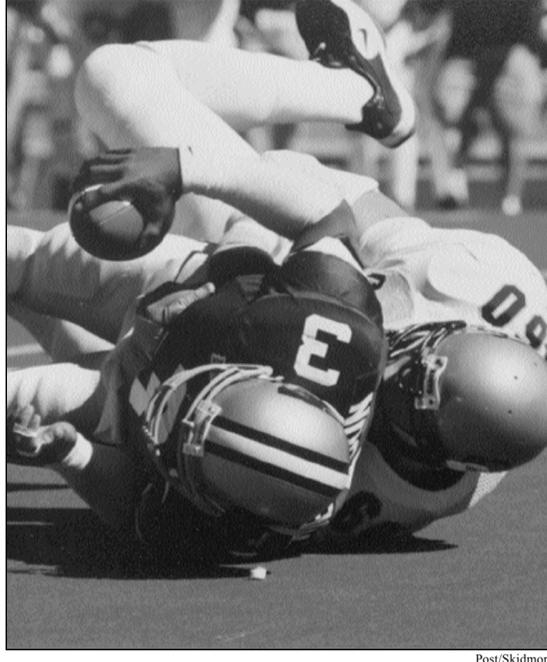
The Wildcats get a chance to revive a season, which had its ups and downs.

This classic battle of team speed on both sides the ball, has a chance to be one of the better bowl matchups in the post-season. Only time will tell.



Post/Skidmore

Wildcat Head Coach Bill Snyder gets in the face of two of his offensive linemen. Snyder had to do more coaching this year than in years past. After the bad start, he rallied his team for a spot in the Insight.com Bowl. The Wildcats will play the Syracuse Orangemen, which also turned their season around after a bad start.



Post/Skidmore

Ell Roberson is wrapped up by a Colorado Buffalo defender during KSU's loss at Wagner Field Oct. 6. The Wildcats responded well at the end of the season to make their ninth straight bowl appearance. Snyder will have his hands full with the Orangemen's balanced attack.

### TEAM STATISTICAL COMPARISON

**Total Offense:**  
KSU- 393.8  
SU- 328.3

**Passing Yards:**  
KSU- 136.1  
SU- 154.8

**Passing completion %:**  
KSU- 44  
SU- 52.2

**Completions:**  
KSU- 110  
SU- 130

**Attempts:**  
KSU- 250  
SU- 249

**Scoring Offense:**  
KSU- 29.7  
SU- 25.7

**Scoring Defense:**  
KSU- 16.3  
SU- 20.3

**Rushing Yards:**  
KSU- 257.7  
SU- 173.6

# Olympics continued from page 7

never know how that person intends (for the bomb to detonate)," he said. "... But this can get dangerous any time you are dealing with explosives."

Kendrick and Morgan both said the intensity of their military EOD training, which includes a 24-week school at Eglin Air Force Base, often prepares them better to handle situations involving bombs than many in law enforcement.

"Actually our skills exceed - in most cases or in all cases - those of the FBI and the Secret Service," Morgan said. "We often get more in-depth training than your civilian law enforcement agencies get. We have actually gone out and given talks to schoolteachers and principals on bomb-threat management. We give Camp Blanding their bomb-threat management classes. We get called

upon pretty regularly to give talks on the EOD community."

The 221st was one of five EOD companies organized by the Army National Guard during the 1980s.

Its previous missions have included Operation Desert Storm and EOD support during the Panama Canal transfer in 1999.

"Everybody here is excited about the mission," Capt. Charlie Van Zant, commander of the 221st EOD, said. "This is a first for not only the Florida National Guard, but also the National Guard in general to work in support of the Secret Service... I think this speaks well of the National Guard that people look at us with that kind of confidence to support and care for the safety and public welfare of all the athletes, coaches and spectators at the Olympics. We have been given a great privilege."

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interest rates

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RED/Countdown



# Fort Riley Community

December 21, 2001

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Page 9

## Operation Santa begins distribution of holiday toys

By Lillian Flegle

Contributing Writer

Currently, Operation Santa Claus toys are being delivered so that children throughout the Fort Riley and surrounding communities have an enjoyable holiday.

Delivery takes several forms — from units picking up loads of toys to shipping them by mail. According to MSgt. Mike Hitzges, senior elf of OSC, Fort Riley battalions pick up conex boxes filled with gift-wrapped presents labeled with the names of children of Fort Riley soldiers facing hard times this Christmas.

"We support every military unit or

agency on post," explained Hitzges. "That includes tenant units like the Air Force, DPW, AAFES and others. We label the presents with each child's name that comes to us."

### Operation Santa

Charlie Quick, project coordinator for OSC, said that once soldiers' families are remembered with gifts, Operation Santa Claus reaches out to the local communities and organizations as well.

"We take care of the on-post families through the unit commanders and first

sergeants," Quick explained. "We then go through the civilian agencies off-post to support children in the community. We use the agencies because we don't have the resources or manpower to deliver to each civilian family," Quick added.

Quick said that when possible, OSC delivers loads of toys to local agencies, and for long-distance deliveries, some companies having bulk mailing rates, ship OSC donations at the company's expense.

"We receive support in a lot of different ways," Quick stated. "Local companies sometimes ship boxes of toys by using their bulk mailing rate."

According to Quick, the most notable

delivery of the season is to the three local hospitals on Christmas Day. This includes Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Geary Community Hospital in Junction City and Mercy Hospital in Manhattan.

"MSgt. Hitzges and his elves visit children in the emergency rooms and in the wards on Christmas Day," Quick stated. "Operation Santa Claus also remembers new mothers on Christmas Day by presenting them and their newborns with a 2001 teddy bear," he added.

"New soldiers arriving at Fort Riley with 'hold baggage' or whose personal belongings have been put in storage need to be remembered during the holidays too,"

Quick said. "You can't forget families whose soldier spouse is PCSed overseas. They face tough times too," Quick explained.

"All these families are taken care of by their soldier's unit and battalion," he added. "That's what makes these pick ups by the battalions so important."

According to Hitzges, civilian organizations such as the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Families Together, Kansas City Chapter and Big Brothers/Big Sisters pick up toy donations from OSC.

Melissa Smith, activities coordinator

See Op Santa Page 12

## Support flows into Pentagon in many forms

By Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON—In the wake of the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, support has streamed into the Pentagon in the form of money, sympathetic messages and patriotic signs.

A check for more than \$177,000 was presented to Army Secretary Thomas White from the Office of the Chief of Chaplains to be given to the Pentagon Relief Fund. The money was collected from chapels Armywide through a designated relief fund offering.

Congregations who did not have an agency preference like Red Cross, United Way or Salvation Army sent their designated offerings directly to the Chief of Chaplains to be forwarded to a fund set up to care for Pentagon victims, said Chaplain (Col.) Donald Hanchett, the information resource manager and logistics director for the Office of Chief of Chaplains.

The funds were sent from U.S. Army Europe, Forces Command, U.S. Army Pacific, Training and Doctrine Command, Medical Command, United States Military Academy, Army Test and Evaluation Command and U.S. Forces Korea.

"These funds are an addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars that have already been designated to a variety of relief organizations," Hill said. "These contributions and the prayers of many are intended to help strengthen hope, restore confidence and minister to those in need."

The formal presentation of the check was Nov. 1 in the Presidential Towers, Arlington, Va., as a visible example of how members of Army chapel congregations are joining others in reaching out to the victims of the attack, Hill said.

Military personnel and their family members are not the only ones showing support.

Hanging on one of the Pentagon's walls in a tiny, red, white and blue star are the words, "I hate what mean people did to the Pentagon. I'm sorry for your losses," read a message from an 11-year-old from Coos County, Ore.

From pre-school to high school and the Pacific to the Atlantic, notes from almost every part of the country have been flowing in to support the personnel at the military's headquarters.

A 600-foot lei with a different message on each of its 6,000 flowers was sent by family members from the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. People who usually took long strides throughout the Pentagon corridors to make it to their destination are now taking time to pause and read consoling words from the nation's youth.

These messages have not only grabbed the attention of workers but also visitors to the Pentagon. President George Bush and Katie Harman, Miss America 2002, have also stared in awe at the creative handiwork.

Teenagers at Columbine High School, Colo., who are still dealing with their own grief, are among the thousands of students who have shown support to the military.

"For so long you have supported the nation, now let us support you," one message from Columbine read.

"Sept. 11 hit close to home for many of us here at Columbine. We know what it's like for the country to stop their daily lives to focus on your tragedy. ... When tragedy hits home, differences are put aside and people are unified," wrote one Columbine survivor, Craig Scott.



Post/Vanover

Spec. Jerome Eckelburger of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, scouts the shelves at K-Mart in Manhattan looking for new toys for Operation Santa Claus Dec. 13.

## Santa buys loads of toys

By Lillian Flegle

Contributing Writer

"Anytime you want to hand me a couple thousand dollars and tell me to go spend money in a toy section—and then—I don't have to foot the bill or unload the car, I'm there!" said Barbara Hearron, wife of CSM Richard Hearron, 24th Infantry Division command sergeant major.

That's exactly what happened when soldiers from Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus program invited three guests from the post to accompany them on a shopping spree at the Wal-Mart Super Center in Junction City on Dec. 12.

OSC spent \$5,600 filling 20 carts with approximately 500 children's toys. Pam Metz, wife of Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, helped with the shopping spree. She and Hearron joined Sue Hopkins, wife of CSM Nathaniel Hopkins, 3rd Brigade command sergeant major, in the holiday event. With elves in tow, the trio selected Christmas presents for children

from birth to 14.

"Currently we have plenty of toys for the 3 to 5 and 6 to 9-year-old age groups," said MSgt. Mike Hitzges, senior elf for OSC. "The ladies will choose gifts for the other ages. Each gift can cost up to \$15."

Metz said that because she's a teacher, she chose educational toys like games such as Scrabble.

### Operation Santa

"I bought for the 10-11-year-old boys and girls," Metz said.

Sgt. Joseph Law, soldier elf from 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, assisted Hearron with shopping for boys and girls 12-14 years old.

"I expected a mad house and imagined we'd be running down aisles, throwing things in the cart—but it didn't work like that," Law explained.

Law said that Hearron had a plan for the toy shopping. "She was fast, knew what to get and where to go," he said. "My job was to calculate prices. They gave me a limit."

Hearron explained that she's been on these OSC shopping sprees for the past four years.

"I had the 12-14 age group for boys and girls," said Hearron. "I had some really great elves helping me. It's amazing to see these young men who would pick up a gift and say, 'Whoa! A 12-year-old girl would love this!' We got a lot of sporting equipment and electronic gizmos."

Hopkins said she was excited about being asked to shop for children's toys for Operation Santa Claus. She said she found it very challenging at first. She selected toys for children ages birth to two years old.

"I was elated to come out today and help," Hopkins said. "With the \$1,500 I spent, we were able to reach out to so many kids, and I would love to see their faces on Christmas morning."

According to Hopkins, her soldier elves were a tremendous help in choosing gifts.

"The elves working with us were fantastic!" Hopkins added.

See Toys Page 12

## Christmas Chapel Services

Saturday

Catholic Mass, St. Mary's Chapel

Sunday

Protestant Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Liturgical Service, St. Mary's Chapel

9:30 a.m. Kapaun Chapel (Baptist)

10:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel

11 a.m. Morris Hill Chapel (Gospel)

11 a.m. Normandy Chapel (Contemporary)

Catholic Masses

8 a.m. Communion Service, Hospital Chapel

9:15 a.m. Mass/CCD, Morris Hill Chapel

11 a.m. Mass, St. Mary's Chapel

6 p.m. Catholic Soldiers, Kapaun Chapel

Monday Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Children's Mass, Morris Hill Chapel

7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, Main Post Chapel

10 p.m. Catholic Mass, Morris Hill Chapel

Tuesday Christmas Day

11 a.m. Catholic Mass, St. Mary's Chapel

Dec. 31

8:30 p.m. Gospel Service, Morris Hill, "Watchnight Service"

## Exceptional children celebrate Christmas

By Jeremy Heckler

19th Public Affairs Det.

Christmas came early to exceptional family members during the Exceptional Family Member Program Christmas Party held Dec. 5 at Riley's Conference Center.

Over 100 children came for food, crafts and a visit from Santa Claus.

"The exceptional family member program helps families who have any type of special need by providing resources and a support system to help military families to do well," said Laurie McCauley, program coordinator.

"The EFMP program here really influenced our decision on coming here," said Maj. Tom Wilson, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support). "We talked to Laurie and found out what school our children would be going to and she told us about the surrounding areas."

Wilson said when he and his wife were planning their move from Fort Bliss, Texas, he contacted the EFMP office there. They put him in touch with Fort Riley who provided numbers for housing, local doctors and doctors in Kansas City.

The main gathering time for EFMP families as a group is

Christmas.

"Everyone looks forward to the Christmas Party," said Brandy Riggs, a parent volunteer for the event. "It's a fun time for all the kids and gives them an opportunity to get a gift before Christmas."

She said each year is different. Last year, the kids went to Marshall Army Air Field and were able to see one of the UH-60 Blackhawks of the 82nd Medical Company.

This year, the children made a variety of Christmas ornaments and other crafts.

"We made stick reindeers and wreaths on plates," said Mark Madsen, 14.

Parents have a variety of reasons for enjoying the party.

"The best part is that you can bring your child here, let them play and no one will judge them for the disability they have," said Riggs.

"This is a good setting for kids that is safe and gives them the opportunity to get out and meet people," said Christi Lilienkamp, who brought her two children to the event.

"This makes the kids feel special because sometimes they are excluded from other events

See EFMP Page 12



Post/McCauley

Catie Green spends time with Santa at the Exceptional Family Member Program Christmas Party. Children all received toys from Fort Riley's Operation Santa.

# Postal workers deliver holiday cheer

By **Jeremy Heckler**  
19th Public Affairs Det.

Each year, families eagerly await the appearance of the postman, whose truck is filled with cards, letters, gifts and other goodies sent especially for the holidays.

For the postman and the postal workers at the post office it is a non-stop battle to ensure all of these holiday parcels reach their destinations before Christmas Day.

With only four days left until

Christmas, most of the cards and letters sent today will not reach their destination in time.

"This week has been a busy time on parcel post mail," said Mark Roeser, Fort Riley Post Office's acting branch manager. "Right now there is a lot of mail in the system both parcels and letters."

Roeser said the average letter is delivered within the United States in about three days.

"If you haven't mailed by Friday then you need to go Express Mail and it will probably get there

before Christmas but don't take that chance," said Roeser.

Each day the line of those who wish to mail packages snakes its way out the door as clerks process their mail.

"The people who come in are very friendly and understanding of the long lines," said Alma Sigurany, postal clerk. Sigurany said that when the lines start getting long she moves out into the lines to help customers get through faster.

"I just grab supplies and ask the customers if they need priority and put tape on so all that they need to do is to put the package on the scale and go," said Sigurany.

Each morning before many rise for work, the first postal employees drive into the Post Office parking lot to begin sorting the mail. During the holiday season the number of employees working increases to meet demand.

"At about four in the morning we have our clerks come in as well as some substitute carriers come in," said Roeser. He said on Monday they brought in 20 bulk mail containers full of parcels.

"Basically it's a long day," said Sigurany. "You don't have a lot of extra Christmas help and you need to work harder and faster."

Each year a new and more original group of packages winds its way through the system.

"There are a lot of original people out there," said Sigurany. "One person sent out coolers of fish and another one sent out a live gecko Express Mail."

Clerks take the containers and

begin sorting them by route. Mail carriers place them in their carts for distribution.

"During the course of the week we may have the amount of packages drop off a bit but the amount of letters starts picking up," said Roeser.

Once the mail is put into trucks, mail carriers work to get the packages, letters and cards out along their routes.

"There a lot of times when we have to work after dark or later and even though it can be difficult and dangerous we'll keep going to get the job done," said Roeser. He said that they try to get done by six in the evening.

"Every year you get mountains of packages," said Frank Butler, a Fort Riley mail carrier. "We usually try to get all of our mail out, then come back and get what's left."

"There a lot of people glad to see me," said Rivera. "When I drop off their packages a lot of them say, 'I was looking for that,' or will sometimes give out cookies which is really nice at the end of a long day."

For all of the long hours and hard work involved, most of the postal workers enjoy the holiday season.

"I love Christmas," said Sigurany. "The people are warmer and there is always the aura of well-ness."

"It's nice knowing that I'm bringing Christmas presents to people, especially military servicemembers," said Jennifer Rivera, a Fort Riley mail carrier.



Post/Heckler

Jennifer Rivera, a mail carrier with the Fort Riley Post Office, unloads packages from the loading dock into her vehicle for a long day of deliveries.



Post/Ohmacht

## Spirit of Giving

Gabriel Rivera, 4, carefully folds a jacket his family is donating to the Child Development Center's "Operation Warmth." Each holiday season, the CDC collects new and used children's clothing to give to the local American Red Cross. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 28.

HOUSE ADS  
6 x 13.5"  
Black Only  
AUSA—if possible



# Information, Ticketing and Registration

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.**  
**Universal Orlando**—announces their "Heroes Salute" program for complimentary admission into Universal, Island of Adventure, and Wet 'n Wild on a 4-Day pass valid 7 days from first day of visit.

Family and friends may purchase this ticket at a 50 percent discount. Active duty military personnel may choose free admission on a 1-day, 1-park, 2-day, 2-park or 3-day, 2-park pass. Family and friends may choose one of these passes at a 50 percent discount off the gate admission. These offers are available at the front gate only and for one time only. Active duty military personnel and activated members of the National Guard and Reservists must present a valid and active U.S. military ID or activation

orders to be eligible. Proper credentials must be presented in order to take advantage of all offers.

**Country Stampede**—Have you ever attended a party with thousands of friends, national recording artists, and four days of non-stop music and fun? Country Stampede is a weekend country music and camping festival June 26-30 in Manhattan. The weekend is fun filled and action packed with great performers, fantastic food, colorful crafts, and much, much more! Top performers will include Lonestar, Alan Jackson, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith and more. ITR now taking discount orders now for 1-Day at \$31 and 3-Day for \$36. Gate prices will be \$40 and \$75 respectively

**Bicentennial Center**—The Original "Harlem Globetrotters"

are coming to the Bi-Centennial Center Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. Founded in 1926, the Harlem Globetrotters have played before more than 120 million fans in 115 countries and are known as America's "Ambassadors of Goodwill." A donation for every mile traveled in the U.S. during the upcoming season by the team buses will be contributed to the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund. Tickets are now available through ITR.

**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 Chiefs**—Fort Riley Recognition Day at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday. See the Kansas City Chiefs take on the San Diego Chargers. Special discount-

ed tickets through ITR are \$25 or \$35 including transportation. Tickets limited.

**Ski Colorado**—Looking for the perfect Colorado mountain experience? Look no further than Winter Park Resort, a haven for skiers and snowboarders hungry for great terrain and the deepest powder of any major Colorado resort. When it comes to snowfall, nobody gets more than Winter Park. Can anything top their mountain? Probably not, but their lodging and lift packages make Winter Park more affordable than ever. ITR will assist you with "Ski Colorado" packaging for Winter Park, Keystone/Breckenridge and Vail. Discounted military lift tickets are now available.

**Armed Forces Vacation Club**—Resort condominium rentals for only \$234 throughout

the U.S. and overseas locations. Great idea for holiday giving. How about Florida or California?

Discount attraction tickets are also available for both destinations. Gift certificates are available. Call ITR for further information.

**Snow Creek**—If you ever wanted to try a sport of skiing or wanted a friend to learn...now is the time. Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 ski in historical Weston, Mo. located 15 minutes from KCI airport. Snow Creek has 100 percent snowmaking capabilities.

Cost is \$15. This includes a special rope-tow ticket (valid for beginner areas only), complete set of rental equipment, beginner lesson and transportation.

Skiers wishing to use the chairlifts can purchase a discount lift ticket through ITR.

## Disney salutes military members

From ITR

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.**—To honor American men and women fighting for freedom, the Walt Disney World Resort and the Disneyland Resort Dec. 6 announced an unprecedented program that allows active U.S. military personnel complimentary admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks, as well as ticket discounts for family members and friends.

"Disney's Armed Forces Salute" will be offered Jan. 1, 2002, to April 30, 2002, by both Disney vacation kingdoms in the United States - the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and the

Disneyland Resort in California.

Active U.S. military personnel, with proper U.S. military identification, are eligible, including active members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists.

"We think this is a great way to honor not only the nearly 1.5 million men and women in our active military, but the millions of family members and loved ones who support them," said Paul Pressler, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

**At the Walt Disney World Resort:**

- Each active member of the U.S. military may obtain one

complimentary seven-day ticket during the offer period, Jan. 1, 2002, to April 30, 2002.

This ticket, specially created for "Disney's Armed Forces Salute," will be valid for admission into the four Walt Disney World theme parks, Disney water parks, Pleasure Island and more for seven days from the date issued.

- U.S. active military personnel are also eligible for discounts at select Disney resorts, starting with a \$49 per night rate (plus tax) at Disney's All-Star Resorts, available most nights from Jan. 1, 2002-April 30, 2002. The number of rooms available at this rate is limited and minimum length of

stay requirements will apply to Friday and Saturday arrivals.

Additional charges apply if there are more than two adults per room.

For more information on "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" at the Walt Disney World Resort, or to make reservations, military personnel may call ITR at 239-5614/4415. Information is also available at base ticket offices.

**Aboard Disney Cruise Line:** Disney Cruise Line is also extending special rates to active military personnel on all of its tropical cruise itineraries, as well as its land/sea packages, for most sailings from January 2002 through May 2002.

## Commissary scholarships open to military children

Don't be like those holiday shoppers who wait until the last minute. Applications and fact sheets for the 2002 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at your local commissary and at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

The deadline for filing completed applications for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 5.

More than 5,000 students applied for the scholarships last year. Nearly 400 scholarships were awarded. DeCa anticipates receiving double the applications and even more scholarship awards in 2002.

The \$1,500 scholarships are funded through industry donations and the program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation through a professional scholarship evaluation company.

Fisher House builds and donates fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities where families of patients receiving medical care can stay at reasonable cost.

## Toys continued from page 9

Hitzges said that the number of toy buys at area stores depends on the number of donations taken in over the year, which in turn, affects how much is spent at each buy.

"We have at least five buys each year, and this shopping trip is considered our 'big buy' this year," explained Hitzges. He said that the OSC got off to a great start, but has since leveled off.

"I think we've done very well this year considering how late it got up and running," he stated. "We're not at the same level as last year right now and unless we see a big influx of donations over the next week, we won't meet the same standard as last year," added Hitzges.

The senior elf stressed that OSC welcomes all donations, new toys, supplies, cash and especially volunteers to wrap the gifts.

"I feel good about the shopping trip today because the people in the surrounding communities gave to us, and we put the money back into the local economy," explained Law.

## EFMP continued from page 9

because of their handicaps," said Debbie Tinsley.

"It's fun to hang around the little kids because I'm home schooled and I don't get to see them everyday," said Madsen.

"It's good to see other people and you don't feel so alone," said Wilson. "It helps you mingle and put names to faces."

He said his son Zackery, might not appreciate the event as they do. "For us, we appreciate being together and sharing our experiences as parents of exceptional children."

For many kids, the best part about the night

was spending time with Santa and receiving gifts provided by Operation Santa Claus. Children were also given a picture of themselves posing with Santa sponsored by the Family Advocacy Program Kid Care Program.

"I like to see Santa Claus because I want to have surprises," said Heather Tinsley, 10. She said that she liked working on her ornament and eating popcorn with the other children.

"My favorite part about Christmas is the presents and finding out what are in all of the stockings," said Zach Adams, 10.

"Christmas is a time for sharing and have

friends come over," said Madsen.

"It's all been great," said McCauley. "Every year I always worry about a child not having a present and it always works out."

"These types of family gatherings would not be as successful with out people who care and work together," said McCauley. She said Katie Keys, Trisha Tinsley, Denae Paulson, Tracey McCord and their sponsor Mary Ann from Fort Riley's Club Beyond Small Group were instrumental in helping at the event and that the moms also helped by passing out gifts and helping with the crafts.

## Op Santa continued from page 9

for the Emporia area Big Brothers/Big Sisters program said that Operation Santa Claus is the biggest provider of toys for children in Lyon, Morris, Coffey and Chase Counties during the Christmas season.

"Operation Santa Claus is in the forefront when it comes to providing our kids with toys at Christmas," said Smith. "OSC

delivers the toys which helps a lot. It really brightens our kids' faces when they get a gift at the annual Christmas party, and we really appreciate the donations."

Hitzges said donations and volunteer wrapping are accepted and delivered throughout the year.

"Operation Santa Claus doesn't

just happen at Christmas," said Quick. "We reach out to children in the communities on post and off when there's trauma such as a fire or an accident. We give stuffed animals to the police and fire departments so they can give a child something to hug."

"We took a load of games,

footballs, basketballs, toys and stuffed animals to the kids that were hit the hardest by a tornado disaster," stated Quick. "They needed something to play with while they were in the shelters waiting. This way they had things to do, and something to comfort them."

## Normandy Theater

**Today:**

7:30 p.m.  
Heist  
(R)  
110 Minutes

**Saturday:**

7:30 p.m.  
The One  
(PG-13)  
87 Minutes

**Sunday:**

7:30 p.m.  
Riding In Cars With  
Boys  
(PG-13)  
130 Minutes

WALLACE THEATER CORP.  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
new times n

KANSAS PRESS  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
joblink

FIRST INTERNATIONAL THEATERS  
2 x 5.5"  
Black Only  
new times

FAITH FURNITURE  
3 x 8"  
Black Only  
3x8 Ad