Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Taking a break

Armor Soldiers engage in friendly competition during battalion organization day

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Fort Riley Post

Friday, June 1, 2007 | Home of the Big Red One | Vol. 50, No. 22

Playing with fire

Group brings island dances to Riley's Conference Center

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Post, Army news briefly

Changes of command set

A change of command ceremony will be held for 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment at 9 a.m. June 6 at Ware Parade Field. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held at King Field House.

A change of command ceremony will be held for 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment and 9 a.m. June 7 at Ware Parade Field. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held at King Field House.

A change of command ceremony will be held for the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron at 9 a.m. June 12 at Cavalry Parade Field.

Departure ceremony slated

A departure ceremony will be held for Brig. Gen. James Yarbrough, 1st Infantry Division assistant division commander – operations, at 4 p.m. June 6 at Ware Parade Field. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held at King Field House.

DFAC to open

The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team dining facility will open with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. June 1. The dining facility is located behind the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic on Custer Hill. The first meal served at the facility will be lunch on June 1 at 11:30 a.m.

The dining facility is designed to feed 1,100 Soldiers per meal and is equipped with a drive-thru window and take-out counter.

CIF ships equipment

Outgoing Fort Riley Soldiers now can ship 22 items on their Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment list to their next duty station free of charge through the Central Issuing Facility. CIF also will receive these items free of charge for incoming Soldiers. For more information, call Tom Barton at 239-1426.

Stay 'In Step' with Fort Riley

See what's happening at Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV Channel 13.

Stories planned for this week's show, which runs on WIBW TV June 2 and on the post's cable channel 2 June 3 through 10 are:

- 4th IBCT security ceremony in Iraq
- Update on latest Fort Riley casualties
- Deployed Soldiers watch local graduation via satellite
- Post Memorial Day ceremony.
- Pandemic exercise

Generations

Photo by Chap. (Lt. Col.) D. Erich Schwartz

Memorial Day traditions

Staff Sgt. Douglas Saunders and his son, Zhani, pray at the grave of a Soldier following the Memorial Day ceremony May 28 at the Post Cemetery. Saunders said it's a family tradition each year to place a floral tribute and U.S. flag at the grave of a Soldier whom the family never knew but whose service allows each of us to enjoy our freedoms. This year Zhani had the honor of selecting the grave. He chose the marker of a sergeant first class who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. See page 11 for the story on this year's Fort Riley Memorial Day ceremony.

Fledgling 'Bulldogs' learn ropes

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Every Tuesday Col. Norbert Jocz stands in front of the latest group of Soldiers inprocessing at Fort Riley and reads a Medal of Honor citation given in 1944 to Pvt. Nicholas Minue. The citation says:

"For distinguishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on 28 April 1943, in the vicinity of MedjezelBab, Tunisia. When the advance of the assault element of Company A was held up by flanking fire from an enemy machine gun nest, Pvt. Minue voluntarily, alone, and unhesitatingly, with complete disregard of his own welfare, charged the enemy entrenched position with fixed bayonet.

Pvt. Minue assaulted the enemy under a withering machine gun and rifle fire, killing approximately 10 enemy machine gunners and riflemen. After completely destroying this position, Pvt. Minue continued forward, routing enemy riflemen from dugout positions until he was fatally wounded. The courage, fearlessness and aggressiveness displayed by Pvt. Minue in the face of inevitable death was unquestionably the factor that gave his company the offensive spirit that was necessary for advancing and driving the enemy from the entire sector."

Post/Staatz

Spc. Brian McIntyre performs a nasopharyngeal, a procedure used to clear an airway, on himself during combat lifesaver training as part of the Bulldog Academy.

The commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, tells Soldiers that he reads the citation to every new group of men and women that arrive to the "Bulldog" Brigade.

"It is something to inspire us all," Jocz said during a briefing on May 8. "Soldiers such as Pvt. Minue are our legacy."

The Bulldog Academy

Jocz' briefing is the first of a three-day Bulldog Academy, followed by two weeks of additional training as needed. During those three days, Soldiers are given a review of the rules of Army conduct and the principles of being a member of the Bulldog Brigade.

"The colonel and I decided to set the bar high for standards and discipline," said Command Sgt. Major James Savitski. "When they come to the brigade, they know what they have to achieve

See 'Bulldogs', Page 4

'Black Lion' Soldier remembered at ceremony

By Pfc. Dustin Roberts
1st Inf. Div. PAO

A 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier was honored May 25 by Family and friends at Morris Hill Chapel.

Pvt. Oscar Sauceda Jr., Company D, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, died in combat May 22 in Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He died so that we can continue to cherish the things we love," said Capt. Thomas Laybourn, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment rear detachment commander. "He served this country with his entire heart."

Pvt. Oscar Sauceda Jr.

As Memorial Day followed shortly after Sauceda's passing, Laybourn mentioned that Sauceda was an example to everyone of what honor and loyalty was all about.

"He understood the true meaning of Memorial Day and sacrifice," Laybourn said.

Other Soldiers in Co. D nicknamed Sauceda "Sauce" because they couldn't pronounce his name.

"Sauce, may you rest in peace in the gates of heaven and protect us from above," said Sgt. Eduardo Garza, a friend of Sauceda. "His service will not be forgotten."

Sauceda was born Sept. 18, 1985 and entered the Army Feb. 15, 2006.

He was trained as an infantryman at Fort Benning, Ga., and participated in various training exercises, including brigade consolidated gunnery, company combined arms live fire training and a rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Expert Rifleman's Badge and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Troops free Iraqi soldier

Iraqis work with Soldiers to save one of their own

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division – Baghdad troops freed an Iraqi soldier being held by a militia's kidnap cell May 20 in the Rashid District of the city.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, and the "Black Lions" from Company D, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, rescued Mosher Ahmmaed Abdualrahman, during a pre-dawn cordon and search operation.

"Two months of conducting combat operations with the Citadel Brigade (1st Bn., 2nd Iraqi Army Div.) have led us to develop exceptionally strong ties to our Iraqi partners," said Lt. Col. Pat Frank, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt. commander. "Finding their soldier alive was the main effort mission for the Black Lions."

The Iraqi Army soldier was abducted by a Jashya al-Mahdi kidnap cell May 17 in the Shurta neighborhood. Task Force Black Lion executed the operation, which rescued the soldier unharmed.

"The combined operation between Iraqi and American troops was a complete success," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "They aggressively followed up on leads and were able to save one of their own. This serves as an effective reminder of the ongoing cooperation between the Black Lions and soldiers of the Iraqi Army's Citadel Brigade in northwest Rashid."

Post plans for flu outbreak

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Leaders from all of Fort Riley's garrison organizations had an opportunity May 23 and 24 to test their readiness for a pandemic flu outbreak – a crisis many said is something that cannot be overlooked or ignored.

"Some people – such as WHO – say it's not if, but when, so what we want to do is prepare," said Larry Duch, force protection officer.

Preparing for the worst

Knowing what the World Health Organization and other health organizations expect and recommend in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak, is important,

See Flu exercise, Page 3

Soldiers learn mortuary affairs recovery skills

By Sgt. Stephen Baack
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Not every plan goes well. Not every event during a mission can be predicted. Even with thorough training, Soldiers get injured and sometimes killed.

This is the hard fact of life mortuary affairs Soldiers have accepted in order to do their jobs. Since the field is so small, mortuary affairs noncommissioned officers often have to train personnel from different fields in the recovery and evacuation of Soldier remains.

According to two Fort Riley mortuary affairs NCOs, this special kind of recovery and evacuation training that started late last month marked, possibly, the first time it has ever been given.

The training, which they provided to Soldiers of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion and the 1st Sustainment Brigade from May 23 to 30, encompassed a scenario in which Soldiers in a convoy had to change plans mid-mission when they intercepted communications telling of a downed helicopter.

"Bravo 1-7, this is TOC, you have a change in mission," said Staff Sgt. Jason Reed, mortuary affairs NCO with 1st Sust. Bde., who served as an observer/controller for the training.

"… You have a downed aircraft at coordinates ...." he continued on the radio.

About 10 minutes after the convoy starting heading toward the new location, vehicle commanders led the convoy past possible roadside bombs and potential ambush locations to get to a crash site surrounded by Iraqi foreign nationals and inundated with human remains.

The other trainer was Staff Sgt. Gerald Peckham, mortuary affairs NCO with Headquarters Support Company, 601st ASB, Combat Aviation Brigade. Peckham spent a year in Iraq from 2005 to 2006 doing his job at collection points in theater. While there he handled about 130 cases and trained more than 250 Soldiers on mortuary affairs recovery and evacuation.

"I really got an overwhelming amount of experience there," said Peckham, who was also a part of the mortuary affairs Advanced Individual Training school at Fort Lee, Va. "I've seen a lot that I will never forget because when you see Soldiers, it's reality. It affects you in a way that it makes you appreciate life."

A group of Soldiers handled the Iraqis while another group searched for the remains and personal effects of the aircraft occupants. Soldiers with latex gloves walked through the grass while carrying plastic bags to find anything they could. They covered ground both on their own and as a group systematically – combing through the crash site in all four directions.

"Yes, this is training, but everything is done with respect," Reed told the group before the mission.

Reed and Peckham said this means respect for departed Soldiers and respect for their families. This is one reason it's so important to recovery teams to be thorough and quick.

"The longer you wait, the less likely the family will be able to view the remains," Reed said. "Part of giving the family closure is letting them see that person for the last time and saying goodbye."

Reed added that if teams do not get the remains processed and out of theater as soon as possible, it serves as an injustice to the family.

Typically, Reed said, half of a mortuary affairs team deploys to work at different collection points throughout the theater. Then the brigade-based mortuary affairs specialists assist their respective brigades and train teams within the units that fall under them.

It's important to have mortuary affairs specialists stay at the collection points, Peckham said, and that for this reason they train other Soldiers for the recovery-and-evacuation part.

"When you've got 16,000 on one (Forward Operating Base), then you're outnumbered," Peckham said. "You could have four one day and none the next. You're on call 24-7. When I was there in '05 and '06, I hardly got any sleep. There was always someone knocking on my door."

He said though it may look to outsiders that at times they aren't doing a lot, the work is mentally and physically draining.

"You're in such a rush to get the Soldier evacuated as quickly as possible," Peckham said. "It's all about time because if you wait a long time, you could have a sand storm come and nothing flies in and flies out for three days."

After the teams recovered every item they could find, they rejoined for an after action review. One point a Soldier brought up was a seemingly major missing training aid – the helicopter. Though Peckham said he tried arranging for one weeks in advance, it didn't happen – but that in the end it did not affect training too much one way or the other.

"We all did really well," said Sgt. Marcus Smith, engine mechanic with Company B, 601st ASB, who was training as a mortuary affairs team leader and vehicle commander. "I think we planned really well; we moved out and executed the way we were supposed to."

Smith said the recovery training wasn't the only good part.

"We had a whole lot of new guys out here so it was a chance for them to be involved in some more convoys to see some of the possible things you may see in an actual combat environment," Smith said.

Another trainee, Staff Sgt. Robert Lowry, safety NCO with Co. B, 601st ASB, said there was no one part that seemed most important in the training.

"It's all kind of an important part because none of us have had any real exposure to this sort of thing, and it's a very real possibility that we may have to go on some sort of mission like this," Lowry said. "This is very valuable training, and along with the regular training we do as far as convoy operations – the way they integrated it all worked out very well. I was absolutely satisfied with it."

"It's our job to treat them with every bit of respect they've deserved and they've earned," Reed said after the first rotation of training. "Personally to me, you see all of these people getting awards. The real heroes are the ones we send home; that we take care of."

1st Inf. Div./Baack

Pvt. Daniel Phillips (front) and Pfc. Jeremy Mullins, training as members of the mortuary affairs recovery team from Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, recover "remains" after a simulated helicopter crash during the company's mortuary affairs recovery and evacuation training here May 23.

1st Inf. Div./Baack

Pvt. Lawrence Warren, training as a member of a mortuary affairs recovery team from Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, recovers human "remains" after a simulated helicopter crash during the company's mortuary affairs recovery and evacuation training May 23.

1st Inf. Div./Baack

Sgt. Marcus Smith (left) helps Pfc. Jeremy Mullins, both training as members of the mortuary affairs recovery team from Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, evacuate the body of a Soldier who "died" in a simulated helicopter crash during the company's mortuary affairs recovery and evacuation training May 23.

What's happening in your unit? Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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JONES HUYETT
5 x 5.5"
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30197 NIC Reunion

PRAIRIE HAWG CYCLE & LEATHER,
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Black Only
1x1.5 Prairie Hawg

KATHRYN'S HAIR SALON
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3Kathryns

Post, Army news briefly

Soldier found guilty

Sgt. Sean L. Mellstrom was tried at a General Court-Martial May 18 and found guilty of possessing seven videos of child pornography on his computer.

The military judge sentenced him to be confined for 10 months, to be reduced to the grade of E1, and to be discharged from the service with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

Rodeo to hold military day

The Flint Hill Rodeo in Strong City, Kan., being held June 1-3, is offering free general admission to active duty military, and half-price general admission for spouses and kids for the June 3 performance.

At half price, tickets will be $4.50 for adults and $3.50 for children 12 and under. Sunday's performance starts at 2 p.m.

The Flint Hills Rodeo Arena is located on U.S. Highway 50 in Strong City. From Manhattan, take state Highway 177 south to Strong City.

For more information on the Flint Hills Rodeo, visit www.FlintHillsRodeo.com.

1st Bde./Lee

Rising waters

More than four inches of rain fell in the Fort Riley area May 23 and 24. Three Mile Creek appeared to be inches from washing over the walkway bridge just south of Huebner Road on post. Several roads on post were closed due to flooding.

Flu exercise continued from page 1

said Todd Pickering, plans specialist at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

"The point here is to make sure that our plans match up with what the KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) has recommended, along with the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and WHO," Pickering said.

He and Duch both emphasized that the more prepared the post was for dealing with a pandemic situation, the fewer services would be closed during an actual emergency.

Every formal organization on post participated, along with some tenant organizations. Leaders from the organizations met for the two-day event in the Battle Simulation Center. They were given situation information relating to a pandemic outbreak and then reacted together to the information, forming a plan of action and determining if the plan could be carried out. The exercise was not without its difficulties, which included a glitch in Internet capabilities and the absence of emergency leaders from outside areas, who were forced to respond to real-life flood situations.

Attention to detail

Duch said the number of things that had to be considered during a pandemic outbreak of flu or another disease could be mind baffling. He named off such things as church and school attendance which would be affected and services such as shopping for food.

During an after action review, participants had a chance to weigh in on what went well and what could have been done better. That information will be compiled for review and an emergency plan update.

Some of the items brought up in the initial AAR were the lack of preparedness for mortuary needs, such as body bags and a location to take bodies. While discussing deaths, participants also noted the need for a point of contact in the event of civilian deaths, which might occur if the post was locked down with civilian workers still on the premises.

Participants also talked out the need for food supplies, since in the simulated activity, food ran out at day 15 of a post lockdown. In addition, there was the responsibility to ensure military families off-post received food.

In addition, Ty Smith, garrison commander, noted the need to plan for alternate medical care sites. The alternate site in the event the hospital overflowed or was destroyed was King Fieldhouse.

"The plan isn't bad," Smith said. "It's just that an alternate treatment site is more difficult than we thought. It's a really good thing for us to physically exercise."

Future exercises preparing Fort Riley organizations and surrounding communities to deal with a pandemic flu outbreak are planned for later this summer.

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VALASSIS/AFC
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ARMED FORCES BANK
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Armed Forces Bank

Firefighters train, take skills to Belize

By Sgt Nicole Clarke
CAB PAO

Soldiers from the 359th and 750th Engineer Detachments (Firefighters) recently went on a humanitarian mission to Belize.

As part of Joint Task Force New Horizons the firefighters helped to build schools and provide medical support to local citizens, as well as provide firefighting support for base and airfield operations. The detachment also directly supported a Black Hawk company from the Louisiana National Guard.

"We were there for three months where we rotated out three different crews," said Staff Sgt. Raymond Wilson, fire chief, 482nd Engineer Detachment.

Wilson arranged for all of the firefighters to go to Belize.

The detachments deployed 17 firefighters during the three-month span, Wilson said.

The detachments had their equipment rail loaded from Fort Riley to Beaumont, Texas where it was then shipped to Guatemala, and from there off to Belize.

Within the first two hours of starting their mission, the third rotation of firefighters responded to an electrical fire on a transformer, Wilson said.

"With the electrical fire, we were able to talk to the locals about safety," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kendall, team chief, 750th Eng. Det.

Besides the Louisiana guardsmen, the firefighters also worked with members of the Navy, Marines, Air Force doctors and an Army veterinary crew.

All of the locals were very thankful, Kendall said. They could have brought another hospital there and would have had people lined up to see doctors, he added.

"It was nice to go on a mission where you could see the reward," said Sgt. Tom Davis, crew chief, 750th Eng. Det.

Beyond working with the different services, the firefighters also worked with local citizens.

"We were also able to work with the local firefighters and personnel at the Belize airport since we were located right next to it," Davis said.

During the time the detachments were in Belize, not only did they conduct their real world mission but they also executed training missions as well.

The detachments were able to do rescue training from the Black Hawks, personnel extraction, vehicle extraction training, live fuel-burn training, multiple hose advancement training and aircraft firefighting training, Kendall and Davis said.

It was nice to do a real world mission supporting the Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard and the people of Belize, Kendall said.

"One of the main things I am taking away from this mission is no matter where we go, we are all ambassadors," Davis said. "Just by being friendly, the locals are friendly and the people there were very friendly."

Staff Sgt. Michael Kendall (front), Spc. Thomas Moore and Spc. Deidra Wilson unroll a hose during a mission in Belize.
Courtesy photo

'Bulldogs' continued from page 1

because they know the standards."

Soldiers from private up to lieutenant colonel go through the classes.

Jocz whipped through a single slide outlining the Bulldog attitude – filled with words such as leadership, discipline, readiness and training – each a topic hammered home in greater detail in the briefings that followed.

Savitski followed Jocz, hitting his own high points, such as physical training.

"PT is just intended to be maintenance of your fitness," Savitski said during his May 8 briefing. "I shouldn't see guys falling out when we're running PT in the morning."

Following the brigade's top two officers, the unit's other key leadership hammered on appropriate conduct, battle preparedness and training.

"You are a Soldier 24/7," said Sgt. Maj. Lance Lehr, during the class. "It doesn't stop just because you're not wearing your uniform."

Following the initial three days of the Bulldog Academy, Soldiers head to combat lifesaver training. The CLS classes were taught by Barton County Community College instructors.

The final leg of the academy was drivers' training.

Staff Sgt. Michael Turnbow, one of the instructors, said the 40-hour course was designed mostly for new privates coming into the brigade. Soldiers with previous drivers' training credentials came in for an eye check and then headed to their individual units.

Soldiers in drivers' training went through classroom work as well as basic operating procedures for Humvees. The week culminated with the Soldiers scrambling out of over turned Humvees at Camp Funston rollover simulators, where Soldiers were taught the basics of getting out in an emergency.

Building the brigade

The 3rd HBCT is in the process of modularizing to the Army's new combat standards. Currently, about 3,000 Fort Riley Soldiers belong to the brigade. The brigade will be considered full strength when it reaches 3,800 Soldiers.

Building the brigade has not been without challenges, especially in the early days, which saw an absence of experienced non-commissioned officers who moved this spring and continue to report to the post.

"It was very challenging," Savitski said. "Young Soldiers had to step up and take responsibility. But it was good leadership experience for them."

The brigade is slated to eventually reflag as a HBCT in the 1st Infantry Division.

"Whenever that day comes," Savitski said, "it will be a sad day and a great day at the same time. … We will continue with our mission to prepare for deployment and when we become the "Dagger" Brigade, we'll take that responsibility in full stride."

The brigade is expected to be placed in the Army's deployment-ready pool sometime in spring or early summer of 2008.

Known now as the Bulldog Brigade, the unit has a real mascot in Pfc. Chester, an American bulldog. The brigade won't lose its mascot in the move to the 1st Inf. Div. Chester's middle initial is D for "Dagger," Savitski said, and the brigade will continue to house the dog on its roster.

"Chester will continue to fit in perfectly," Savitski said.

Post/Staatz
New 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers practice exiting a flipped over Humvee May 17 as part of the Bulldog Academy.

Post/Staatz
Combat lifesaver instructor Eugene Compton works with Spc. Robert Graves (left) and Spc. Ryan Lefever on properly performing a jaw thrust during part of the Bulldog Academy.

HOUSE FILL AD

TRICARE COUNSELING
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MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR
1 x 2"
Black Only
1x2 Man Shoe May TF

LINE-X OF MANHATTAN
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Post Only Line-x

NOLLER DEALERSHIPS OF TOPEKA
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3x10.5 Noller Dealerships

Commentary

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

If you could take part in any event in history, what would it be and why?

"The landing at Normandy so I could witness the courage and sacrifice that our armed forces made."

Maj. Thomas Hawes
Military police adviser
Transition team Class 8869
Home: West Point, N.Y.

"Anything. Everything is changing for the better pertaining to military life."

Lee Thomas
Retired airman
Home: Allertown, Iowa

"The day women came into the military because I'd like to see when the decision was made that women are just as strong as men."

Pfc. Sarah Schrader
Automated logistics specialist
Co. B, 125 FSB, 3rd HBCT
Home: Tucson, Ariz.

"The Revolutionary War to be a part of how it all started."

Pfc. Donovan Hayes
Infantryman
2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt.
Home: Wausau, Wis.

"The women's movement because I think it would be nice to be a part of giving women their rights."

Michelle McSherley
Military spouse
Home: Lake City, Fla.

Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations.

Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached.

Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to anna.morelock@conus.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

Notes on Safety

Soldiers never give safety a day off

By Lori Yerdon
Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – The U.S. Army commences its 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign with a simple yet meaningful slogan, "Never Give Safety a Day Off."

Memorial Day through Labor Day marks the critical days when accidents and mishaps pose a greater risk to Soldiers and their Families, so this year's theme holds great value in sustaining the force and maintaining an Army Strong, said Brig. Gen. William H. Forrester, director of Army Safety.

"As we enter the 101 days of summer – think back to effective messages some of your previous leaders delivered," Forrester said. "One in particular I vividly recall was given by then Maj. Gen. Dick Cody, our commanding general. His message, delivered to the entire 101st Airborne Division was founded on the statistical analysis that predicted the division would lose two Soldiers to fatalities over the Memorial Day weekend. As we gathered shoulder to shoulder, with some twenty thousand of our comrades, our division commander asked us all – 'Who in this crowd will we let die?'"

Each week, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will publish articles containing information to help Soldiers use composite risk management in making sound judgments while on and off duty.

"My charge to you and our Army is a simple but an effective goal that proclaims

'I can save my life and that of my comrade,'" Forrester said.

Latest Dope

Meth use causes myriad of problems

By Clyde Sallee
Prevention Specialist

Clyde Sallee

Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects many areas of the central nervous system. The drug can easily be made in clandestine laboratories from relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients and can be purchased at a relatively low cost.

These factors make methamphetamine, which is sometimes referred to as "speed," "meth" and "chalk," a drug with a high potential for widespread abuse. In its smoked form it is often referred to as "ice," "crystal," "crank" and "glass."

Meth comes in many forms and can be smoked, snorted, injected or orally ingested. A white, odorless, bitter tasting crystalline powder that can be easily dissolved in water or alcohol, meth is traditionally associated with white, male, blue-collar workers. It is now reportedly being used by diverse groups in all regions of the country.

Young adults who attend raves or private clubs also are increasingly using methamphetamine and there have been notable increases among homeless and runaway youth. Also, people in occupations that demand long hours, mental alertness and physical endurance have been using this drug at increased rates. Emerging evidence shows that methamphetamine is being administered increasingly via the intravenous route. Injecting this drug puts the user at increased risk for engaging in behaviors that could increase his or her chance of contracting HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other infectious diseases.

Meth users don't normally buy the drug from strangers on the street. Users report they obtain their supplies of methamphetamine from friends and acquaintances.

Meth is typically a more closed or hidden sale, prearranged by "networking" with those producing the drug. Often it is sold "by invitation only" at all-night warehouse parties or raves. Because methamphetamine can be made with readily available inexpensive materials there is great variation in the processes and chemicals used. This means that the final product that is sold as "methamphetamine" may not be methamphetamine at all but rather a highly altered chemical mixture with some stimulant-like effects.

Uncertainties about the drug's sources and the pharmacological agents used in its production makes it especially difficult to determine its toxicity, and resulting consequences and symptoms. Methamphetamine is often being used in dangerous combination with other substances, including cocaine, marijuana, heroin and alcohol.

Long reported as the dominant drug problem in the California area, methamphetamine has become a substantial drug problem in other sections of the United States as well. The drug has now been reported in both rural and urban areas of the South and Midwest. It is emerging in major urban areas in the East, but not to the extent seen in other regions of the country.

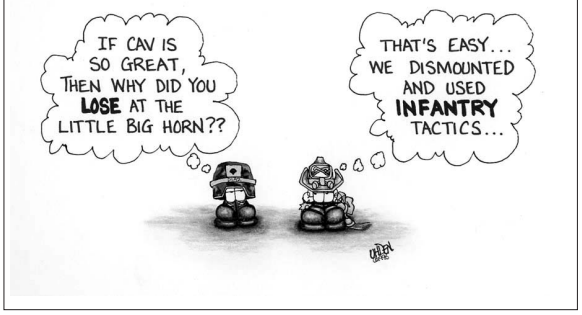
Signs a person is using meth include agitation, excited speech, decreased appetites and increased physical activity levels. Other common symptoms include dilated pupils, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea and elevated body temperature. Occasional episodes of sudden and violent behavior, and intense paranoia also can occur. Meth also can cause strokes, heart attacks and death.

For more information or additional training on methamphetamines or other drugs, call the Army Substance Abuse Program at 239-1928.

Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) – (785) 307-1373
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program – (785) 239-9435
Chaplains – (785) 239-4357
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room – (785) 239-7777
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)
Local Police (on and off post) – 911

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*



Coordinator thanks recent blood donors

The American Red Cross would like to thank your community for the tremendous outpouring of support at the Fort Riley blood drive May 15 and 16. Blood donations came at a critical time; immediately following the devastating tornado in Greensburg, Kan.

Cancelled blood drives caused by tornado destruction and flooding left the blood supply dangerously low. Fort Riley came to the rescue with 135 pints of lifesaving blood. Everyone who came out to donate is a true hero.

We would like to apologize to anyone who wanted to donate but was not able to at that time. We value each and every donor and your willingness to help your neighbors in need. your next opportunity to donate is Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Aug. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

Please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE to schedule an appointment to donate. Walk-in donors are welcome; however, those with appointment will be given priority. Please bring your donor card or photo ID.

The Red Cross supplies blood to the Irwin Army Community Hospital as well as hospitals in Manhattan and Junction City.

On behalf of hospital patients, thank you for sharing your gift of life.

Dori Farrow,
Blood drive coordinator

FORT RILEY POST

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Public Affairs Officer-Lt. Col. Christian Kubik
Command Information Officer-Vacant
Printer-John G. Montgomery
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Circulation 8,800 copies each week
By mail $20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce

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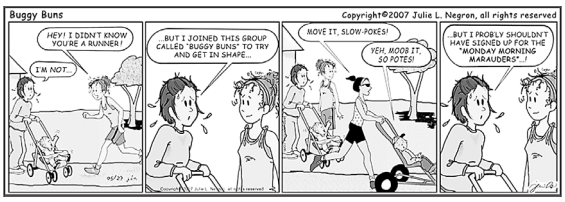


Post, Army news briefly

Equipment exchange open

An equipment exchange van is available for transition team use from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays on H Street at Camp Funston. Equipment available for exchange includes all basic items drawn by transition team Soldiers, except Army Combat Uniforms. For more information, call Tom Barton at 239-1426.

Birthday Ball sign-up open

Registration for the Army Birthday Ball celebrating the U.S. Army's 232nd Birthday opened April 12. The ball will be held June 16 at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington D.C. Please join us for an elegant evening of dining, dancing and entertainment.

All Army Soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and veterans are welcome to attend. Formal attire is required.

Visit the U.S. Army homepage at http://www.army.mil/birthday/232/ball/default.htm for more information and links to online registration. Tickets are limited.

$5,000 reward offered by CID

The Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Division is investigating an alleged rape that occurred on Fort Riley in late January 2007. The perpetrator was described as a male, possibly Hispanic, approximately 5'10" tall, 175 pounds, wearing the Army winter physical training uniform and a gold ring with two diamonds on each side and a cross in the middle.

A $5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the alleged rape. If you have any information concerning the incident, call the Fort Riley military police at 239-MPMP (6767) or CID at 239-3931.

Discover Riley's treasures

Newcomers to Fort Riley, and those who wish to learn more about the post are invited to attend a post orientation July 6 and Aug. 3 offered by Army Community Service's relocation staff. Participants will learn fun facts, interesting information and what the Fort Riley area has to offer. Orientations will be held the first Friday of every month. Contact ACS - Relocation at (785) 239-9435 or site2665@riley.army.mil to reserve a seat.

National police present gifts to Al Furat children

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi security forces and Multi-National Division-Baghdad troops dropped of humanitarian supplies May 19 to children in the Al Furat region of Baghdad.

Policemen of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade (Mechanized) of the Iraqi National Police and the "Black Lions" of 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, dropped off soccer balls, clothing and food to children in front of the council members' office and in a nearby gated community.

"It's nice to be able to provide an opportunity for coalition forces, Iraqi National Police and the citizens of Al Furat to have a friendly gathering and bring smiles to the faces of so many impressionable Iraqi children," said Maj. E. E. Smith, 1st Bn., 1st National Police Transition Team.

The mission is part of the multi-faceted Baghdad security plan and highlights the cooperation between the Iraqis and their coalition partners. One Soldier said he saw the event as setting up Iraq's future.

"I was honored to help Iraq's future leaders," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Whitworth, a police transition team member.

An policeman with 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade (Mechanized) of the Iraqi National Police, gives a soccer ball to a child in the Al Furat neighborhood of Baghdad May 19.

U.S. Army photo

EOD battalion readies for activation on post

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

One of the most lethal items facing Soldiers on the modern battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan is improvised explosive devices. Finding ways to stop them goes a long way to facilitating the fight Soldiers undertake.

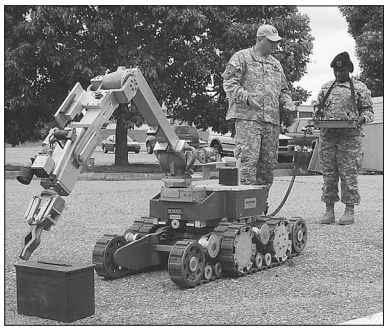
As part of the Army's plan to turn all brigades into modular brigade combat teams, explosive ordnance disposal battalions also are getting a new look and increasing in number. One of those battalions, the 84th Ordnance Battalion (EOD), will formally activate June 22 at Fort Riley. The first members of the battalion have begun arriving on post ahead of the formal activation.

"We're excited to be here, excited to train with the units here at Fort Riley to better enhance training as they continue down the path to deployments," said Maj. Brian Clarke, 84th Ord. Bn. executive officer. "There are mutual benefits and this will enhance our training benefits and preparedness."

Under a design update, EOD companies are being strategically located to line up with division headquarters and the brigade combat teams stationed under their command. Clarke said the big picture was to have an EOD company align with a brigade combat team, train with the brigade in preparation for deployment and then deploy with those Soldiers.

"In a perfect world, that's how it would work," Clarke said. "But right now it's not totally synchronized."

EOD units are a key enabler in fighting IEDs on the battlefield, Clarke said, although the units are trained to handle numerous chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats.



Post/Staatz

Spc. Marie Williams works with Sgt. 1st Class Randolph Corvin May 25 to operate a robot used in explosive ordnance device operations.

The adrenaline behind disarming an IED was what drove Courtney Buck, of 774th EOD Company to join the Army. Buck was a marketing director in the civilian world, drawn to the Army by a friend who had returned from a year in Iraq working as part of an EOD company. His friend's stories intrigued Buck, who at 26, enlisted in the Army and underwent EOD training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He was sent to Fort Riley and deployed last August with the 774th EOD Co. to Afghanistan.

"Usually, someone else would find the IED and report it to us, and we would go and take them apart," Buck said. "The thing I love about what we do is that every time we get called out and dismantle an IED, we're saving someone's life – a Soldier or an Afghan child – or we're saving them injury."

Buck was forced to return to Fort Riley to undergo treatment and surgery for a shoulder injury. He plans to go back to the civilian world when his time in the Army is over, this time marketing the skills he gained working in an EOD company to hopefully gain employment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Secret Service.

"I need the adrenaline in my life," he said with a smile.

Because EOD Soldiers have skills that are highly marketable on the civilian job market, the Army has extended assignment incentive pay to Soldiers with eight years of EOD service. Those Soldiers receive an additional $750 per month. Soldiers interested in choosing an EOD job can visit www.bragg.army.mil/EOD for requirements and information.

Language, cultural studies gain focus

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Gen. George Washington would probably roll over in his grave if he knew the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. – the school he advocated to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign military expertise – is increasingly sending its cadets overseas to learn with and from their foreign counterparts.

Times have changed since Washington led the charge for academic institutions that would free American forces from foreign dependence.

Today, some 185 years after West Point became the first of three U.S. military academies, followed by the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., all three schools are thinking globally in the way they educate future officers.

Engineering and hard sciences, historically mainstays at the academies, remain a big part of their curricula. Sixty percent of Naval Academy midshipmen, 54 percent of Air Force Academy cadets, and 45 percent of West Point cadets major in technical studies.

But ever-increasing numbers of cadets and midshipmen are studying and majoring in humanities and social sciences, with a growing emphasis being put on regional studies and language instruction.

The goal, academy officials said, is to ensure graduates have not only a solid technical foundation critical to military operations, but also other skills they'll need to enter a wartime force deployed around the world.

"We want all our graduates to have a technical foundation, and a leadership and ethical foundation. That hasn't changed," said William Miller, academic dean and provost at the Naval Academy.

"What's changed has been an increasing realization that there is a third leg of this stool that we haven't emphasized enough," he said. "And that is giving all of our graduates a foundation of understanding about the history and culture and civilizations and governments and religions of the areas in which they are going to serve."

Army Col. Dan Ragsdale, vice dean at West Point, said regional studies and language training in the curriculum help develop critical thinkers able to look at the issues they will confront as military officers through a wide-angle lens.

"The kinds of problems that our … graduates will face are across a broad spectrum, so we have to give them a technological foundation," he said. "But we also have to give them a social and cultural perspective

See Academies, Page 10

STARS AND STRIPES
1 x 5.5"
Black Only

AMERICAN DREAM DEVELOPMENT
3 x 6"
Black Only
3x6American Dream

JON MURDOCK AUTO MALL
2 x 8"
Black Only
2x8 May Wk#4 Murdock

U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
6 x 21.25"
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758578 PU 3/5

Artillery battalion holds safety day

By Pfc. Dustin Roberts
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Summer is approaching quickly and leadership throughout Fort Riley want to ensure Soldiers stay safe throughout the coming season.

To help remind Soldiers about the importance of keeping safe, the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment "Gunners," held a "stand-down safety day" May 18 at Barlow Theater.

"Historically we lose more Soldiers to accidents and injuries than we do in combat," said Maj. Richard Hodgson, executive officer of 4th Bn., 1st FA Regt. "Hopefully accidents due to all the recreational activities in the summer can be prevented."

In the morning portion of the training, the Soldiers participated in classes about general summer safety, heat injuries, water safety, and drug and alcohol abuse and prevention.

"It is important for every Soldier in the Gunner Battalion to understand that the chain of command deems safety of our Soldiers and their Families so important that we devote an entire day to the event," said Lt. Col. Bobby R. Thomas Jr., battalion commander.

The afternoon portion of the training took place outside of the theater and involved hands-on education with the Gunner Battalion.

"I think the hands-on approach is the best way to train the Soldiers," said Capt. Jordan Ordonio, the 4th Bn., 1st FA Regt. safety officer. "They learn better and grasp so much more."

The troops were broken into groups and moved to and from different safety stations.

Among the stations was a small course for an electric go-cart with a computer attached to it, called the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience.

Soldiers first drove the go-cart on "normal" mode. It drove like a regular go-cart, and the drivers were able to stay on the track.

Then the Gunners tried to drive it on "impaired" mode, which implemented a two-second delay when they tried to maneuver the go-cart.

The delay represented how the mind reacts when impaired, said Nicole Sizemore of the Army Substance Abuse Program prevention office.

"It makes you think about drinking and driving," said Pvt. Brent Myers, Battery A, 4th Bn., 1st FA Regt. "The two-second delay would be a lot worse if you were in a real vehicle and driving faster."

To compliment the SIDNE course and prevention of driving while impaired, Soldiers tried on "beer goggles," which played a trick of perception on the eyes.

"A lot of people don't understand the dangers of drunk driving," Sizemore said. "They base their abilities to drive off of physical impairment level, but mental impairment happens long before physical impairment."

Sizemore added that tasks such as the use of peripheral vision, rear-view mirrors and turn signals are often ignored when impaired.

"The ability to walk, talk and see is not all what you need to drive," Sizemore said.

The Fort Riley Fire Department also gave a hands-on class about fire safety to the Soldiers.

Fire Inspector Scott Melcher lit a controlled fire and Soldiers were given the opportunity to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher.

The troops learned about various types of fires and how to be safe when cooking at home and barbecuing outside.

"Hopefully the class gave them insight and respect for fires," said Lead Fire Inspector Mike Keating.

The Gunners also learned about motorcycle safety and the proper equipment to wear when riding.

"Every Soldier left the training with the understanding of the overall risk associated with their activities on and off duty," Thomas said.

The Gunners' next "stand-down safety day" will concentrate more on driving under the influence and motor pool safety, and is scheduled for August.

Post/Name

Pvt. Vaughn Smith, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, plays the game "Perfection" while simulating impairment by wearing goggles during the battalion's safety day training.

ISO, DES conduct vehicle safety day

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

If you noticed static displays of wrecked vehicles near several of Fort Riley's gates, or stopped to have your child's safety seat checked at the Post Exchange May 24, you weren't alone.

May 24 was Motor Vehicle Safety Day, and the displays and seat checks were part of several activities designed to bring more attention to safe driving practices.

Rick Hearron, one of the day's organizers from the Installation Safety Office, said the semi-annual event was important because of the visibility it brings to vehicle accidents.

"It's important because it brings awareness to (privately owned vehicle) accidents, which continue to be a top killer of Soldiers in the Army," Hearron said.

In addition to the displays at Ogden, Trooper and Henry gates, members of the ISO and Directorate of Emergency Services conducted seat belt checks at Ogden Gate and vehicle inspections for vehicle registration, insurance and licenses, and a seat belt survey.

In addition, officials checked child seats at the PX and operated a seat belt convincer, which allowed individuals to experience the force generated during a low-speed collision to understand the importance of wearing a seat belt. Child seats that did not pass the inspection were replaced free of charge.

The next vehicle safety day will be conducted around Labor Day.

Post, Army news briefly

1st ID Band to perform

The 1st Infantry Division Band CG's Summer Concert Series will hold its next performance June 21 at Fort Riley. The band will perform several concerts throughout the summer on post. The following concerts have been slated. All are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

June 21 – Rock Band, Barracks area 7003, Normandy Drive

Aug. 23 – Stage Band, Meade Heights playground on Jackson Ave.

Sept. 13 – Concert Band, Drumfire Park, Schofield Circle on Main Post

For more information about the CG's Summer Concert Series and other events at Fort Riley visit www.riley.army.mil.

CBRN course offered on post

Fort Riley offers a two-week CBRN Defense course each month to train personnel assigned to units' CBRN Control Party.

The Control Party consists of a CBRN Officer and CBRN NCO (an enlisted alternate if no CBRN NCO is assigned).

It's also an opportunity to earn five college credits from Barton College.

These positions are inspected areas during command inspections. The class also provides training to unit 74D, CBRN NCOs (as long as they are not a BNCOC grad).

Units can have multiple Soldiers trained for continuity.

The next post CBRN courses are scheduled for June 18 through 29 and July 16 through 27.

Prerequisites for the class are:

- A GT score of 100 or above (or ST of 95 or above).
- Rank of specialist or above (waiverable for private first class).
- A minimum of one year service remaining.

Units should call Jerald Busing, Troop Schools, at 239-5432 to register. For more information on the course, units also can call Michael Walter, Post Chemical, at 239-6395.

ASAP offers training

The Fort Riley Army Substance Abuse Program conducts monthly classes for Soldiers in the rank of sergeant and above who have been selected by unit commanders to assist them as an ASAP subject matter expert.

During the certification process, Soldiers learn how to administer the Unit Biochemical Testing program, assist commanders in briefing new unit personnel regarding ASAP policies, procedures and services, and how to develop, manage and facilitate the ASAP prevention education program to their Soldiers.

Classes are scheduled June 13-14, July 25-26 and Aug. 22-23.

The Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course has a rigorous two-day curriculum with a required final test to achieve UPL certification. The course will be taught from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each scheduled day at the Digital Training Facility in Building 7285.

For information on the course or to enroll, call Clyde Sallee, at 239-1928 or 239-4151.

Unicorns in Iraq

Capt. Joe Schwankhaus, a Waltonville, Ill. native and commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, hands a stuffed unicorn to an Iraqi girl moments before having dinner with her father May 23.

4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div./Luedeke

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Alegent

JC GENERALS
2 x 9"
Black Only

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 x 2.5"
Black Only
1x2.5 First Presbyterian May T

CYBERLINK MARKETING, INC.
3 x 3"
Black Only
3x3Cyberlink02/22post

‘Dreadnaughts’ take day off from training

By Gary Skidmore
1st Brigade

It doesn’t happen very often, but May 21 the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment took a day off to relax….sort of.

“We call it an organizational day,” said Lt. Col. Dave Seigel, the battalion commander. “It’s basically a sports day where we have a series of sporting events and have our companies vie for the ‘Commander’s Cup’ trophy.”

This day was a little different than a traditional organizational day, Seigel said, because although families could come if they wanted, most spouses were at work and the event was held during the week.

“We had a window of opportunity here for the day,” Seigel said, “because the medics were teaching our transition team class combat lifesaving skills and we didn’t need the whole battalion of personnel around for that.”

So Seigel and his Soldiers organized a sports day in Annenberg Park in Manhattan.

The day included traditional events like volleyball, softball, football and a tug-of-war, and a less traditional tankers bar throw.

“We had to incorporate a tanker’s skill somewhere into the competition,” Seigel said.

After the day of competition under near perfect conditions, the company with the most points was awarded the trophy and bragging rights until the next competition.

“We’re training transition teams how to get ready to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s a six-day work week and we’re busy all the time,” Seigel said. “It’s tough when you only get one day off a week, so we look for opportunities when we can do some fun stuff.”

1st Bde./Skidmore
First Lt. John McFarland, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment goes high to block a ball during the volleyball competition.

Above: Sgt. Scott Turner, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment gives his all during the company tug-of-war May 21 during the battalion’s organizational day.
1st Bde./Skidmore

Left: Spc Jeffery Mills (with guidon), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment takes off during the guidon relay race May 21 during the battalion’s organizational day.
1st Bde./Skidmore

1st Bde./Skidmore
Capt. Michael Dorschner, commander, HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Regt. accepts the commander’s cup from Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Dave Seigel.

HOUSE FILL AD

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2Paintball Special

BUILDING & LOAN MORTGAGE COMPA
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2.5 Building & Loan

WILDCAT PET RESORT
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3Wildcat03/01t.f

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2Military Out Coupon

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4FirstAssembly

MARKET PLACE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2.marketplace.discount.6/11k

WORLD SIGNS GRAPHICS BY IVETTE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2WorldSigns

4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div./Timmons

Cooking out

Cpl. Julian Landrove, 25, from San Antonio, flips a hamburger as Spc. Waylon Ren, 20, of Lebanon, Ky., both with Company C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, hands a hot dog to Manhattan, Kan., resident 1st Sgt. Sean Polwort from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. The Soldiers held a Memorial Day weekend barbecue May 27 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, located on Baghdad's south side.

Engineers honor fallen in Iraq

1st Engineer Battalion

Soldiers deployed to Tikrit, Iraq with the 1st Engineer Battalion out of Fort Riley gathered together on Memorial Day to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. In a ceremony hosted by the 105th Engineer Group, Soldiers paid tribute to their fallen comrades, Sgt. Gregroy A. Wright and Sgt. Jonathan P. Kingman.

Group Commander, Colonel James H. Trogdon III reminded those in attendance that Memorial Day is often a time for backyard barbeques and picnics at the beach, but it has a much deeper meaning for Soldiers deployed to Iraq. "Our mission remains steadfast," he said, "and we thank the Families of our fallen Soldiers. We will continue to make sure that they are never forgotten on this day and every day."

Flags were flow over the group headquarters on Memorial Day in honor of Wright and Kingman and to serve as a reminder of America's commitment to the defense of liberty and freedom. The flags will be given to the Families of the two fallen 1st Eng. Bn. Soldiers.

1st Eng. Bn. photo

Soldiers with the 1st Engineer Battalion in Iraq gather to remember their fellow Soldiers who have been killed in combat.

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD

ALEX'S AFFORDABLE EYE-WEAR
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4 Alex's May TF

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2Candlewood tf

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2CollegeHtstf

FRONTIER SCUBA CENTER
3 x 3"
Black Only
3x3 Frontier Scuba

Academies

continued from page 4

around which to address and solve problems. We have to help them understand and appreciate the political aspects of any problem they are trying to address."

It also gives newly commissioned graduates the skills they will need as they work shoulder to shoulder with coalition partners and allies around the world, noted Gunter Mueller, head of the Air Force Academy's foreign language department.

"We are increasingly a part of coalition forces, no matter where we go and where we operate," Mueller said. "And the better one understands the elements of those coalitions, the more effective one can be. In fact, it's critical that we understand other cultures, other languages, other regions of the world in order to work effectively in those coalitions."

Ahead of the curve

As the largest service with the biggest footprint around the world, the Army is leading the global trend. Ten to 15 percent of cadets in every West Point class major in one of seven languages: Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese and Russian, Ragsdale said.

All West Pointers, regardless of their major, must take at least two semesters of a foreign language, he said. Beginning with the class of 2010, cadets with non-technical majors must take four semesters of language training.

The Naval Academy introduced two language majors, in Chinese and Arabic, this year. Although only 16 midshipmen currently are enrolled, Miller expects that number to grow.

All midshipmen with non-technical majors must take four semesters of language training, he said. Those with technical majors currently have no language requirement, but many select language courses as electives.

Miller said he hopes to add a foreign area studies major to the Naval Academy's curriculum. Currently, the political science program offers an international studies track that addresses various areas of the world, including their languages, cultures, governments and histories, he said.

At the Air Force Academy, humanities and social science majors must take two full years of training in one of seven languages—a number to increase to eight next year, reported Brig. Gen. Dana Born, dean of faculty. In a new change, incoming cadets who major in technical and science will be required to study at least one year of language training, she said.

The foreign area studies major is relatively new at the academy, with just 49 members of this year's graduating class earning degrees in this area. But Born said the trend lines are positive, with 80 cadets from the 2009 class already declaring foreign area studies majors.

Educating future officers in regional and language studies doesn't stop at the classroom door. All three academies have large and growing programs that give students the chance to participate in cultural and language immersion programs. These range from short-term orientation visits to full semesters abroad at foreign military academies or civilian universities.

That's a sea change from when Miller graduated from the Naval Academy in 1962, "back in the age of sail."

"When I went through here, we all expected to spend eight semesters on the shores of the Severn (River)," he said. "And now it's becoming more common for some select few who are still going to graduate in four years to spend seven semesters here and a semester abroad."

Born, a 1983 Air Force Academy graduate, was one of the earlier participants in a four-week language immersion program in Spain and remembers its benefits. "I had taken several years of Spanish and thought I was fluent until I got into my first conversation on the ground," she said. "But when I came back after having spoken only Spanish for four weeks, I was dreaming in Spanish and the first word to come to my mind was Spanish. It really taught me the value of how important not only taking a language is, but also having to use that language to communicate."

Expanding opportunities

Cultural and language opportunities have expanded greatly since Born's experience, and now include countries beyond Western Europe.

This year, for example, the Military Academy sent 86 cadets for semesters abroad in 10 different countries. Next year, Ragsdale said about 140 cadets will spend semesters abroad in about a dozen countries.

In addition, about 190 West Point cadets participated this year in the academy's Foreign Academy Exchange Program and other seven- to 10-day spring immersion programs in more than 40 countries. This summer, another 390 cadets are signed on to participate in three-week summer immersion programs in 43 countries.

"We're looking at different ways of providing experiences for cadets that will enhance their cultural awareness, their regional expertise and their language proficiency," Ragsdale said.

The other academies are following West Point's lead. About 165 Naval Academy midshipmen participated in some type of language and cultural immersion program in 15 countries this year. Ten spent semesters abroad at foreign military academies in five countries.

The Air Force Academy sent 592 cadets for overseas training that ranged from a brief visit to a foreign academy to a five-month semester abroad. That's up from 132 cadets last year, and is nudging toward 700, where Born expects it to eventually level off.

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3x10.5Full ColorFurnitureWareh

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Fort Riley
Community Life

Friday, June 1, 2007 | Home of the Big Red One | Page 11

Community news briefly

Prairie run scheduled

Fort Riley's 2007 10-5-2 Prairie Run will begin at 7 a.m. July 21 at King Field House.

The race will be open to all military and civilian runners and each participant will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

Packet pick-up will be from 6 to 6:45 a.m. with the first races beginning at 7 a.m. All races will begin and end at King Field House, Building 202.

The five and 10 mile races will begin at 7 a.m. and the two mile race will begin at 7:10 a.m.

An awards ceremony will begin at 9:15 a.m.

There is a $12 entry fee for registrations received before July 11 and a $15 entry fee for registrations received from June 12 to June 20. There will be no same day registration.

For active duty military stationed at Fort Riley, the 10-mile race is a qualifier for the Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C.

For additional information, or to register, contact the Fort Riley Sports Department at 239-3724 or 239-3945.

Picerne to hold day off event

Join Picerne Military Housing June 12 for a "Down Range Day Off," a free luncheon open to all on-post resident spouses. The luncheon, which includes free (space-available) child care, will be catered. During the luncheon, over 48 lucky spouses will win prizes which will allow them to take a well-deserved "day off" from their busy schedules. Prizes will include vouchers for free child care from Child and Youth Services, movie certificates, vouchers for lunch and a relaxing spa treatment. All resident spouses of deployed or unaccompanied Soldiers are encouraged to enter the drawing by calling or dropping by their Neighborhood Office. While Picerne encourages all to attend the luncheon, those who enter the drawing need not be present to win.

After the luncheon/drawing, spouses who attend will engage in a "Create a Bloom" activity. Gardening professionals will provide tips on planting summer flowers. Participants will be given all the materials needed to create their own front porch masterpiece.

All spouses who attend the luncheon will receive a free Country Stampede Family Pass.

The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Riley's Conference Center. Spouses who wish to participate in this fun-filled day off, need only contact their Neighborhood Office to RSVP by June 4. For those spouses with children, please be sure to specify if you need child care when you call to register. Children's shot records must be presented and you will need to bring a sack lunch for each child on the day of the event.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

One fish, two

1st Bde./Skidmore

A student with a cup of one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish takes off during her leg of the relay race. The students, from Fort Riley Elementary School, participated in a day of Dr. Suess inspired events with help from the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment to celebrate the end of the school year.

Students, Soldiers celebrate end of school

By Gary Skidmore
1st Brigade

Fort Riley Elementary School students ended their school year with a lot of yelling and a lot of water. And, according to Becky Cook, the school's physical education teacher, that's just the way she wanted it.

"This is all-day fun day at Fort Riley Elementary School," Cook said. "It's the end of the year and we want to end it with fun activities."

The activities were all based, no matter how loosely, on Dr. Suess books, Cook said. "So we have a lot of wacky activities for everyone, including tricycle relays, blind partner treasure hunting and fish in a container relays.

Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Falkner, command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment had 21 Soldiers volunteer to help with the day's activities.

"Our Soldiers set up stations for the kids to rotate through and help out with the kids. I'm not sure who enjoys the day

See Fun day, Page 16

Drive collects 135 pints of blood

Giving blood benefits both recipient, donor

By Pfc. Francisca Vega
3rd HBCT PAO

The blood drive at Riley's Conference Center May 15 and 16 allowed more than 135 donors to help themselves by helping others.

Though the prevailing reason for giving blood is to help save the lives of others, giving blood also helps people who donate gauge their own health – and maybe even become healthier.

"This will be the first time in a while I will be allowed to donate blood," said Spc. Derek Gearheart, a donor at the blood drive. Gearheart was stationed in Korea and Iraq, so he was unable to donate for a year after. Now that he is able to donate again, he said he does so because it's a good cause.

In order to donate, donors must pass a short physical in which their blood pressure, pulse and temperature, among other things, is checked. The donor is informed immediately if they are not allowed to donate and for what reasons they are being disqualified.

Once the donor gives blood, it is tested to make sure it is fit to be received by another person, said Ron Bentley, the model unit assistant.

One of the things the blood is tested for is the human immunodeficiency virus. If a virus or disease is detected, the donor is noti-

See Blood drive, Page 12

Post remembers fallen Soldiers on Memorial Day

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

It was nearly 6 a.m. May 28, 1918. Soldiers from the 28th Infantry Regiment, charged the small village of Cantigny, France, in the first American offensive of World War I. The Soldiers of the 28th Inf. Regt. fought through Cantigny, routing enemy forces. They began digging a trench line once they secured the village, preparing for a counter attack. Joined by fellow infantry regiments, they fought off several counter attacks during the next three days, earning their name, the "Black Lions."

Eighty-nine years later, Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, joked that the old recruiting slogan was true.

"We get more done before nine o'clock than most people do in a day."

Past to present

Ham reminded guests at the post's Memorial Day ceremony of today's Black Lion Soldiers, serving with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. in Baghdad, Iraq. One of the battalion's Soldiers, Pvt. Oscar Sauceda, Jr., 21, died May 22, days before Memorial Day, from enemy small arms fire.

"It would be a lot easier to be someplace else right now," Ham said. "You come to this cemetery to perform a uniquely American tradition and pay honor and homage to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

Remembering

The post marked 100 deaths on May 24 when Spec. Benjamin Ashley, 22, of Independence, Mo., died from wounds incurred when a bomb exploded near his vehicle in Ballad, Iraq. Ashley was part of a security force company from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment.

"These past times have been tough times for Fort Riley and for our Army," Ham said. "This Memorial Day is especially significant as we take time to remember the fallen Fort Riley and 1st Division Soldiers who have been killed in the Global War on Terrorism. More than 100 Fort Riley Soldiers and Soldiers who have

See Memorial Day, Page 12

Taste of islands comes to post

By Sgt. Nicole Clarke
CAB PAO

The first Soldier of Hawaiian decent to reach the rank of lieutenant general came back to his second home, and his homeland of the islands came to him, during the Asian Pacific Heritage Observance May 18 at Riley's Conference Center.

"It's like going back home," said guest speaker Lt. Gen. Joseph Peterson, deputy commanding general and chief of staff for U.S. Army Forces Command, of the contemporary dance styles of the Islanders Dance Group, which performed during the observance.

"It was another demonstration in America on how wonderful different cultures are," he said.

"Fort Riley is like a second home for me," Peterson said. "I commanded the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. It's something very precious to me."

Peterson talked about the Soldiers of the 442nd Infantry Regiment Combat Team, which was an all Japanese-American unit.

The 442nd Inf. Regt. is one of the most decorated combat teams in the Army, Peterson said.

The unit received eight campaign streamers, 9,486 Purple Hearts, one Medal of Honor, seven Presidential Unit Citations and 53 Service Crosses.

In 2000, Congress upgraded 22 of the Service Crosses to Medals of Honor.

For one Soldier in particular, the gathering hit home.

Pvt. Charlene Mesubed's grandparents and relatives were saved in Palau, an island in the South China Sea, by the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mesubed said she originally joined the Army for college money and travel, but loves the military because of the benefits for Soldiers.

"The observance was great," Mesubed said. "There were a lot of contemporary dances that I was familiar with."

"This dance was like having the 'high chief' yell to his warriors to get ready for battle," said Fred Panapa, a Fort Riley Department of the Army police officer and dancer with the Islanders Dance Group.

"It was a blessing to come out here and see Lt. Gen. Peterson," Panapa said. "I know that it makes him proud.

"It was nice to represent the islands all over the world and to bring a little bit of home to Fort Riley," Panapa added.

After the ceremony was finished, audience members were able to go outside and see a fire dance.

The fire dancer, Lakopo Sua'ese, lit the baton on fire, licked it, performed some dance moves and when he finished, threw it to his partner Panapa.

"This was a great opportunity," said Sua'ese, who also is a sergeant with Company E, 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. "We do this a lot back home. It is nice to share our heritage and our customs with others."

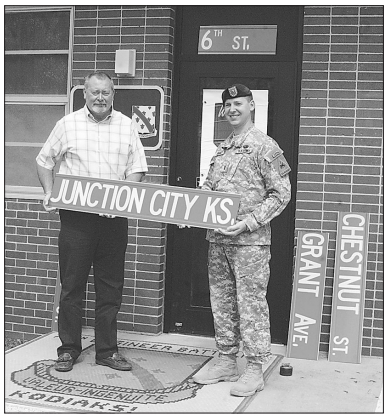
Sua'ese, a native of Samoa, has been fire-dancing for seven years.

During the observance Sua'ese threw the flame thrower to Panapa, who put a flammable liquid in his mouth and blew it toward the flame creating a burst of flame.

"It was great to come out here and show our pride," Panapa said. "It was good to interact with everyone. I have danced from a young age.

"You can always take the islander out of the islands," he added, "but never will you take the islands out of the islander."

Lakopo Sua'ese, a fire dancer with the Islanders Dance Group and a member of 125th FSB, licks a flaming baton during his fire dance.
CAB PAO/Clarke



Post/Staatz

Junction City Mayor Mike Rhodes delivered street signs to 1st Lt. Mickey Morris, 70th Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander May 24. Thee signs will be sent to the "Kodiak" Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.

New partnership helps dislocated spouses find area career options

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Moving and finding a new job can be tough on military spouses.

That's where a partnership between the Family Employment Readiness Program at Fort Riley and Heartland Works, which oversees work force centers in Junction City and Manhattan, comes in. The two organizations have partnered together for the Dislocated Spouse Program, which umbrellas a multitude of area services in assisting military members, spouses and retirees in finding not only a new job but also a new career.

"The biggest obstacle is there are so many things available, they don't know where to go," said Kris Kitchen, executive director of Heartland Works in Topeka.

The Dislocated Spouse Program brings together many area resources that help employees find and receive job training and education and get help with other things, such as finding employers, designing a resume and making the most of the skills they already have. Representatives from both Family Employment Readiness and Heartland Works emphasized the program is designed to accelerate those who are willing to work hard at achieving their goals. For those who attend school through the program, some help is available for child care and transportation.

"We want to prepare the spouse to have a career – not just work fast food, but an industry they can continue to work wherever they PCS," said Quendre Foster, employment readiness specialist. "This is not just about Junction City or Fort Riley, but to prepare the spouse so when they are ready to PCS, they are confident with the skills they have to work in any state or overseas."

Tina Swicegood, of the Heartland Works satellite office at Fort Riley noted that finding a job was often a frustrating process for military spouses coming to the post, for many reasons, including the stress of a move and previous experiences in finding work near other posts.

Spouses or current Soldiers about to complete their time in the military can take advantage of the program by making a simple phone call to set up an appointment. The first appointment helps determine what the person needs, Swicegood said, and then an appropriate plan of action is formed.

It is helpful when attending the appointment to bring a list of prior job experience, education and other relevant materials.

More information

For more information on the Dislocated Spouse Program and other services offered by the Family Employment Readiness Program, contact:

- ***Family Employment Readiness Program, Building 7264, at (785) 239-9435 or Teresa Johnson at teresa.jo.johnson@us.army.mil.***
- ***Heartland Works at (785) 762-9675 or Tina Swicegood at tswicegood@heartlandworks.org***

JC sends signs of home to 'Kodiaks'

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Soldiers in the 70th Engineers Battalion currently deployed to Afghanistan will soon be receiving a little piece of something familiar.

Street signs from Junction City are being shipped to the battalion and will be posted at various locations at its forward operating base. The request for the signs came from Chap. (Capt.) Brian Oh who is stationed with the battalion. Oh felt the signs would be a good morale booster for troops at the operating base. Junction City Mayor Mike Rhodes and Assistant City Manager Mike Guinn delivered the signs to the battalion's rear detachment May 24.

"This is a very nominal thing for us to do as a city," Rhodes said, noting that they had selected signs from some of Junction City's most well-known streets to send overseas.

The battalion's rear detachment commander, 1st Lt. Mickey Morris, said the signs would be posted at various spots on the base in Afghanistan.

"They'll go in a few different locations," he said. "It's for them to see as they're going to meals and meetings. Hopefully they'll get a little reminder of home and what's waiting for them."

Morris said the battalion had been through a very busy time during the early months of its deployment and the chaplain and battalion commander had requested morale support. Morris said he hoped to have the signs, which marked such Junction City streets as Sixth and Chestnut, sent by the next day.

Students collect change for tornado victims

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

After a deadly tornado destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kan., May 4, students and teachers banded together to help the town's elementary school.

Ware Elementary School students collected more than $800 in change and brought it in to school as part of a change drive to help the Greensburg school, said Pat Olmstead, family support monitor at Ware Elementary.

Final totals were still being determined when school was released May 24, but Olmstead said the classrooms collecting the most change were Katie Hoeman's third-grade class and Kara Bronikowski's fourth-grade class. Olmstead said the difference between the two classes averaged about 3 cents per student.

Students in the two classes received ice cream treats on the last day of school.

The goal was to make contact with the principal or superintendent in Greensburg through a Kansas principal's association and ensure the money went toward school supplies for students and teachers as they went back to school this fall, Olmstead said.

About 180 pounds of coins were collected during the drive, which was sponsored during the last two weeks of school. One student even brought in a glass piggy bank full of change. The student told teachers to "just break it," Olmstead said, since there was no way to get the money out besides trying to shake coins through the slot in the top.

Blood drive continued from page 11

fied.

Aside from detecting an illness, donating blood is also a good way to increase the odds of a healthy life.

For middle-aged males, donating blood may reduce their risk of heart disease, according to the British Medical Journal. Donating blood reduces body iron stores, which can lessen the amount of harmful iron to the heart.

Not only does the act of donating blood offer health benefits for the recipients, blood donors just may benefit too.

Memorial Day continued from page 11

been mobilized through this post have been killed. Those Soldiers came from nearly every unit on post."

Ham also noted that more than 200 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers have died since the division left Germany to return to Fort Riley.

"I ask that you not forget these Soldiers and not forget the thousands more who have died defending our way of life since our nation's inception," he said.

During the ceremony, Ham and Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes, of the 1st Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., laid a wreath at the post cemetery. The ceremony concluded with the playing of the national anthem and a prayer.

Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes, of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div., lay a wreath May 28 at the Post Cemetery.

Post/Staatz

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1st Inf. Div./Roberts

Manhattan High School graduate Tyler Polwort and family members speak with his deployed father, 1st Sgt. Sean Polwort of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in a video-teleconference.

Deployed troops watch kids graduate via satellite

By Pfc. Dustin Roberts
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers deployed thousands of miles away watched their kids in the Fort Riley area walk the stage and receive their high school diplomas.

Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan saw the big day live May 20 thanks to live satellite coverage.

Seven graduates from Manhattan High School and 22 graduates from Junction City High School have deployed parents.

"It's a special day in anybody's family," said Maj. Robert Smith, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley operations officer. "To miss that – you don't get that back."

Garrison operations and the Fort Riley Directorate of Information Management connected with the Technology Information Analysis Center in Vicksburg, Miss., to use video-teleconferencing capabilities.

The TIAC then was able to establish communications with the deployed parents.

Before Manhattan High School's graduation ceremony at Kansas State University's Bramlage Coliseum, Smith and DOIM officials set up a video teleconferencing center in a trailer so graduates and their families could see and speak to the deployed Soldiers one on one.

"I'm really happy that I can talk to (my father) and he can see a big milestone in my life," said MHS graduate Tyler Polwort, whose father, 1st Sgt. Sean Polwort, is deployed with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "He's very excited and proud of me for graduating high school."

Because Soldiers may miss events such as their kids' high school graduation, families were thrilled with the opportunity to see them on camera while conversing with them.

"It's the life of a Soldier – you always know that there is a possibility he will be gone for things like this," said Julie Reichling of her husband, Lt. Col. Vernie Reichling, commander of the 70th Engineer Battalion. "I'm just thankful that my husband will be able to share in the moment."

After the JCHS ceremony, one graduate and his family were able to speak with his deployed father through video-teleconferencing.

Joshua Cornejo didn't even know his dad, Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Cornejo, 4th IBCT, saw him walk across the stage set up on the JCHS football field.

"(Johnny) said he was really happy to hear my name called," Joshua said. "I was so excited to see him and talk to him."

Transition team members find new way to relax at Funston

By Gary Skidmore
1st Brigade

The 1st Brigade Forward Operating Base 'Army Strong' on Camp Funston has a new Morale, Welfare and Recreation building. Now Soldiers training as members of transition teams on their way to Iraq and Afghanistan have a place to go to relax, watch some television or a movie and e-mail home.

According to 1st Bde. Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes, a year in Iraq prompted establishing the MWR building.

"One of the themes we had in Iraq was to do something to improve quality of life everyday," Burrowes said.

"You push Soldiers out the gate everyday and say, 'hey, go fight' and then they come back and the quality of life is not up to speed. Then before long, they're not going to last," Burrowes said. "So now, as we train, we train to fight and we push them with hard intensive training and when they come back, they need a relaxed atmosphere. They need a good quality of life and an alternative to drinking, and partying in Aggieville and possible DUIs or the possibility of getting killed in a car accident."

Burrowes said the facility is just catching on although it's been open for a little more than three weeks.

"It started off slow but it's starting to go," he said. Everything there is starting to be used, including the reading room and that place is dear to my heart."

Manager of the facility, Master Sgt. John Pevy, said the number of daytime users hasn't reached more than 190, but he expects to be breaking the 200 mark any day.

"As of right now, lunchtime and after Soldiers get done training are the two biggest times we're used," he said. "People will come in here and take a break from the training, watch a movie, watch a game on the other television, e-mail home on one of the 46 computers we have or just chill out."

Pevy said the facility offers a variety of things to do besides e-mailing home, and reading or watching a television.

"We have a pool table, Foosball, Xboxes, ping pong, a card room and table games available to Soldiers, sailors and airmen."

Only on Camp Funston for a few days, Air Force 1st Lt. Angela Okroi has visited the facility three times. This time during lunch, she was sending an e-mail.

"I think it's wonderful that we have access to our regular activities like online banking and e-mail," Okroi said. "This facility has a library, TVs, computers and a lot more," she said. "This is definitely a great place to come and relax.

"Quality of life is that thing you have to integrate into everyday life, to make sure you have that so when the Soldier accomplishes the mission, he is still good for his Family, good for society and good for the Army," Burrowes said.

Home wanted

Gemini

This is Gemini. Gemini is a 6-month-old domestic, medium-haired female tabby. She is litterbox trained, very friendly, and gets along well with both children and animals. Gemini is one of many cats and kittens currently awaiting new homes at the stray facility.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday
Phone: 239-6183

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD

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AFAP committee provides update on Fort Riley issues

AFAP committee

Members of the Army Family Action Plan committee at Fort Riley met recently to determine the status of open issues from the October 2005 AFAP conference and to obtain progress reports on new issues from the October 2006 conference. Listed below are a few of the issues discussed at the meeting. Additional issues were listed in the May 21 newspaper. Issues also will be listed in next week's newspaper.

2006 issues:

Issue: Expand Fort Riley newcomers' orientation

Scope: Incoming Soldiers and their Families lack awareness of on-post resources, which are underutilized. This situation causes undue stress and financial hardship and impedes Soldier readiness.

Recommendations:

• Add an additional day to inprocessing for Soldier and spouse post orientation to include a post tour, free child care and lunch.

• Provide three-ring binders with maps, phone numbers, and a listing of services divided by directorate. Also include information on Army lodging rooms, and local area hotels to expedite and increase awareness to newcomers.

• Send a digital SITES packet and a link to the Fort Riley Newcomers' Web site to incoming Soldiers when they receive their orders.

Issue update from Army Community Service Relocation March 19: A newcomers' orientation, Discover Riley's Treasures, is available to Soldiers, Family members and civilians. As of March 19, the total of people attending in fiscal year 2007 has not exceeded 15. The largest drawback noted by those who call to register and then cancel has been a lack of transportation and child care. The event will continue to be offered, but child care and lunch won't be offered due to a lack of funding.

Issue update March 20: A CD-ROM of welcome information is available to incoming Families and is inserted in welcome packets. The Public Affairs Office will review the possibility of updating the CD to make it more viewer friendly.

This issue will be reviewed at the next meeting.

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Issue: Education Center accessibility

Scope: Soldiers have limited accessibility to Education Centers on post due to the centers' hours of operation. Not being able to visit the centers after hours results in frustration and delays the opportunity for Soldiers' continued education.

Recommendations:

• Make counselors available during off-duty hours by shifting open hours to cover at least one weeknight and one weekend morning.

• Expand the Education Expo to become a quarterly occurrence during off-duty hours coinciding with the academic calendar, and ensuring counselors and all on-post college representatives are available.

• Utilize the Public Affairs Office to advertise in high-traffic areas such as the Post Exchange, Commissary, gyms, Shoppettes, Rally Point, barracks, chapels, the Picerne Military Housing newsletter, and dining facilities.

Issue update from the Education Center Dec. 19, 2006: The Academic Resource Center is open and fully staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Customer usage during after-duty hours has been extremely low. Numerous methods were used to advertise the resources, however, needs' assessments show Soldiers aren't receiving the information.

Issue update from the Education Center March 20: Hours of operation continue as stated above. The Education Center director has met with various Family readiness groups, clubs and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers to get feedback on how to better serve the community. A new counselor is being hired to make major command and FRG visits. The Education Center is continuing its efforts to advertise in high-traffic areas.

This issue was closed by the committee.

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Issue: Dining facility availability

Scope: Fort Riley policy does not permit Family members and Department of Defense civilians to utilize dining facilities. The Family members and DoD civilians do not have access to a variety of nutritional food at a reasonable price on post. Access would increase morale of the Soldiers and Families. It would also enhance Family involvement in the military community.

Recommendation:

• Authorize Family members and DoD civilians access to DFACs for meals.

Issue update march 20: Recently the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley commander opened all dining facilities to family members. The response has not brought a significant increase in use of the facilities by Families.

This issue was closed by the committee.

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Issue: Information distribution throughout the community.

Scope: People are unaware of community events that happen on post. Activities would have more participation if information was put out more effectively. More participation will improve the quality of future events.

Recommendations:

• The commanding general requires community information be put out and mandates feedback from leaders, similar to Alert procedures.

See AFAP issues, Page 16

SERVICE DIRECTORY
6 x 15.5"
Black Only

CLASSIFIEDS

Fun day continued from page 11

more, the kids or the Soldiers."

Cook said it would be hard to tell, but based on the noise level, she estimated the kids were having a pretty good time.

"We've had the Soldiers help us for several years," Cook said. "The kids absolutely love it and they do a great job here. It's just a wonderful relationship between the Soldiers and the kids."

Sgt. Peter Majia said he couldn't agree more.

"This is fun," Majia said. "I'm not sure who's having a better time, the kids or us.

Sgt. James Towne, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment helps a student get down the course during the tricycle riding competition at Fort Riley Elementary School
1st Bde./Skidmore

AFAP issues continued from page 14

• Develop information packets to be put out at inprocessing.

• Improve the current system of community information distribution to include touch screen kiosks, signs, automated phone systems, etc.

Issue update from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Dec. 26, 2006: MWR developed a Soldier and Family survey to gauge the types of events and programs they would like to see at Fort Riley. The surveys also include questions on which facilities Families use and how they prefer to receive information.

The Directorate of Information Management informed DMWR of a new phone system, which should be operational in March or April. The new system would provided callers with a directory of information on MWR facilities.

Issue update March 20: DMWR reported the surveys seem to be working well. Information on events also is available at www.riley.army.mil and www.1ID.army.mil.

This issue was closed by the committee

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Issue: Variety of recreational activities

Scope: Soldiers and Families have a limited variety of recreational activities on post. It is difficult for Soldiers and Families to foster a sense of community due to lack of constant activities. The lack of communication of recreational activities hurts community growth and morale. Increasing community input will enhance the quality and quantity of activities held on post.

Recommendations:

• Offer a larger variety of activities

• Hand out surveys at inprocessing

• Form quarterly focus groups to discuss activities

• Set up brigade points of contact for activities

DMWR response March 19: Custer Hill Lanes continues to expand evening operations by offering a variety of nightly programs. Currently on the schedule is Tuesday night Nifty Fifties Night with 50 cent specials; Wednesday night 25 cent wings and Penny a Pin bowling; Thursday evening Red Pin night for free games; Friday night bowling packages; and Saturday and Sunday X-treme bowling with music and light show. Riley's Conference Center will offer monthly dinner and dance themed events starting in June.

This issue was closed by the committee.

• • •

Issue: Theft at Fort Riley Middle School

Scope: Repeated thefts concern teachers and students at the middle school. Crimes occur in lockers, classrooms and at the bike racks resulting in a lack classroom supplies. Repeated thefts cause a lack of trust and fear in the school.

Recommendations:

• Install outside cameras facing the bike racks

• Enforce stricter punishments for the theft

• Establish better supervision during passing periods

Child and Youth Services response March 13: The FRMS principal confirmed that a work order was put in to install a pan-style camera facing the bike rack area. School staff also are aware of a need for heightened awareness and supervision in order to deter criminal activity.

This issue will be reviewed at the next meeting.

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Community news briefly

Auditions set for children's theater

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Child and Youth Services are proud to welcome the Missoula Children's Theater back to Fort Riley for another wonderful theater production.

This year's play will be "The Wiz of the West" and roles are available for children entering 1st through 12th grades.

Group auditions will begin at 9 a.m. June 11 at the Middle School Teen Center gymnasium.

Character roles are available for 50 children; there is no guarantee everyone will be cast in the play.

Participation in the theater production is free and rehearsals will be conducted daily from 9 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2:30 p.m. June 11 to 16. Not all cast members will be required at each rehearsal.

For additional information call 239-4723.

Parenting workshops set

Fort Riley's Family Advocacy Program will be hosting "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent," a two-day workshop for Spanish-speaking parents, June 12 and 13.

The workshops will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264.

The workshops will be instructed by a Family Advocacy specialist and Spanish-speaking facilitator.

For additional information or to register call 239-9435.

CLASSIFIEDS

River fest promises 4 days of family fun

Special to the Post

SALINA, Kan. –More than 300 nationally recognized musicians, artists, and performers will share their talents and voices at this year's Smoky Hill River Festival June 7-10 at Oakdale Park in Salina, adjacent to the Bicentennial Center. Festival gates open at 4 p.m. June 7, and 9 a.m. June 8-10. For a complete itinerary of Festival events, visit www.riverfestival.com.

The 2007 Smoky Hill River Festival includes many events:

• **Festival Jam** (June 7, 6-10 p.m.): Kick off the River Festival with the amazing Festival Jam – 16 regional and local bands of every possible musical style, changing every 15 minutes. The quick-time format builds excitement, culminating in a spectacular giant jam at evening's end. Food booths open at 4 p.m. with a full menu of Festival fare.

• **Big Band Dance** (June 8, 7-10:30 pm., Bicentennial Center): The Big Band Dance, featuring Bobby Layne and His Orchestra with vocalist Trudy DuMay, celebrates big-band music of the 30s, 40s and 50s in one fantastic evening.

• **Fine Art Show** (June 9-10): The Fine Art Show presents more than 90 artists from coast to coast and beyond exhibiting their artwork in a variety of media – jewelry, ceramics, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and more.

• **Four Rivers Craft Market** (June 8-10): The craft show features 55 exhibitors from across the nation. The three-day show features innovative and original handmade works in a distinctive combination of folk art, traditional, and contemporary craft.

• **First Treasures, Art for Young Collectors** (June 9): An opportunity for children ages 3-13. Under the First Treasures tent, children can purchase original artwork (at child friendly prices), all made available from Festival artists and craftpersons. The children are then encouraged to seek out the artist who made their "treasure" to learn more about the piece.

• **Festival Fitness Five** (June 9): Lace up your sneakers and join us for the Festival's 28th annual five-mile and two-mile run, two-mile walk, and children's road races – with categories for all athletes, from ages 2 to 82. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m. at Kenwood Park.

• **Yoga in the Garden** (June 10): Relax in the early summer sun with meditation in motion – an hour-long outdoor yoga class. Everyone is welcome. The class begins at 9 a.m. at the park's formal gardens.

• **Encore Art Car Exhibition** (June 8-10): Watch for Art Cars at the Festival or roaming Salina streets – each car is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece you won't find anywhere else.

If you go:

The Smoky Hill River Festival attracts 85,000 Festival goers annually. Admission to the Festival is by button only. Festival buttons are on sale for $7 in advance, $10 at the gate. Children 11 and under are admitted free.

Directions: Salina is located at the I-135 and I-70 junction – 80 miles north of Wichita or 150 miles west of Kansas City. Exit 253, on I-70.

For a complete itinerary of Festival events, visit www.riverfestival.com.

PAO/Blackmon

Following in dad's footsteps

Scotty MacDonald, 3, entertains the audience with his own conducting while his father, Chief Warrant Officer Scott MacDonald conducts the 1st Infantry Division Band May 24 during the band's first performance for the CG's Summer Concert Series. The next concert in the series will feature the Rock Band at 7 p.m. June 21 at barracks area 7003 on Normandy Drive. The public is invited to attend. Off post, the Concert Band will perform at 8 p.m. June 2 at Manhattan's City Park as part of the Manhattan Arts in the Park Concert Series. It is free and open to the public.

Junction City to celebrate Juneteenth

By Anna Staatz
Staff writer

Residents from Fort Riley and surrounding communities will have an opportunity to celebrate Juneteenth on June 9. The African-American holiday of Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865 – the day when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to let slaves in that area know they had been freed. Slaves had been proclaimed free nearly two years earlier, but news had yet to reach Texas. This year marks the 142nd year of Juneteenth celebrations.

Susie Walker, one of the event's organizers, said the Geary County Juneteenth celebration will feature a full day of activities. The day starts with a parade, which will begin at Junction City's Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park and end at Hammond Park. A ceremony will follow the parade. Following the ceremony, there will be a musical presentation by several church choirs and a "crown of hats," when women may display hats of their choice.

Other planned activities include special speakers, an extreme animal exhibit and petting zoo, fashion show and music, dance and band presentations. The day will conclude with an outdoor movie showing in Hammond Park.

Several competitions will be held as well, including an essay contest for students, a talent show and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The essay contest will feature entries on why "my mom or dad is the best in Junction City." Student winners will receive cash prizes and their parents will receive a one-night hotel stay, dinner, a limo for the evening and movie tickets. Entries should be mailed to P.O. Box 631, Ogden, KS 66517. The talent show will also have cash prizes for winners. Auditions will be from 1 to 4 p.m. June 2 at the Larry Dixon Center, Junction City. The cost to participate in the 3-on-3 tournament is $15. There are two age categories –11 to 14 and 15 and up. Participants may call 226-6733 or 762-4455 for more information or to register.

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