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Weather Forecast	Today		High:74 Low:52
Friday	High:80 Low:54	Saturday	High:80 Low:54

THURSDAY

Fort Riley Post

May 23, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 21

Town Hall Meeting

Town meeting scheduled

A live, televised Fort Riley Town Meeting has been scheduled for June 2, at 7 p.m. A panel of Fort Riley leaders will answer a variety of questions from the citizens of the Fort Riley area.

Healthcare workers come together for exercise on post

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

A mass casualty exercise was held by the Fort Riley Medical Department Activity last week at Camp Funston to test Irwin Army Community Hospital's new Hospital Emergency Incident Command System.

The HEICS changes the command structure from the military command to a responsibility-orientated chain of command. It also allows IACH to communicate with area hospitals using the same language.

Prior to implementing the HEICS, the post hospital used the current military command and control structure.

"This works quite well when the full command is present," said Capt. Brian Friedland, chief of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "However, we know emergencies occur at all hours and on weekends and holidays. These are times when the command structure might not be present."

Friedland said that the new system defines a generic command and control system for emergencies.

"It provides a responsibility-oriented chain of command," he explained. "This is an organizational structure that provides for the addressing of the many facets of an emergency. Job action sheets provide guidance on needed taskings to perform command and control supervision."

The MASCAL exercise allowed IACH to test the procedures used in the new system.

"We are validating the emergency management manual to ensure that the way we are going to do business in a real exercise is the way we are practicing it," said Vic Dimattia, chief of Security, PTMS.

"We are converting so we are more in line with the way that Mercy Regional Health Center and Geary Community Hospital are doing business, so when they call up and they want to talk to the medical staff director they know who that person is. They may not know who the deputy commander is or what his title is. That's why we are moving to HEICS."

Formerly, using the military system meant that the ranking person was the person in charge, explained Dimattia. "Now it could be whoever has the role of incident commander or medical staff director or the triage leader," he said. "It's more position based instead of rank based."

Hospital staff faced several challenges during the exercise.

"The hospital must continue to treat patients, run emergency services, and accomplish support

See MASCAL Page 2

129th PAD/Baker

Two members of the Irwin Army Community Hospital's decontamination team work on a soldier who was exposed to a simulated chlorine explosion as part of a Mass Casualty Exercise held on Fort Riley last week.

Fort Riley soldier killed in Iraq

Staff Reports

The Department of Defense announced today the identity of a Fort Riley soldier killed May 16 in Haswah, Iraq.

Dead is Master Sgt. William Lee Payne, 46, of Michigan. Payne was the Intelligence Noncommissioned Officer in Charge for the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Payne served in the Army for 28 years. He was stationed at Fort Riley from 1995 -1998 and again from 2001 to present. Payne served as the First Sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division prior to his most recent assignment.

Payne was examining unexploded ordnance when the ordnance exploded, causing his death. The incident is under investigation.

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

Army lifts 'stop movement' measures

Army News Service

With the victory in Iraq, the Army is lifting its "stop movement" order issued earlier this year so that soldiers will soon be able to report to their next assignment.

The "stop loss" measures — keeping soldiers in certain job specialties and in selected units from leaving active duty — is also expected to be incrementally lifted in the near future.

Between December and February, the Army executed an active-component unit stop move and stop loss to stabilize forces preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Personnel Command officials said. With the cessation of OIF major combat operations, they said the Army is lifting "stop move" to again distribute soldiers across the force, to satisfy readiness and professional development needs.

Allowing soldiers to change duty stations will support the readiness of forces in Korea, Army Transformation, the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams, the Longbow Apache helicopter units and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles program, officials said. They said this will also allow soldiers to move to drill sergeant and other instructor positions, become recruiters, and serve in joint assignments.

For most soldiers redeploying home from Iraq and other OIF countries, PERSCOM's goal is to provide a 90-day stabilization period before changing assignments, personnel officials said. But they said soldiers may voluntarily waive the 90-day stabilization period, if they want.

PERSCOM will continue to phase deferments and adjust report dates as necessary to support on-going OIF operations, officials said.

"Stop-move" for officers will be lifted in phases, officials said. In February, PERSCOM deferred all officers in OIF units with report dates of March 1 to May 31.

Officers with old report dates in June and July will now have a new report date of Aug. 31.

PERSCOM will make a determination later this summer on whether to defer the move of officers with original report dates in August.

The intent of the phased approach is to limit officer personnel turbulence, while at the same time preserve planned assignments and minimize disruptions to officer professional development timelines, officials said. They said they will try to support a 14-day overlap between incoming officers and incumbents in the OIF area of operations.

Soldiers scheduled to attend schools will usually not have their report dates deferred, officials said, unless the school adjusts its class dates.

Report dates will not be automatically adjusted for officers selected for command or for assignments in Central Command, Korea, Special Operations Command, Northern Command, and special management units, PERSCOM officials said.

More details on lifting "stop move" can be found in a MILPER message at http://perscomnd04.army.mil/milpermsgs.nsf

Hardy takes over as commanding general of division, post

By Michael Watson
Staff Writer

Fort Riley has a new leader with a goal to sustain the rich heritage of the installation and prepare its troops for future missions.

Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy assumed command of 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley on May 15 on Calvary Parade Field. Hardy said he is excited, honored and privileged to serve Fort Riley and to keep the history books moving forward.

"It is a great day for me and (wife) Diane to be joining this great organization and this great team," he said. "This is a great team here and there is a lot of history that has been made here.

"We look at this as an honor and as a privilege — to come to Fort Riley and serve this great Army and serve everyone here," said Hardy.

He said Fort Riley is moving forward, writing new chapters in the history books. To continue with its success as America's Warfighting Center, Hardy said he would focus on sustaining the levels of training and preparation at Fort Riley, improving the soldiers who serve their country.

"You can fight fights with weapons, but you only win wars with people, he said. "Readiness goes without saying for any formation, and certainly the events of the past two years have demonstrated that if you are not combat ready — physically fit, mentally fit, trained, equipped and prepared — life is going to be hard. But this Army is ready and prepared, and we will build on that as we continue our readiness for tomorrow."

> "I've got great confidence in this leader. I am looking very forward to continuing as the III Corps commander knowing that the northern flank at Fort Riley is well taken care of with the leadership that we've got here."
>
> **—Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz**
> **Commander, III Corps**

Hardy's goals for this forward movement are to maintain the installation's current successes. He said the soldiers and civilians here are great.

He also wants to make sure that all soldiers currently serving in the Central Command area of responsibility return home safe and get settled again.

Fort Riley's former commander, Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz welcomed Hardy to Fort Riley during the ceremony.

"Enjoy every minute of it because it will be the most wonderful assignment of your career," he said. As the commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, Metz will continue to provide oversight to Fort Riley.

"I've got great confidence in this leader. I am looking very forward to continuing as the III Corps commander knowing that the northern flank at Fort Riley is well taken care of with the leadership that we've got here," said Metz.

Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, commanding general, First United States Army, served as the senior reviewing officer for the ceremony. He said Fort Riley is doing well and Hardy will be in good hands as he settles into the community and assumes his new role.

Fort Riley has been blessed to have Brig. Gen. Frank and Melissa Helmick in the community, in a time of need for leadership, said Inge. Helmick took command after Metz's departure in February. "Frank stepped up...and this post never missed a beat."

The installation is now blessed to have Brig. Gen. Hardy and his wife in this community, Inge added. "He has a reputation for being a great leader and a great trainer. He is prepared, and he is qualified.

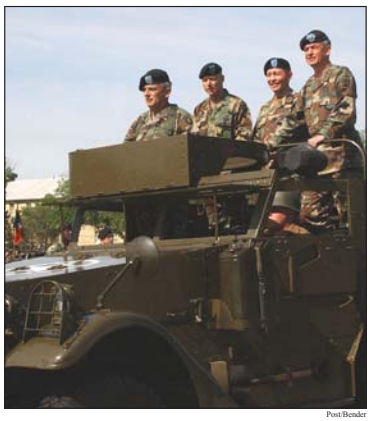
"Thanks to the preparation of Brig. Gen. Helmick and Brig. Gen. Hardy, we will make it through the tough times ahead and continue to live in the greatest country in the world," said Inge.

Hardy was commissioned through Gonzaga University's Reserved Officers Training Corps Program where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Auditing. He also has a Master of Business Administration from Washington State University in Comptrollership.

In his 31 years of active duty, he has served overseas in Germany, Korea, Bosnia and Kosovo, as well as numerous assignments throughout the United States.

His decorations include the

See Hardy Page 3



Post/Bender

Col. Thomas Luebker, assistant division commander (S) 24th Infantry Division; Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander (M), 24th Inf. Div.; Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley and Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, commanding general, First United States Army, prepare to inspect the troops.

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Class helps with financial organization

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Finances can often make or break a person's happiness. People sleep better and feel less stress when their finances are organized, said Betsey Sullivan, financial budget counselor, Financial Readiness Program.

Giving people control over their finances can greatly lift people's morale, making people much more at ease in their lives, said Sullivan.

To help manage finances, Sullivan offers a class at no charge every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264. The class is open to all military personnel and their family members.

During the course, Sullivan goes over bank terms and charges, reconciling checkbooks with bank statements, using the Army's My Pay system, budgeting money and other financial questions the attendees may have.

"I teach people how to reconcile their bank statements with their checkbook register," said Sullivan. "I also talk about budgeting, investments, the time value of money and debt liquidation."

Sullivan has been teaching this class at Fort Riley since November. Participation was better before deployments, but Sullivan said she is hoping to reach out to more spouses.

"The spouses usually control the finances," said Sullivan. "It's really important for the spouses to know how to handle the money, and it's also a pleasant surprise for a soldier to come home and find that their spouse has saved them money."

The meetings are confidential, unless a soldier is command referred. Sullivan said she understands people's concern over privacy, and everything is kept confidential.

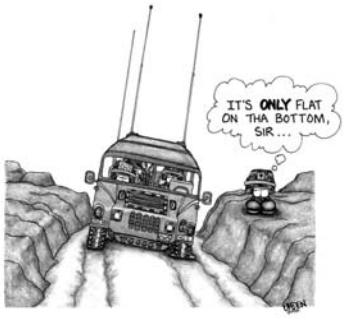
She said her goal for the class is to have people feel more confident about managing their finances.

"I hope that attendees learn that they don't need to pay for help to organize their finances," said Sullivan. "It's easy to do, with the proper training."

Aside from the classes, Sullivan said she is available to discuss individual financial situations or to answer any financial questions over the phone.

To register for the class, for additional information or for financial advice, call Sullivan at 239-5032 or stop by the finance office at the Soldier and Family Support Center.

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*



Mass casualty exercise brings staff together

By Marvin Baker
129th MPAD

Tammi Stangohr and Dennis Rieke weren't expecting the catastrophic situation they encountered May 13 at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Stangohr and Rieke, both Officer Candidate School cadets and both Physicians Assistants in the hospital, were making their Tuesday morning rounds when suddenly they were thrust into a simulated, chlorine explosion.

The duo immediately went into action under the direction of Maj. Terrence Flynn, triage unit leader, and began simultaneously assessing casualties arriving by privately owned vehicle and hospital ambulance. By the end of the disaster, Rieke and Stangohr, who had become contaminated themselves from the residual effects of the 'chlorine,' stabilized 18 soldiers who were near the explosion.

"I want to get them cleaned up and moved to definitive care," Flynn said as a crew of first responders made up of civilian and military personnel set up a decontamination site in the hospital's ambulance bay. Within five minutes, about the time it took Stangohr and Rieke to examine their three initial patients, a complete decon site was established with a shower and bath, a clothing drop-off, an equipment washer and rinser, a waste barrel, a warm zone and a clean zone.

Following the decontamination, patients were once again monitored and moved into the hospital.

The exercise was definitely a learning experience, according to Stangohr. She said it was an excellent training opportunity and shows how the care of casualties has changed from immediate treatment 20 years ago to triaging them today.

"This shows what works and what doesn't and what we have to focus on," Rieke said.

According to Flynn, incidents such as these are always chaotic, however, as the simulated chlorine disaster unfolded, it was managed well.

"The personnel involved were responsive and knowledgeable, exercised remarkable calm and stayed focused," Flynn said. "This is a good test of our system at Irwin and shows the cooperation between the government and civilian authorities responding. On a personal note, I'm proud of the energy and effort put forth by everyone."

129th MPAD/Baker

Cadets Dennis Rieke and Tammi Stangohr, cut the clothing off Spc. Shawn Snyder near the ambulance bay of Irwin Army Community Hospital during an exercise.

MASCAL continued from page 1

missions such as current mob and demob requirements," said Friedland. "This is a daunting task during an "uneventful day" let alone during a mass casualty event. Some appointments were adjusted to lighten the load but overall the hospital maintained its mission."

The stormy weather was also a factor the participants dealt with.

"The weather was not that big of a concern. What was a concern was the safety of the soldiers," said Dimattia. "We don't ever want to do an exercise where the safety of the soldier isn't first. The reason we moved under cover was because of the lightening and the possibility of hail. But if it was just a strait rainstorm we would have stayed were we were at."

Because of safety issues, the part the Fort Riley Fire Department would have played was eliminated.

"We had to adjust and fire make some assumptions and inject messaging that the fire department would have provided," said Friedland. The hospital staff remained focused on testing the EMP integration with the HEICS. That role does not involve many external players."

Also due to the storm, the planned helicopter transport to Mercy Regional Health Center was also eliminated.

"Our aero evacuation could not fly due to the weather, however we had back up plans to provide patients to Mercy and that worked out well," said Friedland.

Despite the challenges, the exercise went well on several notes, added Friedland.

"This MASCAL provided incite into several areas of improvement for the hospital EMP and our HEICS implementation," he explained. "It involved a great deal of planning and coordination within the hospital and with post. We overcame several external factors that threatened the entire exercise. However the bottom line is we managed both real world situations, handled an influx of patients, and accomplished the medical mission."

129th MPAD/Aune

Sgt. Christopher Morrison, Emergency Medical Noncommissioned Officer, IACH Emergency Medical Services, accesses a burn victim during a mass casualty exercise May 13.

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Rear Detachments work hard to keep families informed

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Now that most of the combat of Operation Iraqi Freedom is over, some families want to know when their soldiers are returning home.

Rear detachments at the Soldier and Family Support Center have been fielding those questions for the past three weeks, ever since combat ended. Unfortunately, there are no answers, Sgt.1st Class Gilbert Simmons, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, said.

"When families call in, we just have to tell them that we don't know when the unit will be coming home," he said. "But, we send a blanket e-mail to our family readiness group when we receive new information. That way, the families know what we know."

Now that combat is over, communication is more accessible, Simmons said. Fort Riley has been hearing more morale calls, and that has been good news for families.

"Soldiers are calling home to tell loved ones that they are okay and to see what is going on at home," he said. "When the unit was fighting, nobody was able to call home. So, this is a good way to let those at home know they are okay and that they shouldn't worry."

When families are informed, it also helps the rear detachment squelch any rumors.

"We've heard rumors — people saying they heard that soldiers could be coming home soon, but the 2-70th was told three to 18 months, so they could be there for awhile," Simmons said. "But, when soldiers call and talk to their families, that helps get more information to the family readiness groups, and that cuts down on misinformation from the rumor mill."

Sgt. 1st Class Vernon Young, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, has also been answering telephones at his unit's rear detachment. However, they have been quiet in the past few weeks. There have not even been any morale calls, because the unit has moved from Kuwait to Iraq, and communication might not be operational yet, he said.

However, he said the families in his unit have not been worried.

"That is because our family readiness groups are well-informed," he said. "The families know the soldiers are busy completing their mission. They might not have all the answers they want, but they really do know what we know.

"The FRGs are amazing, and they make sure that all the information is passed on to the families. So that's probably why we are not getting many calls."

During the war, Young said he remembers one person calling in who was very concerned after reading a story in the newspaper. It was a mother who was worried that her son might have been injured or killed.

While there were reports of casualties in the mission she was referring to, they were not American casualties, and her son was actually a hero, Young said.

"It really touched home she was worried about her son," he said. "But he was okay. We just had to tell her to read the rest of the story. Thankfully, we don't have to answer questions like that now that the fighting is over. Things have been rather quiet."

Concert Saturday on Fort Riley

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

The 2003 Army Summer Concert Series, featuring Cheap Trick and Night Ranger, will begin tomorrow night at 8 p.m.

If you have not bought your tickets yet, you are not too late. Tickets are still on sale through the Information, Ticketing and Registration office, 239-5614, and at local participating Dillon's grocery stores.

Tickets in advance are $12 per person or $25 for a group of four. Groups must enter together.

You can also buy tickets at the gate for $15 per person.

Gates will open at 6:30 p.m., and Night Ranger will kick off the show at 8 p.m. Cheap Trick is scheduled to go on at 9:30 p.m.

To make the security process go smoother and the event more enjoyable for everyone, concert-goers should remember some simple rules before coming on post.

Enter Fort Riley at exit 301, off of I-70.

Free parking will be available within that gate. Six concession stands will be available within the gates, selling food and beverages.

No outside food or beverage will be allowed within the gates. Cameras, recording devices, pets, coolers and glass are also not allowed within the gates.

Seating is festival-style, so concertgoers can bring chairs and blankets.

Talk Around Town

"What does Memorial Day mean to you?"

"It's a day for me to stop and remember all Americans who have made sacrifices for our nation and recognize all of the freedoms we enjoy every day."

Spc. Jina Hinzman
Company C,
234th Signal Battalion

"It is a time to remember the soldiers that fought before us."

Spc. Ryan Theriault
Company C,
234th Signal Battalion

"It's a day to remember the men and women, military and civilian, who gave their lives so that I can make my own decisions."

Spc. John Hamre
Company C,
234th Signal Battalion

Hardy continued from page 1

Legion of Merit, with three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, with five oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, with three oak leaf clusters and the Army Achievement Medal, with one oak leaf cluster.

He has also earned the Parachute Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Among Hardy's many significant positions are: Assistant Division Commander (Support), 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany; Commander, Task Force Falcon and Multinational Brigade, Operation Joint Guardian, East Kosovo; Commander, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., and Operations Joint Guard/Joint Forge, Bosnia and Joint Training Planner, J-7, Operational Plans and Interoperability Directorate, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Briefs

Spouses' Conference

The Command Chaplain's Office is sponsoring a one-day retreat for families of deployed soldiers. The retreat will be held May 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Morris Hill Chapel.

Barbara Bartocci, an inspirational speaker and author, will lead the conference, titled "Finding strength for difficult and unexpected times." The retreat will focus on helping spouses to find the strength to handle whatever may come into their lives.

The conference is free, and childcare and lunch will be provided. Participants must pre-register by May 19. Contact Don Ericson at 239-0979 or don.ericson@riley.army.mil for more information.

Country Stampede Volunteers Needed

The Country Stampede is coming to Manhattan once again this June. The country music festival is a full weekend event featuring artists like Hank Williams, Jr., Kenny Chesney, Deanna Carter and many others. The event is being held at Tuttle Creek State Park June 25 and 28.

Volunteers are needed to work at the event. The Stampede volunteer staff is required to work five to six hour days, June 26-28.

Volunteers will receive free admission for all four days of the festival, seating alongside the VIP area, a T-shirt and three meals per day, said Mick McCallister, the point of contact for the volunteers.

In past years, McCallister said about 50 percent of volunteers were soldiers and their spouses. This year he said he is opening up more positions for military spouses. "That's the least we can do for the sacrifices they must endure," said McCallister. For more information or to volunteer, contact McCallister, mccallim@flinthills.com or 762-6615.

Special Forces

A Special Forces recruiter will be visiting Fort Riley June 2 - 5. Briefings will be held at the Post-Reup building (7626) at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily, with an additional briefing at 6 p.m. on June 3 and 4. A PT test will be

conducted on June 3 and 4, 8 a.m., at Long track. Candidates will wear BDUs and running shoes. For more information, call (719) 661-1492.

Insecticide Spraying

During May, a contractor will be spraying certain trees and shrubs with EPA registered insecticides and fungicides for insect and disease prevention and control. The schedule is: Custer Hill Family and Troop Housing, tomorrow - Thursday and Whitside and Camp Funston, tomorrow through May 31. For more information, call 239-8402 or 239-2644.

CYS Openings

The Fort Riley CYS Child Development Center has openings for the Full Day Program for children ages 12-18 months and 16-24 months. Contact Child and Youth Services Central Enrollment Registry, 239-4847, for more information.

Garrison Commander Addresses Civilians

The Garrison Commander will address the civilian workforce June 10 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Barlow Theater. Bus pick up points are: Division Headquarters, building 500; Irwin Army Community Hospital, Main Entrance; DOL, building 8100; Public Works, building 330; Soldier Family Support Center, building 7264 and DES, building 407. Buses depart at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Track Meet

The 2003 Fort Riley Battalion Level Track and Field meet will be conducted June 3, 7:30 a.m., at the the track behind Long Fitness Center. Individuals may enter as many events as they desire. Battalions may enter only one team per relay event. All registration for the track and field meet will take place at the event site, 45 minutes prior to the start of each event. However, anyone interested in participating needs to contact Barry Sunstrom at the sports office, 239-3945, no later than May 23.

Battalion Level Tennis Program

The 2003 Fort Riley Battalion Level Tennis Program will be June 23 - 27. Each battalion commander may enter a men's team, consisting of six singles players, and one doubles team. Each battalion commander may enter a women's team, consisting of four single players, and one doubles team. A roster of battalion team members should be sent to the Sports Office on a roster form signed by the battalion commander no later than close of business June 10. For more information, contact Barry Sunstrom, 239-3945.

Organization Day

Public Works will hold their annual Organization Day with a picnic and award ceremony for employees and their families on June 13. Minimal staffing will be maintained from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. so that critical functions remain operational.

Breast-feeding Classes

The Women and Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free classes on breast-feeding babies on the third Wednesday of each month. A dietitian will address the nutritional requirements for breast-feeding moms and a lactation educator will talk about the advantages of breast-feeding and how to prepare for successful nursing. Classes are held in the Obstetrics classroom on the third floor, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call Maj. Susanna Itara, 239-7434.

Holiday Refuse Schedule

The Memorial day Holiday will require a change in the Refuse schedule. The Refuse Collection will change as follows: May 26- No Collections; May 27 - Colyer Manor, Main Post Housing and Marshall Air Field Housing; May 28 - Ellis Heights, Montieth Heights, Peterson Heights and O'Donnell Heights; May 29 - Burnside Heights and Warner Heights and May 30 - South Peterson, South Warner, McClellan Heights and Meade Heights.

Christian Musicians Needed

Due to deployments, the Contemporary Protestant service is looking for a Christian bass player and back-up drummer for their praise band. Service meets Sundays at 11 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. If interested, call Ch. John Paulson, 239-3436.

Spring Clean-out for Safes

AR 380-5 reminds all S2s and security mangers that spring is the time for cleanout of all security containers. This is a perfect time to review all your classified holdings and destroy non-mission essential documents.

Remember, only DoD approved shredders can be used. The maximum size a shredding can be is 1/32nd " X 1/2". If you have any questions, contact the Director of Security, 239-3607.

Nursery Workers Needed

Looking for workers who are interested in working at the nursery's on post at any of the chapels (Main Post, Morris Hill, Normandy and Kapaun Chapels). You must be able to work Sunday mornings for worship services. Those who are interested must be 18 years of age or older and must be CPR and First Aide certified, or willing to get certified at their expense. Call Sgt. 1st Class Lang, 239-2799, for more information.

Letters to the Front

The Fort Riley Public Affairs Office wants to publish your letters in support of troops deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you have a message you want to send to the troops, e-mail it to: afznpomr@riley.army.mil Please write "letter" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan is having an open season until June 30.

The TSP contribution limit for FERS employees for 2003 is 13 percent. The TSP contribution limit for CSRS employees for 2003 is 7 percent. The loan interest rate for new loans is 3.87 percent. You must enroll online for TSP, no hard copies will be excepted. Go to www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9833. For more information on TSP, go to www.tsp.gov.

Thrift Shop

Are you getting ready to move? Let the Fort Riley Thrift Shop help you get ready for the packers. Sort through your belongings and call the Thrift Shop to come and pick up any donations (in good condition) from your house.

Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteer opportunities are available at the Thrift Shop. Childcare expenses are reimbursed, as well as first look at new merchandise. Board positions are still open. If interested, contact Scott Martis, 784-2351.

The Shoppe

The Shoppe has the gifts you need to say "Farewell" or "Thank You" to someone special. Come and see what The Shoppe has to offer!

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

Clog Classes

Fort Riley Youth Services will be offering a week of introductory Clog Dancing instruction for children and youth ages 5-15. Instructor will be Shauna Hopp of Manhattan. The cost will be $25, and classes will meet daily from July 21-25 at the Teen Center. Classes will be approximately 45 minutes each day. There will be three groups of classes; 5-6-year-old will meet 9 -9:45 a.m.; 7-9-year-old 9:45-10:30 a.m. and 10-15-year-old will meet 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Enroll at Child and Youth Services, building 6620, May 5-21, 1-5 p.m. Enrollment will remain open as long as there are openings in the classes. Call 239-4847 for more information.

Security Badges

The old style security badges for access to post headquarters, building 500, will expire June 30. The new PVC badges are now being issued by the Director of Security, top floor, building 509. Military and Department of the Army civilian personnel with a designated need for access to building 500 may obtain their new badge Monday - Friday, 9 - 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Pete Paras, DSEC, 239-3607.

Mail Training

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered May 28 and June 4 and 11, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at building 319. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

Soldier Retirement Info

Soldiers with DEIMS dates after Aug. 1, 1986, who are eligible under current Service regulations to serve continuously to 20 years, must choose between the High-3 and the CSB/REDUX retired pay plans between their 14 and a half and 15th year of active duty, although retirement won't occur until the soldier has completed 20 years of service. The 14 and a half to 15 years of active duty is calculated from the soldier's basic active service date (BASD) Not the DEIMS date.

Members who elect CSB/REDUX are entitled to a $30,000 career status bonus (CSB) payable at their 15th year of active duty. The CSB may be paid in a lump sum or a series of up to five annual payments. In no case will an election become effective before a member's 15th year of active duty. CSB/REDUX retired pay will always lag behind High-3 retired pay, so wise investment of the CSB by members who elect CSB/REDUX is necessary to lessen or possibly eliminate that gap.

All servicemembers who are between their 14 and a half and 15th year of active duty should contact the Retirement Services Office for an appointment to choose between retired pay plans. The Retirement Services Office is located in building 210, 239-3320 or 239-3667. For more information concerning CSB/REDUX, go to www.odcsper.army.mil/Retirement

Vacation Bible School

The Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure Vacation Bible School will be held June 9 - 13, 9 a.m. - noon, at the Morris Hill Chapel. Teenage and adult volunteers are needed. Please contact your local chapel or Don Ericson, 239-0979, to volunteer. Registration for children will begin in all chapels on April 20.

More briefs on Page 6

FORT RILEY POST

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More Briefs

Memorial Day Ceremony

There will be a Memorial Day Observance at the Post Cemetery at 11:40 a.m., on Monday. A wreath will be placed at the base of the Memorial Monument. A 21-gun salute will be fired.

Tobacco Cessation

Community Health Nursing of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free Tobacco Cessation classes. This is a four-week program, which meets once a week and is run by trained medical professionals. Participants may choose to quit smoking without medication or healthcare providers may prescribe Zyban. Nicotine patches are also offered during the class. For those concerned about gaining weight after kicking the tobacco habit, a dietician teaches healthy ways to avoid weight gain. Military servicemembers, their families and DoD civilians are eligible to participate. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 239-7323.

Enlisted Spouses' Club

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club is a service organization designed for Enlisted Spouses E1 - E9, active duty, retirees or widows. The club helps support Fort Riley and surrounding communities with donations to worthy causes as well as the donation of time and services to projects. The second purpose of ESC is to foster and promote recreational and social activities among the members while providing a support system for the enlisted spouses of Fort Riley.

For more information on the club or upcoming meetings, call 784-3191.

PT Restricted at Camp Forsyth

Operation Noble Eagle III is the mobilization of National Guard soldiers from the states of Kansas and Missouri.l These soldiers will relieve soldiers on access control at four installations (Fort Sill, Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth). Camp Forsyth will be used extensively for the training of four company size units during the train-up period, June 5 - 10.

Units and individuals are temporarily restricted from using Camp Forsyth for daily physical training and APFT testing during those days. Units and individuals should make alternate plans to conduct APFT testing at Marshal Airfield or Camp Funston training area.

Leave Donation Program

Several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency and are facing a period of more than 24 hours of Leave Without Pay. The following individuals have requested that their names be released in order that they may receive donated leave: Gary Barrick, G3, CPACLT0220; Mozelle Corbin, SWCPOC, CPACLT0304; Paula Ferguson, ,SWCPOC , CPACLT0316; Bernard Garlick, SWCPOC, CPACLT0315; Mary Woods, SWCPOC, CPACLT0316; Sarah Green, 15th PSB, CPACLT0313; Howardine House, DES, CPACLT0312; CeCelia Liggett, 5th Army, 75th, CPACLT0311; Shalotta Gettridge, MEDDAC, CPACLT0314; Lewis Marretta, MEDDAC, CPACLT0224; Anna Ostrowski, D R M , CPACLT0309; Jeanne Noss, HQ Garrison, CPACLT0301; Niel Sitton, SJA , CPACLT0214 and Don Webb, PW, CPACLT0305.

To donate annual leave to any of the individuals listed above, complete OPM Form 630. This form is located on the CPAC Intranet web site under "Forms." Completed forms should be forwarded to: Sonja Elzy or Gerlean Baylor, CPAC. For additional information on leave donation procedures, contact your Activity's Administrative POC.

MOM's Club

MOMS Club of East Manhattan-Kansas is a non-profit club designed for

stay-at-home moms (or dads). The club provides moms with an opportunity to interact with one another while their children participate in various daytime activities throughout the month. Most events are for moms and their children to participate in together during the day, while some are especially for moms, with optional child-care available. Children are welcome at all activities. A monthly business meeting is held the 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at First Christian Church (not affiliated), Manhattan. Annual dues are $18, but you can try it out without obligation. For more information, contact Christa Vizner, 537-1141 or viznner@kansas.net

Parenting Class

A six-session class on parenting in the new millennium is being offered for the first three weeks in June at the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City. The class, titled "Becoming a Loving and Logic Parent," is sponsored by School District 475 and "A 21st Century and Community In-Schools Project." The class will focus on learning new ways to make parenting less stressful and more fun. Classes are free, and free childcare and transportation will be provided. The registration deadline is May 30.

To register or for more information, contact Kathy Williams in the Community Connections Office, 238-6184.

New OB Class

The New OB Class is held every Tuesday morning, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., on the 4th floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital. A positive home pregnancy test is required before scheduling your attendance of the New OB Class. Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier or military dependent, are welcome to attend. The New OB Class is not a labor and delivery class.

Expectant mothers will be introduced to the IACH OB/GYN staff members; fill out their OB charts, review medical and genetic history with an OB/GYN staff member, and will also be given a copy of "Pregnancy and Childbirth." This is a three-ring binder with information about appointment schedules, facts about pregnancy, childbirth, infant care and a local resource directory.

To schedule your attendance of the New OB Class, call the TRICARE Service Center, 784-1200 or toll-free, 1-888-874-9378.

Pregnancy Physical Training

Pregnancy Physical Training is held every Monday and Friday, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m., at the Armed Forces YMCA, 16th and Washington St., Junction City, and on Wednesday, it is held at Normandy Chapel, building 7865, Fort Riley. The program is designed to serve the special needs of the pregnant soldier by providing appropriate physical training and a health education program. Pregnancy PT supports the Fort Riley units by offering consistent health guidance for pregnant soldiers.

Every Tuesday is an hour-long education program, which is held in the Education Bay, fourth floor, Irwin Army Community Hospital, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Short presentations by health care staff members cover a variety of topics, such as infant car seats, skincare during pregnancy and the common discomforts of pregnancy.

Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier, are welcome to attend. Participation in the Pregnancy PT program is encouraged although participation isn't mandatory.

Limited openings are available for this program. To participate in the Pregnancy PT program, call Sgt. Carrie M. Jensen, Headquarters Platoon, 568th Engineer Company, 239-4260, or leave a message at 762-7012.

Red Cross Care Packages

The Fort Riley American Red Cross will be distributing care packages to family readiness groups in the order that each unit deployed.

Following last week's story about the Quality of Life Program, announcing distribution of free items, the American Red Cross received numerous telephone calls from family readiness groups wanting goodies to send to their overseas spouses.

However, there are not enough packages for all units at this time. More are on the way, and when they arrive, Kelly Sutton, station manager, said her office would be calling the family readiness group leadership. Nobody will be skipped, and she said there should eventually be enough packages for every unit.

Legal Assistance Office Hours Change

The extended hours used by the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office during mobilization and deployment have been completed. The office is now returning to normal operating hours, which are: Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., for powers of attorney, notarizations and other walk-in business. Appointments are scheduled Monday and Tuesday, 1 - 4 p.m., Wednesday (Will Day), 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m., and Fridays, 9 -11:30 a.m. If you have any questions about the schedule or wish to make an appointment, call 239-3117 during walk-in hours.

Childcare offered for families

The Child Development Center and School Age Services will offer free hourly child-care for families of deployed soldiers throughout the summer. Care will be provided for children 6-weeks-old to 5th grade.

The program will offer child-care on June 7 and 21, July 12 and 26 and August 9 and 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be served to the children at 11:30 a.m.

"We hope to relieve stress and give spouses of deployed soldiers a break," said Maureen Riggs, Child and Youth Services. "We want the parents to take time for themselves."

Riggs said the program also gives Family Readiness Groups a time to do events without children, as well.

Children in kindergarten or younger will be cared for at the CDC. Children between kindergarten and 5th grade will be cared for at SAS.

Parents must register their child for the free care by noon on the Thursday prior to the date. To register children, kindergarten and younger, or for additional information, call the CDC, 239-9935. To register older children with SAS, call 239-9225.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services to take advantage of the program. To make an appointment to register, call Central Enrollment Registry, 239-4847. The registration fee is $15 per child, $30 for two children or $35 per family.

Fort Riley students to receive scholarships

DeCA

The number of students receiving a $1,500 scholarship from the Scholarships for Military Children program hit an all-time high in 2003 - and so did the number of applicants.

"We're excited to announce a record number of awards for 2003," said Defense Commissary Agency Director Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer. "At least 550 students will each receive a $1,500 scholarship. It's also evident that word is spreading about this great program as over 6,500 applications were received this year. That represents a 28-percent increase over 2002."

"We're pleased with the response here at Fort Riley," said Commissary store director Wanda Dotson. Recipients at Fort Riley are Kevin T. Arnhold and Kelsey R. Kuckhahn.

The full list of 2003 awardees and the sponsoring business partners is available through a link on http://www.commissaries.com Each recipient received a notification letter.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is funded by the manufacturers and suppliers that provide support for commissaries worldwide and administered by Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit organization responsible for building 31 comfort homes near military medical centers. The foundation bears all costs of the program so that every dollar donated goes for scholarships.

The program awarded 400 scholarships in its first year and 520 in 2002 and the number of awards is solely based on funding.

"Several commissary business partners who had not participated in the past donated to this year's program," said Ken Fisher, Vice Chairman, Fisher House Foundation.

"We are encouraged that we can expand the program as more vendors become involved."

Awards in the Scholarships for Military Children program are based on academics, activities and the quality of essays written by applicants.

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Korea 50 years ago -- Reds focus multiple attacks on Nevada complex

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

Turkish U.N. soldiers got more than their fair share of fighting as the Reds sent multiple attacks against their positions in the Nevada complex, 50 years ago this week in Korea.

May 23, 1953 — The Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee that investigated retired Gen. James Van Fleet's charges of serious ammunition shortages while he commanded the Eighth Army releases its report.

The report says that such shortages resulted in "needless loss of American lives." They had caused American "military operations" in Korea to suffer "a definite and adverse effect."

No single person is responsible for the "tragic episode," but the report lays blame for it on everyone from former President Harry S. Truman to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Omar Bradley, JCS chairman, had written a letter to the subcommittee May 11 that ammunition stocks at the beginning of the war were adequate until unexpected entry into the war by China.

May 24-25 — Allied warships enter the North Korean east coast port of Wonsan and shells military targets on May 24.

The next day, the battleship New Jersey anchors off Pyongyang's port of Chinnampo on the west coast and blasts shore batteries.

May 25-28 — There are several battles along the front this week, but the most fierce and sustained fighting occurs in the Nevada complex of outposts in I Corps. It was a scene of vicious fighting in March when the Chinese seized Outpost Reno from units of the 1st Marine Division. Outposts Vega, Elko and Carson are still in allied hands.

The 25th Infantry Division now holds positions in I Corps' main line of resistance that belonged to the 1st Marines. The 25th ID shifted from IX Corps in early May, while the 2nd ID moved to IX Corps from I Corps.

Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Williams, 25th ID commander, assigns the Nevada complex, along with neighboring Berlin and East Berlin outposts, to the attached Turkish Armed Forces Command. The Turks are told to hold the outposts at all costs. If they're lost, the Chinese will have commanding heights over the MLR.

On May 25 Chinese artillery begins falling on the three outposts, and increases in intensity each day. Enemy troops are observed moving into position. Answering barrages come from the 25th ID, 1st Marine Division and I Corps artillery. Even 34 tanks of the 1st Marine Tank Battalion join in the counter bombardment.

The attack comes during the evening of May 28. Two battalions attack Vegas, the main objective, which is held by 140 men. One battalion attacks Elko and Carson, and a fourth stages a diversionary assault against Berlin and East Berlin. That movement ends fairly soon.

The Reds seize a finger of land approaching Vegas, and are able to hang on against heavy automatic and rifle fire.

A platoon is sent to reinforce Vegas defenders, and the soldiers get into place just in time to help defeat a three-pronged attack by the Chinese. The enemy reforms and a two-battalion force attacks again. By the time the Turks beat off that attack, they're running low on ammo. A second reinforcing platoon arrives with Korea Service Corps porters carrying more ammunition.

The Turks on Carson and Elko repel the first enemy attack. The Chinese commit another battalion and both of them come at the two outposts. The enemy reaches the defenders' trenches and the Turks engage them in bayonet and grenade fighting.

A Turkish engineering platoon is added to the fighting and, later, the rest of the engineering company is sent to Carson.

A third assault on Vegas makes it to the trenches and the Turks use their bayonets to lethal effect and repel the communists.

As midnight approaches on May 28, the enemy is seen reforming to continue the offensive.

May 25-28 — Before the truce talks resume at Panmunjom on May 25, Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. supreme commander, and Ambassador Ellis O. Briggs meet with ROK President Syngman Rhee. They know that he will not be happy with the United States proposal the U.N. team will present to the communists later in the day. It is said to be the "final" proposal.

The proposals are nearly the same as the Indian plan presented to the U.N. General Assembly.

The specific proposal that Rhee questions is the one that extends the detention of non-communist Korean prisoners held by the U.N. They were to be released when the communist prisoners are repatriated. He is also opposed to India bringing troops into South Korea.

When truce talks reconvene Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, chief U.N. negotiator, requests that proceedings be closed. Since the proposals represent the final concessions the U.N. can make, he doesn't want the communists posturing for reporters who normally observe the meetings. The Reds take a brief recess and then agree to Harrison's request.

Rhee's displeasure is expressed by the absence of Maj. Gen. Choi Duk Shin from the U.N. truce talks team.

The United Nations agrees to allow the five-member commission that will oversee the prisoners who do not want to be repatriated decide details by a majority vote rather than forcing a unanimous agreement.

When the communists meet to "explain" to prisoners why they should return home, they cannot use force or threatening language. In fact, U.N. observers must be present at all such meetings.

The explaining period is limited to 90 days. The previous U.N. position was 60 days. The communists wanted four months.

After an additional 30 days, the prisoners who are not convinced by the communists' arguments will be released. Another choice on this point is to turn their fate over to the U.N. General Assembly rather than the five countries on the commission. But they should be released no later than 120 days from the day that the commission takes over their care.

Harrison explains that the United Nations will not compromise on its insistence that prisoners will not be forced to return to North Korea or China if they don't want to.

North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, senior communist delegate, after quibbling over some of the points, requests a recess until May 29 to consider the proposals, but Harrison insists they take till June 1 because of the gravity connected to this offer.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have told Clark that if the communists turn down the package, the talks will be canceled and Panmunjom will lose its neutrality. However, political leaders would make that decision, they say.

May 27 — About 15 MiGs evade allied air cover and head south to Seoul where they bomb an airport. The allies give no damage reports.

A Fifth Air Force spokesman announces that American F-86 pilots have shot down 51 MiGs since May 1. One Sabrejet was shot down in dogfights.

A Defense Department spokesman says that American casualties in Korea totaled 135,221 as of May 22. The figure includes 24,119 dead.

Fort Riley continues to be a Korean War Commemorative Community through 2003.

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Reservists depart for home after demobilization ceremony

By Wes Nowitzki
129th MPAD

Soldiers from two Army National Guard Units were recognized in a demobilization ceremony May 15, at Custer Hill Parade Field.

The units were the 295th Ordnance Company, Lincoln, Neb., and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 734th Transportation Battalion, Kearney, Neb.

When the cannon sounded, all soldiers snapped to attention and saluted as the flag was lowered during a special retreat during the demobilization ceremony. Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander (maneuver), 24th Infantry Division, and Col. Rita Broadway, 89th Regional Support Command, spoke after retreat.

Broadway said it was nice to see all the Nebraska soldiers. She thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

"The National Guard doesn't just mobilize soldiers, we mobilize families and communities, too," she said. "So we thank you all."

Helmick said he was very impressed that both units finished their training, prepared their equipment and were ready to be mobilized in just 30 days.

"America is proud of you; we're proud of you," said Helmick, "and thanks for what you have done."

Broadway and Helmick, accompanied by senior officers and enlisted, handed out pins, honoring each soldier. Then Helmick ordered the unit commanders to take charge of their companies.

Both units were at Fort Riley for training to prepare for overseas deployment. The units' training involved going through the gas chamber, qualifying on the M-16, common task training and mission essential tasks for each unit.

"It's somewhat of a disappointment not being able to go forward with our mission," said 1st Sgt. Don Busch, 295th Ord. Co. "But, we do whatever mission we are called to do."

"I'm happy to go home, but I'm kind of sad that I can't go over and get a patch on my uniform," said Spc. Josh Valentine, construction mechanic, 295th Ord. Co.

The 180 soldiers of the 295th and 45 soldiers of 734th went home May 16, after being activated on Feb. 10, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

129th MPAD/Vinje

Pfc. Justin Von Loh, 734th Transportation Battalion, accepts a pin from Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander, (Maneuver),+ at his unit's demobilization ceremony May 15.

Military mothers show courage, love under difficult circumstances

By Blanka Stratford
CFLCC PAO

According to the Family Research Council and Pentagon data reported in the Washington Times, more than half of the military's 200,000 women are mothers, many of which are young active-duty women with young children.

Some family researchers have become concerned about possible consequences of mother and child separation, but military mothers deployed to Camp Doha, Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom are not so much concerned as they are certain that their choice of life is best for themselves and their children.

"Being a single parent in the military is not bad at all, as long as you are in the right place and have good [noncommissioned officers] taking care of you," said Spc. Tasha Tasior, a cook at Camp Doha who is currently enduring her second year away from her 5-year-old daughter, Micah. "Of course, it's painful when you are deployed, but that's just a temporary part of Army life that you have to come to terms with."

A native of Arkansas City, Kan., Tasior joined the military in order to escape the small city life as well as to provide her daughter with the best possible benefits. Since then, Tasior said the Army has been providing stability, including medical coverage and education, for her and her daughter.

"I've been living on my own since I was sixteen," said Tasior, 22. "I know how difficult life can become and I don't want that for my daughter. Even though I'm far away from her right now, I want her to know that I'm doing this strictly for her."

While Tasior is deployed, her daughter stays with her grandmother in Arkansas City. Otherwise, Micah lives with her mother at Fort Gordon, Ga., Tasior's permanent duty station.

"Micah's already an Army brat," Tasior said. "Thanks to the Army, she's outgoing and she adapts quickly. I call her every other day to make sure she's all right, and she's doing fine."

Tasior also regularly puts together care packages for her daughter. Recently, she bought Micah a shirt with the logo 'My Mom's in Kuwait,' a toy baby camel and a backpack with a Sponge Bob imprint. She receives gifts from her own mother as well.

"My only wish is that I may be back in the United States before August, so that I may take my daughter to her first day of kindergarten," Tasior said. "I've already promised her Six Flags, shopping and ice cream every day. I love her and miss her so much."

Tasior is not the only one. Sgt. Melissa Deane, personnel clerk, and Sgt. Anita D'Lan, promotions noncommissioned officer, share many of the same maternal challenges, and each mother says she longs for her children.

Deane, an Army reservist and also a single mother, was called to active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom. She has been separated from her 18-month-old daughter, Ivey, for an entire year.

"Ivey's a good little girl," said Deane, a native of Duluth, Ga. "She's staying with my mom."

Outside of the military, Deane works as a mail processor at a post office in Duluth. She spends her off-duty time reading to her daughter, playing patty-cake and singing nursery rhymes.

Operation Enduring Freedom is Deane's second deployment. She also served in Bosnia for 11 months in 1997.

"I try to call home as often as I can, to talk to both my mother and my daughter," Deane said. "Ivey doesn't speak yet, but my mother tells me that she smiles at the receiver whenever she hears my voice."

Sgt. Anita D'Lan, on the other hand, has three children. Her two daughters LaToya and Jourenee, and her son Tresor, stay with D'Lan's husband, Matthew, while she is deployed to Kuwait.

"My husband has had to cut his work hours since my deployment," D'Lan said. "It's difficult for him because he's basically a single parent for a year. At the same time, though, I'm very grateful he's there to both watch them and watch over them. My oldest daughter helps as well."

Her oldest daughter, LaToya, 17, is planning to go to college next year, although she still changes her mind about which subject she wants to major in exactly, D'Lan said. In high school, she was both a cheerleader and part of the basketball team.

When she is back a home, D'Lan enjoys spending quality time with her children by making arts and crafts with them, going to the movies and reading. Her son Tresor, 7, takes part in a science club and plays soccer. Her youngest daughter, Jourenee, 4, has begun taking ice skating lessons.

D'Lan has been away from her children since January. She makes up for the time apart by sending them care packages with items such as cartouches, stuffed toys, book bags and blankets every two weeks.

"They've learned to expect it," D'Lan said.

What else does the mother have to say?

"I want them to know that I love them and miss them extremely," D'Lan said. "And I want my house clean when I come back."

Designated drivers important for safety, rewarded for efforts

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Hanging out with friends is something Sgt. Moin Khan, 596th Signal Company, said he likes to do.

Sometimes that means going to a sports bar, where his buddies have a few drinks. Since Khan does not drink, he said he is often the designated driver.

"A designated driver is a good thing to have," Khan said. "People should always have a DD, whether they have one drink or more than one."

On a trip to Rally Point in December, he noticed an entry box for a beverage company sweepstakes. Though he did not know what it was for, he said he decided to fill out a form anyway. A few months later he received a $25 check, and he found out the campaign recognized the importance of being or finding a designated driver.

The designated driver sweepstakes was open to Army and Air Force Exchange Service providers and the Marine Corps, however, all the winners came from Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Khan was one of the 160 first-prize winners, receiving $25 and a thank you card for recognizing the importance of not drinking and driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol was involved in 41 percent of fatal crashes and 7 percent of all crashes in 2001. The 17,448 alcohol-related crashes represent an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 30 minutes.

NSTSA also reported that the highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes were recorded for drivers ages 21 to 24 (33 percent), followed by ages 25 to34 (28 percent) and 35 to 44 (25 percent).

Though the number of fatalities involving alcohol has declined over the years, Khan still said there are too many drunk drivers on the road. He said he was glad to hear about the campaign to help inform people about the importance of passing the keys to someone sober.

"There are a lot of people who get in the car to drive after having a few drinks, and they really shouldn't," he said. "More people need to pass the keys if they are going to drink."

In addition to Fort Riley's 23 first-prize winners, the installation also had one of the five grand-prize winners. Helene Lee won $1,000 and a thank you card.

She filled out an entry form at the Commissary, and when the check came in the mail, she almost threw it away. She said she had never won anything before, and it looked like junk mail. However, she was very excited after deciding to open it and finding a one, followed by three zeros on the check.

She said she also did not know what the sweepstakes was for, but she was happy to hear it was for such a good cause.

"It's important," she said. "If people are going to drink, they need a designated driver."

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Engineers practice breaching skills, prepare for NTC rotation

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Soldiers from the 1st Engineer Battalion were in the field May 14, honing their lane breaching skills in preparation for their National Training Center rotation later this year at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The soldiers are performing the training to become certified in their Engineer Qualification Table in order to be able to perform their live fire missions at NTC.

"This training is to certify all of the soldiers are trained and qualified in breaching a mine field for when we go to NTC," said Staff Sgt. Cesar Romero, squad leader, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion.

The day's training was geared toward the leaders, and will help them gauge the effectiveness of their soldiers. Once the leaders see how the soldiers perform, they have a better understanding of what they need to work on with their soldiers to increase their combat readiness, said Romero.

During the training, the soldiers are assigned certain jobs they must perform in order for the mission to be a success. They are also trained to perform the other soldiers' jobs as well, during the squad's mission rehearsal drill, in case the job's primary soldier is killed or wounded before he completes his part of the mission.

"Today's training is very important for the soldiers because it's how they learn their jobs and the other soldiers' jobs. Through the cross training, the soldiers will be better able to accomplish the mission in case one of them goes down," Romero said.

The training was very close to being like a real world situation.

"This training is very real. We are held to the standard in order to be certified in our EQT, and that helps us to understand what we need to do if we are put in a real world situation," he said.

Pvt. Travis Sharpe, combat engineer, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn., agreed, "It seems to me like it could be out on a real battlefield."

The squads also performed counter mobility tasks by installing the minefields and obstacles, to Army standards, the other squads were to breach, he said.

"We'll put in a minefield for the other squads to breach, and they will do the same for us. This way no one knows what type of minefield they are approaching," Romero stated.

The training aids the engineers used were comprised of detonation cord surrounded by a chalk and sand mixture. The chalk and sand mixture is to produce a good visual effect for the soldiers after they detonate the aids, said Sgt. Brian Ellis, team leader, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn.

Using the explosive training aids as opposed to inert training aids had a two-fold benefit for the soldiers.

"The inert training aids we use have been used so much that they are not true-to-form and won't do what you want them to do. I think these aids are a lot more effective because they are more maneuverable. Plus, they actually make an explosion, so you know right off if you did it right," said Ellis. "This also gives the new soldiers a chance to work with some live equipment. Everything used is live, except for the charge itself, so that has them feeling more at ease and helps ease them into it."

Training with live demo had some of the soldiers excited at the prospect of getting to blow something up.

"It was quite a rush when it went off," said Sharpe. "It's not like basic training —You don't really get to handle it (C4 explosive) that much. You more or less watch the instructors do it. But here, you actually get to get down in it."

Pvt. Daren Buck, combat engineer, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn., said, "It's not like using the inert aids, where we are pretending with play toys, but down there (on the range) we have the snap, crackle, pop. And that's feedback, and that's what is really important."

The training lifted the soldiers' morale and helped them get back into the swing of things after months of access control tasks on post.

"I think when we have training like this and the soldiers see the effects from their job, they get hyped-up and want to do it more because they see it as being fun. And, by training more often, with a hands on approach, helps build the confidence they need to succeed," said Romero.

"This training will definitely help us succeed in our mission at NTC, " concluded Buck.

Post/Biles

Combat engineers from Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, roll out to the training lane where they will breach and mark obstacles while engaging targets.

Noble takes over as Fort Riley garrison CSM

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

In the last 16 months, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Fyffe has been a critical part of Fort Riley's fact gathering process to make the installation a better place.

On May 16, he passed his responsibilities to Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble. Fyffe is departing the installation to serve as the Installation Management Agency, Southwest Region command sergeant major.

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, said it was a sad day for Fort Riley, but a good day for the Army.

"It is a sad day for Fort Riley and the surrounding communities, because what we have here is a soldier that is a friend of families and warfighters," he said. "Now he is leaving. But it's a great day for the Army, in that Command Sgt. Maj. Fyffe is going to take over the southwest region, Installation Management Agency. It is really a larger span of control than a corps would have."

Simpson said he is sure that Fyffe will continue to do great things with his new position at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. "He will do the same exceptional job that he did at Fort Riley."

"You look around the post and you see how beautiful it is," Simpson said. "That is because of him.

"He also chaired the Well Being Board to help the community, and that has been a tremendous help because some of our soldiers face difficult challenges. When there is a problem or something on the installation can be done better, he has helped look at them across the board with subject matter experts, and he made recommendations to the commander."

Fyffe said Fort Riley has been a great place to serve.

"The first thing my wife and I noticed when we arrived was how much the people in the community care about one another," he said. "My girls and family have really enjoyed it here."

Fyffe said he is sad to be leaving, but he is also happy. His new role will be mentoring and training other garrison command sergeant majors and to find the pulse of the 22 installations, depots and ammunition plants in the southwest IMA region.

He said the training he has received at Fort Riley will definitely help him continue to do his best.

"I want to thank Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick for keeping the fire burning under (me)," he said. "I also want to thank the wonderful soldiers and civilians in the workforce. In 28 years, I've never worked with a better civilian work force. Never did I hear 'No, I can't do that.' I only heard 'Let's see if we can make that happen.'"

Helmick, assistant division commander for maneuver, was not able to make it to the change of responsibility ceremony, but he had some words read on his behalf about the departing command sergeant major.

"Through his untiring efforts, he provided meticulous oversight to the barracks, housing areas and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities to benefit the soldiers and their families on this post. Command Sgt. Maj. Fyffe's diligent efforts and attention to detail are an inspiration to our military and civilian workforce," Helmick said.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Fyffe's sincere dedication to duty and unparalleled enthusiasm reflects great credit on himself, garrison command and the United States Army."

While Fort Riley is losing one enthusiastic garrison command sergeant major, it is gaining another, Fyffe said.

"James Noble is a superb command sergeant major," he said. "I can't think of another person that would serve Fort Riley better."

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Signal battalion completes rail load, prepares to deploy

By Marvin Baker
129th MPAD

Accomplishing a battalion-sized rail load is difficult by anybody's standards, but a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, unit made it look like another day at work when almost 300 vehicles were loaded and locked down in the Fort Riley rail yard in eight hours.

Not only did the unit secure its entire rolling stock for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, another important mission was accomplished in the process as the soldiers worked in 80-degree heat and high humidity.

"The good news story is an E-7 is running this operation and the guide work on the rail is an E-5 job," said Lt. Col. Rusty Lingenfelter, 234th Signal Battalion, commander. "What we need to do is get our equipment loaded, but we're validating our junior NCOs, which is a neat story."

According to Lingenfelter, this is the first time the battalion has ever been deployed so the noncommissioned officers really had little or no prior experience in rail loading. He said the officers gave a little guidance, but the planning and execution was primarily done by NCOs.

Lingenfelter said he was involved in a railload operation 17 years ago, along with several others who are no longer in the unit. The battalion, however, had different equipment in 1986, so the demands were different than in this railload.

He added that everyone who wasn't in a school, at sick call or on emergency leave was involved in the massive operation. At any given time, that meant as many as 550 people on the ground with a specific job to do.

"This has been a pretty efficient mission," Lingenfelter said, as he watched Humvees move up the ramp from a nearby tower. "We're trying to keep the officers out of the way. It's going smoothly. We should be out in record time."

Sgt. 1st Class Anne Harper, who was in charge of the railload, said the mission went extremely well considering there was only a one-hour block of instruction and two meetings leading up to the mission.

"Obviously, we knew we were doing this from the get-go, but we had four days to prepare," Harper said. "We got our team players right away, and the railhead people gave us some guidance. All we had to do is work together. We've never done this before, so it was a good train up."

And putting the right people in the right jobs could have been a daunting task as well, since the 234th is made up of National Guard soldiers from nine communities representing four states. Known as the "Midwest Battalion," the 234th has units in Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown and Clinton, Iowa; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Sparta, Ill. and Inver Grove Heights, Fairbault, Hastings and Moorhead, Minn. The group also includes a chaplain from Kentucky who volunteered for the mission.

"It went very smoothly," said Sgt. Scott Symmonds, marshalling noncommissioned officer in charge, who got the vehicles in line as if they were in a parade. "I'm surprised how quickly it moved. We expected some kinks, but didn't have any."

Sgt. Stephen Perkins, who was also a marshalling NCOIC, said his crew of up to 50 people were dogging, lacing, chaining and bracing.

"I actually thought it was going to take a lot longer," he said. "I think good prep work made this possible."

According to Lingenfelter, the primary mission of the 234th is to provide corps cellular or wire communications. He expects his unit to link up with a military police brigade and into an adjacent corps somewhere in Southwest Asia.

"We haven't heard our mission yet, but I can assume we will be involved in nation building and supporting the infrastructure," he said.

Lingenfelter said now that his equipment is gone, he expects the troops to be waiting at Fort Riley another few weeks before deploying.

"I'm excited," Lingenfelter said. "This is probably my last hurrah, so I'm excited."

129th MPAD/Baker

Members of the 234th Signal Battalion, based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, spent May 14 rail loading their equipment for deployment to Southwest Asia.

129th MPAD/Baker

Spc. Ernest Davis, Company B, 234th Signal Battalion, Sparta, Ill., prepares to direct a Humvee on the ramp during a rail load exercise at Fort Riley May 14.

Self-Help teams help Public Works keep up with workload

Self-Help School

Did you know that every unit (company, battery, troop) is required to have an NCO and three school trained members on their Self-Help Team? These teams are an essential part of the Installation's facility maintenance team. They free Public Works employees to work on those repairs that only they can do.

The Public Works Self-Help School can help units establish a good Self-Help Program. The course is scheduled every month and the next is scheduled to start June 16. Classes are also scheduled for July 21 and Aug. 18.

For more information, visit the PW web site on the Intranet or call 239-3757.

The course is taught in conjunction with Barton Community College and provides soldiers the opportunity to obtain advanced education credits.

The Self-Help course also incorporates the Installation's Energy Conservation class, which is taught Thursday, 1 p.m., the week of the Self-Help Class. You do not have to attend the Self-Help class to come to the Energy Class. This class is mandatory for all Energy Awareness Officers.

To enroll a soldier, the unit needs to submit a request for an on-post school space to the Self-Help School. The school is located on Main Post on the upper floor of building 307, on the corner of Holbrook and Carter Ave. The request can also be faxed to 239-8188, Attention: Self-Help School.

The hours of operation for the school are 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday; however, the Self-Help Class itself runs 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The school is closed on Federal holidays and training holidays.

If you need to pick-up Self-Help supplies, the Troop Self-Help Store, building 372, is open from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. The store is closed on all Federal holidays.

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