080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 1

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

www.riley.army.mil

| Weather Forecast | Today | High:97 Low:68 |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday | High:94 Low:68 | |
| Sunday | High:94 Low:67 | |

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post

August 1, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 46, No. 30

Wild animals roam

Lions, gorillas, giraffes and elephants are roaming wild in Topeka. Of course, they're not going very far, but they're capturing people's attention.

See Page 9

Post/Bultman

**Sgt. Anthony Novak, Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, receives his Combat Infantryman's Badge from his wife, Staci. Soldiers of Task Force 1st Bn., 41st Inf. received awards during a ceremony Tuesday at Cavalry Parade Field. See more in next week's Fort Riley Post.**

# 1st Brigade units prepare to deploy

*Staff Reports*

Soldiers assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division are preparing to deploy in support of Central Command operations.

These soldiers will support the President's global war against terrorism.

The active duty units that will be affected include more than 1,500 soldiers from the following units: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade and 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. Other support elements yet to be determined

These 1st Brigade soldiers will be attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

They are expected to be deployed for six months.

With this requirement, approximately 5,000 soldiers from Fort Riley will be in the CENTOM Theater of operation.

Elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and 937th Engineer Group have been there since February.

# Enhanced Separate Brigades alerted for deployments

*DoD Release*

The Army announced this week that it has alerted two U.S. Army National Guard Enhanced Separate Brigades that may participate in the Army unit rotation plan for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The units are the 30th Infantry Brigade from North Carolina, part of the 24th Infantry Division, and the 39th Infantry Brigade from Arkansas.

The 30th Infantry Brigade will be augmented with an infantry battalion from the 27th Infantry Brigade of New York.

The 39th Infantry Brigade will be augmented with an infantry battalion from the 41st Infantry Brigade of Oregon. The deployment window for these units is between February and April of 2004.

This deployment will last up to one year from mobilization to demobilization. These National Guard units will provide capabilities necessary to perform the on going mission in Iraq. Their deployment is part of the Army's unit rotation plan to further provide predictability in the lives of soldiers and their families as they serve the nation fighting the global war on terrorism.

# Reservists surrounded by history as they patrol Tigris River

***By Kent Harris***

*European Stars and Stripes*

BAGHDAD, Iraq - For soldiers who paid attention during high school history classes, a trip on the Tigris River has more significance than a typical patrol through the capital city.

"This is like you read it in the text books," Pfc. Justin Brown, says as he scans the banks of the river for possible trouble. "It's just awesome."

Brown and other members of the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor - part of the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade from Fort Riley, Kan. - have been tasked recently with providing security firepower for the reservists who own and operate the boats used to patrol the river.

"Our section got volunteered for this mission," said the native of Chico, Calif. "I didn't know how much fun it was going to be."

"Fun" is not a word generally used to describe a patrol in Baghdad. And there are certainly elements of the river patrols that aren't fun.

The reservists, who hail mostly from Oregon and Washington, have been conducting the patrols since April. They've come under fire several times. And they know they're more vulnerable while they're riding the waters.

> "Our section got volunteered for this mission. I didn't know how much fun it was going to be."
>
> **—Pfc. Justin Brown**
> **1st Battalion, 13th Armor**

But it's a change of pace for most soldiers. Brown's battalion usually rides around in tanks, although his job is working in supplies.

Now he's floating on a river that has seen the rise and fall of a dozen civilizations.

People have been navigating the Tigris long before there was an Iraq. Along with the Euphrates River, the Tigris forms what many believe is the cradle of civilization.

Ancient Babylonia is now mostly ruins, but the Tigris continues to flow - not that it hasn't changed over the years.

One of the biggest changes came after Turkey built a dam upstream, severely cutting the amount of water that flows into Iraq. The water that's left isn't exactly pristine - at least in the case of the part that runs through Baghdad.

Spc. Eric Ramos said he and fellow soldiers have ventured upstream beyond the city a few times. He said the water there is "crystal clear." But pipes empty material that smells like sewage into the river as it runs through Baghdad. Ramos says the water gets worse farther downstream after it passes by an oil refinery.

That doesn't stop dozens and dozens of children - and a handful of adults - from taking a swim. Many of the kids hang out in the river all day.

Some of the brave - and perhaps foolhardy - climb onto one of the bridges that span the river and jump into the murky water below.

Soldiers aren't as interested in what's in the water these days as what's on it. That's supposed to be fishermen. But months ago, some Iraqis seemed to be fishing with guns. At least, that was the argument.

"They have no reasons to carry weapons on a fishing boat," said Sgt. Jim Oakes, who is in charge of the two-boat patrol.

The patrols are conducted on MKII combat support boats. They're used mainly in helping soldiers build pontoon bridges. The reservists have built a few of those, but the main mission now is using

*See Patrols Page 2*

# Task Force continues Iraqi Freedom mission

***By William Biles***

*Staff Writer*

Although most of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry has returned from operation Iraqi Freedom, some of there brothers-in-arms, Company A, are still there carrying on with the mission as part of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

While soldiers of Company A are gone, their families and spouses will still receive support while their soldiers are deployed fighting for freedom.

"The families of the soldiers can still come here for support as well as go to the 2-70th Family Support Group," said Lt. Col. George Geczy, commander, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. "They sort of have the best of two worlds because they have the two groups they can go to."

Now that the transition has occurred from Task Force 1st Bn., 41st Inf. to Task Force 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, all of the families of those soldiers fall under the Task Forces Family Readiness Group, said Lori Quintas, senior advisor to the group and spouse of Lt. Col. Lee Quintas, commander, Task Force 2nd Bn., 70th Armor. The task force includes soldiers from Company A, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., 4th Battalion; 1st Field Artillery; 70th Engineers; 125th Forward Support Battalion and the Brigade Reconnaissance Team.

"We consider these attachments to be part of us for the duration of the deployment, and we offer full support to their families," Quintas said.

The Task Force's FRG will make every effort to support the families associated with the task force.

"Although 2nd Bn., 70th Armor may not be their "home of record," we welcome these folks and treat them as our own. If there is a baby born, for example, that baby will receive a certificate and gift from the Task Force."

Each of the units involved also has an FRG leader. "These leaders attend the Task Force's monthly FRG leaders meetings and pass

*See Task Force Page 3*

# Memorial service honors fallen soldier

Post/Bender

**A memorial service was held Thursday for 1st Lt. Jonathan Rozier, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.**

***By Jamie Bender***

*Staff writer*

A memorial service was held Thursday for 1st Lt. Jonathan Rozier, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Rozier, originally from Katy, Texas, was killed July 19 when a rocket propelled grenade struck him while his platoon was conducting a routine traffic control point in the Abu Garib market section of Baghdad.

First Lt. Jay DeShazo read the eulogy, giving a history of Rozier's life.

Rozier was born in Desoto, Texas, and received a home school education. He enrolled in Texas A&M's Reserve Officer Training Corps program and entered military service on Dec. 15, 2001. Rozier's first duty assignment was in 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, Fort Riley.

While at Fort Riley, Rozier served as the battalion liaison officer and then as platoon leader. He was a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic Course. His awards include two Bronze Stars (one with a "V" device), a Purple Heart, the National Defense Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

DeShazo told how Rozier would be remembered for his infectious humor, leadership and military professionalism.

"His actions constantly displayed genuine concern for his soldiers and their families," said DeShazo. "He made a positive and long-lasting impression on all of those he came into contact with. He will be sorely missed by all of those of the Thunderbolt family."

Following the eulogy, Capt. Aaron Cichocki, commander, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, offered the Rozier family his condolences and spoke about Rozier's abilities as an officer.

"It is evident, through talking with his friends and members of his command, that 1st Lt. Rozier was one of the finest," said Cichocki. "Very few are awarded the Bronze Star, let alone a second Bronze Star with a "V" device. He was truly a hero."

Cichocki also told the family he felt the nation and the world was a better place because of Rozier.

*See Memorial Page 2*

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 2

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



# Maintenance facility to get new name

***By Jamie Bender***
*Staff writer*

A ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 a.m., to rename the Fort Riley Consolidated Maintenance Facility, building 8100, in memory of Robert Custer, who participated in the development, planning and design of the building.

**Capt. Robert Custer**

The building was completed in August 1982 and houses 26 shops, including the Installation Maintenance Division and the Oil Analysis Laboratory, the Department of the Army Material Command Test Measurement Diagnostic Equipment Support team, Nuclear Weapons Support Branch, Installation Maintenance Assistance and Instruction Team and the Logistics Assistance Office.

The building is designed for central receiving — to provide one point of customer contact for repair or exchange of supported items. This includes direct exchange items, furniture repair, gas mask repair, exchange of batteries and fire extinguishers, just to name a few.

Custer was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., on Aug. 5, 1941. He graduated from the Army's Officer Candidate School, receiving his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in August 1965. He graduated with top honors from the Officers Advance Course in 1970. He concluded his military career as a captain in 1973.Custer received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Cameron University, Lawton, Okla., in 1975. He entered federal civil service in 1976 as a participant in the Maintenance Management Intern Program and graduated with honors from the program in 1977.

While serving in various capacities at the CMF, Custer was recognized for his performance and dedication to excellence in the maintenance field.

Some of his awards and decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Bronze Star Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sustained Superior Performance Award, Customer Service Excellence Award and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

## Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*

# Reenlistment or not? Fellow soldiers offer words of advice

***By William Biles***
*Staff Writer*

Should I reenlist or should I get out of the military? That is a question every soldier will ask himself or herself at least once while they are enlisted.

Before they answer that question, as their reenlistment window approaches, soldiers should be aware of what the service can, and will, offer them for their service to the country. There is a lot to consider before a soldier raises his right hand and reads the oath at reenlistment time.

The best source to acquire that information is a unit reenlistment noncommissioned officer. The reenlistment NCO will have the latest information on what type of options, incentives and bonuses that are available to soldiers, based on the individual soldier, said Les Coleman, reenlistment NCO, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion. The reenlistment NCO will also be able to provide information on the Bonus, Extension and Retraining program.

When the soldier's window opens for reenlistment, 12 months before his separation date from the military, he should have a firm grasp on what can be offered to him, if every one has done their job (soldier and reenlistment NCO), Coleman said.

By the time the soldier is ready to swear in for another tour of duty, he should know that some of the options out there are: Needs of the Army, Current Station Stabilization, Retraining, Overseas Assignment and choice of a Continental United States Assignment, said Kelly. Soldiers will also be told what the requirements for those options are and what they would need to do to meet them, said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kelly, command career counselor, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

Something the soldier will know before raising his right hand and signing the dotted line is, are any cash bonuses offered to him for reenlisting in his current Military Occupational Skill. For cash bonuses, soldiers are grouped into zones - A, B and C. The zones are for the number of years the soldier has been in the Army. The A zone represents soldiers who have been in for 17 months and up to six years. The B zone is for soldiers with six to 10 years of service and the C zone is for 10 - 14 years. "The majority of the cash bonuses fall within the A and B zones," said Kelly.

Once a soldier reaches their 10-year mark, the propensity for him to reenlist is so great, the Army doesn't put a lot of bonuses in that zone, he said.

"Most soldiers, once they get to the 10-year mark, understand they are half way to their retirement, and most soldiers won't throw that away. The percentage of soldiers that reenlist, beyond 10 years is about 96 percent," Kelly said.

A soldier should also know by the time the reenlistment ceremony, if he will receive an incentive along with his reenlistment option.

Incentives are usually given at the battalion or company level. An example would be receiving a couple of days off from work in conjunction with reenlistment.

Posts also give incentives. Fort Riley offers a college incentive to soldiers who are interested in going to school.

"The college incentive doesn't have anything to do with how much it costs to go to school, it's when you get to go. The college incentive allows soldiers to go to school during the duty day," Kelly said.

"The college option is not a six-month vacation away from duty. They will not be in class all day, so when they are not in class they will be at work," said Kelly.

Another reason to reenlist, other than the options, incentives and bonuses, is for job security.

"I reenlisted for job security to make sure my family is taken care of. Plus, I have too much time invested in the Army now to just get out," said Staff Sgt. James Wildish, motor sergeant, 24th Infantry Division (Mech). Wildish was able to receive the college incentive along with his reenlistment.

Staff Sgt. Richard Shaffer, maintenance team chief, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor said, "There weren't any options for me due to me being a career soldier with over 10 years in service, but I'll be getting promoted on Aug. 1 and I needed to have two years remaining to do so."

Reenlisting can be a learning experience.

"I learned reenlistment NCOs know what they are talking about, and they are interested in giving you everything they can," said Spc. David Fisher, M1A1 tank mechanic, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor. "They really want to help the soldiers."

Fisher also had a reason, other than receiving an option, to reenlist.

"I reenlisted because I enjoy being a soldier. I could get out and get a job that pays twice as much, but I enjoy doing what I am doing."

Regardless of his reason for reenlisting, Fisher was able to receive an option.

"I was able to re-class to be a Chinook Mechanic. I like being a mechanic, and they (Chinooks) are something I wanted to work on. I went and talked to the reenlistment NCO about it and found out what the requirements were that I needed, and he told me I was good-to-go," he said.

Several soldiers who have recently reenlisted offer advice to those soldiers who are thinking about reenlisting.

"Explore and research all of the options, and don't listen to the barracks lawyers (other soldiers) about what you can and cannot do," said Wildish. "Go to the subject matter experts, the career counselors, and find out what it is you need to know."

"My advice to soldiers who are thinking about reenlisting is to make sure they look at all of the options out there. The college incentive program is a good one. I took that one here the first time I reenlisted in '95," said Shaffer. "They should also start with their company reenlistment NCO, and if they feel they aren't receiving the right answers, they should go to the battalion reenlistment NCO."

Soldiers should keep an open mind and not focus on one thing until their window opens, he said. They shouldn't let their experience at their current or past duty stations weigh in on if they will reenlist or not, he said.

"My advice to soldiers reenlisting is to weigh all of their options first, and they can use the Internet to view what options they can get for reenlisting," Shaffer said. "This is my first time reenlisting, and it was a good experience for me. It made me glad I'm staying in."

**Editor's Note: This is final story in a series on reenlistment. All three parts of the series can be found in the Fort Riley Post online archive, www.riley.army.mil/newspaper/index.htm**

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
CFI/7-29 & 8-1, 7-30

# *Memorial* continued from page 1

Cichocki then read a quote from a letter written by Abraham Lincoln.

"I pray that God may lessen the pain of your grief and that you feel pride that is yours alone for having laid such a costly sacrifice on the alter of freedom."

He then introduced Richard Rozier, the lieutenant's uncle, who spoke of how Rozier felt about the Army.

"Jonathan loved the military," said Rozier. "He loved the Army, and we have grown in recent days to love you as well."

Entering the military was a life-changing event for Jonathan, his uncle said.

"When he found the corps of cadets and he found the military, he knew what he was supposed to be doing," said Rozier. "His attitude changed, his direction in life changed, his purpose in life changed. We could see it in his eyes. From that point on, he began to live life. He began to live with purpose and direction. He found his calling.... He trained to be an officer and a gentleman. I believe he was a gentleman.

'He led men in battle to depose an evil and tyrannical dictator and to free an oppressed people. He died doing what he believed in."

After Rozier spoke, the family was presented the lieutenant's Meritorious Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley.

A moment of silence was observed, followed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

BLESSINGS
2 x 3"
Black Only
featured items

# *Patrols* continued from page 1

the boats to patrol the river.

PT boats they're not. The only firepower comes from the soldiers stationed on board. The bridges that span the river present dangers of someone dropping something or firing from above. So soldiers are most alert when passing underneath, training their weapons up along the bridge.

Oakes hasn't seen many illegal weapons lately. Early patrols got the message across that the U.S. military wouldn't let any attacks or gun-smuggling happen on the Tigris.

So lately, they've been looking for suspicious activity on the shoreline. When soldiers see or hear something, they notify someone on the ground nearby.

They've also started taking Iraqi policemen along. The goal, as it is in most patrols around the country, is that the locals will eventually take over the missions, leaving soldiers free for other duties - or free to leave the country.

At least a few of them will have some stories to share when they do that.

"When I get back, I can say I've been on [the Tigris]," says Spc. Brian McQueen.

**Editor's Note: Used with permission from the Stars and Stripes, copyright 2003 Stars and Stripes.**

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 AUGUST RUNNING

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 4"
Black Only
AFLAC/7-29 & 8-1, 7-30

NETQUEST
3 x 4.5"
Black Only
2 for 20 FULL COLOR

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 3

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



# Soldiers demobilize, head home

*By Lori Bultman*
*Editor*

More than 200 soldiers from two units demobilized at Fort Riley during a ceremony July 24. The 110th Combat Engineer Battalion, an Army National Guard unit from Kansas City and Macon, Mo., had approximately 40 soldiers at the ceremony, while the 1012th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Fremont, Norfolk and Wymore, Neb., demobilized approximately 165 soldiers.

While in theater, the quartermasters supplied seven brigade-sized units with rations, medical supplies, barrier equipment and ammunition. The unit also helped in the only wartime aerial deployment of M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks into combat.

The combat engineers mobilized in June to provide force protection.

"These soldiers are veterans of a deployment, and they are the future building blocks of the Reserve components because of that experience," said Maj. Gen. Michael W. Symanski, commanding general, 89th Regional Support Command, Wichita. "We are looking forward to them resuming drilling as reservists so that they can train and mentor and coach the next generation, and this experience is going to allow them to do that."

The soldiers have some adjusting to do, getting back into their civilian lives, but Symanski is confident they are up to the challenge.

"Tens and hundreds and thousands of soldiers have done this, including myself a couple of times," he said. "It takes a couple of months to unwind and to get back into the rhythm of the family and to get back into the rhythm of their jobs or schools again. After a couple of months, they are ready to resume their normal lives, which means civilian work, civilian jobs, their family, of course, and being a Reserve component soldier."

The official party at the ceremony presented a folded American flag, which had been flown over Fort Riley, along with a letter from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, to each unit commander. The soldiers were presented a lapel pin as a small token of appreciation for their sacrifice.

Post/Bultman

**Sgt. Nathan Fritch, 1012th Quartermaster Company, Fremont, Neb., receives a lapel pin from Maj. Gen. Michael W. Symanski, commanding general, 89th Regional Support Command, during his unit's demobilization ceremony.**

# Talk Around Town

## "How do you personally prepare your family for any deployment?"

***"My family is already pretty much ready for any deployment. I would update my will and Power of Attorney if needed."***

*Staff Sgt. James Griffith*
*Headquarters and Headquarters Company,*
*1st Engineer Battalion*

***"I tape stories for my 4-year-old daughter and make a Family Care Plan. I also do Powers of Attorney."***

*Sgt. Ranie Ruthig*
*Headquarters and Headquarters Company,*
*1st Engineer Battalion*

***"I make a Power of Attorney for my wife and make sure she has all of the important phone numbers she needs when I deploy somewhere."***

*Spc. Andy Guidry*
*Company C,*
*1st Engineer Battalion*

# Cold War certificates still available

*Army News Service*

Servicemembers, veterans and federal employees who served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991 are still eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate, said officials of the U.S. Army Personnel Command.

In fiscal year 1998, the secretary of Defense approved awarding the certificate to personnel who served during the Cold War. Thus far, about one million people have responded out of the 22 million entitled to receive the certificate, officials said.

An application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate can be found at https://coldwar.army.mil The Web site informs applicants about the correct procedures and the required documentation to receive a certificate.

Applications will only be accepted by fax or mail, officials said.

More information on the certificate can be found on PERSCOM's Cold War Web site or by calling customer service, (703) 325-5864.

# Army personnel making big changes

*Army News Service*

The Army's new electronic military personnel office, eMILPO, will improve basic personnel actions and save soldiers' time, officials said, when it goes online Aug. 1.

The system is the next major step for Army personnel transformation, according to officials at the U.S. Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va.

First, there were morning reports prepared by first sergeants. Soldiers in line to get paid was common practice in the Army in the 1980s.

Then came several versions of the Standard Installation Division Personnel System, known as SIDPERS. Permanent change-of-station departure and arrival transactions are examples of how SIDPERS "tracks" soldiers today.

The new eMILPO is a web-based system and will require little training, officials said.

The eMILPO system, however, is an interim step toward a much larger, multi-service, integrated personnel and pay management system called DIMHRS, officials said. They said the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System will be driven primarily by PeopleSoft8, a pure Internet commercial-off-the-shelf software.

The Army will be the first service to implement DIMHRS when it comes on line next year, PERSCOM officials said.

# *Task Force* continued from page 1

along information to their individual groups," Quintas said. "When there is news to share, be it good or bad, we have a system in place so the news gets out in a timely manner. Essentially, we have come together as one family.

"Just recently," Quintas said, "the Task Force published its first two editions of a newsletter from Iraq for the families back home. It includes information pertaining to all of us-including promotions of soldiers in our Task Force-whatever their home affiliation," she said.

There are things the families can do to help pass the time while they are separated from their soldiers.

"Stay informed, get involved, keep busy and remain positive for the sake of yourself, your family and your soldier." Quintas said. "Time goes by much quicker when you're busy. Channel some of your energy into doing something good for yourself or for the soldiers in Iraq."

One question spouses might have is, "Why did the soldiers have to stay in Iraq?"

"My understanding as to why they (Company A) are still in Iraq is because they didn't have the Operations Tempo to come home," said Geczy.

"The reason we came home with the 3rd Infantry Division is because there is no one in the Army that has the OPTEMPO of Bravo Co., 1st Bn., 41st Inf.. and Charlie Co., 2nd Bn., 70th Armor. Once you added the days up we spent away from home, you got the number of 354 days, which is almost a hardship tour. Alpha Company didn't come with us to Kuwait last year, and when you add those days up, it said they needed to stay in the theater," he said.

The families, spouses and soldiers of Company A weren't the only ones disappointed by the news of the company staying in Iraq.

"As a battalion commander, and purely from a battalion perspective, I wanted to bring Alpha Company home. I took them to combat, fought with them and I wanted to bring them home," Geczy said. "Looking at the bigger picture, Alpha Company needed to stay. It's an infantry based mission, and they need infantrymen in Baghdad to do that work."

Eventually, the infantrymen came to the realization of the need for them to stay in the theater of operations and they reacted accordingly.

"When I told them they weren't coming home, they were naturally disappointed, but after the last time I visited them, they were well past that and doing very well. They are a very strong team and are in great shape," Geczy said.

The infantrymen of the Task Force have several missions to accomplish while in Iraq.

"They are performing a lot of Presence Patrols, where they will make their presence seen in areas so the local community will feel secure.

``They are also doing Fixed Site Security, where they will be pulling security at a permanent site. One such site is the Baghdad Horse Race Track," said Geczy.

"Basically, they are in Northern Baghdad doing a mixture of both security missions, Geczy stated."

Geczy feels confident in the abilities of his soldiers still in theater.

"I'm not worried about them because of their lethality in battle. They are a strong group of soldiers being led by battle-tested leaders. Alpha Company is very capable of reacting in the face of danger," concluded Geczy.

FREE-TO-KNOW
2 x 5"
Black Only
Free-to-Know

**FORT RILEY POST**

**This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Army. The contents of the Fort Riley Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Post is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office and Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Post is published by Montgomery Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Riley.**

**Publisher-Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy**
**Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski**
**Command Information Officer-Cary Skidmore**
**Printer-John G. Montgomery**
**Fort Riley Editorial Staff:**
**Editor-Lori A. Bultman**
**Staff Writers-Spc. William Biles, Spc. Ryan D. Wood, Spc. Jamie Bender, Kim Levine, Mike Watson**
**Advertising Representatives-**
**Shelby Dryden, Stephanie Romberger, Sara Medina**

**The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Montgomery Communications of the products or services advertised.**

**Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.**

**For business or advertising matters, call The Daily Union in Junction City at (785) 762-5000. For news offerings, call the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office at (785) 239-8854 or DSN 856-8854, or write to the Public Affairs Office Bldg. 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442-5016.**

**Circulation 9,200 copies each week**
**By mail $20 per year**
**A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce**

KSU DIVISION OF CONTIN. EDUCAT
2 x 8"
Black Only
ksu cont. edu 8/1,3 du/pt

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 4

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



# Briefs

## Organizational Days

Fort Riley Chaplains will be conducting an organization day today. Because of this event, there will be minimal staffing. For those who might need emergency chaplain assistance, call the staff duty chaplain through the Fort Riley Operations Center, 239-2222.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will close today at 11:30 a.m. for their Organizational Day.

The Office of the Inspector General will be closed today for Organization Day and will reopen for normal business on Monday.

## Bike Drive

The Fort Riley Audie Murphy Club will be conducting a bike drive for need children in the local communities. If you have a bicycle that you would like to donate that is in operating condition, call 717-2856, Monday - Friday, 5 and 9 p.m., or Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. He will come and pick the bike up from you.

## HASFR Ice Cream Social

The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley Ice Cream and membership drive will be held Aug. 21, 6 - 8 p.m. at Custer House.

The event is open to the general public. The ice cream is free, and for those interested, membership is $5 per family, per year.

For more information, contact Holly Garvin, 784-4941.

## Special Forces

The Special Forces recruiter will be visiting Fort Riley next week. The 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. Aug. Tuesday and Thursday. Also on those two days, a PT test will be conducted at Long track, 7 a.m. Candidates will wear Bdu's and running shoes. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Aubrey Hawkins, (719) 510-4493

## School Registration

USD 475 will have registration for all grades Wednesday, 8 a.m.-7p.m. and Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bring Health Assessments (School Physicals), immunization records, transcripts or report cards, birth certificate and Social Security number. Register at the school your child will be attending. For more information, call 238-6184.

USD 383 registration is Tuesday for all grade levels at South Gym, Manhattan High School, West Campus, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Contact Robinson Education Center, 587-2000, if you have questions.

## Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Kaw Valley Council invite everyone to attend their Community Celebration of Youth event Tuesday at Girl Scout Little House, 321 Sunset, Manhattan. The event is free, but those wanting to attend must R.S.V.P. to 1-800-432-0286 to ensure enough food will be prepared for the event.

The event is scheduled to kick off at 5:30 p.m. and last until 8 p.m. Dinner will be served 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., and the planned activities take place 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. You don't have to be a member of the girl Scouts to attend.

## Fishing Contest

Beginning today, there will be three tagged fish released in 15 Fort Riley ponds. Catch a red, white or blue-tagged fish and win a prize. Catch the gold-tagged fish and win the grand prize.

All participants who already have a Fort Riley Hunting/Fishing permit must sign up with Outdoor Recreation by Thursday. Newly assigned personnel to Fort Riley and civilians may sign up for the fishing contest when purchasing their Fort Riley Hunting/Fishing permits. Returning deployed individuals may sign up anytime. Sign up at the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, Rifle Range Road. The contest will end Dec. 31. All participants must obey both state and Fort Riley fishing regulations and have both a Kansas fishing and Fort Riley Hunting/Fishing permit.

Contact Outdoor Recreation for more information and official rules, 239-2363

## Childcare Openings

The Fort Riley Child Development Center currently has openings for the full-day pre-school for children 3-5 years of age. The hours available are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is based on total family income. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services before they can be enrolled in the CDC. Contact CYS Central Registration, 239-9478 or 239-4847, for information and an appointment.

## Construction

Fort Riley's new Waste Water Treatment Plant is under construction. This plant will replace the three existing plants, which were built in the 1940s and 1950s. As part of the construction, the contractor will need to close some roads in order to install new underground pipes. For the next 60 days, Caisson Hill Road starting just north of Irwin Army Community Hospital will be closed. For more information, call 239-6942.

## Softball Scorekeepers Needed

The Fort Riley Sports Office is looking for a few more individuals who would like to become scorekeepers for slow pitch softball games. The games are in the evenings and on weekends. It can be a good source of extra income during the summer months. Anyone that might be interested should contact Barry Sunstrom, 239-3945.

## Praise Team Leader and Pianist Needed

The Contemporary Protestant service in Kapaun Chapel is looking for a Christian praise team leader and pianist for their praise team. Service meets Sundays at 11 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesday, 6 p.m. and Sunday, a.m. These positions are paid, contracted positions. In addition, volunteer bass and lead guitar players are needed. If interested, call Chap. Paulson, 239-3436.

## 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.

## Employees of the Quarter

Troy Mattingly has been selected as the G3 Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter, FY 03. Mattingly is the flight examiner, Instructor and Airspace Officer, Fort Riley. In addition to ensuring all Fort Riley aviation missions are accomplished, Mattingly attends meetings on aviation and airspace matters to ensure Fort Riley is aware of aviation community concerns. Mattingly will receive a combination of time off and monetary award for his effort and dedication to duty.

William Anderson has been selected as Public Works' Employee of Quarter for 3rd Quarter, FY 2003. Anderson has been an architect with Public Works for over 22 years. His coordination efforts on a large housing kitchen renovation project resulted in a quicker than usual design process, which made the project a candidate for recently received funding. Anderson will receive a Public Works Certificate of Appreciation, a 16-hour Civilian Time-Off Award and a reserved parking place for the quarter. Four other outstanding Public Works employees were also nominated this quarter: Connie Hazlett, Rich Sweazy, Andre Ebaben and J.D. Hannan.

## Post Retirements

The Post Retirement Ceremony was held Wednesday. The following soldiers were recognized at the ceremony: Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Humphreys, Sgt. Maj. Barry Pemberton, 1st Sgt. James DeMaroney, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Sullivan, Staff Sgt. Michael Baker, Staff Sgt. Thomas Price, Staff Sgt. Kelly Kirby. Civilian Raeford Lewis was also recognized, retiring as the chief of Community Recreation.

## 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.

## MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of East Manhattan meets the third Friday of each month, 9:30 a.m., at the First Christian Church (not affiliated). You can enjoy fun with other moms, playgroups, projects and tours throughout the month. Children are welcome at all activities. For more information, call Christa Vizner (785)494-2026. Annual dues are $18, but you can try it out without obligation.

## Mail Training

The 'Official Mail Training' class will be offered Aug. 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at bldg 319, CPAC. An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" class will be offered Wednesday and again Aug. 20, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Preenrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.

## Off-road Vehicles

The Army Corps of Engineers and the School Creek Off-Road Vehicle Association at Milford Lake would like to remind everyone to be safe and wear protective gear while riding on the 287-acre Off-Road Vehicle area. The area is restricted to ORVs up to 50 inches or less.

Everyone is also reminded that the speed limit within the parking area is 10 mph. ORVs that are not licensed for the highway cannot be operated on roadways outside of the riding areas. Since the area has limited maintenance, it is up to all users to help keep litter picked up and to follow the rules.

The Milford Lake staff cautions all users of the ORV area to keep safety in mind, and remember the area is used by riders of all ages and abilities. Expect the unexpected and help keep everyone safe.

For more information about the park, call 785-238-5714

## 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.

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

FIRST NATIONAL BANK - JC
4 x 2"
Black Only
call on us/checking

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 10"
Black Only
Alltel/#387228256/8-1-03/Post

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
KS Basement/7-29 & 8-1, 7-30

MOTORCYCLE SUPPLY
2 x 2"
Black Only
Post/8-1, 8-15 & 8-29

CITY OF MANHATTAN
2 x 3"
Black Only
arts in the park-july

U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
#368014 & 368015

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 6

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



## Commentary

# Armistice signed: Silence changes life in Korea 50 years ago

*By Gary G. Beylickjian*
*Army News Service*

The armistice with North Korea was signed at 10 a.m., July 27, 1953. Hostilities stopped at 10 p.m. and with it, the end of 37 months of death and destruction.

The silence along the front lines of Korea was deafening.

On receiving confirmation the conflict was officially over, I instructed my platoon's section and squad leaders that night to check carefully all weapons — personal and crew served — to ensure they were unloaded, locked and stayed that way.

Concern was high that an accidental discharge of a weapon would possibly provide the communists cause to renege the signing and consider retaliation of some kind. We weren't sure what would happen, and we didn't want to take chances. Any discharge of a weapon was now a serious matter.

Shortly before 2400 hours, the night of the armistice, we saw several enemy campfires; we remained in our trenches and bunkers and watched the spectacle. We lit no fires and offered no celebration. When daylight arrived no one on our side tried communicating with the enemy; we didn't exchange words or make gestures such as waving or holding up signs.

The morning breakfast was hefty (we were delighted by that), served at the base of our hill, and we followed the wartime feeding routine — half the men at a time. Emplacements had to be manned — just in case. There was a sense of distrust about the enemy's intentions.

The day after the armistice, many men now left the trenches and walked along the ridgelines, smoking, chatting with each other in clear sight of the enemy; we noticed some enemy troops doing the same and often yelling, "Hello GI!" We ignored them. They were, after all, still the enemy in our eyes.

Most men in the Heavy Machinegun Platoon stayed in their bunkers and kept a "close eye" on activities across No Man's Land. Several newly arrived men had no idea what the enemy looked like; this was their chance. Getting used to the peace and quiet while still on the frontline was more difficult than we thought. Just several hours earlier, during the morning and afternoon of July 27, we had been trying to kill each other using any means possible.

The order came to pull out of what was now officially referred to as the Demilitarized Zone, the DMZ. I buried several personal items on the hill: a letter, my first issue of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, a combat ribbon and a few other personal items. One soldier painted a sign and placed it on a stake. It read: GI Joe Was Here. He hammered it into the ground and left it there. (Where he got the paint remains a mystery.)

A convoy of vehicles arrived at the foot of the hill to carry us and our equipment to a "blocking position." With no fanfare, little chatter and no looking back, we drove off. Our days on Korea's frontlines were over and, for that, we were thankful.

Our destination was about a mile south, where we stayed for a few days eating hot meals, relaxing and maintaining our weapons. Several men were detailed to return to the southern end of the DMZ to help unload truckloads of barbed wire. The engineers would later attach the wires to metal stakes, and eventually a permanent wire fence would be erected.

The areas close to and along Korea's frontlines were no longer the same. The only thunderous sounds we heard belonged to Mother Nature, not man. We heard no deafening screams of incoming artillery shells plunging to earth, no sounds of bullets passing close by. No one now was being maimed or killed. We'd heard no cries for a medic or from soldiers seriously wounded. Yet, in our minds we could still hear those and other sounds of battle. A backfiring of a jeep was cause enough for us to duck. These were reflexes that helped us survive the war. Getting used to peace, it now appears, would take some time for combat hardened "dogfaces."

We moved once again to an area several miles farther south, where we pitched large General Purpose tents. They would be our home for many months to come.

The emphasis now was on soldiering and everything associated with it including standing in formations, pulling perimeter guard duty, equipment inspections, field exercises and training, training and more training.

We were well aware and vigilant that war could restart in a moment only a few miles north of us. We talked about it and thought about it. A simple blunder could easily get us back on the frontlines. After all, we were living under an armistice, not an end to the war.

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

**Editor's note: Retired Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian was the platoon leader of the Heavy Machinegun Platoon, H Co., 7th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., in July 1953.**

# Don't let Advance Child Tax Credit scams fool you out of money

*By Timothy Thomas*
*Legal Assistance Attorney*

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued a consumer alert, warning taxpayers about a new scam targeting potential recipients of the Advance Child Tax Credit.

The IRS has seen isolated instances of this new scheme. A taxpayer receives a telephone call from a person who promises to speed up the payment of the Advance Child Tax Credit checks. The catch is the taxpayer must agree to a $39.99 charge to a credit card.

No person or organization can "speed up" the payment of tax benefits. Taxpayers do not have to take any action to get the new benefit, which features an advance payment for up to $400 per qualifying child. The Treasury Department and IRS will perform all the calculations and will automatically mail a notice and a check to each eligible taxpayer beginning this week.

This new scam is the continuation of a trend that emerged earlier this year when the families of those serving in the Armed Forces were targeted. In both of these schemes, scam artists use current events to prey on unsuspecting victims. The scams also feature callers seeking credit card information to get taxpayers to pay for special benefits.

If the taxpayer agrees to the charge and provides a credit card number or other sensitive personal information, he could find a much larger charge to his account. By the time the taxpayer realizes something is wrong, the scam operator is long gone, possibly victimizing another taxpayer.

If you encounter this latest tax scam or suspect tax fraud or abuse in some other situation, report it to your nearest IRS office. When in doubt, seek help from the IRS or a tax professional. If you have any questions, call the IRS tax fraud hotline, 1-800-829-0433, or contact the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office, 239-3117.

HOUSE ADS
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA--IF POSSIBLE

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 7

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Fort Riley
Sports

August 1, 2003 America's Warfighting Center Page 7

# Prairie Run gives soldiers chance at making Army 10-Miler

*By William Biles*
*Staff Writer*

The Fort Riley 10-5-2-Mile Prairie Run was held Saturday morning in order to help search out Fort Riley's strongest runners to compete in the upcoming Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

The race was open to the Fort Riley community and to the general public, and runners of all ages were able to participate in the event.

The racecourse began at King Field House and led runners to various turn around points. The runners that ran the full 10 miles found themselves turning around at the Ogden Gate.

The turnout wasn't as large as last year, but was still good considering the number of soldiers deployed to Iraq, said Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, Fort Riley.

"This is a very good turn-out, considering almost half of the military force from Fort Riley is deployed to Iraq, and many of the other ones are preparing to deploy," he said.

"Last year we had a great Army 10-Miler team, and this year we hope to have another. What this event does is, it gives us a good idea of where our good runners are. We want to use this as the first step to identify our runners, then we will get them into a training program so they will be able to compete at the highest level."

The run was beneficial in several ways.

"The importance of this event is to participate in an athletic event, and we try to do a variety of things across the post so we can provide all types of athletic activities for both family members and soldiers, as well as civilians," Simpson said. "Another importance to this race is to come out and be physically fit. We want people to get involved with these activities so they can, throughout their lives, be physically fit."

The10-mile course was a challenging one for the runners, even for the overall winner.

"It was a tough course. Out and Back courses are always tough," said Dann Fisher of Manhattan, the 10-mile race winner. "The reason is, you can see the next mile marker, and then it's a matter of getting to it, and the couple of hills at the end made it really tough."

The morning's temperature and wind didn't make the race any easier.

"It's the kind of day where you just try to hang in there because it is hot. On the way back it felt like we were in the wind the whole way, so it felt good to cross the finish line," said Fisher. Fisher crossed the finish line at 1:00:40.

Fisher had an appreciation for the race and its quality as well.

"You don't find too many opportunities to run 10-mile races. I am always appreciative of the military who let us (civilians) come out here and have the chance to do so, especially this time of the year when most races are shorter fun-runs," he said.

"This is a real quality race," Fisher said. "I have run in a couple of races here, and what I always liked is the support the military has for its races. You don't find that with the civilian ones. It feels real good to win this race."

Post/Biles

**Runners receive cups of water at a station along the 10-mile portion of the Prairie Run.**

Post/Biles

**Runners for the 2-mile race portion of the Fort Riley Prairie Run start out in front of King Field House Saturday.**

# Bulldawgs rumble over Medical Activity in softball matchup

*By William Biles*
*Staff Writer*

Three critical errors in the first inning helped lead the Company B Bulldawgs of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, to a 9 - 4 win over Medical Activity during a slow pitch softball game at Fort Riley's Softball Complex Monday.

The three errors committed by MEDDAC's outfielders, on routine fly balls, helped catapult the Bulldawgs to seven run lead early in the game. A lead they never relinquished.

"I think it was a huge mental hill for them to get over, because we scored those first seven runs in the first inning. We put those runs on them early and then played like we've been playing all season long, and they couldn't overcome it," said Cory Reiter, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

After the first inning, the Bulldawgs kept the screws to team MEDDAC by keeping them scoreless through the fifth.

MEDDAC's first scoring opportunity came in the bottom of the second inning, when Tyrone Manning hit a laser into the outfield for a stand-up triple, but he was left stranded on base as the Bulldawgs closed out the inning.

The Dawgs then added a point to the scoreboard on back-to-back doubles in the third inning. Robert Oserio, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, was on second after driving for a double, and then was driven home by the following batter, John Griffith.

The following inning, the Bulldawgs scored their final run of the game, by back-to-back doubles again. This time, the leadoff double was by Josh Gerano and the RBI was by Reiter.

Throughout the game, the teams exchanged heckles back and forth, and it was the Bulldawgs who had won that battle as well.

"It's working," said Oserio. "We have them on the ropes. Their pitcher is mad right now. We got him where we want him. It's all for fun, and we've been doing it since game one."

"Our heckling was part of our play," added Gerano. "We got to Sergeant Ream (MEDDAC's pitcher) and they all circle around him. We took him out (mentally) and he burned the rest of his team up."

Ream tried to compose himself throughout the game, but wasn't able to pull out of the mood the Bulldawgs taunts put him into.

"Their team getting mad was the big difference in the game," said Reiter. "They broke themselves down in their dugout. All we had to do was come out and play while they broke themselves down."

Even though the 'Dawgs kept the talking game up, throwing off the MEDDAC team, it was for the Bulldawgs' morale as well as for throwing the opponents game.

"Our talking is all about support. If you have a quite dugout, you won't have an affect on their defense, and that's what it's about," said Samuel Solis, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor. "You get to them and they'll start messing up, and that will give you opportunities."

The MEDDAC's first scoring came in the bottom of the sixth inning when Manning doubled and drove in his team's first two runs.

Manning just tried to focus on the job ahead.

"When I get in the box, I try to focus on what it is that I need to do. That's what the rest of the team needs to do. When they get in the box, they need to focus on what they need to do to be successful and to help the team out. Unfortunately it just not happening for us tonight," he said.

The MEDDAC team tacked on two more runs in the seventh inning.

Even with the heckling throughout the game, both teams had kind words for each other after the game.

"As a team, we played really well. This is one of the games we have been looking forward to all season," said Reiter. "The medics have been one of the top contenders all season, and we knew this was a big game."

"We've been playing good ball all year to get us to 15 and three, but MEDDAC has been playing good ball, too," said Gerano.

While the MEDDAC team members respected the Bulldawgs athleticism, they came to a realization about the game.

"They're pretty good competition, but we're not playing to our standards tonight, and we're not giving them a run for their money like we should be doing," said Tammy Baldwin, MEDDAC.

Manning broke it down even further.

"We didn't play good defense those first two innings, which is kind of shaky for us and isn't our typical defense. On top of that, we weren't hitting the ball well," Manning said.

The two teams will meet again during the league's tournament over the weekend.

"We'll be bringing the same intensity when we play them in the tournament," said Solis. "We have nothing but intensity - all of the time."

Post/Biles

**Steven Durham, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, slides safely into third base Monday during a slow pitch softball game against the Medical Activity team.**

# Freshwater mussels frequently overlooked as native Kansas

*By Alan Hynek*
*DES Biologist*

On the Wildside: News About Nature

Monkeyface, Pimpleback and Fat Mucket: Although these colorful names may sound like nicknames for old grade school classmates, they are actually three of 41 species of mussels native to Kansas.

Freshwater mussels are frequently overlooked as native wildlife in Kansas. However, the roles they play in the aquatic systems are important and can be equally as interesting. Some species can be found throughout the entire state, while others are limited to specific drainages. As with most plants and wildlife, the diversity of mussels is greater in eastern Kansas than in the west. The Neosho River, which starts at Council Grove, is the only river in the state where all 41 species can be found.

Mussels are an important component of the aquatic community. They constantly filter water, making them excellent indicators of aquatic health. A large mussel, like the heelsplitter, can filter up to a gallon of water per day, removing sediments and small organisms from the water. This can also lead to their demise if pollution is a problem in the stream.

Reproduction among freshwater mussels is unusual. After a short incubation, the young mussels (glochodia) are released into the water. There they must find and attach to the gills of certain species of fish. Some mussels can use a number of host fish while others can only use one. If one or more host fish disappear from the stream, the mussels will be unable to reproduce and eventually will die out.

Mussel shells have been used for a variety of things over the years. The plains Indians ate mussels and used the shells for a variety of items, especially for digging and scraping. More recently, buttons were made from thick-shelled species. In fact, Missouri and Kansas led the nation at one time in buttons produced from mussel shells. Many modern buttons try to mimic the coloration and texture of the once popular shell buttons. One of the biggest button factories in the United States was in Iola.

Currently, the harvest of mussels in Kansas is regulated by size and species. Most harvested mussels go to the cultured pearl markets overseas.

Freshwater mussels come in all shapes and sizes. In Kansas, the largest is the white heelsplitter, which can get up to eight inches in diameter. One of the smallest is the fawnsfoot, which gets not much bigger than a half-dollar. The most common are the pond mussel and mapleleaf.

Mussels are also very long lived, with some reaching over 120 years old. Fifty-year-old mussels are fairly common. Counting the growth rings on the shell will give the approximate age of the individual, although some are difficult to distinguish. The most difficult rings to count are the ones on the outer part of the shell.

Some of the least common mussels in Kansas include the rabbitsfoot, elktoe and mucket. Two species, the black sandshell and hickory nut, were once common to the state but are now completely gone. Relics of the hickory nut and black sandshell can be found at the Kansas River on Fort Riley.

While tempting, it would not be a good idea to cook up a mess of Kansas clams. Since they are so long lived, they can accumulate a high degree of pollution and sediments and generally do not have a good flavor. One type that can be eaten is the Asiatic clam, which is not native but fairly common in Kansas waters. Though it may be difficult to find, many are bigger than a silver dollar.

For more information on freshwater mussels in Kansas and on Fort Riley, stop by or call the Conservation Division, building 1020, 239-6211.

080103 Post Front Section.qxd 8/1/2003 9:41 AM Page 8

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



# Separating soldiers receive help with transition to civilian workforce

***By Jamie Bender***
*Staff writer*

"The Army paid out in unemployment during the second quarter of the fiscal year about 38 million dollars," said David Horner, Army Career and Alumni Program manager. "That's seven million dollars more than the previous year."

To help lower that cost, ACAP is made available to soldiers before they separate from the Army.

"If we get the opportunity to work with them before separation," said Horner. "We get to cut down not only on unemployment costs. We give them a realistic preview of what is out there, and it sometimes results in reenlistment. In fact, we find that 10 to 20 percent of those who start ACAP five months prior to separation, reenlist."

In order to help soldiers make the decision weather or not to separate, the Army allows them to begin ACAP up to one year prior to their Expiration Term of Service date, and two years out for retirees.

"The longer they have to prepare, the better off they are when they separate," said Horner.

ACAP is available to anyone separating from the military, regardless of rank or reason.

"It includes the officers who are deciding if they want to be released from active duty or resign or retire," explained Horner. "It includes the folks who are getting out due to the medical evaluation board. It includes the folks who are getting out because of any kind of chapter. It includes those being discharge for any reason. We don't care why they are separating."

The Army Career and Alumni Program is a three-phase process that includes a pre-separation briefing, a three and a half day job search workshop and actual job search assistance.

The purpose of the pre-separation briefing is to inform the soldier and spouse what the benefits are in separating from the military.

"These are things they can use before they get out and things they can use when they get out," said Horner. "This includes recognizing the stress and strain that they may need assistance dealing with before or after separation."

The briefing informs soldiers of programs that are available to them.

"A good example is the Troops to Teachers program," said Horner. "A soldier getting out with a degree, or within two years of a degree, can qualify for either an alternative certification program and move directly into teaching or may get money to help him get his teaching certificate when he finish the degree."

> "What works today is no longer a job history. Today's resumes are sales brochures to sell them to the next employer."
>
> **—David Horner**
> **Program Manager, ACAP**

The briefing also covers other benefits such as travel, transportation and finance.

"We help them to identify what the benefit is and then we give them the information to get with the provider who controls the benefit for the details," said Horner. "We don't set them up for their transportation appointment, but we tell them about transportation and give them that contact information so they can make their appointments."

The soldier is given a list to fill out that identifies what benefit is available and the soldier checks whether or not he want to use it or if it does not apply to him.

The pre-separation briefing is also given to Reserve or National Guard soldiers who have more than 180 days of active duty, said Horner.

"We do that in a group briefing of up to 300 soldiers at a time when they are demobilized."

The second phase of ACAP is a three and half day job search workshop for the soldier and their family members to teach them how to conduct an effective job search.

"We teach them to do an entire job search, starting from planning their transition and with a budget," said Horner. "They figure out how long they can go between paychecks, because when they first get hired is not when they first get paid. Once they know when they have to have a job, they can fill in the target day column, and the day completion column lets them know whether they are ahead of schedule, on schedule or behind schedule, and to pick the pace up."

After establishing a time frame, the next step involves setting career goals and objectives.

"There are three critical pieces of information that they need to know," said Horner. "What is it they want to do in terms of a job? Where do they want to go? How much do they want to get paid?"

Once those questions are answered, participants learn how to write a resume that will sell themselves to the potential employer.

"What works today is no longer a job history," said Horner. "Today's resumes are sales brochures to sell them to the next employer. You have to pick and choose among the valuable skills and experiences that the soldier has, as they relate to the next employer."

Soldiers also learn how to translate their military skills and experience into the civilian workforce on their resume.

"The infantry soldiers are basically project managers," explained Horner. "Every op-order would be a project. It has to be planned, organized, led and controlled. Those are basic management functions. While there aren't jobs out there to take a hill, the combat arms guys are flexible in getting a job, planning what to do with the resources they have, organizing to make it happen, executing and adjusting, because no plan ever works out as first imagined. They are controlling what they are doing in terms of safety and progress toward accomplishing the objective. So, a lot of companies are looking for someone who can do that sort of project management."

The workshop also covers how to interview for a job.

"It's actually in the interview that they sell themselves to get the job," said Horner. "Also, to help them out, on our computer system we have a practice interview module to help them develop their interview skills. We have two computers that have video cameras, so they can record themselves doing a practice interview to see how well they did. We are pretty good at polishing folks to get them competitive. If they interview well, they will be offered a job."

The benefits of the ACAP three and a half day workshop have been researched.

"The Army did a study, and the Army found out that those who completed the workshop and made use of the ACAP counselors made six to seven thousand dollars more annual salary and got hired up to three weeks faster," said Horner.

The third phase of ACAP is working one on one with a counselor and doing an actual job search.

"We help them research and contact employers and do follow up after the interview and negotiate salary and benefits," said Horner.

While all military branches have a transition assistance program that teaches the three and a half day workshop, the Army compliments the workshop with the ACAP staff and computer assets, said Horner.

"A lot of the other forces, the Navy for example, allow the installations to supplement or compliment the program as they want," he explained. "We are the only branch to have a comprehensive program to provide the same quality throughout."

The Army's ACAP is available for use by all branches of the military, and in the last few months the Army has made ACAP available to retired soldiers for their lifetime after retirement.

"That's only Army retirees and their families," said Horner of the lifetime benefit. "That means that a retiree can come to an ACAP center for job assistance at any time on a space available basis. We have not turned anyone away."

For more information on ACAP, call 239- 2248, 239-2278 or 239-3939.

Post/Bender

**Pfc. Brian Forkner receives his pre-separation briefing from Jim Yates, an ACAP counselor.**

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
college heights TF

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Scrapbook Gar/7-29 & 8-1,7-30

# DoD working on new MRE choices

***By Alfonso Lopez***
*Army News Service*

MRE prototype items were recently displayed at the Capitol during Soldier Modernization Day. These items included pocket sandwiches, grilled hamburger, pepperoni pasta, sloppy joes, and hash browns with bacon, all of which may be available one day.

"The key driver to ensuring that these combat ration platforms reflect the expectation of the soldier is actually doing field evaluations in actual field settings," said Gerald Darsch, director of DOD Combat Feeding. The DOD Combat Feeding program, out of Natick, Mass., spices up the new rations developed for troops.

The focus is to provide the highest quality rations to soldiers, said Darsch. The food made available is focused on the preferences of soldiers while providing the nutrition necessary for war.

"We take a lot of pride in providing war fighters...the fuel that powers the war fighter to get the mission accomplished," said Darsch. "[These rations] allow them to accomplish their mission and return out of harms way to enjoy time with their families."

The soldier is key in the decision-making process, said Darsch. Combat Feeding receives feedback directly from soldiers. Recently soldiers at Pohokaloa, Hawaii, training area were able to try out the new Meals, Ready to Eat, in addition to heat and serve items. The data will be used to create a list of most favored items.

"We will then propose changes to the MRE and to the unitized group ration," said Darsch. That data will then be presented in the Joint Services Operational Forum. This current data will actually take effect in the 2006 data pack.

Additions to the meals will range from simple seasonings to foreign dishes. While soldier preferences are taken heavily into account, everything that soldiers would want cannot be included, said Darsch, as weight and space is an issue.

This is also a consideration when it comes to the allocating of water. "Less weight obviously means that more energy can be devoted to achieving the mission," said Darsch. The newest means of achieving this is the Camelback with forward osmosis capability.

If we can provide that fuel in the most highly acceptable fashion and have it of high quality, traditional and familiar we feel the cognitive and physical performance will be maintained or enhanced," Darsch said.

WILDCAT CREEK SPORTS CENTER
2 x 4"
Black Only
summer activities

KANSAS WIRELESS
2 x 5"
Black Only
2&5 AUGUST KS WIRELESS

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 19.5"

RED/Post August