



NEWSNOTES

Legal Assistance seeks tax-prep volunteers

Each year, Fort Dix provides free tax assistance and e-filing to military personnel and their families through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Volunteers are critical to the success of the VITA program as they prepare basic tax returns and assist in the administrative functions of running the program.

For those who are interested in volunteering but were not able to attend the training session, an on-line training course is still available. Call the Fort Dix Legal Assistance Office at 562-3043 if you would like to volunteer either as a tax preparer or provide administrative support.

Government Housing office recruits RRB members

Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base are seeking additional Family Housing Residents to serve on the housing privatization Resident Representative Board (RRB).

The RRB's objective is to provide resident input to improve their housing communities.

RRB members need to be UC family housing residents and willing to obtain input from other residents. The RRB meets once a month, typically at 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday on Fort Dix or McGuire.

The next RRB meeting is scheduled for Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. in the McGuire Club, 2508 East Third Street. For more information or to join the RRB, call Judith Holliday at 754-3361 or Rich Sample at 562-5025 or send e-mail to judith.holliday@mcguire.af.mil or richard.sample@us.army.mil.

Consumer seminar coming to Army Community Service

Army Community Service will host "Are You a Smart Consumer?" Jan. 16 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue.

The seminar will address issues such as what's in a credit report, buying a car with a trade-in, what factors might lower your auto insurance, and what is the best way to pay for an item online.

For more information, call Bobby Brown at 562-2767 or 1 (800) 877-2380.

DoD taking nominations for ESGR Freedom Award

The Department of Defense opened the nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Nov. 1.

Nominations will be accepted at www.esgr.mil until Jan. 21, 2008. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers.

For questions, call Hank Pierre of N.J. ESGR at 562-0156.

WEATHER

FRIDAY -- Showers and windy, daytime high of 56 and overnight low of 35 degrees.

SATURDAY -- Cloudy, windy and colder, high of 44 and overnight low of 30.

SUNDAY -- Fair, slight chance of rain, high of 43 and low of 25 degrees.

MONDAY -- Morning rain, high of 43 degrees and overnight low of 27.

TUESDAY -- Cloudy, slight chance of showers, high of 37 and low of 26 degrees.

WEDNESDAY -- Clear and sunny, high of 36 degrees and overnight low of 27.

Citizen-Soldiers in focus

Employers glimpse life of National Guardsmen

Shawn Morris
Public Affairs Staff

One of the National Guard's greatest strengths -- its Soldiers participation in the civilian workforce -- can potentially become a deadly weakness if employers become unsympathetic to the sacrifices made by the nation's citizen-Soldiers.

In an effort to ensure good relations between employers and their service-member employees, the New Jersey National Guard and the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) kicked off the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Community Support Program Jan. 9 at Fort Dix.

Nearly two-dozen employers and civic leaders from the Garden State began the day with a briefing at the Lawrenceville Armory by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the adjutant general for the New Jersey National Guard.

The group was then flown to Fort Dix by Blackhawk helicopter and brought by bus to the Joint Readiness Center (JRC) where members of the 50th IBCT are currently undergoing pre-mobilization processing.

Following their tour of the JRC, the group had an opportunity to check out the latest in high-tech Soldiering at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC).

Lunch was spent with Soldiers from the 50th IBCT, and the day was capped off with a tour of the Hall of



Shawn Morris

ENLIGHTENING EVENT -- Lt. Col. Cynthia Palinski briefs a dozen employers of Citizen Soldiers who toured the Fort Dix Joint Readiness Center Jan. 9 as part of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Community Support Program.

Remembrance at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters on Fort Dix. The group was then flown back to Lawrenceville by National Guard aviators.

An event such as this is timely, as more than 3,000 Soldiers from New Jersey are set to deploy with the 50th IBCT this summer. They will be tasked with security forces and detainee operations missions in Iraq. Fifteen companies within the brigade will provide internal and external security at several prisons.

For the 50th IBCT Soldiers to meet their pre-mobilization requirements

for deployment, New Jersey National Guard leadership partnered with Fort Dix mobilization leaders to meet the objectives. Under that plan, Fort Dix and National Guard resources -- such as the JRC and the JT2DC -- are being used to expedite the process.

As part of the pre-mobilization process, Soldiers received eye exams, immunizations, blood work, and other medical processing at the JRC, and various dental procedures and other requirements at the JT2DC. Additional processing dates for the remaining Soldiers in the brigade are scheduled for the coming months.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization that provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support New Jersey's employers who share their employees with the Department of Defense to ensure national security.

The ESGR mission is to gain and maintain support of all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employ military service.

Restaurant, nightclubs off-limits

Lt. Col. Scott E. Zippich
Fort Dix Staff Judge Advocate

Thinking of going off-post to have dinner or just relax with friends at a local nightclub or restaurant? If so, you must know that the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB) recently declared three local establishments off-limits.

An AFDCB convened on Jan. 3 at McGuire Air Force Base and placed the following three establishments permanently off-limits for all service members permanently, temporarily, or administratively assigned to McGuire.

AFB, Fort Dix, and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station; The Plum Tree restaurant, located at 61 Main Street, New Egypt; the Ledo by Night nightclub, located at 701 Adams Avenue, Philadelphia, and Cheeks nightclub, located at 159 South Pemberton, Pemberton.

Because the above establishments are declared off-limits, service members are prohibited from entering these areas. Violations may subject the service member to disciplinary action per applicable Service regulation and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Because the Plum Tree, Ledo by Night and Cheeks are declared off-limits, service members are prohibited from entering these areas.

Col. Ronald R. Thaxton, Fort Dix Installation Commander, fully supports the off-limits restriction and said, "The AFDCB's decision will help ensure that our Soldiers and their family members are not exposed to unsafe or undesirable off-post conditions."

comprised of representatives from McGuire AFB, Fort Dix and Lakehurst who advise and make recommendations to commanders on matters concerning conditions that adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, morale, and discipline of the Armed Forces.

A decision to place an establishment or area off-limits is intended to prevent service members from being exposed to or victimized by crime-conducive conditions. Recent and past undesirable activity taking place at the above mentioned establishments necessitated the off-limits order.

Lt. Gen. Honoré leaves legacy at First US Army

Phil Manson
First Army Public Affairs Staff

FORT MCPHERSON, Ga., Army News Service, Jan. 8, 2008 -- Lt. Gen. Russell L. Honoré, commander of First Army, is retiring from the Army and will relinquish his command Jan. 11 in a ceremony at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Ga.

Best known for commanding Army forces during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005, Lt. Gen. Honoré is writing a book and wants to start a national conversation about emergency preparedness.

He envisions a type of "Marshall Plan" to help Americans sustain themselves and their families during times of natural or man-made disasters.

Maj. Gen. (promotable) Thomas G. Miller from U.S. Army Forces Command, G 3/5/7, will replace him as First Army's commander. He will be promoted to lieutenant general during the ceremony.

Take care of our Army and be proud of that big 'A' you wear," Lt. Gen. Honoré said in a brief farewell speech to his staff. "First Army's leg-

cy of training National Guard and Reserve Soldiers goes back to World War I. First Army was first on the beaches of Normandy, first into Paris, first to cross the Siegfried Line, first to cross the Rhine and first to meet the Russians.

"First Army is the Army of champions! Keep being champions for our citizen-Soldiers."

As the Army Guard and Reserve transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force in the war on terrorism, Lt. Gen. Honoré found that citizen-Soldiers needed to train as they would fight, and changed the training paradigm for reserve-component Soldiers.

Under theater-immersion training, Soldiers go directly from their home station to a forward operating base where they encounter every imaginable in-theater situation: Convoy operations; entry control points; improvised explosive devices; 24-hour operations to immerse them in their theaters of operations and civilians on the battlefield who role play everything from insurgents to local elders to sick, pregnant women.

Lt. Gen. Honoré implemented (continued on page 3)



On target for training

Training at Fort Dix continues to expand to meet the demands of the Global War on Terrorism. See insert for details on this past year's training highlights.

Nature

On the trail of the abominable snowfall



durhamregion.tupepad.com

story & photos by
Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

*"Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go,
Let It Snow! Let It Snow. Let It Snow!"*

lyrics from song "Let It Snow" by
Sammy Cahn and Julie Styne, 1945

I never understood mindless foreboding against the advent of snowfalls. Snow was always beautiful and shoveling it more pleasant than doing the same to manure. Driving through snow, granted, wasn't always a barrel of laughs but did reward skilled motorists with certain secret badges dripping with savoir faire not available to timid souls chained to the inside of their abodes.

With that in mind, I was determined over this Christmas vacation to wallow in the white stuff at every opportunity. Fortunately, weather patterns smiled upon my primordial passion.

Snow was already on the ground when I pulled into my house at Williamsport, Pa., on Dec. 21. But it didn't start falling again until several days after Christmas. Shortly after the new year rang in I drove up to my brother's house in a suburb of Rochester, N.Y. As usual, the snow fell freely there.

I was thrilled.

Grey sullen days on end in the winter are tough to take without snow breaks. Better to be awash in white than suffocate in a cold, colorless void.

Coming back from my brother's I passed around several of the minor Finger Lakes before circling over to Honeyoye Lake which was consumed by winter's white cataract.

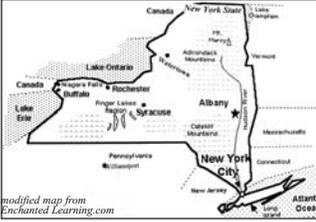
Nature awes, then overwhelms. Let it snow!



DOMESTIC BLISS — An unheralded pleasure available to the snow-bound is simply to relax indoors while savoring sights of snowy splendor outside. Warming drinks, of course, add spice to convivial spirits.



COUNTRY ROAD — Cruisin' from Williamsport, Pa. to Rochester, N.Y., takes only about three hours now thanks to improvements in Route 15 over the years. But only God could improve on the snowy scenery, above.



modified map from
Enchanted Learning.com

SNOW BELT — A prominent snow belt in the northeast of our country stretches roughly from Rochester, N.Y. to Syracuse before veering northward to Watertown, home of Fort Drum and its 10th Mountain Division.



WOODEN INDIAN — Snow just added to the stature of Woapananee, the wooden sculpture by Peter "Wolf" Toth which graces Brandon Park in Williamsport, Pa.



ALMOST A WHITE CHRISTMAS — Night, above, at the author's house at Williamsport two days after Christmas. Below, snow enhanced the view from Montgomery Pike overlooking the Susquehanna River in South Williamsport.



CHILLING OUT — Residents of Rochester, N.Y., were greeted with temperatures in the teens during the first few days of the new year with the wind chill factor falling to nine degrees below zero at one point. Winds storming off Lake Ontario, above, proved especially brisk.



WATERWAY TO HISTORY — Ice spreads over Irondequoit Bay, left, whose waters touch the suburb of Webster, east of Rochester, N.Y. A jetty, right, juts into the historic waterway. From the bay Indian trails led southward to Seneca villages and on to the Ohio country. LaSalle and French missionaries landed at the bay, from Canada, in 1669. In 1867, Marquis de Denonville, governor of New France, led Soldiers and Indian allies to victory over the powerful Iroquois nation, destroying many Seneca villages but to no lasting effect. In 1717 The French established Fort des Sables at the bay and in 1721 they built Fort Schuyler. During the French and Indian War and later, troops occasionally camped in the area. Steam vessels once cruised on Irondequoit Bay and its waters, marches and coves attracted fishermen, hunters, and ice cutters. Vacationers from Rochester rode railroad trains in the 19th century and trolley cars in the 20th to visit resorts on the bay but those summer spas declined by 1930 because of expanding suburbs, homes, clubs and parks now surrounding the bay. What hasn't changed is the climate, cool and refreshing in the summer, but brutally cold and snowy in winter. The first settlers must have been a hardy breed, indeed.



SNOWCAPPED — Snow covers Honeyoye Lake, one of the minor Finger Lakes, south of Rochester.

the Post

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ICY MAJESTY — The Tioga River, left, cuts through ice just south of the New York border below the Pennsylvania Welcome Center on Route 15 in Tioga. Above, a tree blocks rays of the wintery sun just above the dam joining the Tioga-Hammond Lakes which the center overlooks.

Civilian performance-based pay system meeting second-year goal

Sgt. Sara Moore
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 2008 — In its second year of implementation, the Defense Department's new civilian personnel system is meeting its goal of shifting the department to a performance-based pay system while giving employees the power to boost their own careers, two officials with the program said here yesterday.

The National Security Personnel System now covers about 130,000 of the department's civilian employees, and feedback has been positive about the system, which ties employees' pay raises and bonuses more directly to annual performance evaluations, Michael Dominguez, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said in an interview.

"What I've been hearing is, the system is doing what we've intended it to do, which is to galvanize conversations in the department and with our employees about our mission (and) what it is we need to achieve," Dominguez said.

DoD recently issued the 2008 NSPS pay schedules, which were effective Jan. 6. This year, 60 percent of the base salary increase for federal employees will go to pay increases for employees who receive a final rating of 2 or higher on their evaluations, which includes virtually all federal employees. Forty percent of the base salary increase will go to "pay pools" to be allocated as performance-based salary increases to employees with a rating of level 3 or higher.

Mary E. Lacey, program executive officer for NSPS, said that in last year's NSPS



payout, the January salary increase was not at all tied to performance. However, this year the department changed that to bring the annual pay increases more in line with the performance-based management system, she said. DoD had planned to make January pay increases exclusively performance-based by next year, but under an agreement with Congress, the split will remain 60 percent and

"What I've been hearing is, the system is doing what we've intended it to do, which is to galvanize conversations in the department and with our employees about our mission (and) what it is we need to achieve."

Michael Dominguez, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness

40 percent, as it is this year, Lacey said. She has seen data on about 60 percent of the payouts that will be made under NSPS this year, and the results are promising. About 5 percent of employees are being rated as level 5, or "role model," about 60 percent of employees are rated at level 3, and practically no employees are rated as level 1, or "unacceptable," she said.

"I think most employees will find, at the end of the day, ... that they did pretty darn well under NSPS, and some of those fears will die down," Lacey said, referring to some employees' anxieties about the new system.

Lacey and Dominguez agreed that implementing a new system is challenging, and supervisors and employees alike have had difficulty

adjusting to the new performance-based culture. However, they said, it is a welcome change because it gives employees a clearer understanding of what is required of them to advance and even gives them the opportunity to advance more quickly than they could under the old system.

"To some extent, it's a choice for employees in terms of how they want to approach their work, and ... if they want to rocket up the scale, if you will, (be) hard-driving (and) take on the tough challenges, then there is the potential there for them to take on more responsibility and increase their salary because of their performance," Lacey said.

To ensure that employees and managers understand the system, DoD officials have invested a lot of time in training and education about how the system works and why it is beneficial, Dominguez said. He stressed that leaders at every level, including military leaders who have employees or colleagues under NSPS, need to understand the system completely and ensure their subordinates understand it.

NSPS is a system that's first

designed to support DoD's national security mission, Dominguez said. It's also designed to update the civil service system to meet the demands of the 21st century, where workers expect to be rewarded based on performance, instead of how long they've been in a job, he said.

"In NSPS, you can go as fast and as far as you want to go," Dominguez said. "It's not a time-driven system; it's a performance-driven system."

DoD plans to bring about 57,000 more employees under NSPS in the spring, Lacey said. The department also will work with organized labor to bring even more employees under the system, she said.

Because DoD is such a large, complex organization, it will continue to take time to get everyone trained and under the new system, she said. In fact, pay systems for some employees — those in the intelligence field, for example — are covered under statutory authority, and they will never come under NSPS.

Overall, about 500,000 civilian employees will come into NSPS over the next three to five years, Lacey said.

"This is probably the most significant investment we have made in our civilian work force in terms of their leadership, management and soft skills (such as communication and coaching employees) ever — in my career, at least," Lacey said. "We will continue that pace as we train folks up to bring them in."

Honoré imparts Army legacy —

(continued from page 1) which devastated the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005. Until Jan. 15, 2006, First Army was responsible not only for training, but providing Defense Department support to civilian authorities during disasters, and with the winds of Katrina still blowing, Lt. Gen. Honoré and the First Army team were headed to Mississippi to establish Joint Task Force-Katrina.

The storm won the first quarter. It was a perfectly executed attack, if you think of it in military terms," Lt. Gen. Honoré said at the time. "Communications out, travel modes cut, no electricity, no water... it was a bad situation."

By Aug. 31, National Guard, Coast Guard and Navy helicopters were performing thousands of search-and-rescue missions. Lt. Gen. Honoré's task force was in New Orleans delivering water and tens-of-thousands of meals ready to eat to storm victims, and by Sept. 2, JTF-K had evacuated the people from the Superdome and Convention Center.

**Fort Dix
Weather Hotline**
Call 562-4065 at 6 a.m. daily for
information on weather delays



Ryan Morton

MANS' BEST FRIEND -- Air Force Sgt. Jason Hanisko and his canine, Arek, survey the area above the elevated, right-handed tunnel, which is part of the new canine obstacle course. The tunnel is used as a training tool to teach canines how to navigate in a dark and unfamiliar area.

Combat canines conquer course

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

Kibo, Arek, and Helena lead the way as they navigate through obstacles, training for a Global War on Terrorism mission in Iraq. They are warriors in every sense of the word with their will and dedication to mission accomplishment at the forefront.

The difference, though, is they are trained, explosive-sniffing patrol dogs.

These German Shepherds are currently training at Fort Dix with six other specially trained German Shepherds and Malinois breeds for a special GWOT mission in Iraq.

"They're here to get exposure to possible types of situations they would encounter in country," Air Force Tech Sgt. Jeffrey Dean, 421st Combat Training Squadron, said.

The 421 CTS is hosting this training for these dogs and their Air Force security forces handlers stationed at various locations around the world such as Japan, Utah, Washington State, New Mexico, and Ohio.

Among the exercises the canines are currently performing or will soon perform are explosives detection, helicopter exposure (the dogs' reaction to the noise), a first aid class (how to apply aid, handle trauma, and administer IVs to dogs), live weapons fire reactions, and navigation through Dix's freshly completed canine obstacle course.

All these exercises are aimed at getting the dogs accustomed to, and being able to perform with, the elements they would encounter in a combat zone.

Among the obstacles the



Ryan Morton

DOG DAYS -- Helena, a German Sheppard, emerges out of the 16-foot low crawl, an area designed to teach the canines and their handlers how to properly maneuver and navigate through an area that's devoid of space or sufficient light. Helena is currently at Fort Dix training for an upcoming Global War on Terrorism mission.

dogs and handlers must complete to standard are clearing a six-foot wall, a 16-foot low crawl in a darkened area (handlers and dogs go together), and navigation through two dark tunnels (one with a 90-degree turn and the other with an elevated turn upward).

These kinds of obstacles represent a major challenge for these dogs and handlers because it's something they normally don't do on an everyday basis at their home stations.

"This training is helpful because it gives us exposure to the kinds of scenarios we would probably see in combat. It's good because I know Arek would be prepared and be able to react okay in those situations," said Sgt. Jason Hanisko of Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

The course has been running at Dix/McGuire for seven months and this current group is the fourth class to go through, but the first to go through the class with the new obstacle course.

Stormwater pollution everybody's concern

Joseph P. Bochanski
Environmental Protection
Specialist, DPW

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it. Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need fertilizer.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.

● If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

● Make sure you properly store or discard an unused portion.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is

not treated

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less-toxic alternatives when possible.

● Recycle used motor oil

- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.

● An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.

● Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law.

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up waste.

● Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet

● Never discard pet waste in a storm drain

Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.

● Participate in community cleanups

Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains
- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn

If you have any questions regarding Stormwater Pollution Prevention on Fort Dix, please call Joe Bochanski, Stormwater Program manager, Fort Dix Environmental Division, Bldg. 5317, at 562-2224.

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.pointsources.org

Additional information is also available at Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps.

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24/7 information

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Wednesday evenings
at 6 p.m.

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WANTS YOU**

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VOLUNTEER**

Call Army
Community Service
at 562-2767
to find out more about the
Fort Dix
Volunteer Program

Announcements

Cinema Schedule

754-5139
McGuire Air Force Base

Friday, Jan. 11 @ 7:30 p.m.

Enchanted - Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Timothy Spall - The tale follows the beautiful princess Giselle (Amy Adams) as she is banished by an evil queen (Susan Sarandon) from her magical, musical animated land - and finds herself in the gritty reality of the streets of modern-day Manhattan. Shocked by this strange new environment that doesn't operate on a happily ever after basis, Giselle is now adrift in a chaotic world badly in need of enchantment. But when Giselle begins to fall in love with a charmingly flawed divorce lawyer (Patrick Dempsey) who has come to her aid - even though she is already promised to a perfect fairy tale prince (James Marsden) back home - she has to wonder: Can a storybook view of romance survive in the real world?
MPAA Rating: PG - some scary images and mild innuendo
Run time: 108 minutes

Saturday, Jan. 12 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Mist - Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden, Laurie Holden, Andre Braugher, Toby Jones - Following a violent thunderstorm, artist David Drayton and a small town community come under vicious attack from creatures prowling in a thick and unnatural mist. Local rumors point to an experiment called "The Arrowhead Project" conducted at a nearby top-secret military base, but questions as to the origins of the deadly vapor are secondary to the group's overall chances for survival. Retreating to a local supermarket, Drayton and the survivors must face-off against each other before taking a united stand against an enemy they cannot even see.
MPAA Rating: R - violence, terror and gore, and language
Run time: 125 minutes

Future Features...

I Am Legend
Friday, Jan. 18 @ 7:30 p.m.
PG-13, 101 minutes.

Enchantment
Saturday, Jan. 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
PG-13, 113 minutes.

Chapel Services

Sunday Services
Protestant.....9-10 a.m.
Catholic Mass.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
Gospel.....11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Camp Victory - Chaplain's tent
Hour of Power
Protestant.....8-9 a.m.
Catholic.....8-9 a.m.
Mormon.....8-9 a.m.
Jewish.....8-9 a.m.

Wednesday Services

Main Chapel
Protestant 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Religious Services
Islamic Prayer room
open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday - Room 24

Catholic Adult Bible Study
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.

Christian Women of the Chapel - Bible Study - Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Christian Men of the Chapel - Prayer Breakfast - Fourth Saturday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.

Youth of the Chapel
Every second and fourth Tuesday 7 to 9 p.m.

Jewish services available by request

For additional services or Religious Support please call 562-2020

Religious materials are available at the JRC, the Main Chapel, and Camp Victory

MWR presents

World's Greatest Wrestling live!
Jan. 31, 6 p.m. at the Griffith Field House

Adults - \$7 Children 5 to 12 - \$5
Children under 5 - Free

Tickets can be purchased at MWR Headquarters, Griffith Field House, Outdoor Recreation, and Arts & Crafts starting Friday, Jan. 11

ACS Meetings

Monday, Jan. 14
Deployment Series: Maintaining Family Connections
6 - 8 p.m.
Fort Dix CDC

Educational/Informational Seminar
6 - 8 p.m.
ACS Bldg, 5201

Youth Center

562-5061
Bldg. 1279 Locust Street
Hours of Operation:
Tuesday - Friday from 2-7 p.m.
Saturday from 1-7 p.m.
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

Administrative Hours:
Tuesday - Friday from noon-6 p.m.

Weekly Schedule

Friday, Jan. 11
Photo Club
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Power Hour Store
2:30 - 4:30
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.
Career Mentoring
6 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 12
Open Activities
Monday, Jan. 14
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 15
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Sports & Fitness
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 17
Tech Club
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Dining Facilities

Bldg. 5610 Open Every Day
Breakfast 6-7:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30-1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30-6 p.m.

Bldg. 5986 Open Every Day
Breakfast 6-7:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30-1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30-6 p.m.

Meal Rates: Breakfast - \$2.10
Lunch - \$3.85 Dinner - \$3.85

Helpful Hotlines

Family Advocacy 562-5200
Chaplain 562-2020
American Red Cross 562-2258
Army Emergency Relief 562-2767
Sexual Assault 562-3849

Victim Advocacy 694-8724

Child/Spouse Abuse 562-6001

Emergencies 911

Providence House hotline 871-7551

NJ Domestic Violence hotline 800 572-SAFE

Fort Dix Victim Advocate 562-2767

McGuire Victim Advocate 754-9672

Arts and Crafts 562-5691

Bldg. 6039 Philadelphia Street
Hours of Operation:
Tuesday from 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday to Thursday from noon - 5 p.m. and 6 - 8:45 p.m.
Friday from 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Programs

Adult Craft Classes 6-8:30 p.m.
Jan. 3 - 31. Adult Introductory Painting Course - (5 - Week Class) - \$25
\$5 pre-registration fee

Kids Craft Classes 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Jan. 12 & 26.....Kids Introductory painting Class (3 - week Class) - \$25
\$5 pre-registration fee

for other classes call Arts & Crafts 562-5691

Krafty Birthdays
Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to 2 hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by in order to select the craft and make payment.

Create A Critter
Discover a menagerie of adorable animals to stuff, dress, and cuddle. From the basic teddy bear to giraffes and lions, we've got them all! Great fun for the whole family and you'll love our low prices. It makes a great last-minute gift idea, too.

Hearts For Heroes
Show your appreciation for our active duty and retired military. Kids in anytime and paint a small heart which will be given to a military member. All hearts will be donated so there is no cost to participate!

Framing Qualification Classes

Oct. 17, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 13, 9 - 11:30 a.m.
Get qualified to use this great facility and equipment! You will complete one piece (cost of which is not covered by registration fee) about 8"x10" which you must supply as you learn to operate the equipment. All materials are available for purchase at the frame shop.
\$10 fee plus materials

United Communities Housing Information

Leasing Office - 723-4290
Maintenance Office - 724-0500
Maintenance Scheduling, Progress, and Trash Concerns - 724-0550

United Communities is now offering Self-Help Delivery!
Please check the United Communities Web site for details:
www.mcguiredixuc.com

Fort Dix/McGuire Residential Refuse Collection Schedule

MONDAY
McGuire AFB
3800's & 3900's

TUESDAY
ALL OF FORT DIX INCLUDING QUARTERS: 201, 502, 1900

THURSDAY
McGuire AFB
4000's EXCEPT 4013-4027
4200's EXCEPT 4252-4260

FRIDAY
McGuire AFB
4013-4027
4252-4260
4300's, 4400's and 4500's

*** IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ONLY PUT TRASH OUT ON YOUR SCHEDULED DAY. THIS HELPS KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN***

RECYCLING IS PICKED UP EVERY THURSDAY

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY RECYCLABLES ARE PUT IN YELLOW/BLUE RECYCLING BINS

GREEN WASTE IS PICKED UP EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

MOBILIZATION

YOU CAN USE

WDIX
Commander's
Channel 2

WDIX
Commander's
Channel 2

Post Shuttle Bus 562-5888
Monday to Sunday -- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
During the day Starr Tour buses are used, in evening the military Bluebird buses are run.

Dix Shoppette/Class Six/ Gas Station 723-0044
Bldg. 5359, Texas Avenue
Monday to Friday - 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Weekends - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

BX/PX & Mall 723-4160
Monday to Thursday - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Commissary 754-4154
Monday to Friday - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Military Clothing/Sales Store-Alterations 723-2307
Bldg. 5601, Texas Avenue
Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - Closed.

Firestone 723-0464
Bldg. 4201 on Texas Avenue
Monday to Friday - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Recreation Center 562-4956
Bldg. 5905 on Doughboy Loop
Monday through Friday - 1 to 10 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday - noon to 11 p.m.
AT&T Cyber Zone offers computer access for a fee

McGuire Shoppette 723-4705
East Arnold Avenue by the 24-hour gate
Monday to Thursday - 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday - 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday -- 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday -- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Burger King 723-8937
Bldg. 5399, Texas Avenue
Monday to Saturday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Java Cafe & Computer Lab @ Club Dix 723-3272
Monday - Friday - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday - Closed.

McGuire Gas Station 723-4705
East Arnold Avenue by th 24-hour gate
Monday to Friday -- 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday -- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday -- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Spouses' Club Thrift Shop 723-2683
Tuesday and Thursdays - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month - 4 to 8 p.m.
First and 3rd Saturday of each month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

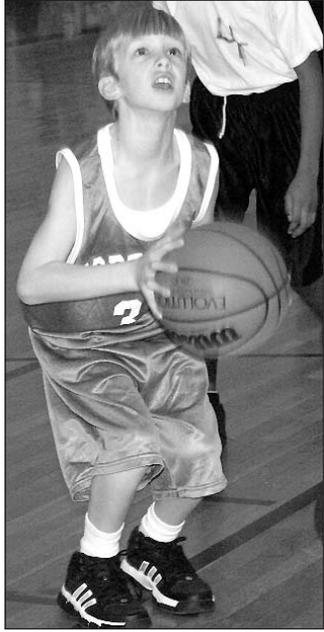
Outdoor Recreation 562-6667
Bldg. 6045 Doughboy Loop
Rentals include skis, snowboards, canoes, tents, tables, chairs and more.
Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 4 p.m.

Club Dix 723-3272
Dix Cafe
Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Revolutions Lounge
Opens 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday
Karaoke every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Fort Dix Post Office 723-1541
6038 West 9th Street
Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday -- 9:00 a.m. to noon
Lobby hours
Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Army Community Service 562-2767
Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue
Community Newcomer's Orientation held the third Thursday of each month

Dix starts with fast break Sports Shorts



photos by Ed Mingin

Fort Dix Youth Basketball started Jan. 4. Dix won three of the four games, and nearly won the fourth. In the 9-10 division, Matthew Miller, left, and the rest of Fort Dix #2 led until the final seconds, but lost 10-8 against Pemberton #1. Fort Dix #2 will be back in action Jan. 12, when they travel to the McGuire fitness Center to play against McGuire #2. Game time is 10 a.m. Fort Dix 1, also known as the Panthers, beat McGuire #3 by a score of 35-6. The Panthers play against Pemberton #2 Jan. 11, at the Doughboy Gym. Game starts at 6 p.m. Fort Dix beat Pemberton #2 27-17 in the 11-12 class. They will be at the Doughboy Gym Jan. 2, to play McGuire #1. Game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dix was also victorious in the 13-15 class, Robert Williams shown above right, heating Pemberton 34-27. Jan. 11 will see Dix at the Doughboy to play Pemberton #1 at 7 p.m.

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|---|---|
| <p>Griffith Field House Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Bowling The Fort Dix Bowling Center will remain open while new lanes are being installed. Monday - Thursday 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday 5 p.m. - midnight Saturday 10:30 a.m. - midnight Sunday 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. Ultimate Bowling Saturday 8 p.m. - midnight Sunday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>League nights are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Limited open lanes Tuesdays and Fridays. No open lanes Thursdays from 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more information call 562-6895.</p> <p>Wrestling Fort Dix Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host World's Greatest Wrestling "Live for the First Time Ever at Fort Dix" Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Griffith Field House. Featured wrestlers include: Ms. Richey, Homicide, Nightmare, Peggy Lee, Saturn, Wonder Woman, Rock-N-Roll Express, and Super Fly Jimmy Smuka. There will be a special appearance King Kong Bundy. Tickets will be sold both in advance and at the door. Tickets will be \$7 for adults, and \$5 for children 5-12. Call Bob Vogt, 562-6772, for more information.</p> | <p>Griffith Class Schedule For more information about activities at the Griffith Field house, or to verify class times, call 562-4888.</p> <p>Monday Cardio Kick Express 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Total Toning 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday Sculpting Express 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Spin-It noon - 12:45 p.m. Intro to Fitness 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Circuit Training 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday Step & Sculpt noon - 12:45 p.m. Pilates Fusion 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Friday Spin-It noon - 12:45 p.m.</p> <p>Pool Hours Monday - Friday Military Lap Swim 6 - 8 a.m. Retirees/Dep. Lap Swim 10 - 11:30 a.m. Active Duty/DOD Lap Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Recreation Swim 1 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday Lap Swim 10:30 a.m. - noon Recreation Swim noon - 6 p.m. Hydro Aerobic Class 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Monday - Wednesday Hydro Aerobic Class 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.</p> |
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1st Lt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA Bde.

Carrying the colors

The National Football League paid tribute to military members Dec. 9. Before the Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Giants squared off at Lincoln Financial Field. Second Lt. Juan Salas, 1-322 LSB, above, participated in the opening ceremonies. Staff Sgt. Jessica Ford, stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, follows Salas with the Air Force colors. The season may be over for the Eagles, but the Giants went on to the postseason. The Giants won their first playoff round, and will play the Cowboys this weekend.



Ed Mingin

Taking a new approach

New lanes and approaches are being installed at the Fort Dix Bowling Center. There have been several improvements to the facility in the past couple years, including new pinsetters, scorers and bathrooms. The center will remain open while the new lanes are being installed, and work will be complete before the next tournament, to be held Jan. 26. Results from the Holiday Tournament are posted below.

| Place | Name | Score |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | David Kelly/Tyrone Simpkins | 1551 |
| 2 | JC Coleman/Dee Coleman | 1442 |
| 3 | Mike Murray/Gary Johnson | 1384 |
| 4 | Aron Peterson/Natalie Peterson | 1358 |
| 5 | Frank Chaney/Barbara Nieves | 1334 |
| 6 | Donny Bunce/Vicky Bunce | 1312 |
| 7 | Krystal Martinez/Rob Fisher | 1311 |
| 8 | Ben Faulkner/Jennifer Garrison | 1298 |
| 9 | Pam Sloan/Jonathan Sloan | 1251 |
| 10 | Ken Bowerman/Denise Bowerman | 1245 |
| 11 | Angela Thomas/Don White | 1243 |
| 12 | Sylvia Johnson/Jamie Bittenbender | 1224 |
| 13 | Ryan Warner/Stephanie Jones | 1182 |
| 14 | Zola Myers/Pat Bradley | 1151 |
| 15 | Teresa Smith/Scott Smith | 1067 |

Long-time Dix employee ends decades of service

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

It took two tries for Ellen Nutt to begin work at Fort Dix.

Only 16 years old at her first try -- a high school graduate with the highest scores on the civil service test that year -- she was a year too young for government service. Testing again as soon as she turned 17, she began her career at Fort Dix in June 1957.

Nutt started working at the old Post Quartermaster, but soon found herself working with patients in preventive and mental health, a field she excelled in for 20-plus years. But while with mental health services at Fort Dix, she had to change her name to "Mrs. N."

Her boss said her last name had to go; the patients were offended by it.

After the birth of daughters Karen and Sharon in 1965, Nutt left Fort Dix. Her experience at Fort Dix and a trip to her doctor's office earned her a job offer which she accepted and worked for 20 years.

She came back to Fort Dix in 1985 as a secretary/stenographer with the Directorate of Community and Family-Directorate Morale, Welfare and Recreation, (DCFA-DMWR) and was part of the transition team when Walston Hospital closed in September 1992. With the hospital closed and her job changing, fifteen years ago she moved on, but had some trouble with her new boss, John Mann.

"I don't know whether I should take you because you always sent me those bad inspection reports. But I'll make a deal with you: I hear you're a bowler, so if you'll bowl with me, I'll hire you," Nutt said Mann told her.

She was a bowler, and still is with the Tuesday Night Keglers. And though she is leaving her employment, she will continue bowling. She says the four men on her team need



file photo

SERVICE -- Ellen Nutt, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is saying goodbye to Fort Dix after nearly 30 years. Nutt first attempted to gain employment at Dix at the age of 16 in 1956, below, but had to wait until the following year to begin her civil-service career.



courtesy photo

her handicap. "Ellen is very a generous and giving person, always providing things in the office for everyone," said Kelly Cezar, administrative assistant, who has worked with Nutt for the past 15 years.

"She's a very family person, always doing wonderful things for her grandchildren, always gets all the animals: A hermit crab, dogs, rabbits and fish. She brings them home to take care of them," she added.

"She's known for holiday and seasonal displays. Brings in big Tupperware containers from home and decorates every season," Cezar said.

These qualities are what made her the Employee of the Quarter in March 2002. Sarah Lee Johnson, director, DFMWR, said Nutt sets the stage for what MWR is all about -- washes dishes and mops floors if that is what is needed.

"She's been a great support to me and all of the organization that makes up MWR. Ellen is more than just an employee. She takes care of me and that's not an easy thing. I really am going to miss her. She is a great wealth of information and experience," Johnson said.

"She's the one that when somebody's ill or there's a death in the family, she's right on it. She adds that personal touch," Johnson added.

"When I was sick, Ellen always called to ask and say she had it under control. When Father died she went into help mode. Food, cakes, and pies, you name it, we got it. She offered to sit with Mother. I wish her lots of luck. I hate to see her go, but it's time for her to be happy and do what she needs to do," Johnson said.

What Nutt plans to do is continue bowling with Bob Parker, with whom she went to school from elementary on up through high school and worked with at Fort Dix until he retired a few years ago.

Her family is still in the area, all four brothers and three sisters, a close-knit family whose members enjoy each other's company.

She will continue working two days a week with a local physician, but in April, she and her friends are off to Italy.



Ryan Morton

From students to Soldiers

Sgt. Yvette McDermott, center, shakes the hand of Joseph Enriquez, at the Fort Dix Elementary School. McDermott and Sgt. Darin Benson, right, are Soldiers from the Warrior Transition Unit. The Soldiers were at the school to collect gift donations the kids gave to go to deploying Soldiers.

Chaplains' Corner

1st Lt. Tim Behnke
Chaplain Candidate

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

- Matthew 6:1-4

There are times in life that each of us wants to be recognized for what we do. Recognition in and of itself is not a bad thing. In fact, when one's work is recognized it can be a great source of motivation that spurs them on to do even better with renewed energy and vitality.

The point Jesus is making above is that our

primary motivator in doing good should not be to gain recognition from others, but to please God simply by doing what is right. God is the ultimate source of reward and it is only through Him that all blessings flow. When we seek recognition from others we cheapen the work that we do.

On the other hand, when we perform any given task with integrity not seeking "to be seen by men" we glorify God. And Jesus promises that the Father "will reward you (v. 4)."

When we live the Army value of Integrity, we will do what is right and what is good though we may never receive recognition in this lifetime. This is the true test of integrity - what you do when no one else is looking.

Often times, this maxim is applied to that which keeps us from not doing what we know is wrong. However, integrity also applies to doing good simply because it is the right thing to do. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "You see, when it is all said done it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway."

So whose favor are you seeking? And in the end, whose favor really counts?



Army Community Service (ACS)

562-2767

Bldg. 5201, on the corner of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**A Department of the Army Accredited Soldier and Family Service Organization*



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fort Dix is looking for interested residents who would like to volunteer

"Fort Dix volunteers improve the quality of life for all residents"

For those residents who want to make sure the Fort Dix community is the best it can be please

Call Army Community Service at 562-2767

NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

ACS, RE/MAX to host real-estate agent seminar

Army Community Service, in partnership with Operation RE/MAX, will present "Becoming a Real-Estate Agent" Jan. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. in Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue.

The seminar, hosted by broker-owner and former military crew chief Joseph A. Trela, is open to military spouses, active, retired, and veteran service personnel.

Topics for the seminar will include the requirements, costs and time involved with becoming a real-estate agent, as well as answering questions about referral agents and working from home. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

For more information or to register, call Rod Martell at 562-2186. Seating is limited to 20 attendees.

Thrift Shop cashier position available

The Fort Dix Thrift Shop cashier position is available offering both part time hours and an opportunity to work with a great group of volunteers! The cashier is responsible for working with the customers, merchandising and running the cash register. Previous cashier experience would be helpful but is not necessary. If you are interested please stop by the Thrift Shop located at 6501 Pennsylvania Avenue during normal business hours, or you may call Sylvia at 723-2683 or e-mail fort-dixspousesclub@comcast.net.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held weekly

Part of the mission of the Army Substance Abuse Program is to support 12 Step Programs in the community. There are two Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Fort Dix.

Each Tuesday night at Bldg. 9013 is a closed meeting for members from 7:30-8:30 p.m. On Thursday nights, there is a meeting at the Main Chapel from 7-8 p.m. (use the 8th Street parking lot entrance; the meeting is in the lounge near Fellowship Hall).

There is no cost except the desire to stop drinking behaviors that are harmful to self and others. If you or someone you care about needs help, these meetings are ANONYMOUS. For more information, call 562-2020 or 4011, or stop by Bldg. 5203.

Volunteers needed for speaking engagements

The Fort Dix Public Affairs Office is looking for officer and senior NGO volunteers to help us in our community relations efforts by becoming part of our speaker's bureau. All that's needed is enthusiasm, personality, the ability to read and engage an audience.

Please call Gerry Zanzalari, Fort Dix Public Affairs, at 562-4034 for more information.

So if you have the availability and desire to connect with our neighbors and bring a personal touch to the Fort Dix community, please call Gerry Zanzalari, Fort Dix Public Affairs, at 562-4034.

State to offer Army retiree license plates

The Fort Dix Retiree Council would like to solicit your help in supporting the N.J. Retired Army Retiree License Plate Initiative.

To apply for the New Jersey Retired Army plates, a minimum of 150 applicants are required. There is a fee of \$15 for each set of license plates per car.

To apply, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Walker at 351-5020, retired 1st Sgt. Tamayo at 670-3586, or the RSO at 562-2666. Information needed is name, rank, address, and current license plate number.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Fort Dix Retiree Council. Only N.J. residents can apply.

Training brigade looking for experienced Soldiers

The 72nd Field Artillery Brigade is looking for experienced Soldiers to become trainers for service members mobilizing through Fort Dix. For more information on necessary qualifications, call the Brigade Recruiting and Retention Team at 562-3309 or send e-mail to DIVEAST72FAB-DEREUP@usarmy.mil.

Soup mix stirs up feelings of friendship

Jennifer M. McCarthy
Public Affairs Staff

Take a dash of onion powder, a smidgen of lentils; add some noodles, a heap of love and lots of good wishes and what you have is a recipe for Friendship Soup. This potage of pleasantness was a recent project for the School Age Services (SAS) Promise Passport. The project had kids creating a dozen jars of soup mix to present to various members of the community who have high stress jobs. The idea being that when stressed, a warm bowl of soup is just the thing to calm frazzled nerves and soothe the spirit.

"It makes them feel better," said Anastasia Titus, 9, who participated in creating the artfully arranged jars of soup. In addition to assembling and layering the ingredients, the kids decorated the soup jars with ribbons and fabric and attached hand-written instructions on how to prepare the soup.

"We did it for people to say thanks for the hard work people who help us a lot," said Anais Nolasco, 10. Nolasco presented her jar of soup to school bus driver Tracey Lockwood. Lockwood showed her appreciation for being remembered by the children by showing them with a big hug. Other members of the community receiving soup included Fort Dix Commander Ronald Thaxton, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director, Sarah Johnson, and staff members at Youth Sports.

"It was messy but it made me feel good," said Jessica Hill on her experience creating the soup.

Promise Passport is part of America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth volunteerism project. Founded by former President Bill Clinton in 1997 and chaired by retired General Colin Powell, the organization promotes volunteerism among young people. The focus of America's Promise is to promote Five Essential Resources



Jennifer M. McCarthy

MMMM, MMMM GOOD - Bus driver Tracey Lockwood hugs Bailey Wolman, 9, Jan. 8, after being presented with a jar of "Friendship Soup." The soup mix was prepared by children in the School Age Services Project Passport as part of a December project in which the kids recognized people in their community who have a stressful job and may need to unwind with a nice bowl of soup.

needed by all youth so that they may grow into productive, healthy citizens. These resources are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, access to safe places and structured activities, a healthy start in life, marketable skills through education, and the opportunity to give back through community service.

"All children are allowed to participate," said Eduarda Rivera who was the project assistant for the Friend-

ship Soup endeavor. "All we ask is that they follow through and be responsible."

In addition to making soup, previous Project Passport undertakings

included creating key chains and birthday cards for children in foster care. This month they will make cat toys to donate to local area animal shelters.

Chapel starts new year with new face

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

The installation chapel staff grew by one when Chap. (Maj.) Allen Raub joined the team at the beginning of the New Year.

Raub, an Active Guard Reserve Soldier with more than 20 years of service originally hails from Oshkosh, WI. While attending North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1987, he enlisted in the Army Reserve. He went through Army basic training at Fort Dix, during which time he saw a greater need for pastoral care and more chaplains.

At that time Raub saw how Luke 10:2 from the Bible, "And he said unto them, 'The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest,'" applied, and so he prayed. Little did he know he would be one of the laborers sent forth, and even less did he expect he would return to Fort Dix as a chaplain.

Upon completion of basic training, Raub served as a light-wheel vehicle mechanic until he entered Officer Candidate School, and then the Chaplain Candidate Course and the Chaplain Officer Basic Course.

During his time in the Reserve, Raub completed his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History (Summa Cum Laude) in 1989 and then completed his Master's Degree at Bethel Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree (Magna Cum Laude) in 1994.

Upon graduation from seminary, he served as pastor of a rural church in Wisconsin for two-and-a-half years.

In 1997, Raub entered active duty and served as the Battalion Chaplain for the 266th Quartermaster Battalion, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, Fort Lee, Va. He then completed his Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., which was one of the highlights of his career. Raub truly enjoyed working with the wounded Soldiers and their families as they returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. During his tour-of-duty at WRAMC, right after 9-11, he deployed with unit ministry teams to the Pentagon to minister to the members of the recovery teams and the families of affected service members.



Chap. (Maj.) Allen Raub, the newest member of the installation chapel staff.

From WRAMC, Raub moved to Fort Meade, Md., as the Medical Activities Command Chaplain at the Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center and the Chaplaincy Resources Manager for the North Atlantic Regional Command and WRAMC.

His next assignment didn't move him far, as he transferred across the installation at Fort Meade and became the 308th Military Intelligence Battalion Chaplain.

The next post Raub moved to took him almost completely across the country to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he served two years as an Army Chaplain Recruiter at the 6th Recruiting Brigade. While with the 6th in 2006, Raub and his team of chaplain recruiters were recognized as the Top Chaplain Recruiting Team of the Year while reaching 117 percent of their mission goal. They followed up their performance in 2006 by reaching 128 percent of their mission goal in 2007.

Raub's new assignment as an assistant installation chaplain and the pastor of the Gospel Service offer him more challenges at which to succeed where he looks forward to ministering and preaching with the congregation.

He is looking forward to sharing the Gospel and working outreach programs throughout the community and installation. Raub also is looking forward to the opportunity to work with Soldiers during Reintegration.

Soon, Raub will be leading a 10-week program known as the Alpha Course which helps to teach and supply answers to many meaningful questions about life and man's existence on Earth. More information on the course will be forthcoming in the near future.

Raub is ordained by the Evangelical Church Alliance. He and his wife Julie have seven children—Anna, Britany, Caleb, Josiah, Nathan, Brent, and Brandon.

Money for education available through Commissary funds

Caroline Williams
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. - Are you digging under the sofa cushions for misplaced change and rolling coins from your money jar to help pay for college tuition? Given the soaring costs of higher education, you certainly aren't alone. Perhaps a \$1,500 scholarship could help?

Applications for the 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 20. They are available in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholarship.com> where they can be filled out on the computer and printed, or printed and filled out by hand. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program kicked off in 2001 and, according to agency officials, has awarded more than \$5.5 million dollars in scholarships to 3,532 of the best and brightest children of military families.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Fred Thomas's son Mark earned a scholarship in 2001. He said he's still paying for his son's undergraduate tuition, but every scholarship helps. "[The scholarship] was one more piece that allowed my son to attend a top university and excel by not having to work his way through," Thomas explained. Mark posted a 3.96 grade point average upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., with a Bachelor of Arts in theology, music and philosophy. He is presently a Senator Jacob K. Javits Fellow at Boston College, Mass., working on a doctorate of philosophy in religion.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty Reserve, Guard and retired military personnel. Eligibility

will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and that they have a current ID card. All applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2008. Students at community or junior colleges must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

"Applications must be in the store by close of business Feb. 20," said Edna Hoogewind, DeCA's scholarship program liaison, "either by hand or mail." If you are not hand-delivering your application, Hoogewind recommends using a delivery method that supplies a return receipt.

From April 15 through July 1, applicants can go online and verify receipt of their application in the "Verification of Receipt" section.

Hoogewind also advises students to check all their materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that they are using the 2008 application, not one from previous years. Everything applicants need to know about the program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the military scholar Web page.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is funded through donations by the general public and by product manufacturers and brokers that sell groceries in commissaries. Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the Scholarships for Military Children program. Fisher House Foundation uses the services of Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, to screen applicants and award scholarships.

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On Target

Fort Dix Post

January 11, 2008

Training hits high speed at Dix

David Moore
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers training at Fort Dix this year are seeing the first results of a new process to reduce time spent at the mobilization station and maximize boots on the ground in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

“What’s happening with this updated mobilization process is there is more emphasis being placed on the command group of a unit to plan and conduct required tasks at home station instead of taking up time at a mobilization station,” Lt. Col. Cynthia Palinski, officer-in-charge of the post’s Mobilization Unit Inprocessing Center, said.

In Army terms, what this means is that as many components of mobilization as possible are being scheduled in advance of the magical mobilization date called M-Day.

As a result Soldiers are will be better prepared going to a mobilization station instead of taking on the entire spectrum of processing and training activities to succeed on the battlefield, Palinski said.

What hasn’t changed in the training and mobilization process is theater immersion training and training to one Army standard in order to deploy overseas to assigned combat duty locations, trainers from the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade said.

What has changed is training strategy has been expanded to include Soldiers operating closer to simulated communities by operating from combat outposts, military mobilization leaders said.

Since processing and training have been reorganized, two distinct approaches for training and deploying reserve component Soldiers have developed.

Army Reserve

Army Reserve Soldiers will receive their pre-mobilization training from Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to a Region Training Center (RTC) Brigade. Fort Dix is home to one of four of these reserve organizations. The post’s RTC, comprised of about 200 Soldiers, is responsible for conducting such training tasks as weapons qualifications, identified individual training tasks and even some collective training.

The RTC, with Global War on Terrorism veterans Soldiers assigned mostly from the New York based 95th (Institutional Training), includes a brigade headquarters, battalion and two companies of Soldiers.

The Reserve Soldiers of the Small Arms Readiness Group will become a part of the RTC. Reservists of the North Carolina-based 108th (Institutional Training) Division

will also make up the cadre of trainers conducting pre-mobilization training and validating success for Reserve units scheduled to deploy.

Operations for the RTC are expected to be in full swing at Dix by March 1, Palinski, also a RTC projection stationing officer, said.

(continued on page 2)



NO COMPROMISE -- Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1-129th Field Artillery Battalion, Missouri National Guard, deal with role playing Civilians on the Battlefield at Fort Dix during mobilization training.
Photo by Pascual Flores

Training picks up speed at Dix

(continued from page 1)



Shawn Morris

STARTING LINE -- More than a dozen employers of Citizen Soldiers visit the Joint Readiness Center during a tour of Fort Dix as part of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Community Support Program Jan. 9. The Soldiers are preparing for a summer mobilization. Below, changes in training have brought increased media attention to Fort Dix. Reporters interview a trainer at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, built to resemble an Iraqi village.



Pascual Flores

New Jersey Army National Guard

Soldiers of the Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were notified in late fall that their year-old transformed organization drew the straw on an Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation slated for this year.

As a result of moving training up on the calendar, Guard leaders partnered with Fort Dix training and mobilization personnel to schedule use of such resources as portions of the Soldiers Readiness Processing Center. Other administrative Soldier readiness processing and training is being done at the Guard's Fort Dix-based Joint Training and Training Development Center.

While active duty mobilization leaders of higher headquarters have reported across the country a similar development of the RTC concept for National Guard units deploying for war such as expanding usage of identified states Regional Training Institutes (RTIs), the New Jersey Guard is using Fort Dix facilities resources.

"We've always had a strong relationship with Fort Dix," Lt. Col. Kenneth Schechter, the Guard's Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) training officer, said.

In the case of the IBCT mobilization, Guard planners from JFHQ and the 50th IBCT teamed up to identify the tasks that could be performed before the mobilization date and meet scheduled gate openings where the tasks would be validated within a six month timeframe.

What came out of the planning resulted in extended training weekends and a scheduled three week annual training at Fort Indiantown Gap the end of March to complete and validate units on Individual Weapons Qualification, Crew Served Weapons Qualification, identified individual warrior training tasks, combat lifesaver, driver licensing and convoy operations familiarization, and required briefings.

For Soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard's JFHQ, they have the responsibility of preparing and supporting the Soldiers for deployment into a hostile environment

"We have been deploying Soldiers since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism most of the Soldiers involved in preparing the deploying Soldiers have been in Iraq or Afghanistan so there is plenty of experience to be successful for this mission," Schechter said.

72nd FA Brigade

Even with a new mobilization strategy, there is one constant—support from the post's training brigade and its subordinate battalions to ensure units are trained to established Army standards and doctrine for the war on terrorism.

"From the time a mobilization site is determined to wheels up, we are committed to ensure all units receive the training they require to be successful in their deployment," Col. Michael Miklos, brigade commander, said.

At the beginning of the process, the brigade assigns a Soldier from a mentoring battalion as a Unit Mobilization Assistor. That Soldier coordinates everything after the mobilization date. The unit is provided with the First U.S. Army Commander's Training Tools that list detailed breakdowns of training tasks, conditions, and standards; gives those resources necessary to properly conduct and document pre-deployment training; and provides liaison between deploying units and the mobilization site to ensure concerns are identified early.

"The UMA is a lifeline for the unit and is a key component in achieving success in pre-and post mobilization training," Miklos said.

Assigned UMAs can guide the training to ensure it meets approved standards and is tailored to effectively reduce time at the mobilization center, he said.

The brigade's planners are able to coordinate the training based on the unit's training calendar and coordinate the training tailored to each unit's specific mission.

As a result, mobilization training is occurring on training weekends, as well as extended or normal Annual Training cycles.

The brigade's Soldiers, known as Operation Warrior Trainers who have recently returned from Iraq or Afghanistan) provide theater immersion training and are committed to providing the most realistic training tailored to each unit's mission, Miklos said.

Sum of all parts

At Fort Dix, the installation is still scheduled to be the busiest mobilization platform in the Army's inventory. In addition to Soldiers, for more than a year now the post has provided resources for Airmen and Sailors and their training has become an integral part of the Fort Dix mission.

Palinski said under the new system, it is anticipated both Reserve and Guard will report to the mobilization station with validation information.

The information will report the unit is trained and equipped for their mission.

But with each operation there is still the Army Training and Evaluation Program—the big test for success for units to go to war that will be conducted in a post-mobilization environment at the mobilization station.

Planners and leaders will also have to review the records that Soldiers have received all the training, administrative processing and that training was conducted successfully to standard.

"What people have to understand is that Fort Dix has been there since the beginning and we have the experience. The civilian directors' support, military and civilian workforce are all in the right place to make this happen," Palinski said.



Fort Dix Public Affairs Photo

ROLLING INTO TOWN – Soldiers practice convoy operations on one of the post's detailed training sites while VIPs observe training. Theater Immersion Training on Fort Dix includes scenarios set in a mock village designed to give Soldiers the opportunity to polish their skills in a realistic environment. The Military Operations in Urban Terrain site has drawn crowds of visitors interested in viewing the process.

Post ranges evolve with mission

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Office

"All the things we've developed are from what we've learned downrange and from the feedback we've received from Soldiers coming home," said John Piper, lead training coordinator, Training Management Division.

As one of the Army's Premier Power Generation Platforms, Fort Dix has developed and continues to build ranges and facilities to meet the demand in fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

It all starts with the multimillion-dollar Forward Operating Base, or FOB, which houses mobilizing Soldiers and is set up to mirror any FOB that would operate downrange, featuring tents, showers, a dining facility, a post exchange, and MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) services.

The additions don't stop there. Taking those lessons learned from Soldiers downrange, Dix leaders created the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detection range, the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) sites, a few

live-fire mounted convoy ranges, and the Internment Resettlement (IR) site used for detainee operations training.

The training that goes on at these ranges is set up to mirror realistic situations Soldiers could encounter in combat. The IED range teaches Soldiers what to do and how to react to and avoid possible IEDs while mounted (in vehicle) or dismounted (on foot).

The MOUT sites are areas set up to simulate movement by Soldiers either mounted or dismounted through a small town, village, or urban area, and the IR site is set up to mirror an internment facility. The live-fire mounted convoy ranges have targets Soldiers have to hit as part of a simulated battle in route.

The expansions continue. According to Doug Hasemann, the range officer, there are 29 individual range projects worth more than \$4.4 million currently under construction or coming soon.

Some of those include lighting for one of the MOUT sites so units can train at night in various scenarios, covered firing lines for some of the firing ranges, and observation blast walls for a couple of demolition training sites with

small-blast explosives.

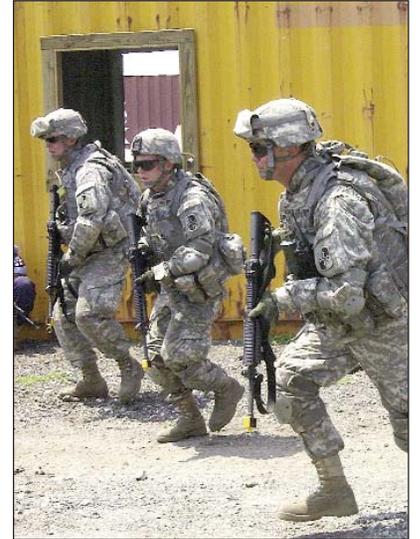
"All these additions are done to meet the current or future mission requirements of our joint customer base," Hasemann said.

Other projects include a classroom and infrastructure upgrades to the lighting and wiring at the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) range and an obstacle course for K-9 training.

All these are at Dix to meet the growing need of the joint services that inhabit the installation.

"Mobilization is currently the major mission here at Dix, but we still continue to have missions we've always had such as Annual Training, as well as the other joint branches of service meaning the Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and civil law enforcement. All their training requirements have to continue regardless of mobilization requirements," Hasemann said.

A large-scale urban warfare training complex is in the works, too. It will include an Urban Assault Course (UAC), a live-fire shoothouse, and a new MOUT training site called the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF).



Variety spices up training at Dix



Cadet Katie Sosa, Washingtonville High School, N.Y., above, takes a break from training at the Fort Dix Leadership Reaction Course as part of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) exercise July 9. Paul Lapadula, a senior instructor with the Fort Dix Combat Lifesaver Course, right, trains mobilizing Soldiers in combat casualty care.



British paratroopers from the 4th Parachute Regiment, top left, end a training jump at Coyle Field, part of a two-week joint training exercise at Fort Dix dubbed Operation Black Warrior. Sgt. Nelson Vazquez, Joint Task Force Port Opening, Fort Dix, above, loads his Pallet Loading System (PLS) Vehicle aboard a C-17 aircraft as part of joint Army and Air Force training June 14. Soldiers from Troop B, 158th Cavalry Squadron, 58th Brigade Combat Team, Maryland Army National Guard, right, run through a training session with "local police" at the Fort Dix Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site. Soldiers of the 143rd Field Artillery Battalion, California Army National Guard, bottom right, practice fire-team movement techniques during mobilization training at Fort Dix. Cpl. Anthony Perkins, 58th Brigade Combat Team, below, gives direction during his unit's training on post.





Ministering, mentoring mission for field chaplains

Wayne Cook
Public affairs Staff

With thousands of Soldiers mobilizing and training on Fort Dix each year, the chaplains of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade have a dual mission. Besides meeting the spiritual needs of those in the field, the chaplains are also responsible to mentor and train all chaplains who are assigned to mobilizing units - preparing them for service in a combat environment.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Hunter, command chaplain, 72nd FA Bde, with the aid of his assistant command chaplain, Chap. (Capt.) Anthony Cook, and his staff of chaplain assistants, must provide pastoral ministry to the members of the 72nd as well as Soldiers in the field who do not have a unit chaplain assigned or with them. He also fills the role as pastor for mobilizing chaplains, as well.

Hunter provides counseling for Soldiers who need help with the many difficult aspects of life today and for those who just need to be heard as they share their troubles and concerns.

"Sometimes it only takes a concerned listener who allows a Soldier a chance to get things off his or her chest, which then helps him or her to get refocused on their mission at hand," said Hunter.

Performing spiritual and religious services in the field for Soldiers is also a main service provided by the field chaplains.

"We provide services for four major religious groups out at the Forward Operating Base (FOB)," said Hunter.

"On the average, we have between 25 and 30 Soldiers each in the Protestant and Catholic

services and five to 10 Soldiers each for the Jewish and Mormon services. We call this our 'Hour of Power' program," he said.

The services are held in the large white facilities erected at the FOB on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Training is put on hold for an hour to allow Soldiers the opportunity to attend services.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, commanding general, First U.S. Army, and Col. Michael Miklos, commander, 72nd FA Bde., have declared that time will be set aside so all Soldiers training in the field can attend religious and spiritual services.

If their aren't any chaplains in the field from either the Mormon or Catholic faiths, the chaplain arranges through the installation chapel staff to have contracted ministers brought out to the FOB to meet the needs of the Soldiers. If there is no rabbi available in the field then Hunter coordinates with Chap. (Col.) Ira Kronenberg, deputy installation chaplain, to conduct the services.

Hunter goes out of his way to make every effort to provide services for any recognized faith that may be represented in the field.

Another aspect of the field chaplain's duties is mentoring and training the mobilizing chaplains for duty in a combat arena. This means that Hunter and his staff must first assess each chaplain for his or her experience and knowledge base and then determine which avenue of training will best suit each deploying chaplain for his or her upcoming mission.

Between pastoring, counseling, ministering, training, and mentoring, these field chaplains have their schedules and prayer lists full as they strive to ensure that all Soldiers training in the field are as well prepared to face their missions in the present and future.



SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD -- Above, Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Hunter, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade chaplain, spreads the Word at one of the religious services provided to Soldiers training at the Forward Operating Base. Services are provided for Protestants, Catholics, Mormons and members of the Jewish faith. Right, Chaplain (Col.) Joseph Conn, 5th Brigade, 78th Division, visits with Spc. Todd Coombs, Charlie Troop, 2/107 Cavalry, Greenville, Ohio, in the dining tent at the FOB.

Trainers use tech to teach

Ed Mingin
Public Affairs Staff

To prepare Soldiers for hostile environments, trainers at Fort Dix are using technology to safely simulate real-life situations. One of the technological tools used at Fort Dix's Forward Operating Base is Training Aids, Simulators and Simulations (TADDS).

"The key is to train as you fight. Make the training as real as possible so the Soldier is prepared for the real thing," said 1st Lt. Stuart Loy, 3/315 Training Support Engineering Battalion, Forward Operating Base (FOB) training section officer in charge.

TADDS enables trainers to safely detonate simulated explosions remotely. Since the trainer doesn't have to be near the explosion, Soldiers won't be able to see when the attack is going to occur. With an attack capable of happening without any warning, Soldiers are forced to constantly remain alert.

"TADDS gear benefits the Soldiers by forcing them to maintain a concept battlemind focus and increasing their situational awareness," said Loy. "The equipment creates a loud controlled blast with a clear explosive signature, so it adds to the realism of the training, but still maintaining a high level of safety for both the training units and the trainers. The TADDS gear is used to simulate IED/VBIED (Improved Explosive Device/Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device) attacks that are common in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres."

Prior to using TADDS, trainers would manually release the simulated explosion. Soldiers would be aware of the upcoming "surprise" attack, since they saw the trainer preparing the device. With TADDS, trainers can remain out of view and give no indication about when an attack will happen. They can also use TADDS to misdirect a Soldier's attention by positioning themselves in plain view of the Soldiers, then use the remote trigger to cause an explosion somewhere else.

"This forces the Soldiers to pay attention to the situation around them and not the trainer on the ground, because they no longer know when or where they will be attacked. It teaches them to be aware at all times. Soldiers might get a little complacent during training. They learn when to expect things. If they see a trainer in the area, they'll start paying attention. They realize something is probably going to happen. With the TADDS, the trainers can surprise them. The trainer can be out of sight and still set off the simulated IED. Or they can divert attention from where the simulated attack will be," said Loy.

"The trainers use the equipment in different training scenarios by emplacing them in tactical positions that are often concealed, and then moving away from the location and detonating the device via radio remote. This allows the trainer to choose exactly when they want to initiate an attack, which gives them the freedom to evaluate the unit from any perspective or angle, something that is much more difficult to do with hand-thrown pyrotechnics," explained Loy.

By using technology to provide more realistic training, trainers can better evaluate Soldiers and see how they react in real-world scenarios. The observations will then be used in an After Action Review (AAR).

"With the use of TADDS gear, which greatly increases training realism, the AARs are extremely more effective, since there are a great deal more discussion points from all angles and points of view," said Loy.

Convoy training and live-fire exercises aren't the only

way Soldiers use technology to train. Soldiers at the FOB also use technology to learn how to communicate once they are in theater. There is a language lab set up at the FOB, where Soldiers use Rosetta Stone software to get a basic understanding of a foreign language.

"The language lab teaches the Arabic language, and the Soldiers get a few basic classes prior to utilizing the facility in order to ensure that they have some knowledge of the language," said Loy.

"The computer puts them through a scenario where they have to use a second language to solve a problem. It allows them to develop some language skills so they can get out and communicate without a translator or reaching into their pocket for a reference book," explained Loy.

While technology is used to enhance training, it's also used to make life a little more bearable for Soldiers staying at the FOB.



TRAINING WITH A BANG -- 1st Lt. Stuart Loy, 3/315 Training Support Engineering Battalion, FOB training section officer in charge, prepares a radio controlled detonation system and M30 blank rounds to create a controlled explosion that closely resembles an IED in sound and visual signature. Below, Loy manually sets off a simulated explosion during Live Fire training. Trainers at Fort Dix are now employing TADDS gear, which allows them to detonate the simulated explosions remotely.





Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka

TRAINING VIEWS -- Sgt. Tim Sanders of the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, United States Army Reserve headquartered in New Orleans, La. takes part in a base defense training exercise administered by Soldiers of the 72nd Field Artillery Training Support Brigade Jan. 6 at Fort Dix. Below, Soldiers train with Civilians On the Battlefield in the post's Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, part of Theater Immersion Training designed to show Soldiers the reality of operations in country. Right, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets tackle the rappel tower at Fort Dix during a field training exercise.



Fort Dix Public Affairs Staff photos

