

thePost

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NEWSNOTES

Joining Basing memorandum directs implementation

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England signed a memorandum Jan. 22 directing Department of Defense components to begin Joint Basing implementation under a common framework. The memo confirms that all installation support will be transferred to the supporting component to take advantage of efficiencies from consolidation. Transfer of real property and total obligation authority to the lead agencies is expected, with specifics to be detailed in supplemental guidance. What the guidance means for Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst will be covered in an article in next week's Post.

Fort Dix Town Hall Meeting set Feb. 6 at Timmermann

The Fort Dix Town Hall Meeting is scheduled Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. at Timmermann Center. Information briefings will be followed by a question and answer session. Anyone who would like to submit a question in advance for the session should call Andre Nixon, 562-6669, or send the question in an e-mail to andrenixon@us.army.mil.

Elks donate specialized van for Warrior Transition Unit

The New Jersey State Elks Association will donate a specialized van to help transport wounded Soldiers in a ceremony Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group Building, 4455 Texas Avenue.

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 online training course is still available. Call the Fort Dix Legal Assistance Office at 562-3043 if you would like to volunteer.

WEATHER

FRIDAY -- Sunny with a high near 36 degrees, clear into evening with overnight low of 19.

SATURDAY -- Mostly cloudy, high of 39, clearing into evening with low of 19 degrees.

SUNDAY -- Partly sunny, warmer with high of 41, cloudy into evening with low of 26 degrees.

MONDAY -- Sunny, high near 41 degrees, overnight clouds with low of 30.

TUESDAY -- Chance of snow or rain showers, cloudy with high of 44 and overnight low of 32 degrees.

WEDNESDAY -- Chance of snow or rain showers, mostly cloudy, high near 46 and overnight low of 30 degrees.

THURSDAY -- Clearing, partly sunny in morning with high of 44 degrees and overnight low of 33.

Canines train for GWOT

Maj. Michele Gill
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

As a Blackhawk helicopter lowers itself to the ground, voices are drowned out by the turning rotors. Some of the soon-to-be passengers are muzzled. Waiting patiently, they are in a staggered formation to board the helicopter that will take them on a training flight over Fort Dix.

No ordinary Airmen are about to board. These Airmen are military working dogs and their security forces handlers, who are students in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior Course at Fort Dix.

The Phoenix Warrior class included its first canine training track as part of the USAFEC's initiative to provide advanced pre-deployment training to military working dogs and their handlers assigned to Air Mobility Command.

To prepare them for a deployment to the Middle East, six dogs got a

(continued on page 3)



Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A NOSE FOR TRAINING -- Staff Sgt. Thomas Meador and his military working dog, Ikka, both students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Course, practice a scenario during training at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst Jan. 17.

Citizens' courage turns the tide for Iraq

Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2008 -- Even as al Qaeda in Iraq ramps up its torture of civilians and begins to employ women and children in suicide-bombing missions, Iraqi citizens are coming forward by the thousands to volunteer to help protect their communities, officials in the region said today.

This trend has made it more difficult for extremists to reorganize and has restricted their movement. Multi-national Force Iraq spokesman Army Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner said today in a briefing in Iraq.

"They are changing the atmosphere. It's that courage of the Iraqi people that is changing the dynamic in such a way that it is making it more

difficult for these extremists to perpetrate the violence and to terrorize Iraqi citizens," Bergner said.

In recent months, al Qaeda has been increasing its use of women and children for its deadly suicide mis-

ed some 27 others.

"It is unclear whether that young man was a unwitting victim of the terrorists. But it is clear that he was another young casualty of their violence," Bergner said.

It's that courage of the Iraqi people that is changing the dynamic in many areas of the country in such a way that it is making it more difficult for extremists to perpetrate the violence and to terrorize Iraqi citizens by restricting their movements, destroying their weapons caches and denying them support.

On Jan. 20, a child walked into a tribal leader meeting and detonated a bomb inside a box of candy, killing himself and four others. Yesterday, in Baqubah, another young man placed a bomb disguised as a heater in front of a high school. The explosion killed the boy and another Iraqi, and wound-

ed some 27 others.

Other bombings in the past week included one at a mosque and another at a funeral.

In operations this month, coalition forces have uncovered torture houses and rescued two men who said they were tortured for 12 days. They were electricians working to restore power

in their communities, commanders there said.

Still, despite the inherent dangers, Iraqis are signing up to join local concerned citizen groups across the country, and many are transitioning into the traditional security forces.

"Even amidst this barbaric violence, or perhaps because of it, brave Iraqi citizens are stepping forward from all communities to serve their country," said Bergner. "These brave individuals join knowing they will face a ruthless enemy, and many have already seen first-hand the violence of these terrorists in their neighborhoods."

On Jan. 21, nearly 2,000 former concerned local citizens graduated from the Numaniyah National Training Center and became Iraqi National Police officers. Bergner said the class

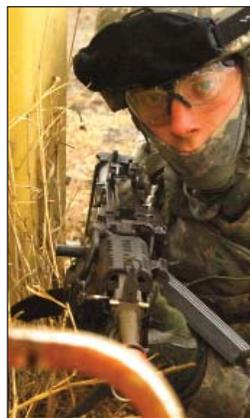
(continued on page 3)



Photos by Ryan Morton

Frigid weather adds challenge to training on Dix ranges

Soldiers from the 352nd Military Police Company, a reserve unit hailing from Rockville, Md., perform Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Training at Dix's Balad training range (above) in preparation for a deployment supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Spc. Devin Hill, left, from the unit, takes on both the freezing weather and the enemy during training. For more photos, see page 9. Below, Airmen edge under concertina wire at the Individual Movement Training site Jan. 16. More than 60 Airmen are training at Fort Dix to serve with the Army in Iraq.



Spec. Anthony Hooker, 215th MPAD

Giants carry proud tradition into Super Bowl

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff
Bill Belichick is worried. The New England Patriot coach, never a bundle of laughs, sounds downright surly when contemplating taking on the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLIII (42) Feb. 3 in Phoenix.

Belichick's Patriots are 18-0 and desperately want to finish their season undefeated, a feat not accomplished in the pro ranks since the Miami Dolphins went 14-0 during 1972. But they face the New York Giants, a team Belichick has described as "the best team we've faced all year." The Giants, furthermore, are "on a hot streak right now, playing great in all three phases of the game," said Belichick.

The Giants held a double-digit lead on the Patriots in Week 17 but blew it, falling 38-35.

New York finished 10-6 for the season before going on to beat Tampa Bay 24-14 in a wild card matchup, eking out a 21-17 squeaker over the Dallas Cowboys, and stunning Green Bay in arctic weather in Wisconsin, 23-20, thanks to the



blogs.timesunion.com

educated toe of Lawrence Tynes, who connected on a 47-yard field goal in overtime to engineer the win.

I grew up watching the Eagles and Giants on TV before the first Super Bowl as both were in range of my antennae. Until they got Norm Van Brocklin from the Rams the Eagles were never any good. But the Giants were always among the creme de la creme of the NFL, bolstered no doubt by the New York media which dominated airways back then.

Later on, I followed Buffalo's Bills because I worked in the area. Duty in the Navy took me far from home and I missed the revitalized Giants under Phil Simms and Lawrence Taylor.

But pictures of the Giants I remember grace these pages. And they were awesome!



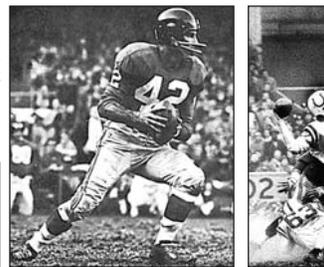
photo by Dan Rubin/Kidwiler Collection

WRECKING CREW -- Stabwarts of the Giant defensive line; (l-r) Andy Robustelli, Dick Modzelewski, Jim Katcavage and Rosey Grier shuffle off the field during an Eagles-Giants game at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 18, 1962.



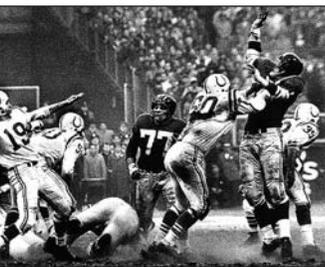
photo by Dozier Mobley/Associated Press

REQUIEM FOR A QUARTERBACK -- Giant quarterback Y.A. Title bleeds after being pounded into the turf by behemoth linemen in a 1964 loss to the Steelers at Pitt Stadium. A cast-off from the San Francisco 49ers, three-time MVP Title led the Giants to three straight title games (losing every time) from 1961-63. But injuries led to a 2-10-1 log in 1964 and Title retired after 17 seasons.

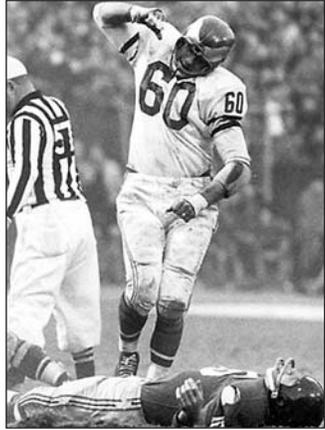


www.mmbalding.com

BOMBS AWAY! -- A star tailback at OU' Miss, Charlie Conerly, left above, spent over three years in the Marine Corps fighting in the Pacific during World War II before joining the Giants in 1948 when he won Rookie of the Year honors. "Chuckin' Charlie" had a face like leather and the disposition to match, playing one entire season with a separated shoulder. At age 35, Conerly led the Giants to a 4-7-7 record of the Chicago Bears to win the 1956 NFL championship (before they had Super Bowls). He went on to guide New York to Eastern Conference championships in 1958 and 1959 before losing both times to the Baltimore Colts. Conerly gave way to Y.A. Title at quarterback in 1961 and held all the Giant passing records until Phil Simms broke them decades later. At right above, Baltimore Colts' immortal quarterback Johnny Unitas passes in sudden-death overtime in what many consider the most exciting game of all time. The Colts finally won, 23-17, to capture the NFL championship on Dec. 28, 1958 at Yankee Stadium.



Robert Riger/Getty Images Photo



John G. Zimmerman/SI

KNOCK OUT -- Philadelphia Eagle middle linebacker Chuck Bednarik admires his work after knocking star Giant halfback Frank Gifford unconscious with a brutal (but legal) blindside tackle in a game won by Philly 17-10 on Nov. 10, 1961. The Eagles went on to the NFL championship that year, defeating Green Bay to win all the marbles. Gifford's concussion kept him out for the rest of the season and for all of 1961. But he returned to the Giants in 1962 and starred for three more years as a flanker. Gifford always insisted that the tackle didn't hurt him but "when he hit me, I landed on my ass and then my head snapped back. That was what put me out - the whiplash, not Bednarik." For his part, Bednarik was the last NFL player to go both ways - on offense and defense - for the entire 1960 season. Gifford went on to broadcasting after entering Pro Football's Hall of Fame. He earned seven Pro Bowl selections at three different positions - defensive back, running back and wide receiver. In 12 seasons with the Giants, Gifford ran for over 3,600 yards and 34 TDs in 840 carries and had 367 pass receptions for over 5,000 yards. He was the Giants' Golden Boy. He was tough, too.



www.hickoksports.com

MAN OF STEEL -- On Pearl Harbor Day (Dec. 7, 1941) Giant center/linebacker Mel Hein was knocked out of a game with a concussion and broken nose. It was the only time in 15 years he left a game, playing 60 minutes (as did everyone then) on both offense and defense. The 6 ft. 2, 225 pounder made second team All Pro his first two years, first team the next eight years, 1933-1940, and was MVP when the Giants won the NFL title in 1938.

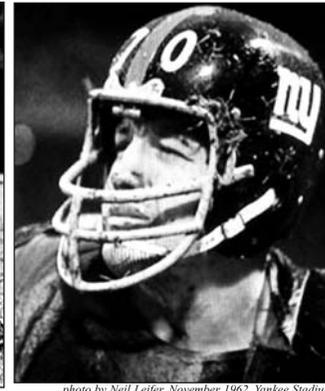
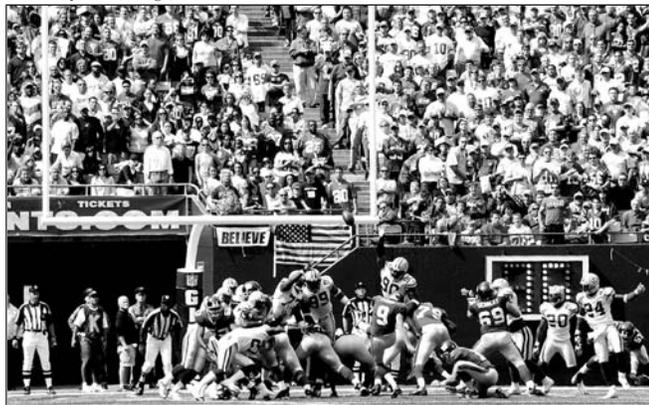


photo by Neil Leifer, November 1962, Yankee Stadium

ROUGH, TOUGH & HUFF -- A tackle at West Virginia U., Sam Huff moved to middle linebacker when he joined the Giants in 1956, shortly becoming one of the most celebrated players in the NFL after helmet-knocking battles with the likes of Cleveland's Jim Brown and Green Bay's Jim Taylor. Huff played in five Pro Bowls and finished the last three seasons of his 13-year career with the Redskins. He then entered Pro Football's Hall of Fame.



Sgt. Shawn Morris, 444th MPAD

SLOW START -- Lawrence Tynes boots a point after touchdown in the second quarter of the Giants' second game this season, a 35-13 loss to the Green Bay Packers at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The team's prospects did not look good at this point, the Giants having dropped their opener to Dallas, 45-35, a week earlier. But they came back: whipping the Eagles twice by 16-3 and 16-13 on their way to gaining a wild card spot in the playoffs by finishing the regular season with a 10-6 log. Postseason play saw the Giants tame Tampa Bay 24-14, exact revenge over the Cowboys 21-17, and nip Green Bay in overtime on a Tynes field goal, 23-20, to gain a spot in the Super Bowl against the undefeated New England Patriots. Now that should be a ball game!

the Post

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Spc. Charles W. Gill

ALLIES AT ALL AGES -- U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael Henriques, from 3rd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, says hello to a boy while checking up on a fuel distribution site in Kadhamiyah, Iraq, Jan. 20.

Iraqis reject terrorists

(continued from page 1)
represented the diversity of Iraq, with different sects, religions, and ethnic backgrounds. "The national police are increasingly representative of the rich diversity of the Iraqi people and are taking important steps to remove the sectarian influences that have challenged the force over the last few years," Bergner said.

This comes on the heels of the government of Iraq's pledge to convert concerned local citizens into the traditional security force.

"The prime minister and the government of Iraq have committed to working with the concerned local citizens ... to help those individuals, those that are qualified, those that are screened and vetted and capable of serving the Iraqi security forces, to transition and become legitimate members of the security forces of Iraq," Bergner said.

Already there are several thousand Iraqi citizens going through that process, Bergner said. About 2,000 have completed the process and training and are already serving with the Iraqi police in western Baghdad.

Several thousand others in Anbar province have already been trained and are now members of the police and army stationed there.

"There's a commitment by the government of Iraq ... there is a mechanism in place ... and there is a process that is actually working to bring those who are qualified ... into the security forces," Bergner said.

Also, the government of Iraq is working to place those who aren't transitioning into the security forces into other

types of civilian employment under the ministries of labor, industry and minerals, and the minister of education, the general said.

"When an Iraqi citizen steps forward and says he wants to help protect his community, that's an important step that needs to be understood just in the context of the courage and the commitment to want to

now work to enforce the rule of law in their community," Bergner said.

Bergner said that because Iraqis are tired of the extremists' radical ideals and violence, more are signing up now than a year ago.

"I think it was very much a part of the Iraqi people's collective judgment that those terrorists are not what they want

in their neighborhood -- their ideology, their violence and their corrupt oppressive practices, their desire to create a Taliban-like state here in Iraq is something the Iraqi people reject," Bergner said.

"I think that rejection ... has been a critical element of improving the trend in security and the path that the Iraqi people are now on."

Working dogs

(continued from page 1)
chance to experience sights and sounds they had never been exposed to in their previous training.

"Dog handlers are getting taskings to support the Army and Marines in Southwest Asia," said Staff Sgt. Mark Ochoa, with the 319th Security Forces Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

"This training exposed our dogs to more than 10,000 rounds of live weapons fire. It was good training to see how they would react."

Riding in a tactical vehicle while an automatic weapon fires hundreds of rounds from the turret, the dogs got a sense of the fog and friction of war. This was the first time they ever heard so much gunfire, both live and blanks, during training.

Also, during their 16-day course, the military working dogs were exposed to a large quantity of explosives to see how they would respond.

"At home station, our dogs typically detect (a small quantity) of odor at one time," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Bowen, 60th SFS, Travis AFB, Calif.

He added that they were exposed more than 15 times the amount of explosives they usually detect at one time. This represents what the dogs may detect while deployed.

Another security forces dog handler, Staff Sgt. John Havlik, also with the 319th SFS, said the urban training at the

Riding in a tactical vehicle while an automatic weapon fires hundreds of rounds from the turret, the dogs got a sense of the fog and friction of war. This was the first time they ever heard so much gunfire, both live and blanks, during training.

USAFEC's simulated Middle Eastern village located on a Fort Dix range was a realistic environment.

"The dogs walked through a dirty village and in buildings with dirt floors and thin walls," commented Sergeant Havlik.

The handlers said although the dogs do building searches as part of their home base training, the sound of gunfire in the background further helps them prepare for future deployments.

While deployed in support of the war on terrorism, often the only means of transportation between forward operating locations is the Blackhawk helicopter.

The Trenton Army National Guard partnered with the USAFEC and provided a Blackhawk and crew for this element of preparation.

Staff Sgt. Jason Sheldon, 22nd SFS, McConnell AFB, Kan., said he had a chance to observe how his dog would board the aircraft with the rotors turning.

"It's good to know how the dogs will react now, rather than them doing it for the first time down range," Sergeant Sheldon said.

The military working dog lead trainer couldn't agree more with Sergeant Sheldon's observation.

"The greatest training the

handlers will receive while attending the Phoenix Warrior course is to learn how to board the Blackhawk helicopter, with rotors turning, and deal with the animals' reaction during boarding and the flight," said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Dean, USAFEC's 421st Combat Training Squadron NCOIC for military working dog operations.

Sergeant Dean is the founder of the USAFEC's military working dog training program. He said he arrived at the USAFEC in February 2007, shortly after AMC officials asked to integrate a military working dog predeployment training program into the Phoenix Warrior course, a course designed to provide advanced training for AMC's security forces Airmen.

"When I arrived here, I was informed of the great responsibility I was going to be taking on," Sergeant Dean said. "I was told, 'You have a meeting with the 421st CTS commander in an hour.'"

He said he hit the ground running and hasn't stopped for a minute. He said he's thankful for the help from his staff, Staff Sgts. Brennon Pierce and Luke Plemons who completed the task of planning and executing the first USAFEC military working dog predeployment training program without a hitch.

After collecting information from those who have been deployed to the Middle East, Sergeant Dean developed a realistic training course that focuses on the areas that military working dogs teams cannot get at their base, including live ammunition training, mass odor, pyrotechnics exposure, helicopter transportation and theater-specific explosive detection.

His goal was to offer much-needed training to MWD teams who may encounter similar scenarios while deployed in support of the war.

The first graduating class agreed the training was exactly what they needed to test their dogs' reaction before deployments to unfamiliar environments.

Sergeant Bowen thought the dogs did quite well during the training.

"There were times they were a little confused, but that's expected in a new training environment," he said.

"The training we received here is real indicative of what we'll see down range," said Sergeant Bowen. "This is a phenomenal course."

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Warrior journalists train to shoot more than guns

Sgt. Tim Sander
215th MPAD

The 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from New Orleans is enduring intense training at Fort Dix, N.J. to prepare for a year-long tour to "capture the American Soldiers' story and provide worldwide media coverage" from Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 20-Soldier Army Reserve unit is currently learning a variety of skills, from the latest techniques to defeat improvised explosive devices to operating high-tech communication and photography equipment, it stated.

"This training has highly prepared these Soldiers to go to war. It has given them all the tools possible to make them successful," (during their deployment)," said Sgt. 1st Class David Zerbe, acting 1st Sgt. of the 215th.

To assist the Soldiers of the 215th in "telling the Army's story," they will use state-of-the-art satellite technology known as the Digital Video Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) to instantly transmit their images and video back to the U.S.

After the unit has been "validated" by First Army's combat veteran training staff, they will deploy to Kuwait to finalize their training before moving to LSA Anaconda in central Iraq.



BEST SHOT - Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, a photography instructor for mobilizing Soldiers at Fort Dix, instructs members of the 215th MPAD from New Orleans Jan. 12.

Sgt. Tim Sander, 215th MPAD

Seasoned, green Soldiers adjust to life as single unit

Sgt. Gary Hawkins
215th MPAD

takes more effort to stay focused on the mission.

This is just brutal today.

Soldiers of the 72nd Military Police Company out of Las Vegas, have some new members and also some well-seasoned veterans training at Fort Dix, in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While many Soldiers conduct physical training during down time, they don't usually low crawl through the mud or practice how to maneuver under razor wire on a regular basis.

Some of the Non Commissioned Officer's of the 72nd have been in the unit four years or more. Some like Pfc. Anthony Irenze, from Las Vegas have only been in the unit for three months. Irenze volunteered to transfer to the 72nd MP unit from his old cavalry unit because he heard they were deploying. Being in a new unit that has been together for a long time is not an easy thing to go through.

"The hardest thing for me is learning how they operate. This is a real close unit and it has taken time to see how well disciplined they are at their job. I had to learn how to fit in and find a spot, but they made it about everything ever done. easy and I have made some good friends here," said Irenze.

Building trust in a unit deploying is a key element that can hold them together through the tough times. Knowing each others' jobs and gaining confidence that each Soldier knows what they are doing is part of that trust.

"Making sure the unit works as one allows us to come together as one. We live together, train together, eat together and apart from the females... the unit sleeps in the same tent," said Spc. Brandon R. Clutts, from Demotte, Ind. "We also get to know their habits and what they do in their spare time."

The Nevada Soldiers worked hard gaining new personnel, training through difficult weather conditions, building trust and cohesion throughout the unit, and making new friends. Now, the 72nd MP Company from Las Vegas, has met the Army standards for combat readiness according to the mission it has been assigned and is ready to deploy.

With the wind chill around five degrees, it's quite a bit colder than home. We have been here close to three months and are starting to get use to it, but it's a difficult thing to adjust to while in training," said Brandenburg. "It's difficult at times to keep focused on the instruction we are receiving, but the unit has done really well with it," he said.

Dealing with the stress weather can cause or just doing their job may be an everyday thing for most people in the world. Dealing with combat stress, though, has proven to be a very real issue with Soldiers who have been there and done that. How you deal with the stress can make any deployment harder than it has to be.

"I've been to Iraq) once already and had to deal with the stress combat can bring. Teaching my Soldiers how to deal with it is a top priority," said Brandenburg. "There is no magical way to deal with combat stress. I help them find what works for them and try to give them the tools they need."

The phrase "practice makes perfect" has been said for just about everything ever done. The more you practice, the better you get. Some instructions may be taught over and over but remembering the training needs to be automatic.

"You can always get better with practice," said Brandenburg. "I'm happy with the progress this unit has made from when we first arrived, and I know we will continue to get better and work smoother by the time we leave Fort Dix."

Clutts said "The training has helped us learn each other's movement techniques. Some of the training has been redundant but it reinforces the little things that mean a lot to accomplishing the mission."



Sgt. Gary L. Hawkins, 215th MPAD

LOVES' LABORS - Sgt. Lee E. Fowler, from Florence Ala., a member of the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from New Orleans La., tapes a video *Valeanting for the loved ones of Sgt. Thomas Grande, from Las Vegas, NV, a member of the 72nd Military Police Company Jan. 20. Both Soldiers are training at Fort Dix for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*



Sgt. Tim Sander, 215th MPAD

READY FOR THEIR CLOSE UP - Members of the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment out of New Orleans, practice mock interviews as part of a training exercise Jan. 12. Above, Pittsburgh, PA native, Sgt. Kirk Wilson, a member of the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment practices shooting video as part of the exercise. The unit is at Fort Dix training for deployment to Iraq as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

Simulator takes troops for spin to lock-in safe training technique

Sgt. Tim Sander
215th MPAD

Members of the 278th Military Police Company went through the high mobility, multi-wheeled vehicle egress assistance trainer (HEAT) as part of their mobilization training at Fort Dix Jan 21.

The training is designed to prepare units like this Augusta, GA, guard unit to take steps to prevent high mobility, multi-wheeled vehicle rollovers from happening and take the correct actions if they do.

"What we're going to do today is show you what it's like to be in a rollover," said Sgt. Jonathan Meadows, an instructor for the egress training. "By the end of this training you will know what it's like to be upside down."

In this fiscal year, so far, 155 military fatalities have been caused by accidents, according to the military safety website. By incorporating training like HEAT into all deploying units' mobilization training, the Army hopes to lower those numbers.

The 278th will deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom after completing their mobilization at Fort Dix.



Sgt. Tim Sander, 215th MPAD

GIVE PEACE A SPIN - Staff Sgt. George Davis, a trainer for mobilizing Soldiers at Fort Dix, monitors members of the 278th Military Police Company via cameras mounted inside the high mobility, multi-wheeled vehicle egress assistance trainer (HEAT) rollover simulator, Jan. 21. The simulator helps Soldiers take steps to prevent high mobility, multi-wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) rollovers from happening and teaches them to take the correct actions if they do. Sgt. William Peace, left, a member of the 278th military police company out of Augusta, GA, stands with members of his unit as they are given a safety brief before entering the HMMWV egress assistance trainer.



Sgt. Gary L. Hawkins, 215th MPAD

READY, AIM, FIRE - Pvt. First Class Anthony Irenze, above bottom, Sgt. Kyle S. Geller and Staff Sgt. Justin O. Brandenburg, of the 72nd Military Police Company out of Las Vegas, NV, approach a training scenario Jan. 20 while training for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WELCOMEBORHOOD

THE CORNER

NYC art school to host female Iraq vet workshop

The School of Visual Arts is set to host 8-10 female Iraq War veterans for an Art Therapy graduate program workshop Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the school campus, 132 West 21st Street, New York.

The purpose of the workshop is to use art therapy as a creative tool through which individuals can express themselves nonverbally to give visual shape to thoughts, feelings and experiences they would otherwise have trouble putting into words.

Additionally, the college may offer scholarships to veterans interested in studying art.

For information, call Valerie Sereno, special projects and programs coordinator, Art Therapy Department, at (212) 592-2419. Civilian attire at the workshop is preferred.

Army Community Service to host Resume Workshop

Army Community Service, in partnership with the Burlington County College Job Placement Office, will host a free Resume Workshop Feb. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue.

Register by calling Rod Martell at 562-2186 or e-mailing rod.martell@army.mil. Seating is limited to 20 people.

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, stop by the Thrift Shop located at 6501 Pennsylvania Avenue during normal business hours -- Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the first Wednesday of the month from 4 to 8 p.m. -- or call Sylvia at 723-2683 or send e-mail to fordixspousesclub@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 NCO 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 the 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.

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 DIVEAST72FABDEREUP@usarmy.mil.

Dix issues brought to fore

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Fort Dix leaders discussed issues at the Commander's Steering Committee concerning safety and welfare for Soldiers, children of Soldiers and civilians working on post.

●For Soldiers performing Physical Training (PT), two-way traffic near the Doughboy Loop/One Mile Track areas creates a safety risk. Directorate of Public Safety (DPS) and Mobilization Readiness Battalion (MRB) leaders are working on this issue, stepping up traffic enforcement in the area with recommendations for dedicating the inside lane to traffic, using permanent barriers to traffic and adding signage and education for passing Soldiers during PT. Disposition -- Approved and On-going.

●A lack of sensitivity to the health needs of Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers has been noted. Staff needs to understand and be more sensitive to Soldiers who have been wounded and the impact it has on their lives. For example, position in the family, jobs, and future health needs. Staff will continue to receive instruction on compassion sensitivity and VA benefits throughout the year. Online distance learning courses and a residential course will be required of all staff. Training will include helping wounded Soldiers adjust to civilian life. Disposition -- Approved and Closed.

●Positive alcohol and/or drug tests for military personnel and reserve-status personnel: Army substance-abuse prevention centers only serve those on active duty. Soldiers mobilizing through Fort Dix are referred to seek help on their own. The VA will not treat National Guard or Reserve Soldiers if they do not have prior service and private providers will not treat them if they have no medical insurance.

Offer Soldiers testing positive on Battle Assembly weekends or Annual Training (AT) urinalysis treatment with the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Center. These Soldiers are part of the Army—they deserve to at least get connected to the services they may need. A recommendation to amend AR600-85 is being made. Disposition -- Forward to Higher Headquarters for review.

●Psychiatric care for Soldiers is offered by the 305th MDG. It is a clinic, not a hospital. They utilize in-house providers to their fullest capabilities and refer those cases which we cannot treat to our network providers.

The 305th MDG Mental Health Clinic currently has one psychiatrist on staff, the USA Behavioral Health office has two psychiatrists, and they now have tele-psychiatry capabilities

for Family members where the patient sits in front of a television and receives satellite treatment from a provider off-site. Disposition -- Closed.

●Chaplain availability at the Joint Readiness Center (JRC): Chaplains have a station at the JRC to see and clear Soldiers, but are not there at all times. When a chaplain is not there, Soldiers are told to sign off at the front desk and make an appointment to see a chaplain. This is not convenient for most Soldiers and WTU Soldiers don't have transportation.

One case of a Soldier committing suicide the day after returning home was cited, but Chap. (Col.) Larry Biederman, installation chaplain, assured the committee that Fort Dix has the most comprehensive program in service at this time.

Upon arrival at Fort Dix, every Soldier is met and greeted by a chaplain. Both the Chaplain and a Family Life Counselor offer one-on-one and small group counseling opportunities at that time. Disposition -- Closed.

●Cutbacks in funding for Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) Benefits and programs have affected Soldiers, families and retirees who were guaranteed programs that take care of troops and families. Music and theater, arts and crafts and auto shops have gone with

other programs possibly being eliminated in the future.

Needs are based on the needs of authorized patrons who work and reside on an installation. Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, told the steering committee. With limited funding a fact of life, Department of Defense (DoD) categorizations are changing to a Common Levels of Support (CLS) model that blends community support programs with revenue-generating programs.

The intent is to provide consistent and predictable Base Operation Support to Army customers across Army installations, but puts more of a burden on FMWR programs to be self-supporting to a large extent. Fort Dix will continue to offer programs to meet the needs of the population within funding approved by the Army. Disposition -- Closed.

●Security issues at the Fort Dix gym have been raised by users. Name, date of birth, social security number, as well as home address and other personal information are required to register to use the gym. Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst and McGuire Air Force Base gyms do not require this information.

The requirement will be reviewed, but FMWR receives funding based on customer participation. Since the information is required to use the

gym for funding purposes, staff will take all precautions to safeguard personal information. Disposition -- Review requirements and limit access to information.

●Complaints have been made that customers and employees have ignored the No-Smoking policy at the Shoppette gas station. The Federal Fire Inspector, Robert Hunter, inspected the grounds and recommended further training for customers and employees, and further visits by fire officials. Increased signage has been posted on the pumps. Disposition -- Closed.

●No self-help or exchange facilities near Army housing. The recommendation was to reopen self-help for residents and to follow through with building a Shoppette and gas station and an exchange facility near the new housing areas.

Self-help has been reopened. Access their Web site at www.McGuireDixUC.com, to have items delivered. Plans are in effect to build the Shoppette and exchange but must be coordinated with United Communities (UC) and wait for funding. Disposition -- Pending response from UC.

●Respite care for families with special needs children is offered to regular Army, but not to mobilized National Guard or Reserve Army personnel. A recommendation has been sent to Higher Headquarters for the Exceptional Family Member Program for changes to include mobilized Soldier's families in funding for respite care.

Cutbacks in funding for Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) Benefits and programs have affected Soldiers, families and retirees who were guaranteed programs that take care of troops and families.



Wayne Cook

Sanctified Soldier

Chap. (Col.) Wayne Kirk stands in the baptistry at the Main Chapel Jan. 18 with Pfc. Steven Wood, 438th Military Police Company, Kentucky National Guard. The young Soldier from Warsaw, Ky., decided he wanted to be baptized before deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism. After providing counsel, Kirk was only too willing to perform the baptism, a religious act of purification by water. While different religions and cultures have or have had initiation rites with use of water, the word "baptism" is usually associated with admission to membership or fullness of membership of Christianity.

Fort Dix tax-prep service helps avoid scams

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

It is tax season again; a season when those least able to afford it will fall victim to tax-preparation loan schemes. Although H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt and other large companies have said they have improved their policies, tax loans can still run steep.

You pay someone to do your taxes for you, pay a fee to get your money up front, take home your "tax return" loan and put your money in the bank. Then, a few weeks later, your tax refund comes. What happens when the refund is less than the loan? What happens when your fees have eaten up half of your refund? And worse, what if the over eager tax preparer got you deductions the IRS then disallows?

All these questions should be answered in advance. Tax return preparation fees can cost as little as \$30 or as much as \$150. Then add in the fee for the loan -- which with some unscrupulous businesses can be as much as 100 percent of your refund. You now owe more than your tax return actually is. Especially if the IRS has disallowed those creative deductions that the tax preparer took for you.

Unless you have gone with one of the larger companies and have a written guarantee that they will pay any penalties and absorb the denied deductions, you will be stuck with not only the fees and costs, but also any legal penalties the IRS feels are appropriate.

A little patience can pay off in the end.

The IRS offers fast refunds. Electronic filing offers refunds within two weeks and with direct deposit, the refund is even faster. Electronic filing leads tax payers through deductions

available and will help you find those deductions you might not think about and truly deserve.

Avoid those scammers who need your money a whole lot less than you do. Take advantage of electronic fil-

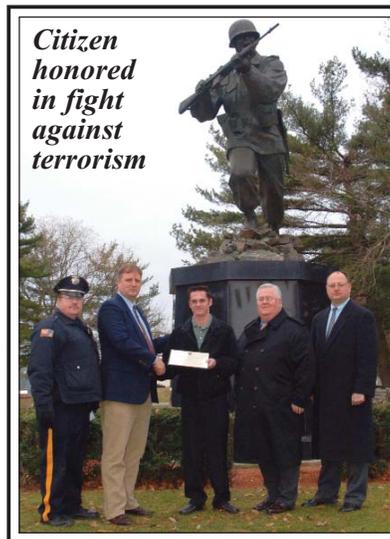
ing and the free help offered on Fort Dix.

Tax help is available through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at Fort Dix. The number for getting taxes done won't

be available until next week, so be patient and take advantage of the expertise offered free on post and leave the loan scams alone.

For more information, call the post Legal Assistance Office at 562-3043.

Citizen honored in fight against terrorism



Brian Morganstern, who first brought the activities of the so-called Fort Dix Six to light, was honored by the Department of Defense Federal Police Lodge 168 Fraternal Order of Police with an honorary membership for his efforts in exposing the group's nefarious activities. The brief ceremony at Infantry Park was attended by the Morganstern family, DoD police and representatives from the state of New Jersey. FOP Morganstern, center, was presented with a certificate of honorary membership and congratulated by, from left, DoD Patrolman William Smith Jr., Lodge 168 vice president, Brad R. Whiting, Lodge president, Edward R. Brannigan, NJS Lodge, and Steven J. Demofonte, recording secretary. The certificate commended Morganstern on his diligence and patriotism and his part in saving the lives of countless Americans, Soldiers and police officers.

Pascual Flores

Dix Tax Center opens Feb. 1 for tax prep help

The Fort Dix Tax Center, located at building 5407, will open its doors Feb. 1.

The hours of operation will be Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tax returns will be prepared by appointment only; beginning Feb. 1, please call 609-562-6859 for an appointment.

Fort Dix is able to provide free basic tax preparation and e-filing to military personnel and their families through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The volunteers receive limited training from the IRS, and therefore, certain more complex returns fall outside the scope of the VITA program.

Assistance can not be provided for returns that involve rental property, businesses, self-employed individuals (except for military spouses who provide day care in their homes), foreign income, inheritance, estates and trusts, farms, adoption expenses, cancelled debts (such as debt cancelled in a bankruptcy case), deductions and credits that are carried over from prior tax years, pensions where the taxable amount is not determined, distributions from an IRA or TSP, certain sales of homes, casualty and theft losses, com-

plex sale of stocks, and certain other matters.

Militaryonesource.com provides free on-line income tax preparation for active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members and their families.

Free tax preparation and electronic filing are also available through the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov; click on the link "Use Free File to Prepare Your Taxes."

Before a tax return can be prepared at the Tax Center, the following forms and documents, if applicable, are needed:

- 1) Social Security cards (original or copies) for the military member, spouse, and all dependents
- 2) W-2s for both military and civilian income
- 3) 1099-INT - Interest income on bank accounts, savings bonds, etc.
- 4) 1099-DIV - Dividends and capital gain distributions
- 5) 1099-B (sale of stock) - this form must be provided, along with a statement from the financial institution showing the amount paid for the stock and the date the stock was purchased
- 6) Amount of alimony paid and SSN of ex-spouse
- 7) Expense information for childcare/ daycare, along with name, SSN, and address of the childcare provider
- 8) Other miscellaneous forms such as 1099-G (Certain Government Payments) - unemployment compensation and state/local income tax refunds; W-2G - Gambling winnings; 1098-T - Tuition expenses and scholarships received; and 1098-E - Student loan interest
- 9) Two energy credits are available to taxpayers for making energy-saving improvements to their home (such as installing certain exterior windows or furnaces).

To be eligible for the credit, you must have a certification statement from the manufacturer.

If you plan to itemize deductions, the following documentation must be provided:

- 1) Prior year's tax return
- 2) Receipts for any medical and dental expenses not paid/reimbursed by your insurance company
- 3) If you purchased a motor vehicle, copy of the sales contract for claiming the sales tax
- 4) 1098 - (Mortgage Interest Statement) - Mortgage interest, points, mortgage insurance premiums, and property taxes for your main home should be reflected on this statement
- 5) Vehicle registration fee if such fee is based on the value of the car
- 6) For this year, taxpayers MUST have written receipts for ALL charitable contributions, regardless of the amount
- 7) If you are also deducting gambling losses, you MUST have receipts, tickets, statements or other records that show the amount of both your winnings and losses
- 8) Receipts for un-reimbursed dues to professional societies, subscriptions to professional journals and trade magazines related to your work, and business-related expenses for travel away from home and local transportation
- 9) A voided check if you desire direct deposit of your refund
- 10) A Power of Attorney if your spouse is not available to sign the tax return

Due to the Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) Patch, the Tax Center will not be able to file returns that involve education and residential energy credits until at least Feb. 11.

Generally, military who served in a combat zone during the year are entitled to an extension to file their taxes of 180 days after the last day served in a combat zone.

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MILITARY ONESOURCE CONNECTION

January 2008

Keeping you informed about products and services

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

Help Spouses Prepare for Portable Careers



If you're a military spouse looking for a portable career and you're at a participating location, you may be eligible to participate in "Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts" — a joint demonstration project from the

Department of Defense and the Department of Labor. Go to <http://caa.milspouse.org/> for more information about locations and to sign up for the program's mailing list.

If you're not at one of the participating installations, be sure to visit www.MilSpouse.org for employment and education resources, and check out the resources provided under "Spouse Training, Education, and Career" at www.militaryonesource.com.

About Military OneSource

This free 24-hour service from the Department of Defense is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Free face-to-face counseling in the local community (up to six sessions per issue) is also available to service members and family members. To reach the program call 1-800-342-9647 or access the Web site at www.militaryonesource.com.



Coming January 14 Free tax help is on the way

Starting January 14 Military OneSource will provide free tax preparation services to service members and their families for the 2007 tax season. Key features of this online service include:

- **Simplicity.** Just access the program through the Military OneSource Web site. The program will guide you online through the required forms and documentation, and ask you tax-relevant questions about issues like deployment and relocation.
- **Easy transfer of 2006 tax information.** If you used an H&R Block office, TaxCut Online, or TaxCut desktop software to prepare your 2006 taxes, you can easily transfer that tax information to our program for your 2007 filings. If you previously used TurboTax® software, it's also easy to transfer your 2006 tax information to our program for 2007.
- **Help from experts.** Military OneSource tax consultants are available 24/7 to help you with personal tax-related questions and financial planning. Call 1-800-730-3802 or send an e-mail. They'll help you plan how to use your refund wisely—to save and to pay off debt.

To access these free tax services, users must be registered to the Military OneSource Web site and logged in.

Military OneSource can also help you help tame tax stress with expert advice on planning, issues specific to service members, and sound ways to use your refund. Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit Military OneSource online at www.militaryonesource.com.

Military OneSource Quick Tips for Using Your Tax Refund

A tax refund can feel like "free money," and you may be tempted to spend it on something you don't really need. But once you're done fantasizing about that vacation or new techno-gadget, remember that it pays to plan ahead and spend your tax refund wisely. Here are some ideas:



- **Retire your debts.** Put your refund towards the balance on high-interest credit cards.
- **Start an emergency savings account.** Financial experts recommend keeping a savings account with 3 to 6 months pay to cover emergencies.
- **Save for a down payment on a home or vehicle.** If home or vehicle ownership is one of your long-term plans, a larger down payment will lower your monthly payments and interest costs.
- **Do some preventive maintenance or improvements.** Minor home or car repairs you make now could spare you a bigger future expense.
- **Save for college.** If you have children, look into contributing to a college 529 savings plan for future college expenses.
- **Make an extra car or house payment.** Just be sure there are no prepayment penalties and tell your lender to apply the extra funds to the principal balance, not the interest.
- **Reconsider your W-4 withholdings** if you receive a large refund. Instead of giving the government an interest-free loan, make sure those funds go into your paycheck every month.

This year, resolve to get your finances under control

Our free CD, *Taking Charge of Your Money*, can help you do just that. Expert Amelia Tyagi provides practical money tips that can help anyone, regardless of income, take charge of their money. Including the real story of a service member's triumph over financial challenges.

Enter *Taking Charge of Your Money* into the search box at www.militaryonesource.com to find out how to order. And don't forget to browse our rich range of articles that can help you get out of debt, stay within a budget, and talk with your spouse about money matters, including *Couples and Money*, *Military Personal Financial Management Programs*, and *The Thrift Savings Plan*, *The Savings Deposit Program*.

Military OneSource

By phone, online, and face-to-face
You name it. We can help - 24/7!
1-800-342-9647

Overseas: xx-800-3429-6477 (Country access codes can be found online)
Collect from Overseas: 484-530-5908
(Dial an international operator first)

En español llame al: 1-877-888-0727

www.militaryonesource.com

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AMVET officer available weekly

Elliott Miller, National Service Officer for American Veterans (AMVETS), is available for interviews Friday mornings between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon at the Warrior Transition Unit in Bldg. 3643E at the corner of Doughboy Loop and Baltimore Street.

As a National Service Officer (NSO), Elliott is employed by AMVETS to provide Soldiers with assistance in obtaining benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

AMVETS NSOs are located throughout the United States. Their services are free to service men and women, veterans and their families, and their goal is to assist them in applying for benefits. NSOs assist in the completion of applications, ensure paperwork is complete and provide advice on VA benefits.

Read The Post!

MILITARY MATTERS

Bullets

Army taps Web for virtual Family Readiness Groups

● WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2008 - In an age of persistent conflict and geographically-dispersed Families, the Army is taking Family support to a new level with virtual installations and virtual Family Readiness Groups.

The Army Reserve considers it's Family programs Web site - www.warf.org - a virtual installation where Families, who may live hundreds of miles from the nearest installation, can access the same support and resources as active-duty Soldiers and Families, such as: TRICARE, child and youth services, counseling and chaplain's programs and financial and legal information.

"We need to retain these Soldiers and you do that by retaining the Families," said Laura Stultz, wife of Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz. "If the Families feel secure, the Soldier won't worry about them, and the Families will know that their problems will be looked into. They need the same services that active-component Families have on an installation because their Soldiers are putting their lives on the same line as everybody else. They deserve the same degree of help and resources."

The next step is to set up mini-Army Reserve centers in towns and cities across America, which would function like Army Community Service offices, repositories for community support, emergency relief and even places Families can go to renew their military IDs.

Right now, the Army Reserve is beginning focus groups with Families to see where they want these centers. The Reserve will begin building the centers near the heaviest Reserve population centers that are far from installations.

Per the requests of Families, especially children and teenagers, the Army Reserve is looking to find ways to incorporate chat rooms on the Web site, and plan to add this feature as soon as they work out security issues.

Chat rooms, blogs and instant messaging are also a goal of virtual FRGs, said Shaunya Murrill, the automation manager for the Family programs directory at the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command. She also runs a virtual FRG for her husband's Indianapolis Recruiting Battalion.

Tested in 2004 and launched Army-wide in 2006, virtual FRGs are paid for by FMWR and are a way for commanders, rear-detachment commanders and Family readiness leaders to provide up-to-date information to Families, even if they are geographically spread out, as with the reserve component.

To date, there are about 1,200 sites and 117,000 registered users throughout the Army. Commanders at the battalion level and up simply must fill out an application at www.ArmyFRG.org, provide a point of contact and some basic information, and Murrill and her team set up the site. They provide tutorials for the site manager and any necessary technical support.

The sites typically include news articles, photos, hyperlinks, frequently-asked questions and updates from commanders. FMWR is still working on the security issues related to blogs and chat rooms, but the sites can have monitored forums.

Virtual FRGs have undergone the Defense Information Technology Certification Information Accreditation Process and are completely secure. Soldiers provide a list of loved ones in writing and the system automatically generates an invitation to the unit site, complete with hyperlink. The list can include anyone the Soldier wants: Spouse, but also parents and siblings, for example.

Murrill said the most common feedback she receives are requests for more interactive features and comments that the Army waited too long to go virtual, but that she never hears anything bad about the virtual FRGs. The best thing, she said, is that instead of Families having to wait for their Soldiers to tell them about events or new initiatives, the Families are often updating the Soldiers.

Military reports decrease in mobilized Guard, Reserve

● WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2008 - This week the Army and Navy announced a decrease, while the Air Force and Marine Corps announced an increase. The Coast Guard number remained the same. The net collective result is 110 fewer reservists mobilized than last week.

At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 73,558; Navy Reserve, 5,043; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 7,118; Marine Corps Reserve, 8,677; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 333. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been mobilized to 94,729, including both units and individual augmentees.

April marks final month for Battle Dress Uniform

Elizabeth M. Lorge
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2008 - The Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel) announced this month that the final wear-out date for the Army Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Battle Dress Uniform will be April 30 for both active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers.

The Army began phasing out the woodland and desert-patterned uniforms on June 14, 2004 with debut of the digital-patterned Army Combat Uniform.

"Our Army is always looking to constantly improve on everything we do, both on and off the battlefield," said Sgt. Maj. Katrina L. Easley, uniform policy sergeant major at G-1. "We took a look the combat usability of what was once a good uniform, and based upon feedback from the field, decided to improve it and fix the many problems reported. There were at least 20 changes made and the result is the current ACU."

"Response has been fantastic. Soldiers have adapted well to the new uniform and they tell us they truly appreciate the improvements that were made. This uniform was designed by Soldiers for Soldiers."

All brown T-shirts, black

combat boots and green and black jungle boots, woodland and desert-camouflage caps, olive-drab-green name and U.S. Army tapes, subdued olive-green shoulder-sleeve insignias and the black rigger belt and web belt with open faced black buckle will also become obsolete on April 30.

Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers can continue to wear the black-knit cap and the black micro-fleece-knit cap with the cold-weather woodland-camouflage field jacket until Sept. 30.

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps wear-out date for these items is April 9.

According to Easley, there haven't been any official surveys to determine how many Soldiers still have the BDUs or Desert BDUs, but she said it's probably hard to find many who aren't wearing the ACU.

But if Soldiers are hanging on to any of these uniforms, they can save them for posterity. They aren't required to turn them in. The only requirement is that they know the wear-out date and report for duty in ACUs May 1.

"Thousands of our great Soldiers spent many years defending our country wearing that honorable uniform. I know it means something to them, just as wearing the ACU will mean something to today's Army," said Easley.



U.S. Army Military History Institute

The Battle Dress Uniform in woodland camouflage was first issued in 1981 and has a wear-out date of April 30. The Desert Battle Dress Uniform and many of the uniforms' matching accessories are also being retired. They have been replaced by the digital Army Combat Uniform.

Book aids military families

Elizabeth M. Lorge
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 2008 - On military bases and in towns and cities across America, servicemembers and their spouses are quietly waging their own war, the war to keep their Families together in spite of the stresses of extended and repeated deployments.

At their sides are the Army and other services, as well as federal, state and local organizations, nonprofits and now "Operation Military Family: How to Strengthen Your Military Marriage and Save Your Family," a new book by Navy veteran Michael J.R. Schindler that chronicles the struggles and triumphs of military couples and lists the resources available for assistance.

Although much of the book focuses on Reserve and National Guard Families in the Northwest, it offers invaluable, practical advice from counselors, chaplains and military couples about how to keep marriages strong and communication open before, during and after a deployment.

"I think the strength of marriage is so critical to the strength of our military. I would see that on ship all the time, because there would be so many issues back at the home front that half these guys would not think clearly. Nobody really knew what the other spouse was doing," Schindler said.

He suggests that the Soldier prepare a binder with insurance, legal and financial documents and even important phone numbers. The couple should set aside a time to discuss everything and the spouse remaining behind should come prepared with as many questions as possible. Schindler even includes sample questions. "Ask yourself these simple questions,"

he writes. "If my spouse were to leave for twelve to fifteen months, starting tomorrow 1. Would I know where everything is? 2. What bills need to be paid? 3. Where all the important paperwork is filed? If you prepare the binder, some of these questions should already be answered, but there are a ton more questions you should ask."

Schindler also discusses the importance of developing a communication game plan ahead of the Soldier's deployment, to include how and when spouses will communicate, and what they are and are not going to talk about.

Army spouses in the book stress how important it is to develop a support network in advance, to find a battle buddy to get them through those first difficult weeks, and to let friends and family know what to expect and how they can help.

"Keeping your words 'together' when you are apart takes work," Schindler wrote. "Living each day apart will not be easy. Your experiences will be different, your daily challenges will be different and those life events you are accustomed to sharing together will be fond memories."

"Couples realized that if they were going to make it through this, they had to figure out how to communicate," he said in an interview. "It brought depth to a number of the relationships. Some said they really had to learn about how to communicate and what to communicate about. They couldn't just spew information like they were used to because of the circumstances. They either had limited time to talk or knew that each person was dealing

with something traumatic, and they didn't want to dump garbage on each other. I think that was a major positive."

Some Soldiers may have to limit their communications with their Families in order to do their jobs and stay safe, but Schindler and the Soldiers in the book said it was important to find some way to stay connected. Mike, a special-operations Soldier, said that he would frequently write his young daughter letters and send her pictures, but he couldn't stand talking to her more than every couple of weeks. It made him too emotional.

His wife Tonia wrote about how unnerveing communication blackouts were, and that she would be on an emotional roller coaster following their conversations.

"When Mike knew he was going out for a long mission, he would call home to tell me 'I just wanted to tell you I love you before I go out.' I finally had to tell him he had to stop doing that because it was like he was calling to talk to me one more time just in case he didn't make it back," she said in "Operation Military Family."

The book also deals with the stresses couples face after redeployment, which Tonia said "was way worse than the actual deployment. We still struggle every day. We've had to deal with all of the issues."

Schindler said that each of the approximately 50 couples he interviewed had seriously considered divorce or separation. Tonia and Mike said they still struggle every day, but that their kids had kept them together.

Other challenges spouses faced were differences in pay and medical coverage as reserve-component Soldiers deployed and a confusing mass of paperwork and Web sites.

"Operation Military Family" is a step-by-step guide to many of those resources and benefits, including TRICARE, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Homefront and Military OneSource - Department of Defense-sponsored Web sites for quality-of-life information and other resources - and nonprofit and service-specific resources for strengthening marriages, including the Army's Strong Bonds program.

Sponsored by the chaplaincy, Strong Bonds is a weekend-retreat program designed to help couples improve their communication styles.

The book also has exercises at the end of each chapter that couples can use to help develop their communication game plans and strengthen their marriages.

Announcements

Cinema Schedule

754-5139

McGuire Air Force Base

Friday, Jan. 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

Aliens vs. Predator Requiem - Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, John Ortiz, Johnny Lewis, Ariel Gade - Warring alien and predator races descend on a small Colorado town, where unsuspecting residents must band together for any chance of survival.

MPAA Rating: R - violence, gore and language
Run time: 94 minutes

Saturday, Jan. 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

Alvin and the Chipmunks - Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch, Justin Long, Jesse McCartney, Matthew Gray Gubler - Three chipmunk brothers are adopted by a man named Dave. Based on the 1950s cartoon series about a music group of chipmunks comprised of mischievous group leader Alvin, tall and quiet Simon, and chubby, impressionable Theodore.

MPAA Rating: PG - some mild rude humor
Run time: 91 minutes

Future Features...

P.S. I Love You

Friday, Feb. 1 @ 7:30 p.m.

PG-13, 126 minutes.

National Treasure:

Book of Secrets

Saturday, Feb. 2 @ 7:30 p.m.

PG, 130 minutes.

Chapel Services

562-2020

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

Special Events

Gospel Youth & Teen Ministry will hold their 11th Annual Black History Month Service Celebration on **Saturday, February 2 at 4 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend, dinner will be served.

Black History Month National Read-In, special guest author Howie Meek, author of "Why am I Black" **Monday, February 4, 12 to 1 p.m.** Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Please call 562-2666 if you would like to attend.

Ash Wednesday Catholic Mass **Wednesday, February 6, 6 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross **Every Friday, February 8 - March 14, 6 p.m.**

Valentine Dinner Dance **Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.**

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

Tea for Three

A one woman show that reveals intimate portraits about three remarkable First Ladies; Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. We will discover what each of them thought about "the hardest unpaid job in the world." Performed by Emmy Award-winning, New York actress for 30 years in film, television, Broadway and Off Broadway - Ms.

Elaine Bromka.

\$10 admission includes your choice of teas, coffees and desserts. Don't miss this thought-provoking perspective on the politics of love, devotion, and duty.

February 15 at Club Dix

Tickets go on sale February 1

Little League Baseball registration begins **February 18**, for 3 to 15 year olds. Call 562-2819 for details.

ACS Meetings

Monday, Jan. 28

Deployment Series: Stress Management

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. 25

Photo Club

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Power Hour Store

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

OPEN ACTIVITIES

Monday, Jan. 28

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Sports & Fitness

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31

Technology 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. Come 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

Frame Shop

Stop by to learn about all kinds of framing techniques. In no time you'll be framing your own photographs, paintings and posters.

CREATE IN '08
at the

Arts & Crafts
Center

painting classes start Jan. 3

call 562-5691 for more information

Read
The Post!

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 Commu-

nities Web site for details:

www.mcguiredixuc.com

Fort Dix/McGuire Residential Re- fuse 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.



Ryan Morton

IT'S A GAS! -- Spc. Samuel Finch, Delta Company, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, Delta Company, takes a shot at the protective-mask portion of M-9 pistol qualification training on Fort Dix Jan. 23.

Civil affairs Soldiers prep for deployment

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

The Horn of Africa is a region in eastern Africa that includes countries such as Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Somalia. This is relevant because it's an area of the world with various insurgent activity, civil unrest, and massive poverty.

It's also an area where the U.S. military deploys its personnel to help combat these issues.

The 412th Civil Affairs Battalion's Delta Company is one such unit. They're part of the Army Reserve hailing from Whitehall, Ohio, with a few Soldiers added on from New York, California, and Maryland. They are currently at Fort Dix training for their upcoming mission.

Their mission, though, is unique in the sense that they will serve there in a civil affairs capacity. According to the 412th Civil Affairs commander, Maj. Mark Canada, this

includes working with the various local communities and governments and serving as a liaison to the military command.

"We work with the peoples and make assessments on ways to improve the area's infrastructure such as wells, schools, roads, medical personnel and supplies, and various ways to help prevent extremism in the region," Canada said.

In country, these Soldiers will live in the towns and villages with the locals, making the assessments and overseeing the projects. For many of the Soldiers in this unit, this is nothing new. Several have deployed to areas around the world performing civil affairs missions in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Some, including Canada, have even worked in "the Horn" before.

"I have four Soldiers who served with me in 2004 when this unit went to 'the Horn' last," said Canada.

"Having the level of experience these Soldiers bring really helps me sleep better at night," he said.

"I think it helps the younger Soldiers more than anyone. We've done it before and we can help them get through the highs and lows that come with this job because we've been there before," said veteran Sgt. Matt Merino.

Civil affairs also works with non-government humanitarian assistance groups such as CARE, the Red Cross, and UNICEF.

Canada knows that "the Horn's" climate is very similar to how it was in 2004, but knows there are some changes, too.

"One of the things we're going to keep an eye on is in the Kenyan region. With recent elections that have taken place we're really tracking to see how that could impact our operation," said Canada.

The main goal, according to 1st Sgt. Rick Overman, is to get the host nation to be able to take care of the situation and itself.

"We arrange to have the professionals take care of the situations and facilitate teachings on what to do. We show them how to do it and make sure they have the proper assets to accomplish the task," Overman said.

Desert Storm Association to host annual reunion dinner

The Desert Storm Veterans Association will host its 17th Annual Memorial Ceremony and Reunion Dinner Feb. 23 at Fort Myer, Va.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel, followed by dinner in the Officers' Club at 7:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Gen. George Casey, chief of staff, U.S. Army.

Cost for the event is \$60 per person. Checks made payable to "VII Corps DSVVA" can be sent to VII Corps DSVVA (Attn: Dinner), 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va., 22201.

Please respond no later than Feb. 18 by calling Hoa McNabb at (703) 562-4163 or e-mailing VIICorpsDSVVA@aol.com

Military police have blast at nuclear-defense school

Spc. Anthony Hooker
215th MPAD

Members of the 278th Military Police Company participated in masking and decontamination exercises at the Fort Dix Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense School Jan. 20.

The two-day course was part of the unit's mobilization training in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Almost 100 Soldiers from the unit were broken down into a series of classes. Eighteen were trained the first night and declared additional instructors (AIs); they became assistants to the cadre, who broke up the remaining trainees into two groups.

The AIs' main assignments were to validate their fellow Soldiers and assist in putting on and removing their chemical suits.

Second Lt. Malik Douglas, a unit platoon leader, said he thought the training would benefit the Soldiers for various reasons.

"We have a lot of younger Soldiers who have never experienced being in a combat zone," said Douglas. "(They) will get first-hand training from people who have been overseas."

He also said the unit's older Soldiers, although experienced, could use refreshers before leaving.

Staff Sgt. Kermit Coleman, the senior instructor for the day, said that familiarity with chemical equipment was the primary focus.

"This course will better (the Soldiers') training because a lot of them haven't seen the new suits," he said. He added that Soldiers needed more hands-on training with the M-40 protective mask and the M291 decontamination kits.

Trainers stressed the following: Donning of the mask with-



Spc. Anthony Hooker, 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MASK OF COMMAND -- Spc. Chadwick Turner and Pfc. Tamron Murray simulate treating a casualty Jan. 20 at the Fort Dix Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense School.

in nine seconds, drinking water while wearing protective gear, how to put on the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology - or JSLIST - properly, decontamination of skin and equipment, and first aid to self or a buddy.

After classes were completed, the Soldiers donned their masks and walked to an on-site gas chamber, where they were instructed to lift their mask and decontaminate their face and hands.

Cadre member Spc. Sherrod Williams, one of the lead instructors for the day's training, explained recent attacks in theater have heightened Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) awareness.

"There's a little more emphasis on NBC protection and the training," Williams

said. "Even though there has not been a great NBC threat in OIF and OEF we want our troops to be the best trained, most effective people on the battlefield."

"In case there is a detrimental attack, you will know exactly what to do to protect yourself," he added.

The instructors also prepare for contingencies. If there are any questions to specific incidents, a subject matter expert from the staff is referenced so the best possible answer is presented. Trainees who may have pre-existing conditions such as claustrophobia or allergies are identified by the cadre.

"(Whether) you're claustrophobic or not, you've got to get that mask on to survive within nine seconds," Williams said.

Trainees with allergies must

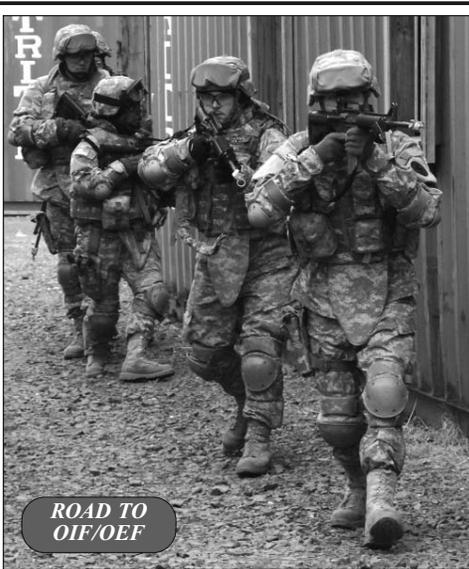
make sure they have their profiles with them. If they are allergic to any of the teaching materials, the materials will not be used at that time.

"We had mask fittings a couple of days back but this training will really pay off for us," Douglas said.

Prior to entering the chamber, Pfc. Tamron Murray said she was highly motivated after taking the course.

"It's very encouraging to see co-workers going through the training," Murray, an Augusta, Ga., native, added. "I like that everyone is having a good time, but also that everyone is identified by the cadre."

"I feel if I was put in this predicament, I think I would be fully prepared to make it through an NBC attack without becoming a casualty."



ROAD TO OIF/OEF

Troops take on MOUT training

Soldiers from the 352nd Military Police Company, left, a reserve unit hailing from Rockville, Md., perform Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training at Fort Dix's Balad training range in preparation for a deployment supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Pfc. David Masemer, 352nd MP Company, below, plans his next move during MOUT training, while Staff Sgt. David Burton, below left, deals with a "local leader," technically known as a Civilian on the Battlefield (COB), at the MOUT site.

photos by Ryan Morton



Top troops rewarded



Maj. Alma Whitelaw, chief, Joint Readiness Center legal center, left, has oak leaf pinned on by Lt. Col. Scott Zippich, staff judge advocate, during a promotion and awards ceremony held at Club Dix Jan. 16.



Command Sgt. Major Bonita Davis, installation command sergeant major, left, presents Commander Coins on behalf of the installation commander to, from left, Master Sgt. Pentii Forsman, operations NCOIC, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, Staff Sgt. Marlina Edwards, immunizations section NCOIC, Watson Medical Support Element, Joint Readiness Center, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Mammoliti, laboratory section NCOIC, WMSE, JRC, for outstanding support to Soldiers during the mobilization and de-mobilization processes.



Sgt. 1st Class Fred Cohen, chaplain assistant, left, is presented a Letter of Appreciation by Lt. Col. Joseph Chirrico, commander, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, on behalf of the 77th Regional Readiness Command commander, Maj. Gen. William Terpeluk, for supporting mobilizing Soldiers and those going through annual training by volunteering as an instructor for water safety classes.

America's Army game teaches life-saving skills

Lori Mezoff
Army News Service

SILVER SPRINGS, Md., January 17, 2008 — A longtime player of the game "America's Army" became a first responder following a car accident in November when he employed the life-saving techniques he learned by playing the video game.

Paxton Galvanek was driving westbound on I-40 in North Carolina with his family. About 25 miles south of Raleigh, he witnessed a sports utility vehicle in the eastbound lanes flip about five times. While his wife called 911, Galvanek stopped his vehicle and ran across the highway to the scene of the accident.

Assuming the role of first responder, Galvanek quickly assessed the situation and found two victims in the smoking vehicle. Needing to extract them quickly, he first helped the passenger out of the truck. The passenger had minor cuts and injuries. Galvanek told the man to stay clear of the car and then went quickly to the driver's side.

He pulled the driver to safety on the side of the road.

Using knowledge he learned from playing "America's Army," Galvanek knew he had to prioritize the situation, choosing which of the wounded travelers would need to be tended to immediately.

This is the second time an America's Army player has reported successfully using medical skills learned through playing the game to respond in a life-threatening situation.

"I remember vividly in section four of the game's medic training, during the field medic scenarios, I had to evaluate the situation and place priority on the more critically wounded," Galvanek said. "In the case of this accident, I evaluated the situation and placed priority on the driver of the car, who had missing fingers."

The driver of the vehicle

had lost two fingers in the accident and was bleeding profusely. He had also suffered head trauma. Galvanek used what he learned from the game to give immediate aid to the driver.

"I recalled that in section two of the medic training, I learned about controlled bleeding," he said. "The wounded man had severe bleeding that he could not control. I used a towel as a dressing and asked the man to hold the towel on his wound and to raise his hand above his head to lessen the blood flow. I also evaluated his other injuries — which included a cut on his head."

Roughly five minutes later, an Army Soldier in plain clothing arrived on the scene of the accident. The Soldier was medically trained and let Galvanek know he could take over until paramedics arrived. He also said Galvanek had done a great job in handling the situation.

Launched on July 4, 2002, America's Army is an innovative PC action game that provides young adults with an inside perspective and a virtual role in today's high-tech Army.



Pfc. Martha Voll, unit clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, far left, is presented a Letter of Appreciation by Lt. Col. Joseph Chirrico, commander, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, on behalf of the 77th Regional Readiness Command commander, Maj. Gen. William Terpeluk, for supporting Soldiers by volunteering as a water safety instructor.



Wayne Cook

DFAC diva Employee of Year

Darlene Ross, left center, manager of the dining facility (DFAC) in Bldg. 5610, receives the Employee of the Year Award from Harry Eberle, right center, owner of Eberle Services, the contractor that runs the post dining facilities. Assisting in the presentation were Desmond O'Callaghan, deputy project manager, Eberle Services, left, and Keith McRae, installation food service officer, far right. Ross has been employed on the post for more than 21 years providing service for Soldiers.



Shawn Morris

Ultimate Weapons have yellow-banner day

Soldiers of the 72nd Military Police Company, Nevada National Guard, pose with the Ultimate Weapon statue in Infantry Park Jan. 23 following the unit's Yellow Banner ceremony. Also receiving yellow banners during the ceremony were the 438th Military Police Company, Kentucky National Guard, and the 186th Military Police Company, Iowa National Guard. The banners will be flown above Infantry Park until the units return, at which time the banners will be returned to the units to remind their Soldiers of the mobilization training they received at Fort Dix.

Chaplains' Corner

Chap. (Maj.) Allen Raub
Staff Chaplain

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

When I was in elementary school, I loved to go to church even though I didn't understand much of the ceremony or ritual of the service. As I moved into my teen years though, my attitude toward attending church began to change because the services seemed boring and irrelevant to my life.

However, a life-changing encounter with God through his Son Jesus radically altered my attitude toward attending worship services. I began to enjoy attending church because I now sensed the presence of God in the service and I knew that God was alive, real and interested in my life. Since that time, I've probably asked hundreds of people why they go or don't go to church.

I've found that some people go to church because it's the thing to do. They attend out of a sense of duty. Some go because it helps their image in the community and it's a good place to make business contacts. Some go because they like the "feeling" from hearing the beautiful liturgy and ceremony.

When I was an ALT chaplain, I discovered that some Soldiers went to chapel to escape their drill sergeant for an hour or two. Others attend because it helps them cope with the stresses of life and provides enlightenment to their problems. Still others go because the music is inspiring or because the speaker is captivating.

The reasons why people go to church are probably just as numerous as why people don't go to church. Some stay away from church because the music is boring and the speaker puts them to sleep. Some say they don't go because church is nothing more than a fashion show. Many stay away because they

believe the church is full of hypocrites. Still others stay away because no one takes the time to get to know their name or because no one seems to care if they are there or not.

But people in the early days of the church went to worship services for different reasons. One of the main reasons people went to church was to hear the Word of God taught and preached. They also attended to receive spiritual strength, encouragement and healing. Church seemed to be a type of spiritual hospital where the broken, hurt and discouraged could come and receive love and acceptance.

The religious elite of Jesus' day rejected his ministry and message but the social outcasts and misfits received him gladly. He was accused of being a friend of tax collectors and "sinners" because he hung out with the forgotten and neglected masses of hurting people. The crowds who came to hear his message were made up of the poor, the sick, thieves and prostitutes. Jesus told his critics, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." The reason the Son of God came to earth was to heal the broken and bring forgiveness of sins.

Therefore, God's house is designated to be a place where "sinners" can still come and find wholeness and forgiveness. Church is not to be a place of condemnation but a place of acceptance. It is a place to be encouraged and receive God's mercy and grace. Churches are still in the business of receiving outcasts and the down and out.

The chapels at Fort Dix are places to hear God's Word and receive encouragement and acceptance. If you have not found a place to worship on a regular basis then let this be the Sunday when you say "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

Worship and fellowship at the house of the Lord will bring incredible encouragement and you will be loved and accepted for who you are.

Elks set to donate van for wounded warriors

Gerry Zanzalari
Public Affairs Staff

Jan. 28 will play witness to a much-needed addition to the Walson Medical Support Element at Fort Dix.

Representatives from the New Jersey Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, better known as the Elks, will donate a 14-passenger bus configured to enable the transport of wounded or injured warriors.

The vehicle, the product of a tireless donation campaign started three years ago and

spearheaded by the New Jersey State Elks Army of Hope, is a 2007 Ford E350 Super Duty bus that has been customized to accommodate 14 handicapped or disabled individuals and offers space for up to three wheelchairs.

A donation ceremony will be held Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 4455.

The vehicle will be a significant asset to Walson's transportation capability and will function as a daily shuttle to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

At 10 a.m., Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, will accept the vehicle and immediately turn over ownership to the Walson Medical Support Element under the leadership of Col. Judith Robinson.

The ceremony will take place at the A/DACG facility, Bldg. 4455, and is expected to be attended by members of the national and state Elks organizations, Fort Dix command staff, Fort Dix Honorary Commanders, Rep. Jim Saxton, local mayors and other dignitaries. A short reception will follow the ceremony.

Honoring the Colors

Reveille
6 a.m. (0600 hours)

Retreat
5 p.m. (1700 hours)

Military personnel in uniform

Stand at attention, face the flag and salute at first note.

Stand at attention, face the flag for *Retreat*, then salute at first note of *To the Colors*.

Military personnel not in uniform, civilians

Stand at attention, face the flag and place right hand over heart at first note.

Stand at attention, face the flag for *Retreat*, then place right hand over heart at first note of *To the Colors*.

Military personnel in formation or in a group

Senior Soldier calls group to "Attention," then "Present, Arms" at first note. Calls "Order, Arms" at conclusion.

Senior Soldier calls group to "Attention," then "Parade, Rest" at first note of *Retreat*. Calls group to "Attention" and "Present, Arms" at first note of *To the Colors*, then "Order, Arms" at conclusion.

Individual military personnel, civilians in a vehicle

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

Group of military personnel in a vehicle

Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.

Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.

Other bugle calls heard on post are:
Tattoo.....9 p.m. (2100 hours)
Call to Quarters.....9:30 p.m. (2130 hours)
Taps.....10 p.m. (2200 hours)

**FORT DIX
WAN'TS YOU**



Call Army
Community Service
at 562-2767
to find out more

**NCO Call
at Club Dix
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed

for

**Fort Dix Special
Observances Committees**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Black History Month
Women's History Month
Holocaust Remembrance Day
Asian Pacific Heritage Month
Women's Equality Day
Hispanic Heritage Month
Native American Heritage Month**

For more information call
Denise Horton at 562-4011

Nuggets on three-game win streak

Robert Williams
Fort Dix Nuggets' coach

Trey Calloway led the Fort Dix 11- thru 12-year-old basketball team, the Golden Nuggets, to their third straight victory, beating Pemberton #1 37-22. This is Calloway's second time as top scorer for the Nuggets, with 10 points, five rebounds and five blocks.

Calloway had big time help from Michael Sifford, who showed his basketball skills by scoring nine points and five

rebounds. The Nuggets had been struggling in turnovers, averaging more than 15 per game. They had only 10 this week.

Point guards Isaiah Wilson, who led the team with 10 points last week, and Jalen Hooks have been doing a great job getting the ball to Calloway and Sifford, the team's two centers. Hooks also scored four points. Kyle Kerr is doing a good job in the back-court and scored two points. Hashim Russell, a forward, also contributed with four rebounds,

two points and good defense.

Anthony Elliot, who is showing his basketball skills during his second season, is coming into his own this year. Elliot had four rebounds and scored nine points. Carlton Wright, Jalen Hooks and Mathew Horton pulled down four rebounds and scored two points. The Nuggets are playing outstanding defense and are keeping the ball under control. Brandon Grey, a first year player who is beginning to show his defensive skills, also had four rebounds.

The Nuggets are working to improve on the fast break so they can take advantage of a good defensive stop and grab an easy two points. This past week, the Nuggets missed four baskets off the fast break. With a little work, the team will be able take advantage of their scoring opportunities.

The Nuggets will be back in action Jan. 25 at the McGuire Gym. Game time is 7 p.m. The Fort Dix Panthers won 25-6 over Pemberton #1.

Fort Dix #2 lost to McGuire AFB #1.

OCC builds new Guard chopper

Staff Sgt. Mary Flynn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 2008 — Episodes of "American Chopper" aired on The Learning Channel Jan. 17 and 24 and featured the first of three bikes to be built by Orange County Choppers for the National Guard.

Hundreds of soldiers gathered in front of the Army National Guard Readiness Center here in late September to witness the unveiling of the first "Patriot Chopper." The American Chopper production crew filmed the ceremony, and the two episodes will feature the bike's construction.

Metalworker Paul Teutul Sr. and his son, Paul Teutul Jr. -- known as "Paule" by his fans -- founded Orange County Choppers in New York after introducing their first bike, "True Blue," at the Daytona Biketo-

berfest in 1999. The Teutuls quickly became famous among chopper enthusiasts, and the family, including the youngest son, Mikey, shot to wider fame when "American Chopper" made its debut on the Discovery Channel in 2002.

The Teutuls have a history of building patriotic bikes, and they have produced multiple theme bikes for several branches of the military.

The Patriot Chopper was the result of a collaborative effort between the Orange County Choppers and four National Guard soldiers. In early 2007, the Army Guard invited soldiers around the country to submit their ideas for the custom design of the Guard-sponsored bike. Four winners were chosen: Chief Warrant Officer David Vasquez, of Colorado;

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Billet, of Georgia; Sgt. 1st Class Richard Crawford, of Illinois; and Pfc. Joseph Scheibe, of Ohio.

Maj. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, presented certificates to the four winning soldiers during the unveiling ceremony. He congratulated them on a job well done and a bike well designed.

The highlight of the ceremony was when Paul Sr. made his grand entrance on the bike, coasting in coolly and revving the engine to enthusiastic cheers of the crowd.

The winning soldiers were in awe.

"To be a part of something like this is pretty cool stuff," Scheibe said. "We went to the OCC shop in New York last month, and we saw pieces and parts of the bike. But to see it finished was just really cool."

The finished bike showcases a minuteman air cleaner. The black spokes of the wheels feature 3-D inlaid spearheads representing the seven Army values, and an ammunition belt lines the handlebars. Chromed M-4 magazines serve as the struts, and an M-4 rifle is mounted on the side of the rear wheel.

The bike is red, white and blue with an Army combat uniform pattern used throughout. A list on top of the bike includes every war and conflict the National Guard has been involved in since its founding in 1636.

"We took (the soldiers') ideas and put them to work," Paule explained. "I think, for them, it really is their bike. It was a bike they designed and that we fabricated. I think it made it that much more special."

The Patriot Chopper is the first of three bikes commissioned by the Army National Guard. The purpose is twofold, officials said. First, the bikes are intended to be a recruiting tool. Army Guard recruiters will display them at rallies

across the country to entice potential soldiers to talk with them. Second, the bikes can also convey important messages about safety.

Despite the television program's tough-guy image, the "American Chopper" stars remain extremely conscious about safety. The stars wear helmets and other protective gear religiously, a practice they hope to impress upon soldiers.

"They're very willing to help us out in terms of safety awareness and wearing the proper gear for our soldiers," Nuttall said. "The bike is one part of it -- the build. But the safety is really what we're trying to get after."

Before the ceremony in September, Paul Sr. joined Nuttall to record a public service announcement about motorcycle safety aimed at National Guard members.



Staff Sgt. Mary Flynn

Paul Teutul Sr. of Orange County Choppers and the "American Chopper" television program rides the "Patriot Chopper," a motorcycle designed by soldiers. Episodes of "American Chopper" which aired on The Learning Channel Jan. 17 and 24 featured the first of three bikes to be built by Orange County Choppers for the National Guard.

FCI, Wildcats meet in final



Ed Mingin

The Griffith Field House was scheduled to wrap up its Preseason Tournament Jan. 23. The Wildcats would play FCI to determine the preseason champion. Nine teams started the tournament Jan. 8. The Wildcats beat the Spartans, Navy and FCI to make it to the final. FCI beat TLC and the Renegades. They lost against FCI, but fought back in the loser bracket, beating the Renegades again to make their way to the championship game. Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Bright, shown at right driving toward the basket for the Lightning Brigade.

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Ed Mingin

FAST BREAK -- Fort Dix's Calvin Bannister hustles after the ball as Fort Dix #2 hosted McGuire last weekend at the Doughboy Gym.

Pro wrestlers set for smackdown at gym

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Aside from a few shows at Pemberton over the last several summers, pro wrestling has been deplorably absent from the cultural milieu in Burlington County. But that sad state of affairs changes Thursday, Jan. 31, when Fort Dix's Griffith Field House hosts superstar grapplers currently wrecking havoc in the "World's Greatest Wrestling" circles.

I wonder. Are today's breed of the same sturdy standard I used to thrill to as a kid watching the tube when rasslin' live from Washington, D.C. lit up the airways?

I remember announcer Ray Morgan going through convulsions when "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers forearms smashed some stiff through the ropes or when Killer Kowalski body-slammed a foe before jumping on him with a knee to the gut.

So many more memories crowd my consciousness that tears actually well up when recalling the joys of adolescence.

I remember Brute Bernard and Skull Murphy shaking



posterized version of picture by Craig Sillitoe

their fists at the crowd and calling their fans "animals." And who can forget Bobo Brazil coco-butting opponents into Excedrin headaches or Bruno Sammartino actually lifting the 640-pound Haystacks Calhoun off his feet!

Ah, mon l'ami, those were the days of the giants. Contemporary battles featured on the night's card with greatest of ease before Jimmy Snucka, the Rock N Roll Express and a special appearance by King Kong Bundy.

Let's see how they match blasts from the past.

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