

## NEWSNOTES

### Pet microchip clinics set at veterinary facility

Help keep your pets from getting lost. Pet microchip clinics will be held at the Fort Dix/McGuire Veterinary Treatment Facility May 21 at 3 p.m. and May 28 at 6 p.m. All military ID card holders and family members are eligible to bring their cats (in carriers) and dogs (on leashes) to have the microchips inserted. No appointments are necessary, and the procedure is fast and easy. Fee for each pet is \$21. Pet microchips will soon be mandatory on Fort Dix and McGuire. The clinics are for microchips only, no vaccinations or sick calls. For more information, call the VTF at 562-6636.

### Motorcyclists to participate in "Bike Blessing"

Motorcyclists from the installation, McGuire Air Force Base, are invited to gather together at the Main Chapel to participate in a Bike Blessing Ceremony June 4 at 11 a.m.

Following the blessing the riders will take a safety ride around the post.

Riders are required to wear all the proper safety gear and must be motorcycle licensed. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Fred Cohen at 609-562-2020.



Sgt. Scott Wolfe

### 75th Division hosts change of command

Color Guard Soldiers prepare for a change of command ceremony on Sharp Field May 10 as Col. John R. Ledden assumed command of the First Battle Command Training Group, 2nd Bde., 75th Division. More photos, page 8.

## WEATHER

**FRIDAY** -- Rain and cooler, high of 59 degrees, clearing into evening with overnight low of 46.

**SATURDAY** -- Chance of showers, high of 71 degrees and low of 49.

**SUNDAY** -- Chance of showers, cool with high of 68 degrees and low of 47.

**MONDAY** -- Partly sunny, high of 69, cloudy into evening with overnight low of 50 degrees.

**TUESDAY** -- Chance of showers, cloudy through day with high of 71 and overnight low of 52.

# Jersey Soldier honored

Sgt. Whitney C. Houston  
128th MPAD

Family, friends, post officials, and others came to Timmermann Center May 9 for the dedication of the Browns Mills Gate to a fallen Soldier, perpetually recognizing one warrior's ultimate sacrifice.

The fallen Soldier, Cpl. Michael Edward Curtin from Plainfield, formerly assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry (Mechanized) Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, was the first Soldier from New Jersey killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Browns Mills entrance is now called the Cpl. Michael E. Curtin Access Control Point.

"It is an army tradition to dedicate facilities to fallen comrades," said Fort Dix Installation Commander Col. Ronald R. Thaxton. "Michael will always be immortalized and he will be an enduring remembrance to this installation and to everyone who comes through the Browns Mills gate."

Operation Iraqi Freedom had only been announced 10 days prior to Cpl. Curtin's death in Iraq. While working a checkpoint on March 29, 2003, Cpl. Curtin, along with 3 other Soldiers, stopped a vehicle to perform a search. When the trunk was opened by the driver, a bomb went off, killing Curtin, his 3 comrades, and the suicide bomber.

During the ceremony, condolences and praise for Cpl. Curtin's life, service and ultimate sacrifice came from various speakers, as well as in a letter



MEMORIES OF A HERO -- A portrait of Cpl. Michael E. Curtin and a duplicate of his Bronze Star will hang at the Browns Mills Gate at Fort Dix, now officially named in his honor.

sent to the Curtin family from Congressman Jim Saxton.

"Those who choose to serve our country are our nation's greatest and most precious asset. Their service, leadership, courage, sacrifice, and dignity in defending this great nation of ours exemplify the definition of the word hero," the letter said. "Cpl. Curtin gave his life to protect us and

afford others the ability to pursue the American dream. His sacrifice for the good of this nation must not go unnoticed or unappreciated."

One of the speakers at the dedication, Cpl. Curtin's aunt, Karen Thompson, expressed the family's appreciation and gratitude to the Army for making it possible that his legacy live on forever. Thompson

went on to quote former Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall by saying, "There is no more effective way of making friends for the Army than by showing that they are interested in every casualty that occurs."

Cpl. Curtin's father Michael, who also served in the military, added his own feelings of appreciation for his legacy live on forever. Thompson

(continued on page 4)

## Compact eases change for military kids

N. Anderson, Esquire  
Installation Legal Office

Military families know all too well that reassignment and changing schools can be a huge ordeal for their children -- and one that is repeated many times in the course of a career. Education curriculum and requirements vary amongst different states, and military children transferring from one school to another may face problems involving differing graduation

requirements, course placement, records transfer, redundant or missed testing, and entrance-age variations.

In an effort to alleviate these problems for military parents and their children, the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense drafted the Compact on Education Transition for Military Children. The Compact is an interstate agreement whereby states agree to work collectively with other Compact states to create uniform standards of practice designed to make interstate

transfers easier for children from military families.

The Compact contains provisions allowing schools to use hand-carried education records to enroll and place students; providing students with thirty days to obtain required immunizations.

It also provides students with the opportunity to receive the same special education services they received in their previous state of residence; providing students with excused absences in order to spend time with

a parent who is deploying, on leave from a deployment, or recently returned from a deployment; and allowing school districts to waive required coursework if the student completed similar coursework in another state.

The Compact becomes operational when it is adopted by at least ten states, and so far, it has already been adopted by two states (Kentucky and Kansas) and twenty-one other states - including New Jersey -- are actively considering the measure.

## Dix Town Hall offers insight on installation

Carolee Nisbet  
Editor

The Fort Dix community flocked to Timmermann Center May 8 for a Town Hall Meeting that included updates on Joint Basing and mobilization, a fast class on the hazards of driving while impaired and recognition of a group of the post's top employees.

Town Hall Meetings are held quarterly for Soldiers, civilian employees and residents of the post to ensure that critical information reaches all segments of the community -- something especially important given the many changes on the horizon.

A review of Joint Base updates and their impact on the workforce topped the agenda, with briefing by Lt. Col. Roger Cotton, deputy commander.

"Here at Fort Dix, we have a passion for two things -- the mission and you," Cotton told the attentive crowd. While some services will migrate to the Air Force as the lead agency, "This is not a land grab on the part of McGuire Air Force Base," Cotton said. "As a group, we are trying to find the best way to make Joint Basing work."

Cotton told the crowd their is still some uncertainty in how the switch will work. "We can't answer all your questions, not because we don't want to, but because we don't know," he said. "We hope to get more detailed guidance (this week) at the conference for installations at Fort Belvoir."

"But any way you look at it, it is still a boom economy, with more units and more spaces coming in. Fort

Dix is still the largest mobilization station in the Army. It is still going to be the home of the Joint Mobilization Station, and it is still the largest concentration of Reserve forces in the United States."

Cotton noted that timelines are getting very short for some Joint Basing data calls, and that it is critical that Fort Dix information is correct. Memorandums of Understanding are due to be signed by the Service Vice Chiefs of Staff Sept. 30, with initial operational capability of the Joint Base set for Jan. 31, 2009.

Second on the agenda was Denise Horton, head of the Army Substance Abuse and Employee Assistance Programs.

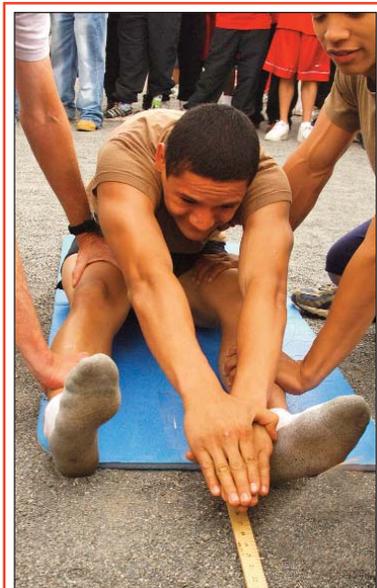
A definition of impaired driving topped Horton's briefing, along with a recount of DUI offenses on Fort Dix this year.

"DUI really has three general meanings," Horton said. "Driving with any amount of alcohol in your system which causes your physical abilities to be impaired in any way; driving with any level of alcohol in your system which amounts to a measurement of .08 or higher blood alcohol content, or driving with drugs in your system where your physical abilities have become impaired in any way."

Horton noted that the last definition does not necessarily mean illegal drugs -- over the counter drugs may often impair driving skills by making the user sleepy or slowing his or her responses.

"Alcohol is a depressant," she said, "it is a food without nutritional value and a toxin that causes dizziness, nau-

(continued on page 4)



Ryan Morton

### Reaching for a record

Juan Henriquez, from Long Island City High School in N.Y., performs the Y-sit and reach during the 17th Annual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Joint Military Service Commanders' Cup competition at Fort Dix May 8. Cadets from more than 10 High Schools across New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York competed in the event. More photos, page 14.

# Modern Israel celebrates 60th birthday



www.jewishportland.org  
Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Sixty years ago Wednesday on May 14, 1948, leaders in Israel declared their land to be a state. But the land of milk and honey had a history housing many states and nations stretching back thousands of years. But none proved as resilient as the self-described chosen people of Israel.

Known in Hebrew as Eretz Yisrael, Israel has been sacred ground to Jewish tribes since the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob over 13 centuries ago.

Somewhere around the 11th century BCE (Before the Common Era) the first in a series of Jewish kingdoms and nations came into being in lands encompassing present-day Israel. These kingdoms lasted about a 1,000 years. Other peoples invaded and ruled for six centuries after that, conquerors including the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines.

Jews populated other lands, living as a minority in the great diaspora or scattering after the Babylonian captivity. The United Nations backed the rebirth of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in 1948 after six million Jews had been savagely slaughtered by the Nazis in the Holocaust during World War II. And Israel's wars have been raging, almost continuously, ever since.

Still, the Jews have refused to surrender to the hysteria enveloping their neighbors. They walk tall, exacting an eye for an eye when attacks do warrant. It's right out of the Old Testament.

Happy birthday!



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**TRADITIONAL GOWN**  
Some women of Bethlehem still wear the old, traditional costume consisting of a long black robe with a belt around the waist and a white veil flowing down from the shoulders. This type of dress was first imported to Israel from the Crusaders, the woman is homegrown.



Lonely Planet



HOLYVIEWS LTD.

**PARLIAMENT BUILDING** -- Built in 1966 from the red stones of Jerusalem, the Knesset, lit up in the background at left above, houses Israel's Parliament consisting of 120 members and led by a prime minister and cabinet which is directly responsible to the Knesset.



www.marcusplanet.com

**THE SAMSON OPTION** -- Just as the ancient judge Samson tore down a Philistine temple killing both himself and his enemies, the Samson option refers to Israel's alleged deterrence strategy of massive retaliation with nuclear weapons as a last resort against nations whose military attacks threaten the survival of Israel. Israel refuses to admit it has nuclear weapons and won't say how it would use them if it had any. But estimates conclude the Israelis have anywhere from 75 to 200 nukes which can be launched from land, sea and air. Here's hoping someone has informed Iran of their neighbor's capabilities.



HOLYVIEWS LTD.

**HISTORY LADEN** -- The sea of Galilee is 13 miles long, seven miles wide and separates Israel from Syria. It's loaded with biblical references and the Golan Heights, site of famous battles in the 1967 War, lies on the Syrian side.



HOLYVIEWS LTD.

**IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM...** -- An Arab rides across the outskirts of Jerusalem, capital of Israel and a city sacred to half of humanity. For the Jews, Jerusalem symbolizes past glory and hope for a better future. It's a holy city for Christians, too, the site of Christ's last ministry and resurrection from the dead. And Moslems believe it to be the city where Mohammed ascended into heaven. In 4,000 years of recorded history, natives of Jerusalem have witnessed more wars at their gates than any other urban center. During the Six-Day War in 1967, the Israeli Army captured the eastern part of the city from Jordan, winning control of all of Jerusalem.



miliblog-shomer.blogspot.com

**MILITARY GIANTS** -- Generals Ariel Sharon, left, and Moshe Dayan fought in all of Israel's wars, proving instrumental in winning them. Dayan lost an eye fighting the Vichy French in World War II but went on to play significant roles in Israel's War for Independence in 1948, the 1956 Suez War, the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973 as did Sharon, who was severely wounded in the groin during the War for Independence.

Sharon was criticized for being prematurely aggressive at Sinai's Mitla Pass in the Suez War but his armored column won impressively. His tanks decimated fortifications at Kusseima-Abu-Agella during the 1967 War, routing the enemy. Dayan eventually served as Defense Minister and Chief of Staff for the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) while Sharon went on to serve as prime minister from 2001 until felled by a stroke in 2006. While he believed that "this region does not show mercy towards the weak..." Sharon conceded "the sword alone cannot decide this bitter dispute." Dayan agreed. They were tough. And wise.



Ron Dukeshire

**MARKET ECONOMY** -- Shoppers browse through wares at a market place in Tel Aviv. Israel has an advanced market economy which includes cut diamonds, high tech equipment and farm products as leading exports. The United States is its major source of economic and military aid.

www.ruffjones.us

**HOLY WATER** -- Beauty and renown lead an aura of eternity to the Jordan River.

## Taps sound for Ohio's favorite son

Maj. William D. Ritter  
Army Reserve  
Medical Command  
Public Affairs

BATAVIA, Ohio (Army News Service, May 9, 2008) -- We all became familiar with the Matt Maupin saga over the last four years. That saga came to a close on a sunny April afternoon as a horse-drawn caisson carried the sergeant's body to his final post.

The finding of Staff Sgt. Maupin's remains set many wheels in motion to honor this fallen Soldier. Communities surrounding his hometown of Batavia, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb, supported the Maupin family exceptionally well over the four-year ordeal and planned what would become one of the largest celebrations of life of any Soldier received.

Thousands of area residents joined local and national media in Union Township, Ohio, to honor Maupin and all who wear the uniform. For a 48-hour period, that was the sole mission of this tri-state community.

During the public viewing entire police troops, scouting troops and veterans organiza-



Maj. William D. Ritter

**FINAL SALUTE** -- A Vietnam veteran salutes as Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin's casket is loaded onto a caisson for a final journey to his resting place.

tions filed by their hometown hero. One baseball team even showed up in uniform, covered in dirt and sweat from a recent game but determined to show support to a Soldier who had been, only seven years ago, a local high school athlete.

I was choked up as the Patriot Guard Riders filed in one by one to salute Maupin's flag-draped casket, their line of leather stretching beyond the door.

Because so many groups came by busload, the wait to pay homage often lasted two

hours. The township used school buses to shuttle the populace from a nearby shopping mall because there was not enough parking for the hordes.

After these faithful strangers saluted Maupin's casket, they stopped me and countless others in uniform to thank us for serving our country.

Many dignitaries turned out as well, including Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve. They joined everyone else in praising a young American who believed in the Army

values and who as a Soldier didn't hesitate to enforce them. My proudest and saddest moment came when I spoke briefly with Carolyn Maupin, Matt's mother. My mother, a military mom for 21 years now, wanted me to personally thank Carolyn for her poise while dealing with her missing son. She said she felt strengthened by Carolyn's faith as detailed in media reports and thought Carolyn had represented all military mothers with the utmost dignity in the face of tragedy.

With all that happened this spring weekend, Carolyn will not remember my face from thousands of others, but I will remember that day vividly as it was equally prouder and poignant.

Although I never knew Matt Maupin personally, I do know this: It could have easily been you or me in that convey that captured him. In the end, we are all the same, all Soldiers; all extinguishable, and all with loving families. Call your mother or father and thank them for instilling in you the values needed to stand next to the likes of Staff Sgt. Maupin as an American Soldier.

## the Post

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Col. Michael T. Miklos, commander 72nd FA BDE passes the HHB Guidon to Capt. Javier Cortez, left, incoming HHB 72nd FA BDE Commander, during a COC ceremony at the Kelly Reserve Center May 8. Cortez accepted command from outgoing commander Capt. Terry Kirkwood who is assuming a position with the Acquisition Corps. Cortez leaves the 1st Battalion, 309th Regiment where he has served as Forward Operating Base Victory Officer in Charge and Unit Mobilization Advisor OIC.

Staff Sgt. Adam T. Navarro

## On time, on target: HHB welcomes new commander

Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Litchfield  
5th Armored Brigade First  
Army Division West Public  
Affairs

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, gathered at the Kelly Reserve Center on Fort Dix May 8 for a traditional change of command ceremony.

Capt. Javier Cortez accepted the battery colors from outgoing commander Capt. Terry Kirkwood who is assuming a position with the Acquisition Corps.

Col. Michael T. Miklos, commander of 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army Division East, presided over the ceremony.

"This is an exceptionally challenging command since the commander is usually a junior Soldier in the Headquarters, who ensures that the staff is prepared and equipped to accomplish their mission for all the Soldiers in the Brigade," Miklos said. "This challenge did not slow Terry down. His drive and sense of mission accomplishment ensured that the headquarters was set for

success which ensured that the Soldier, Sailors and Airmen were prepared to deploy into harm's way."

Miklos also thanked Kirkwood's wife Marilyn and the couple's daughters for their

*"As with any transition, we say welcome. In this case, we are welcoming one of our own. I could not think of a better Soldier to replace Capt. Terry Kirkwood than Capt. Javier Cortez."*

Col. Michael T. Miklos

"support and understanding" as their Soldier accomplished his missions.

"The Army is successful because of the unfailing support of families and their unsung contributions. You are the unsung heroes" Miklos praised.

"As with any transition, we say welcome," Miklos said. "In this case, we are welcoming one of our own. I could not think of a better Soldier to replace Capt. Terry Kirkwood than Capt. Javier Cortez."

"Col. Miklos, thank you for the opportunity to command this great unit," Cortez said.

"Soldiers of HHB, 72nd FA Bde., you are looking great out in front today. I look forward to

working with you -- you folks are a real top-notch outfit."

Originally enlisting as a Motor Transportation Soldier and reclassifying as a Transportation Management Coordinator, Cortez's previous

assignments include Platoon Sergeant, Training non-commissioned officer and Operations non-commissioned officer for the 411th Base Support Battalion.

Selected for Officer Candidate Course in 2001, Cortez has also served as Platoon Leader and Support Platoon Leader for the 3rd Bde., 3rd Infantry Division during the initial invasion into Iraq, and 203rd base Support Battalion Alpha Company Executive Officer, temporary Commander and assistant Battalion S-3 for Operation Iraqi Freedom Three and Four.

In transitioning to command, Cortez leaves the 1st Battalion, 309th Regiment

where he has served as Forward Operating Base Victory Officer in Charge and Unit Mobilization Advisor OIC to assume command for HHB.

Cortez graduated from Excelsior University in 2002 with Bachelor Degrees in Spanish and Criminal Justice.

His military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course, Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, and the Combined Logistics Captains Course.

During his distinguished service, Cortez has earned the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Over Seas Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Valorous Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

## Application available for grants

Army Community Service (ACS) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is once again able to provide grants to help defray the cost of camp for children with special needs.

These grants known as "Camperships" are made possible from donations this year from the United Way of Burlington County, the Combined Federal Campaign and the Fort Dix Spouses' Club.

The amount of these grants is dependent upon the number of eligible families applying for the "Camperships."

These grants can help parents with the cost of summer camp or summer programs offered through Child and Youth Services (CYS).

Grants may be used on and off the installation for the camp of your choice.

Applications for the grants are available at ACS, Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue, until May 16.

Applications are to be returned to the ACS Center. Faxed or e-mailed applications will only be accepted under special circumstances.

Children must be enrolled in the EFMP program of the sponsor's branch of service to be eligible.

Anyone wanting more information can call Evelyn Dingle at 562-2767.

# Town Hall session offers updates

(continued from page 1)

-sea and damage to all body systems.

"A standard drink one 12-ounce beer, one 5-ounce glass of wine or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits," she added.

Horton also encouraged Soldiers and civilians alike to use the Blood Alcohol Concentration Wheels handed out at the meeting, to ensure that everyone has a firm understanding of how many drinks it takes to make a person legally drunk.

"In the first quarter of the year, we had six DUIs," she said. "So far in the second, we have had 16."

Horton added that people arrested for DUIs always say the same two things: "I thought I was OK," and "I was almost home."

A standard drink will increase most people's blood alcohol level by .02 percent. At .08 to 1 percent, a person is legally drunk in most states.

Horton encouraged the crowd to limit drinking, make sure to eat, alternate alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and choose drinks with mixers and low alcoholic content.

Horton was followed by Dennis Bush, director of plans, training, mobilization and security for the post, who briefed the crowd on the training load anticipated for this summer and its impact on the installation.

Bush told the audience that Dix has mobilized and demobilized more than 100,000 Soldiers since September 11.

"This isn't just the biggest mobilization site in the area," he said. "It's the biggest in the Army."

Although the forecast for training and mobilization load changes from week to week, Bush said the load should remain steady at about 2,000 mobilizing Soldiers and about the same number of troops here for weekend and annual training.

As has been the case during the past few years, the load will jump in the fall, he said.

Bush was followed by Michael Gorman, superintendent of schools for Pemberton Township School District.

Gorman discussed the Pemberton and Fort Dix alliance, noting that the schools have served the military for more than 90 years.

More than 20 percent of the students in Pemberton Township schools are military-affiliated, and the district maintains a liaison for military affairs to ensure the special needs of those families and children are met.

Gorman said points of pride for the district include a full-time pre-school for 3 and 4 year-olds; significant fiscal, curricular and technology resources from across the state; and the fact that Pemberton Township High School graduates attend Princeton, Harvard, Yale, West Point, Annapolis and the Air Force Academy, among other highly recognized colleges and universities.

Issues with the middle school were also outlined, including the fact that behavior improvements and continuing improvements in standardized test scores are being recorded each year.

Gorman was followed by Sarah Johnson, chief, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, who outlined the summer schedule for Fort Dix activities.

Top on the list is Margartaville Team Dix Day, set for June 13 at John Mann Park for Fort Dix Soldiers and civilian employees.

The annual celebration will start at 11 a.m. and run through the afternoon, and will include great food, games, music and give-aways.

Johnson briefed the crowd on other events, including ongoing Wii Tournaments every Wednesday and Thursday this June at 5 p.m. at Club Dix.

May is the Month of the Military Child, Johnson noted, and Outdoor Recreation and Arts and Crafts are offering discounts on a variety of activities and services.

The post will once again host a July 4 celebration, with featured artist Keyshia Cole and great fireworks on Doughboy Field, Johnson said.

Plans are in place for an



Wayne Cook

**EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED** -- During the Town Hall Meeting at Timmermann Center May 9, Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, presented the above individuals with Commander's Coins for outstanding performance of duty during the Anti-Terrorism Curt Gowdy Accountability Assessment earlier this year. Left to right, Air Force Master Sgt. Hugh Umpstead, Sgt. 1st Class Jim Pampinto, Tom Kardell, Jim Hill, Donna Smith, and Kevin Townsend.

The Fort Dix Army Community Service in Partnership with Operation RE/MAX presents A Seminar for Military Spouses, Active, Retired, and Veteran Service Personnel

**"BECOMING A REAL ESTATE AGENT"**  
June 3 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER BUILDING 5201  
MARYLAND AVENUE, FORT DIX

- WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?
- WHAT ARE THE COSTS?
- HOW MUCH TIME IS INVOLVED?
- WHAT IS A REFERRAL AGENT?
- MAY I WORK FROM HOME?

All of the above subjects will be covered, plus the Advantage of Becoming an Independent (Self-Employed) Agent.

A Question & Answer session will follow the presentation.

Please call: Rod Martell at 609-562-2186 to register.



Ed Mingin

**PARENT'S PRIDE** -- Fort Dix honored a fallen hero May 9, by dedicating the Browns Mills entry check point on Texas Avenue to the memory of Cpl. Michael Edwin Curtin. Curtin was killed March 29, 2003 in Iraq, when a car bomb exploded. Curtin's parents, Michael and Joan, reflect on their son's life and sacrifice. The plaque will be displayed at the Browns Mills entry point.

## Jersey hero honored at gate dedication

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Army, noting that our country and our Armed Forces have come a long way in recognizing Soldiers of modern conflicts. During his time in uniform, such recognition and praise were less apparent, he said.

Cpl. Curtin was the first born child in his family and his loss has left a great void.

"All of his brothers and sisters looked up to him and had a special relationship with him," said Joan Curtin, Cpl. Curtin's mother, of her family.

She also noted that the family traveled together to Europe, and often would make trips to various places of interest to spend time together.

The ultimate sacrifice merits an equal reward of heroism and to ensure that Cpl. Curtin's

memory will stand the test of time, his photo and bronze star medal are encased in a wonderful display which now hangs at the gate bearing his name.

Along with the rededication of the Browns Mill gate in his honor, shortly after his passing his high school planted a garden in his remembrance and a little league baseball field was dedicated to his memory.

Cpl. Curtin is a hero in not only his home town, but all of New Jersey.

Though the Curtins and those in his military family realize that the many honors and memorials dedicated to Cpl. Curtin will never bring him back, his example of selfless service and duty will provide many generations to come with a hero who will hopefully empower and inspire those who pass through his gate.

# Soldier sets record on weapons simulator

**Wayne Cook**  
Public Affairs Staff

A Soldier from the 340th Military Police Company, Fort Totten, N.Y. has set a new record on the weapons simulator at Fort Dix's Forward Operating Base in early April.

While performing pre-qualification training and weapons familiarization on the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000 at the training FOB, Pfc. Ashley Costa scored a near perfect 15 points on the Crew Gunnery Course, blowing away the previous record of 21. Firing one to three round bursts, Costa fired only 15 rounds to hit all five targets. The goal of the simulator is to hit a specified number of targets with the minimal number of rounds fired.

The Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000 provides initial and sustainment marksmanship training, static unit collective gunnery and tactical training, and shoot/don't shoot training. It supports the following three modes of training: marksmanship, squad/fire team collective and judgmental use of force.

The system models 11 small arms and is deployable with its own system shelter. All EST 2000 training scenarios are U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) validated.

"What Pfc. Costa accomplished is phenomenal. I've only seen one person do better. Master Sgt. Pershey, from our team. He's an instructor and gets to use the system all the time. Costa is way above the standard," said Staff Sgt. James Pitts, EST 2000 instructor, 1309th Training Battalion, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.

Just to ensure that her record was not a fluke, Costa proceeded to qualify expert on her weapon, the M240B, at the live-fire range.

The M240B is the standard infantry medium machine gun of the U.S. Army.

"I don't feel any different; I was just doing my job," she said.

"I concentrated on what the task was at hand. It does help to build my confidence as we prepare to deploy to Iraq," said Costa.

Had this 20-year-old Soldier from Berkley, Mass. said that she had hunted most of her

life with her father and brothers it might have been expected that she be able to handle a firearm proficiently.

This was not the case. Until she fired the EST 2000, the only other time she had handled a weapon was during basic training. In her civilian life, Costa is a nurse's aide at the local hospital in her home town.

"It makes me feel safe knowing that I have somebody who has got my six," he said.

"Pfc. Costa is the number one, most motivated, squared away Soldier in my squad. It helps having good troops like her in the squad. Knowing that she can fire so well, she definitely sets the standard," said Quinones.

Aside from being the best shot in the outfit, Costa has another interesting side story about her; her step-father is also a member of the company.

"He's Staff Sgt. Michael Collishaw of 3rd Platoon. He's proud that I set the record. It doesn't feel any different hav-



Wayne Cook

**EAGLE EYE** -- Pfc. Ashley Costa, 340th Military Police Company, Queens, New York, qualified expert with the M240B, medium machinegun, while training at Fort Dix. Costa set a new record on the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000, a weapons simulator, enroute to qualifying on the range.

With her in the unit and her treat on my platoon, not on leadership. I feel confident that uncanny skill as a gunner, the family matters," said Costa. "I will be successful in our mission," she said.

With her in the unit and her treat on my platoon, not on leadership. I feel confident that uncanny skill as a gunner, the family matters," said Costa. "I will be successful in our mission," she said.

**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



## Making the grade

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense School, Class 07-08, graduated May 16. Pictured above are Capt. Jeffrey G. Lapierre, Spc. David Ickes, Sgt. Eric Humble, Spc. Mark Hyson, Sgt. Justin Keith, Pvt. Amy Parker, Spc. Shaun Newman, Spc. Robert Donovan, Jennifer Farabee, and Sgt. Leif Olson, from Class 07-08.

Ryan Morton

Ad  
Moved

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

**JERSEY DEVIL CHAPTER**

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**GOLF CLASSIC SCRAMBLE**

MONDAY 14 JULY 2008

McGUIRE GOLF COURSE

8:00 AM SHOTGUN START

COST: \$70.00 EACH

INCLUDES:

GREEN FEES, CART,  
PRIZES, LUNCH and DRINKS

MONEY DUE BY JULY 7 2008



# Announcements

## Cinema Schedule

754-5139

McGuire Air Force Base

Friday, May 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Nim's Island** - *Abigail Breslin, Jodie Foster, Gerard Butler, Michael Carman, Mark Brady* - Anything can happen on Nim's Island, a magical place ruled by a young girl's imagination. It is an existence that mirrors that of her favorite literary character, Alex Rover - the world's greatest adventurer. But Alexandra, the author of the Rover books, leads a reclusive life in the big city. When Nim's father goes missing from their island, a twist of fate brings her together with Alexandra. Now they must draw courage from their fictional hero, Alex Rover, and find strength in one another to conquer Nim's Island.

**MPAA Rating** PG mild adventure action and brief language  
Run time: 94 minutes

Saturday, May 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

**21-** *Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth, Aaron Yoo, Liza Lapira* - Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is a shy, brilliant M.I.T. student who - needing to pay school tuition - finds the answers in the cards. He is recruited to join a group of the school's most gifted students that heads to Vegas every weekend armed with fake identities and the know-how to turn the odds at blackjack in their favor. With unorthodox math professor and stats genius Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey) leading the way, they've cracked the code. By counting cards and employing an intricate system of signals, the team can beat the casinos big time. Seduced by the money, the Vegas lifestyle, and by his smart and sexy teammate, Jill Taylor (Kate Bosworth), Ben begins to push the limits. Though counting cards isn't illegal, the stakes are high, and the challenge becomes not only keeping the numbers straight, but staying one step ahead of the casinos' menacing enforcer: Cole Williams (Laurence Fishburne).

**MPAA Rating** PG-13 some violence, and sexual content including partial nudity  
Run time: 118 minutes

## Future Features...

### Street Kings

Friday, May 23 @ 7:30 p.m.  
R, 108 minutes

### Prom Night

Saturday, May 24 @ 7:30 p.m.  
PG-13, 88 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.

Sunday School.....10 - 11:15 a.m.  
CCD.....9:15 - 10 a.m.

Chapel 5 - Bldg. 5950, Church Street  
General Protestant Service.....6:30 p.m.

NCO Academy Protestant Field Service -  
Bldg. 5417, Texas Avenue  
8:30 a.m.  
June 8, 15/July 13, 20/August 10,  
17/September 7, 14

### 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

Alpha Course  
Beginning March 26, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

### \*\*Special Notices\*\*

Sunday, May 18 - No Protestant Service at 9 a.m. Instead there will be a combined Protestant/Gospel Service at 11:30 a.m. to honor the Sunday School students and faculty. Following the service will be a Family and Friends picnic behind the chapel. All are invited to attend.

## Religious Services

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

Christian Women of the Chapel -  
Bible Study - Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

## Jewish services available by request

For additional services or Religious Support please call 562-2020

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

The Main Chapel staff is in need of piano and organ players during the Protestant and/or Catholic services on Sundays to fill in as needed. For information please call the chapel at 562-2020.

## MWR presents

CLUB DIX - 723-3272

### Club Dix New Hours of Operation Effective May 12

Java Cafe - M-F	0700-1330
Computer Lab - Mon & Tues	0700-1330
Wed - Fri	0700-2200
Saturday	1200-2200
Sunday	1000-1800

Lunch Served	Tues-Fri	1100-1330
	Sat - Mon	Closed

Bar Hours	Wed	1700-2200
	Thurs - Sat	1800-2300
	Sun - Tues	Closed

May 16 - Ladies' Bunco at Club Dix. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

May 22 - Thursday Night Bingo starts up again at 6:30 p.m.

June 20 - Texas Hold'em is back by popular demand at Club Dix. Watch for details!

John Mann Park is available for private parties, unit functions and more. Call 562-6667

## OUTDOOR RECREATION Bldg. 6045

50 percent off for all military families participating in the following trips:

May 17 - Horseback riding at D&D Stables

May 24 - mountain biking/hike at Sandy Hook Beach

May 31 - Canoe/Kayak on Rancocas Creek

For more information call 562-6667

## ARTS & CRAFTS Bldg. 6039

Arts & Crafts is hosting a "Tea Party" May 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Put on your finery and join us in the art gallery for a special program on tea etiquette. A 20 percent discount is offered on all tea related pottery pieces.

Discount of 20 percent on custom framing of personal military related photos, portraits, or certificates (non presentation items). Discount also applies to coin holders, shadow boxes, and flag cases throughout the month of May. Try out our new Sony Picture Station and get special pricing on a photo package.

Hearts for Heroes - Come in anytime and paint a small clay heart which will be given to a military member. During the month of May, all military that visit the Arts & Crafts Center will receive a Hearts for Heroes Package.

Quilts for Kids - Every second Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. we stitch for children in long term healthcare facilities, safe houses, and wounded warriors and their families. This month we will be focusing on "Red, White & Blue" quilts which will be donated to ACS to give to the children of deployed service members. All experience levels are welcome, even men and mid-teens!

For more information call 562-5691

\*\*Special Note\*\*

Due to Airspace restrictions required by the McGuire Air Force Base Air Show, range 14 and the Rod & Gun Club will be closed for recreational shooting May 31 thru June 1.

## ACS

562-2767

Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue

Monday, May 19

Playgroup 18 mo. to 3 yrs.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

McGuire CDC #2

Wednesday, May 21

Playgroup Birth - 18 mos.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

McGuire CDC #2

## AFAP/AFTB/AVC Advisory Council Meeting

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Bldg. 5201, ACS

## Financial Readiness: Budget for Success

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Bldg. 5201, ACS

Thursday, May 22

EFMP Kidz Plus

Swimming

6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Indoor Pool

## Using Credit Wisely & Dealing with Debt

10 to 11 a.m. & 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

WTU Dayroom, Bldg. 5642

## Youth Center

562-5061

Bldg. 1279 Locust Street

## Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday from 2 to 7 p.m.

Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m.

Sunday CLOSED

## Administrative Hours:

Tuesday - Friday from noon-6 p.m.

## Weekly Schedule

Friday, May 16

Power Hour Store

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 to 6 p.m.

Keystone Club Meeting

at Teen Center

6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 17

Youth and Teen Center Closed

## 4-H Club Food Judging

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Middle/Teen Field Trip to Six Flags

1:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Monday, May 19

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Career Explorers

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Sports & Fitness

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

## Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 22

Power Hour

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab

4 - 6 p.m.

Torch Club Meeting

3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

## Read The Post!

CREATE IN '08  
at the

Arts & Crafts  
Center

call 562-5691 for more information

## United Communities Housing Information

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

Fort Dix/McGuire Residential Re-  
sidence Collection Schedule

### MONDAY

McGuire AFB  
3800's & 3900's

### TUESDAY

All of Fort Dix

### THURSDAY

McGuire AFB  
4000'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

YARD AND FLOWER GARDEN WASTE IS PICKED UP EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 1100

at the Fort Dix 13th Chapel

In the parking lot off New Jersey Avenue

Please wear all the proper safety equipment. Helmet, long sleeve shirt, gloves, pants, over the saddle footwear and reflective gear. Licensed riders only please

POC: SFC Colan  
Fred.colan@afm.af.mil or 409-562-2020

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Church: FORT DIX CHAPEL  
Address: 5240 NEW JERSEY AVENUE  
City/State/Zip: FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640  
Contact Person: HILDE DREYER Phone #: 609-562-4853  
is sponsoring a Vacation Bible School program for the kids of THE FORT DIX COMMUNITY  
Being held: 23-27 JUNE 2008 (dates) from: 0900-1200 (community)  
Cosmic City™ is a fun and interactive learning experience for children ages 4 to 14. Kids will explore the awesome wonder of God as they visit Tour Stops throughout Cosmic City.  
For more information or to register for Cosmic City™ vacation Bible school call: 609-562-2020 (phone number)  
at: FORT DIX CHAPEL (church name and/or director's name and best time to call)

# Civil Affairs charges joint military operations training

Ryan Morton  
Public Affairs Staff

Joint military operations worldwide are rapidly becoming the norm, and training at Fort Dix frequently reflects the change.

This is the case for a group of Soldiers and Sailors currently training on post for an upcoming mission as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The main group is comprised of three separate Army reserve units: the 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, Headquarters Detachment out of Philadelphia, Pa.; the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion headquartered at Fort Dix, and the 353rd Civil Affairs Command from Staten Island, N.Y.

What's unique about this training is that these units have a group of active duty and reserve Sailors training with them who will work alongside their Army counterparts in Iraq. This group of approximately 150 Soldiers and Sailors has trained at the installation since mid-April and will ship out to Iraq next month to conduct various civil affairs missions.

The training, according to 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, Headquarters Detachment Commander, Col. Daniel Ammerman, has been going well despite the Sailors' unfamiliarity with Army training.

"It's been going pretty well. They don't have some of the Army experiences to draw on, but they bring plenty of other skills to the table and have really worked well with the Soldiers," said Ammerman.

What also helps is that many of the Soldiers and Sailors including Ammerman, who is going on his fourth civil affairs deployment mission, have been deployed before to the Middle East.



Photos by Ryan Morton

## ROAD TO OIF/OEF

**SHOOT AND MOVE** — Staff Sgt. Alvarado, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Dix, left, charges down the individual movement lane, while Sgt. Travis Rubright, left, and 1st Sgt. Patrick Gongora, 404th take on the wire challenge. Civil Affairs. Capt. John Manion, 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, Headquarters Detachment, Philadelphia.



"It should be somewhat better now because the Iraqi government appears to be more developed from the last time I was over there during OIF I," he said.

Staff Sgt. Eric McCoy, from the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, in Iraq in 2005-

2006 and performed a variety of civil affairs missions such as setting up and organizing Iraqi elections, performing census counts, and checking livestock for various diseases.

"What I hope to see when I go back this time is that the Iraqi people have made real

progress," said McCoy. Civil Affairs involves working with the local communities and governments to improve the infrastructure of the area such as rebuilding wells, schools, roads, medical facilities, and to aid in economic and political stabilization. In many

ways civil affairs serves as a liaison between local communities and governments to improve the infrastructure of the area such as rebuilding wells, schools, roads, medical facilities, and to aid in economic and political stabilization. In many

When these Soldiers and Sailors leave for Iraq next month, they will depart through a building which was dedicated to Staff Sgt. Bryan Freeman, a Soldier in the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, who was killed in Iraq.

# Military police take on civilians on battlefield tasks



Photos by Ryan Morton

**MEETING THE STANDARD** — Civilians on the battlefield, or role-play actors called COBs, top, protest outside a gate where the 40th Military Police Company California Army National Guard, performs base defense security training at Fort Dix. The military police Soldiers simulate evacuating a wounded casualty during the training. Pvt. Peter Lee, of the 40th, pulls security during the simulated protest, while Sgt. Manuel Mokay, also of the 40th directs protesters away from the gate opening to a safe area. The military police unit is from Los Alamitos, Ca., and is training at the installation preparing for an upcoming mission in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



# Ledden takes colors for BCTG

## Ceremony marks retirement for 10 senior officers

Carolee Nisbet  
Editor

On a quiet May afternoon on historic Sharp Field at Fort Dix, Soldiers and families of the 75th Division met for a traditional change of command ceremony and the opportunity to honor ten retiring Soldiers with a combined 286 years of service.

Col. John R. Ledden assumed command during the ceremony of the First Battle Command Training Group, 2nd Brigade, 75th Division, from Col. Adam J. Reich, who commanded the unit for 29 months.

As the ceremony began, Soldiers presented red roses to Susan Reich, symbolic of the unit's thanks for support during her husband's command, and yellow roses to Stephanie Ledden as a symbol of welcome.

Led by Brig. Gen. D. Christopher Leins, Reich and Ledden inspected the troops in formation in front of the Ultimate Weapon Statue, symbol of the American Soldier and Fort Dix.

The trio was then joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Darrin E. Wisner in the familiar passing of the colors symbolic of the transfer of command between the two leaders.

Maj. Joyce Montague, narrator, noted for the crowds that the Change of Command ceremony is rooted in military history. Organizations developed flags for their units beginning in the Eighteenth Century.

To this flag and its commander, the Soldiers of the unit would dedicate their loyalty and trust.

When a change of command was to take place, the flag was passed to the new commander in front of the unit so that all could see and witness their new leader assuming his rightful position. The one who held the flag also held the Soldier's allegiance.

Following the flag ceremony, Brig. Gen. Leins described

to the crowd the vital role Reich has played during his time in command.

"His has been the most important mission for the brigade during the past 18 months," Leins said of the command and staff training for mobilizing units that Reich developed and oversaw. "We thank him for his service and his willingness to sacrifice so much to make this training work."

Reich then took the podium, recalling that his time in command was "rewarding, challenging and at times, downright stressful."

"We trained hundreds of units, and many of our Soldiers volunteered to support the mission full-time," Reich said. "Everyone stepped up, and we have positive feedback from demobilizing units that makes it worthwhile."

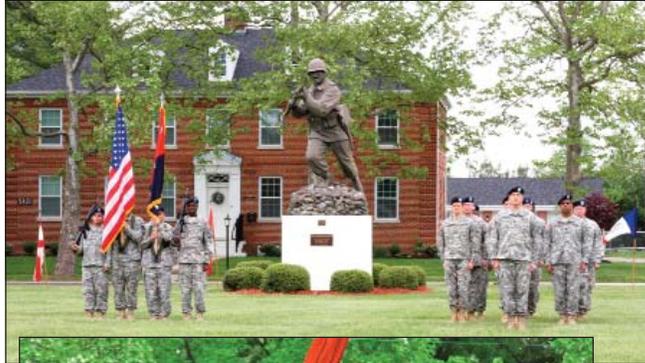
Ledden then took the opportunity to thank all of those who joined the ceremony, as well as all who helped him attain command of the unit.

Following the change of command, the retiring officers and their families paraded onto the field.

Each received an end of service award, a retiree Army lapel pin and a United States flag flown over the unit's headquarters. Spouses were presented with certificates of appreciation and lapel pins.

Those retiring were:

Col. Reich, a United States Military Academy graduate with more than 30 years of service; Col. Joseph B. Heuer III, with more than 30 years of service; Col. Thomas Jenkins, after 30 years of service; Col. Michael Schwed, with 26 years of service; Lt. Col. Frances Dohinson, with 31 years of service; Lt. Col. James Daly, with 27 years of service; Lt. Col. Michael Frey, with 30 years of service; Lt. Col. Michael A. Mercado, with 37 years of service; Lt. Col. Daniel Williams, with 30 years of service, and Lt. Col. Donald Collett, with 26 years of service.



**SYMBOL --** Col. John Ledden accepts the colors and command of the 1st Battle Command Training Group, 2nd Bde., 75th Division from Brig. Gen. D. Christopher Leins during a traditional ceremony May 10 on Sharp Field, above. Right, Leins is flanked by Ledden and Col. Adam Reich, outgoing commander, as the trio prepares to inspect the troops assembled in formation on the field. Photos by Pvt. 1st Class Lyndsey Dransfield and Sgt. Scott Wolfe.



**HONORS --** Lt. Col. James Daly and wife Maureen look at certificates and awards presented to them during the retirement ceremony on Sharp Field May 10, above left. Retiring Soldiers and their spouses gather on the field for the presentation of awards and flags that were flown over the unit's headquarters. Below, flags and other presentations are stacked at the edge of the field, awaiting presentation during the major ceremony.



# NEIGHBORHOOD

## THE CORNER

### Roads to be closed for Walk-a-thon

On May 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. the Fort Dix Elementary School will conduct the First Annual Walk-A-Thon/Health fair.

This event will result in the closing of the Pemberton Gate and Montpelier Ave from Juliustown Rd to Pennsylvania Ave.

The roads that will be affected for this event are as follows:

- New Jersey Ave at Montpelier
- W. 16th Street at Montpelier
- Doughboy Loop at Montpelier
- Pennsylvania Ave at Montpelier

Upon the completion of this event, normal traffic flow will resume.

### Spouses club to host tea

The Fort Dix Spouses' Club is hosting a High Tea **June 7** at the home of Chaplain and Mrs. Biederman, Quarters 1, Juliustown Road. Come enjoy the beautiful setting at one of Fort Dix's great farmhouses for tea, delicate sandwiches, and gourmet desserts served with fancy china tea cups and tea pots. Have a favorite tea cup and saucer or maybe a hat and gloves with a great story? Bring it along and share with everyone. Door prize awarded for the best story!

Members from Fort Dix and neighboring installations, as well as non-military members from outside communities are invited.

Cost for the event is \$20 per person with all net proceeds returned back into the community to benefit our Soldiers! There will be 3 seating options: 11 a.m., 1p.m., or 3p.m. Tickets can be purchased from any Spouses' Club Member, or at the Fort Dix Thrift Shop. For more information call the Thrift Shop at 723-2683, call Bonnie Reed at 499-3969 or email fort dixspousesclub@comcast.net.

## Comedians bring laughs to Dix

Sp. Douglas York  
Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield  
128th MPAD

There's an old cliché that states "Laughter is the best medicine." Arguably, and as a result of their duties, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines often need higher doses of laughter than others.

Fortunately, a few members of our Armed Forces found that cure via comedian Jamie Kennedy's comedy show, "Funny Biz - Spread the Laughter," held May 7, at Club Dix.

Kennedy, along with comedians Bill Dawes and Gina Brillion, entertained servicemembers with a wide array of stand-up comedy and witty humor. Judging by the crowd reaction and overall noise coming from the audience, the name of the show is well suited.

"It gets your mind off of everything going on," said Sp. Joshua Hausmar from the 38th Military Police Company, Indiana National Guard.

The show was sponsored by Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families. "There is no greater job than to serve those who serve our country," said Ernst F. Yeager, who has worked for Fort Dix FMWR since 1979.

Kennedy and Dawes are long time supporters of US troops both here and overseas. In June of 2007 they traveled to Kuwait and Baghdad where they performed for the United Service Organization sponsored "Jamie Kennedy Hip Hop Comedy Tour" for troops serving there.

"For me it was amazing, one of the most gratifying things I have ever done," said Kennedy. "You get off the plane and they (the troops) start hugging you and crying. They're like, 'Pamela Anderson didn't show up, but we have you!'"

While traveling to and from Iraq, the comedians shared their airplanes

with servicemembers from all over the U.S.

"There were all types of people, colors, creeds, shapes and sizes. It's interesting how they're all connected. It was an emotional thing," said Kennedy. "I learned a lot while I was there. I don't like to talk about politics but when I listen to other people talk, I wonder how many people have actually been there and had a chance to talk to the troops."

Fort Dix is a major training and mobilization center for the Army Reserves and National Guard. As is the case with all mobilization stations, most Soldiers here undergo long days of training while sacrificing time away from their family and loved ones.

As a result, a treat like the one the FMWR delivered on Wednesday is the best prescription the doctor could have ordered.

"People look at us as heroes, but we are just doing our jobs," said Sgt 1st Class Todd W. Strong, also from the 38th MPs. "We really appreciate these guys who are going out in harms way to make us laugh. They, along with our families and those who support us, are the real heroes," he added.

Kennedy, Dawes and Brillion's talents and efforts are not only appreciated and recognized by those in attendance at Club Dix, but are wide spread by anyone fortunate enough to hear them.

"One time after a show I had a guy come up to me and tell me, 'Thank you so much. This is the first time I have laughed since 9-11,'" Brillion said. "It made me feel like my job is so much more important. I absolutely love to make people laugh."

Laughing, wheezing, tears of joy and coughing up gut-busting giggles was exactly what those in attendance did thanks to these three comedians.

"Cause they are people and they like being entertained. I love doing shows for the troops because they appreciate it so much. The troops are so happy to see you," Brillion added



Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, 302nd MPAD

**FUNNY FOOD - Comedian Jamie Kennedy examines a Meal Ready to Eat following a post-show interview after the "Funny Biz" comedy tour held at Club Dix, May 7. Kennedy was the headline comedian for the tour and shared the stage with fellow comedians Bill Dawes and Gina Brillion.**

## Dixans give their hearts to returning Soldiers



Lisa Evans

**WITH LOVE - Sgt. Michael Connors, 33, of San Pedro, Ca., of the 320th MPAD, accepts a ceramic heart from Jan Corbo, director of the Arts & Crafts Center, above. The ceramic hearts, shown below, are painted by Arts and Crafts Center volunteers and given to Soldiers returning from deployment. Volunteers are always needed to paint hearts. Call Arts and Crafts at 562-5691 for more information.**



Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

"The hearts have been flying out of here lately," said Jan Corbo, director of the Arts & Crafts Center.

This past Monday, 30 Hearts for Heroes were given to returning Soldiers at the Joint Readiness Center (JRC) as the Soldiers plan to return to their home states. Members of the 302 MPAD and the 418 MP Detachment received their hearts in a small ceremony.

Jim Jansma, pottery instructor at the Arts & Crafts Center, said that a clay supplier donated 1000 pounds of clay for the project. Jansma teaches volunteers to roll out the clay, cut it like cookies and paint the hearts.

Volunteers, students, individuals, spouses, Girl Scouts, and Soldiers paint hearts which are packaged in

signature red bags with yellow ribbons.

Hundreds of Hearts for Heroes are included in care packages sent to Soldiers in theater and given out to Soldiers returning home.

Major Laura Rutizer of the Walsen Medical Support Element is a big supporter of the Arts & Crafts Center. Speaking with Soldiers on Monday, Rutizer told them the hearts were just a small way to tell the Soldiers what they mean to America.

"When I started at the Arts & Crafts center, I liked all these hearts and thought it would be nice if we could be sure the Soldiers got them," Rutizer said.

"They've done their heroic deed. What better time to thank them than when they come home. What better time to get their hearts to them and see their expressions," Rutizer said,

adding that she wanted to give hearts to every service member.

Staff Sgt. Jeri Regenold put the bags together for this unit. Regenold and Rutizer are both big fans of the Arts & Crafts Center and would like to see more people using the services the Center provides.

Rutizer encourages Fort Dix employees to use the Center and make hearts so that every Soldier coming through Fort Dix could receive one on return from the rigors of war so far from their families and homes.

Corbo and Jansma also want to encourage employees on Fort Dix to get out during their lunch hours and paint hearts. Jansma said painters can use acrylics or they can paint for the hearts to be fired and glazed. Whatever method the painter chooses, everyone is welcome.

For more information call 562-5691.

## Book 'bears' deployment info

Jacqueline M. Hames  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2008 - A new children's book, written by a former Soldier and single mother, helps to explain why mom deployed and how to cope with the emotions associated with her departure.

"My Mommy Wears Combat Boots," written by Sgt. 1st Class Sharon G. McBride, is geared to young children and toddlers to help explain why mom has to leave and how to manage feelings of anger, sadness and loneliness.

McBride was motivated to write the book just before her second deployment after her daughter was born. She scoured the internet and book stores looking for a children's book that would help explain the situation, she said, but could find none that seemed appropriate.

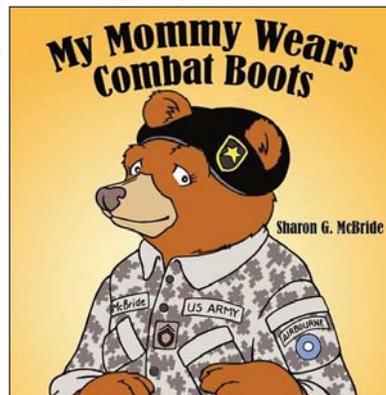
"What was available was geared toward daddies," McBride said. "And I thought that would confuse her more."

At a loss, McBride decided to write her own book. The original copy was written on the computer and illustrated by hand-drawn sketches, and then bound at the neighborhood Kinkos, she said.

The book helped to explain to McBride's daughter, Lyssa, why she had to deploy.

"Kids are egocentric," McBride said. "They don't understand duty and honor, they only want mom or dad back."

The main character of the book, a



Courtesy photo

**BOOTS AND BOOKS - "My Mommy Wears Combat Boots" by Sharon McBride, helps kids understand a parent's deployment.**

young girl bear-cub, has to deal with ways of dealing with those emotions with the help of a care-giver-in this case, Grandma.

In the book, McBride illustrates that proper forms of emotional expression, such as running outside or screaming into your pillow, are acceptable, but hitting grandma or shouting at the family pet is not.

"My Mommy Wears Combat Boots" explains that those emotions are normal, and it is OK to feel them, McBride said. The book presents

# Legal Office claims top award

Wayne Cook  
Public Affairs Staff

The Installation Legal Office Claims Section was recently recognized as a top-level performance office when it garnered the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Claims in excellence Award for fiscal year 2007.

Competing against more than 50 other legal claims offices throughout the Army, most of them on much larger installations, the Fort Dix office had to submit an application to enter the competition and then undergo a rigorous inspection and comparison process before being awarded the honor.

The legal claims office processes personal claims for damage and loss to household goods, tort claims for property damage or personal injury, and affirmative claims for property damage to government resources or personal injury on behalf of a military member.

The members of the award winning office include Edyta Czerniak, claims adjudicator, John Hollis, claims section supervisor, and Jack Nichols, claims attorney. Nichols is no longer at Fort Dix, as he has moved on in his civilian career.

"I'm very proud of the legal claims office personnel's accomplishment. They provide customer service to our claimants and the government at a level that exceeds the standards of just about every other legal office in the country. They work extremely hard to attain their high level of proficiency. Edyta, Jack, and John have put Fort Dix and the Installation Legal Office on the map once again," said Lt. Col. Scott Zippich, installation staff judge

advocate.

The convening authority, U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) Claims Service, looked at a few categories when determining the outcome of the competition.

Czerniak and her co-workers processed approximately 180 new claims cases in 2007, with 95 percent of those cases processed within the prescribed processing time limit.

The office's suspense rate was 27 percent above the standard for the Judge Advocate General Corps.

During 2007, the staff of the claims office handled many lawsuits against the government. One such notorious case, which they assisted in getting dismissed, was a \$38 million lawsuit involving a shooting incident that took place in 2001 and included many townships and individuals.

Another component of the competition involved a random inspection of all records conducted by Cathy Sharvat from the USARC Claims Service at Fort Meade, Md.

"Though the staff is grateful for the recognition they have received, they are not ready to settle for the standard they have set. "It feels great. When we applied, I had Jack working with me. I'm honored to be recognized with this award. I look and hope to win it again next year," said Czerniak.

"The award is well deserved. I'm confident we can continue at this level in the future as long as we have people like Edyta and Jack," Hollis said.

With a jurisdiction that encompasses most of eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, Hollis and crew will have ample opportunity to provide the same level and scope of service to all their customers in 2008.



Wayne Cook

**LEGAL EAGLES** -- Lt. Col. Scott Zippich, installation staff judge advocate, Edyta Czerniak, legal claims adjudicator, and John Hollis, legal claims supervisor, show off their newly garnered trophy - The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Claims in Excellence Award for fiscal year 2007. Missing from the picture is Jack Nichols who has moved on in his civilian endeavors since the competition had concluded.

# Landlubbers get wet to get fit in hydro-aerobics

Janet Nallinger  
Coordinator  
Water Fitness Programs  
Fort Dix Aquatics

What is hydro-aerobics?

It sounds technical but what it is, in fact, is great fun and an excellent physical fitness primer.

Hydro-aerobics is an aerobic training program of exercises done in the pool.

Water provides two characteristics not available on land. First, the body's buoyancy in water enables the individual who cannot exercise on land to exercise in water without fear of joint injury. This is a great advantage for those who want to exercise, but can't stand the stress on joints and muscles of regular aerobics.

Second, the resistance of water against body motions improves flexibility, strength, and muscle tone.

As with all aerobic exercise, hydro-aerobics is an excellent way to improve cardiovascular fitness.

Even if a person cannot swim, he or she can still participate. Water exercises featured in the program are designed for both swimmers and non-swimmers of any age.

In addition to all these benefits, the Fort Dix Indoor Pool has a jacuzzi to help put you completely at ease - before and after class.

Classes are held on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and on **Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Cost is \$3 per session or a hydro-card good for 12 sessions at \$30.

For more information, call Fort Dix Aquatics at 562-2808.



Steve Snyder



Steve Snyder



www.jupitertimages.com

**GETTING FIT** -- Master Water Fitness Instructor Janet Nallinger, left, takes her charges through the motions during a recent exercise session of hydro-aerobics at the Indoor Pool on Fort Dix. Hydro-aerobicsers in Nallinger's class, in middle, seem to enjoy themselves. On the right, an underwater view demonstrates how hydro-aerobicsers use small rubber floating devices and barbells to move with the flow and obtain maximum benefit from specific motions in the water.



pictopia.com



Steve Snyder

**WET 'N WILD** -- Hydro-aerobicsers at the Fort Dix Indoor Pool, immediate left, stretch before beginning their other exercises. On the far left, an underwater lens captures movement that pretty much resembles aerobics on land. An unsung benefit of the hydro-aerobics program on Fort Dix is that you can use exercises anytime in any water once you've mastered the basic moves with Janet Nallinger. But most people prefer to work out with friends as accompanying photos amply demonstrate.

# Yellow banner rotation continues at Infantry Park



Ryan Morton



The 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, out of Bell, Ca., recently returned from a deployment to Iraq and were given their yellow banner back on May 14, above. The Yellow Banner has stood in Victory Park during the last year while the unit was deployed. At left, Chief Warrant Officer Three Osmany Hernandez and Staff Sgt. David Cochran, 1st Postal Platoon of the 444th AG, accept their yellow banner at a ceremony held May 9, as they prepare for deployment.

(Photo by Sgt. Scott Wolfe)



Ryan Morton

Mobilized from Fort Bliss, Tx., the 418th Military Police Company, out of Orlando, FL, returned from their deployment to Iraq and received their congratulatory plaque on May 14 at Fort Dix.



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# Hydraulic lift aims to boost capabilities

**Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol**  
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary  
Center Public Affairs

Contingency response wings throughout the Air Force rely on their ability to move people and cargo quickly for fast deployment. An Air Mobility Battlelab initiative is looking to make that process even easier.

Battlelab members, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, have been looking at how to help units who need to download rolling stock and palletized cargo from cargo loaders to the ground, but who do not have a deployable asset capable of downloading it.

"CRWs currently rely on in-place ramps, which can cause extreme delays in aircraft throughput," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Jones, the AMB's project manager for the initiative.

"When ramps have not been available, non-standard techniques were used which could have resulted in mishaps. Our proposed solution is a hydraulic lift able to handle pallet trains and provide download-to-ground capability for rolling stock."

The new Deployable Hydraulic Lift Initiative will enable units to be able to download cargo quickly in a deployed environment.

The AMB personnel have modified an existing hydraulic lifting device to make it more deployment friendly.

The result is a stationary hydraulic-lift platform capable of accepting air cargo pallet trains with rolling stock from the 25,000-pound capable cargo loader down to ground level. The hydraulic lift itself has a 25,000-pound load capacity.

The AMB chose the 816th Global Mobility Squadron from the 621st Contingency Response Wing on McGuire Air Force Base to demonstrate the lift April 1. Also participating were subject matter experts from the Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School.

"We had four main objectives for the demonstration," Jones said. "We first wanted to see how the lift could move rolling stock from the loader to ground level. We also wanted to determine if rolling stock could be manually moved from a loader to the lift without the assistance of other material

handling equipment."

They also looked to determine if the deployable hydraulic lift could fit on to a single pallet for airlift and if two trained Airmen could assemble the deployable lift in one hour.

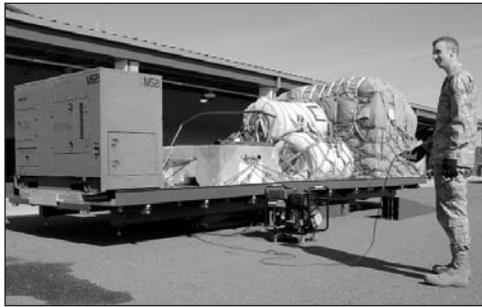
"On all the objectives, the criterion was met," Jones said.

"For example, on the assembly demonstration, the two Airmen put together the lift in 35 minutes, which was well before our 60-minute time limit."

Tech. Sgt. George Gonzalez, from the 816th GMS who led his squadron's participation in the demonstration, said the deployable lift will save contingency response Airmen time when loading and unloading planes.

"When we're deployed, we have to offload cargo from planes like the KC-10 Extender, and without a lift like this it takes a lot of time," Gonzalez said. "The lift is nice because we can assemble it quickly and pack it up to take with us rather easily as well. It really is a big timesaver."

The deployable hydraulic lift concept is now being recommended by the battlelab to Air Mobility Command for development of a fielding strategy,



Art Tollefson

**HEAVY DUTY** -- An Airman from the 816th Global Mobility Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base uses a push-button control to test the deployable hydraulic lift during a demonstration with the Air Mobility Battlelab. The AMB, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, coordinated the demonstration as part of the Deployable-Hydraulic Lift Initiative which aims to help contingency response Airmen have an easier time moving cargo in deployed locations.

Lathrop said.

"The deployable hydraulic lift performed at, or above, all requirements demanded of it and was well received by others," Jones said. "Our

requirements gathered from the participants showed the system being safer, quicker and easier to use than non-traditional means."

## Safety key issue for '101 Days of Summer'



Lisa Evans

**Lisa Evans**  
Public Affairs Staff

**OUNCE OF PREVENTION** -- Leo Falanga, Fort Dix safety officer reminds everyone to have a safe, enjoyable summer.

going to travel, plan ahead and start early so you don't have to rush. At the beach or taking an adventure trip, watch out for each other and stop someone from doing something that you think is unsafe. Remember if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck then it's probably a duck, so if it looks unsafe it probably is unsafe."

Leo Falanga's Memorial Day e-mail said,

Falanga, installation safety director, sends out a lot of e-mails that he hopes people will enjoy, not all doom and gloom, he said, because he is required to send safety information out to all employees at Fort Dix, per Department of the Army Pamphlet 385-10.

"The accident rate on the post is 0.057 percent, which is low compared to other installations."

"People at Fort Dix are doing an excellent job of keeping themselves safe," Falanga said. "If you have a well-trained, professional organization, safety takes care of itself. If you fail in the training you provide, you are going to have problems."

To reduce problems outside the worksite, there are many things to think about, but some of the most common for outdoor holiday recreation are food safety, water safety, traffic safety, and common sense.

Most people like to picnic or cook outside. A few things to think about are keeping that gas

grill in good shape.

Check it out thoroughly the first time it is used for the summer, and make sure all the burners are clear. Explosions occur when a hose is plugged with junk or hot grease lands on it. Burners that are clogged can blow up.

Charcoal makes a great out-

door cooking method, but never indoors. Charcoal produces carbon dioxide that sickens and kills hundreds of people each year, even in well-ventilated rooms.

Never use charcoal indoors and keep children well away from the grill or hibachi. Never throw a flammable liquid on hot coals.

Once the coals are lit, give them a half hour or so to ash over completely. Don't rush the heating process by adding charcoal lighter fluid.

A safety concern that is easy to forget while enjoying the great outdoors, and all summer activities, is food safety. Remember that preparation is the most important part of grilling meats or for a pre-cooked picnic at the beach or park, or even backyard.

There are four things to remember:

**CLEAN:** wash hands and surfaces often

**SEPARATE:** don't cross-contaminate

**COOK:** cook to proper temperatures

**CHILL:** refrigerate promptly

*"Let's be proactive and help keep each other alive so we can all return healthy and safe from the upcoming holiday."*

Leo Falanga

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Children need sunglasses also.

Sun damage to eyes is worse for people with pale color irises, but the sun will damage eyes of all colors by burning the back of the eye just like sunburn on the skin. So, put on those cool shades and a hat when outside for long periods of time.

A major safety concern all year round, but especially during the summer, is vehicle operation.

Whether driving a boat, car or truck, alcohol is the biggest cause of accidents. One beer can alter judgment.

Children have no say in what their parents do, or in what someone else is doing. The best way to keep a child safe for the holiday is to keep alcohol and driving/swimming far apart.

You can't stop the vehicle operator who drives drunk and runs into you, but you can stop yourself from being the drunk driver and maintaining the use of your defensive driving skills because you aren't impaired.

If you are planning to go boating, swimming or grilling this holiday, remember, if you are going to drink alcohol, drink responsibly and utilize a designated driver when necessary.

Safety is only effective if everyone practices it. Make this holiday the safest in history.

# MILITARY MATTERS

## General addresses IRR misconceptions

**Kristen Noel**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2008 - News reports suggesting that injured former soldiers are being called back to active duty and confusion over what the Individual Ready Reserve is have resulted in misconceptions, a senior Army personnel officer said May 9.

Many people seem unaware of the purpose of the Army Individual Ready Reserve and its obligations, Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command, said during a teleconference with online journalists and "bloggers" March 9.

"I see three main fallacies ... associated with IRR soldiers," Byrne said. First, many do not fully understand the delay or exemption program available to soldiers who receive mobilization orders, he said. Second, he said, people seem to believe any Soldier in possession of a DD14

form -- the official separation document -- is completely discharged with no further obligation.

Every individual who assumes active duty in the Army automatically incurs an eight-year mandatory service obligation and is made aware of that obligation, Byrne said.

But seemingly widespread unawareness of this obligation accounts for the third misconception, he said.

"Soldiers typically serve two to four years on active duty," he explained, "and when they leave active duty, they're transferred into the reserve components to fulfill the remainder of their obligation."

The IRR is one of several ways soldiers may fulfill their remaining years of service, Byrne said, with the other options including remaining on active duty, or serving in uniform with the National Guard or Reserve.

While the Guard and Reserve often require weekend training and periodic duty assignments, the IRR only obligates soldiers to meet mini-

**"Soldiers typically serve two to four years on active duty and when they leave active duty, they're transferred into the reserve components to fulfill the remainder of their obligation."**

Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne

mal annual requirements, such as keeping personal contact information current, attending masters, updating readiness screening questionnaires, and responding to official correspondence, Byrne said.

"The IRR is a group of trained, experienced military professionals who stand ready to augment Army units," he explained. "We mobilized and deployed Soldiers of the IRR for Operation Desert Storm, and since 9/11, we've been mobilizing and deploying them to support the global war on terror."

"Today, we have almost 72,000 soldiers in the IRR, with approximately 6,500 of them on active duty,"

he added. The Army expects IRR soldiers will serve in duty positions when called upon, Byrne said. But, he said there is a formal process for requesting a delay or exemption, if an injury, illness, or extenuating circumstance prevents the Soldier's return to active duty.

Byrne said the IRR's mobilization orders include a toll-free phone number for Soldiers to call to request a delay or exemption from returning to active duty.

"We tell them formally, as we give them mobilization orders, ... what they need to do if they need a delay [or] exemption," he said. About half of requests for delays or exemptions are approved, he added.

He explained that the requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and aren't subjected to any standard determining factors.

"We are really very careful as we review anybody's request for an exemption, a delay, any of those, to

make sure that we're doing the right thing for the individual and the institution," he said.

If a case has not been adjudicated before a Soldier's scheduled report date, Byrne explained, he or she will be granted an administrative delay from returning to active duty.

"Administrative delays are not unusual special favors," he said. "They're granted in accordance with standard operating procedures that exist to ensure a soldier's situation is carefully and completely considered."

The Army has "a pretty deliberate process" by which IRR soldiers who are called back can ask for a delay or an exemption should they feel they're not qualified to serve on active duty, Byrne said.

"One of the worst things that we can do is try to bring somebody on active duty who's got problems that are insurmountable," he added, "that are basically going to make it very hard or difficult for them to focus on their active-duty time."

## Guard answers call in storm-battered states



Arkansas National Guard

**HELPING HANDS -- Arkansas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Lucas Jennings discusses tornado response missions May 12 with other Citizen-Soldiers and local law enforcement representatives in a central Arkansas area affected by a May 10 tornado.**

**Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith**  
Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. (May 12, 2008) - National Guard members in four states were called out by their governors to assist civil authorities Monday after two 6.5-mile swath of damage tornados crossed the Southwest May 10 and flooding on the Delaware coast left communities in need of emergency assistance.

Since May 7, the National Weather Service has confirmed at least 42 tornados in the southern Plains and the southeastern and middle Atlantic regions of the nation with the strongest tornado recorded May 10 as an F-4.

It developed from a super cell storm that tracked through three states.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency reported that Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina were all affected by severe weather during the weekend with at least 22 confirmed deaths, many homes destroyed and thousands of people without power. The Guard is also responding to flooded areas in Delaware after heavy rains on Mother's Day.

In Oklahoma, Gov. Brad Henry called out the National Guard to assist emergency responders as five confirmed tornados touched down in the state. At least 25 Army Guard members are providing security support in the town of Picher after an F-4 tornado churned up a 6.5-mile swath of damage from Oklahoma to Missouri.

Soldiers are reportedly assisting local law enforcement in securing the area, which includes routes in and out of the town four miles south of the state's border with Kansas. An Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew is also flying aerial assessment missions for the governor.

In Arkansas, where at least two tornados touched down and tracked through the central part of the state Saturday evening, homes were destroyed in the town of Stuttgart. "We've deployed 50 Guardsmen from the Guard's 875th Engineer Battalion," said Maj. Keith Moore, a National Guard spokesman. Moore said the Soldiers traveled from their station in Jonesboro and are providing security support at traffic control points and conducting patrols to prevent looting. The Soldiers are working two shifts

during a round-the-clock operation and are expected to be on station through May 14.

The Army Guard is flying Gov. Michael Beebe and emergency management agency personnel on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter out of Camp Robinson to assess damage.

"This is one of the key roles of the Guard, being a dual mission force, that we are here to support our local communities, respond to the governor," said Moore.

After severe storms and tornados swept through southwest Missouri, nearly 20 Army Guard Soldiers deployed on state active duty to support Gov. Matt Blunt in his emergency response efforts for the towns of Newtonia and Grany. The Soldiers are assisting local law enforcement agencies with security. Eight Soldiers and two military vehicles deployed to each town.

In Delaware, tidal flooding and heavy rains led to Guard members deploying in six light medium tactical vehicles, known as LMTVs, and one 2.5-ton truck to assist in flood evacuations at South Bowers Beach, Kitts Hummock Beach, Woodland Beach and Slaughter Beach.

"The LMTVs can carry up to 15 people and have a high

ground clearance, which allows them to operate in up to four feet of water," said Lt. Col. Len Gratten, Delaware National Guard spokesman. Gratten said the state's Guard members are deployed from the 262nd Maintenance Company, the 261st Signal Brigade and the 72nd Troop Command.

The Delaware Guard is coordinating emergency assistance through the state's emergency management agency with its Joint Operations and Emergency Operations Centers. A shelter area is also set up in Kent County.

## Services meet or exceed goals

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2008 - All military services met or exceeded their recruiting goals for April, with the Marine Corps recruiting 142 percent of its goal, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

The Army reached 101 percent of its goal, and the Navy and Air Force met their goals.

In the re-enlistment arena, the Army, Navy and Marine Corps met or exceeded their active-duty retention objectives. "The Air Force still faces challenges, but they still seem able to meet their year-end strength goals," Whitman said.

All the reserve components also met or exceeded their recruiting goals, with the Air National Guard at 130 percent and the Army Reserve at 120 percent.

April "was another strong month for recruiting and retention," Whitman said.

The Army got 5,681 recruits, with a goal of 5,650. The Navy enlisted 2,905 new sailors, and the Air Force brought in 2,435 airmen -- both meeting their goals on the button.

The Marine Corps enlisted 2,233 recruits and had a goal of 1,577. One reporter on the Pentagon beat likened the Marine numbers as "recruiting on steroids." Whitman said it is an indication that the recruiting environment is strong.

"The Marine Corps, if they continue to achieve the kind of success they have had, could meet their growth figures more than a year early," he said.

On the reserve-component side, the Army National Guard brought in 6,201 soldiers on a goal of 5,538 for 112 percent. The Army Reserve enlisted 3,520 soldiers on a goal of 2,937 for 120 percent.

The Navy Reserve hit its enlistment goal of 831, and the Marine Corps hit its mark of 459.

The Air National Guard enlisted 875 airmen and had a goal of 672 for 130 percent, and the Air Force Reserve went one over its goal of enlisting 680 airmen.

While a slower U.S. economy may account for some of the success, it only tells part of the story, a DoD personnel and readiness official said. "We had recruiting success when the economy was going at virtually full throttle," the official said, though he acknowledged that, when unemployment rates go up, the interest in enlisting also rises.

Still, the greatest single reason for the improvement in recruiting is the availability of recruiters, the official said. "The principal thing is the growth in recruiters and the increase in benefits -- money, education, mortgages and so on," the official said.

The Army and Marine Corps have increased the number of recruiters on the street. The services also have increased enlistment bonuses and the money spent on advertising.

"Overall, the services have doubled the amount of money spent per recruit," the official said. "When you turn up the volume on a resource, people listen."

## Hiring Heroes hosted at Dix

The Department of Defense (DoD) Civilian Personnel Management Service and Fort Dix's Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) will host the Hiring Heroes/Wounded Warriors Technical Workshops and Career Fair May 19 - 20, at Timmermann Center.

Beginning 8 a.m. May 19, the WTU will be facilitating preliminary workshops for career fair participants.

Subjects to be covered are Veterans Benefits, Interview Tips, Dress for Success, Success Strategies for Federal Employment, Social Security disability Benefits and a Resume Workshop.

May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Hiring Heroes Career Fair will provide an opportunity for injured service members, their families and caregivers to meet with over 55 DoD, federal and corporate employers to obtain information about career and employment opportunities.

In 2007, more than 300 participants attended the event.

Over 200 service members were offered jobs within DoD, federal and private sector corporations through Hiring Hero events.

For further information, phone Jeannine Wiley at 703-696-6239 or Sgt. Maj. Clark at 609-562-4797 or 609-562-5583.

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# Mental health important topic for Army

**Jerry Harben**  
U.S. Army Medical Command

The Army is joining in promoting mental health during May, which is celebrated as Mental Health Month under the sponsorship of Mental Health America, formerly known as the National Mental Health Association.

The theme for 2008 is "Get Connected," emphasizing the valuable support people gain by connections with family, friends, community and mental health professionals.

"Years of research have shown that individuals who feel valued and cared for are better equipped to deal with stress and adversity, and even experience less severe illnesses than those with little social support," said David Shern, president and CEO of Mental Health America.

"The importance of Mental Health Month is to raise public awareness of mental health being a significant medical issue in this country," said Col. C. J. Diebold. "It should be used as a springboard to raise continuous awareness. Mental illness is a medical disease for which effective treatments are available."

Diebold is chief of psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, and has been designated as the Army Surgeon General's expert consultant for psychiatry.

Last year Army leaders took

the unusual step of ordering a chain teaching program throughout the Army. Some 900,000 Soldiers of all ranks were taught how to recognize and respond to symptoms of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Of special importance was command emphasis to counter a perception that Soldiers who seek mental health services are weak or malingerers.

"We're all worried about it. We've got to get rid of the stigma and that's what this education program is supposed to do," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody said at a press conference announcing the chain teaching program.

All leaders have been encouraged to get out the message that getting help early is the best way to avoid long-term problems.

"We can safely say mental health is an issue of great importance, and this is recognized at all levels of command in the Army," said Diebold. "It is an issue directly related to our operational tempo. The Army has addressed this in multiple ways. Mental health resources have been increased at all installations, in addition to resources such as Military One Source.

Mental health support is provided throughout the deployment cycle. Soldiers are screened and provided care as needed before, during and after deployment. Families are taken care of, too."

The Army Surgeon General demonstrated the importance of mental health support by establishing the Proponency Office for Behavioral Health, a cell of experts to coordinate programs and resources.

"We seek to bring together all the diverse behavioral health policies and programs along with manpower resources. We are at the forefront of behavioral health practices today and far into the future," said Col. Elspeth C. Ritchie, the office's director.

Soldiers and families can get professional help through installation mental health clinics, and through primary care clinics using the new RESPECT-MIL program.

Combat-stress control teams are deployed to bring front-line assistance to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chaplains, social workers and installation drug abuse or family violence programs also can help deal with aspects of mental health issues.

All deploying Soldiers receive "Battlemind" training to help them prepare for the stresses they face in combat, and another round of training to help them adjust to returning home. There is Battlemind training for families, too, to help them deal with the special stress of having a spouse or parent deployed.

Military One Source is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone hot line to connect military service members with a variety of sup-

port services. By calling 1-800-342-9647, Soldiers or family members can arrange civilian mental health counseling without charge.

A wealth of information for Soldiers and families is available on the World Wide Web at [www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil).

Concern for Soldiers who need mental health support does not stop even after they leave the service.

"The Department of Defense is working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure Soldiers making the transition to civilians continue to get high quality mental health care," Diebold said.



	<b>Reveille</b> 6 a.m. (0600 hours)	<b>Retreat</b> 5 p.m. (1700 hours)
<b>Military personnel in uniform</b>	Stand at attention, face the flag and salute at first note.	Stand at attention, face the flag for <i>Retreat</i> , then salute at first note of <i>To the Colors</i> .
<b>Military personnel not in uniform, civilians</b>	Stand at attention, face the flag and place right hand over heart at first note.	Stand at attention, face the flag for <i>Retreat</i> , then place right hand over heart at first note of <i>To the Colors</i> .
<b>Military personnel in formation or in a group</b>	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 <i>Retreat</i> . Calls group to "Attention" and "Present, Arms" at first note of <i>To the Colors</i> , then "Order, Arms" at conclusion.
<b>Individual military personnel, civilians in a vehicle</b>	Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.	Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.
<b>Group of military personnel in a vehicle</b>	Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.	Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.
	<b>Other bugle calls heard on post are:</b>	
	Tattoo.....9 p.m. (2100 hours)	
	Call to Quarters.....9:30 p.m. (2130 hours)	
	Taps.....10 p.m. (2200 hours)	

## THE ALPHA COURSE

*What is the meaning of life? What happens when we die? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives? How do we deal with guilt?*

If you find yourself asking these questions, sign up for the Alpha Course at the Main Chapel from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 26 through June 4. There are no attendance fees, and dinner and nursery care will be provided.

For more information, call Thuan Domski at 893-7627 or Chap. Raub at 562-2349/2020, or visit [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org).

# SPORTS

## Cadets raise bar during competition

The competition heated up during the 17th Annual Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Joint Military Service Commanders' Cup Competition May 8 at Fort Dix.

Hosted by Pemberton High School, JROTC cadets came in from other high schools in places such as Medford, Camden, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Pa., and Long Island, N.Y., and competed in five different physical fitness events to qualify for the cup.

"The primary purpose of this competition is to promote esprit de corps, unity and teambuilding," said 1st Sgt. Cedric Gaskin, Pemberton High School JROTC instructor.

This competition also gives the cadets the opportunity to earn the National Fitness Award and prestigious Presidential Physical Fitness Award.

The top three finishers were Long Island City, N.Y., Philadelphia Military Academy, Pa., and N.J. Challenge Youth Program at Dix.



**RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE** -- Cadets participate in the 17th Annual Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Joint Military Service Commanders' Cup Competition May 8 at Fort Dix. Amauri Gomez of New Brunswick High School, above, goes for one more repetition on the pull-up event. Females performed the flex-arm hang in lieu of pull-ups. Sara Ham of Winslow High School, far left, concentrates during curl-ups. The one-mile run tested the endurance of both females, bottom left, and males. Wil Donaldson of the New Jersey National Guard's Challenge Youth Program, left and below, pushes himself to the limit during the shuttle run. Top finishers were Long Island City, the Philadelphia Military Academy, and the Challenge Youth Program.

photos by Ryan Morton



## Sports Shorts

**Griffith Field House**  
Saturday & Sunday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Boxing at Griffith**

Former Heavyweight Boxing Champion Smokin' Joe Frazier will be at the Griffith Field House July 18, when the Marine Corps Boxing Team fights against the Muhammad Ali Boxing Club.

The event begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 562-4888.

The Griffith Field House is also seeking Military boxers with little or no experience to participate.

Any military boxers wishing to compete can call Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turner at (609) 562-4271 or (609) 562-3801. Interested parties can also contact Floyd Winter at (609) 562-3330.

**Army Ten Miler**

Runners will have a chance to represent Fort Dix in the Army Ten Miler. The event, scheduled for Oct. 5 in Washington D.C. is America's largest 10-mile race, and one of the biggest in the world.

More than 26,000 runners are expected to compete in this year's race.

A qualifying run will be held June 7 to pick Team Dix. Race start is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Griffith Field House. Runners should arrive early and be ready at the start line.

The six-mile course will challenge this year's hopefuls as it winds through Fort Dix. The qualifier is open to all Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard Soldiers, with the top runners representing Fort Dix in D.C.

Civilians, contractors, spouses, dependents, etc. will not be able to compete for a spot on Team Dix, but have been encouraged to run in the qualifier in past years.

For more information, call Chris O'Donnell at 562-4888.

**Softball sign-up**

Intramural Softball sign-ups are going on now. The 2008 regular season will start following the Independence Day Preseason Tournament. You must be at least 18 years old and work on Fort Dix to participate. For more information, visit Griffith Field House at Bldg. 6053, call 562-4888/3961, or visit [www.dixmwr.com](http://www.dixmwr.com).

**Military Long Drive Championship**

Fort Dix is scheduled to host a first-round competition in the Military Long Drive Championship Aug. 16, starting at 4 p.m.

Local winners will advance to four second-round qualifying venues where they will compete for spots in the Military Long Drive Championship at Mesquite. The competition is open to all active-duty service members, Reservists, National Guardsmen, retirees and family members 18 and older from all branches of the military.

For more information, call Fountain Green Golf Course at (609)562-2166.

**Club to host Bunco tournament**

A Bunco tournament will be held at Club Dix June 27 at 6:30 p.m. Grand prize is a \$4,000 SpaFinder gift card. Call 562-6772/2727 now to reserve a seat. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

All players will be entered into a national grand-prize drawing, and there will be a special drawing held for advanced reservations.



courtesy photo

**Guilty of racquet-eering**

Roy Elm is the winner of the Joint Forces racquetball tournament held at the McGuire Fitness Center May 3.