



Ryan Morton

MORE THAN DINNER – Soldiers from Fort Dix start their Thanksgiving celebration with a raucous welcome by residents, volunteers and cycle club members of Post 126 of the Jewish War Veterans of Cherry Hill. For more photos in Cherry Hill Nov. 27. The Soldiers were treated to a traditional dinner of Thanksgiving celebrations, see pages four and 12.

Dix Soldiers celebrate unique holiday

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

More than 1,000 Fort Dix Soldiers had a special Thanksgiving to remember this year. Mobilizing and Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers from the 178th and 267th Military Police Companies took time out from their busy training schedules to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Fort Dix Honorary Commander Eric Spevak and Post 126 of the Jewish War Veterans of Cherry Hill. Buses pulled up to the America's Best Value Inn on route 70, in Cherry Hill Thanksgiving morning, and 270 Soldiers were greeted to a heroes' welcome by more than 100 volunteers, well-wishers, and motorcycle clubs, including the Yellow Ribbon Club, Warriors Watch, Chrome Riders, Riders of the Lamb, Nam Knights, American Legion Riders, and Last Patrol Inc.

Also on hand to greet the troops and show their appreciation was Vince Papale, former Philadelphia Eagle and the inspiration for the movie "Invincible." Gary Cobb, former Eagle and current radio and TV personality, Jill Horner, Comcast CNS news correspondent and Miss New Jersey 2000, and Ashley Fairfield, Miss New Jersey 2008.

The 178th MP Co. is part of the Georgia National Guard, out of Monroe, Ga., and the 267th MP Co. is part of the Tennessee National Guard, out of Dixon, Tenn.

"The idea for them is to feel like they're back home and to help take their mind off the fact that they're not home with their families," said founding sponsor and Fort Dix Honorary Commander Eric Spevak of the law firm Aldinolf and Spevak in Haddonfield, who is running the event for the fifth straight year.

"By the looks on their faces, it looks like we're accomplishing that," he said.

Support for the event was so overwhelming that Spevak actually had to turn down volunteers who offered assistance.

For a little while these Soldiers, who are currently training on Fort

"The idea for them is to feel like they're back home and to help take their mind off the fact that they're not home with their families."

– Honorary Commander Eric Spevak

Dix for an upcoming deployment to Iraq to train Iraqi Police forces, were able to unwind, relax, and enjoy a meal of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

"We were all just taken aback by this and quite overwhelmed," said Staff Sgt. Matt Rice, 178th Military

Police. "We really appreciated it all."

They also took part in a sports trivia game with the chance to win prizes such as t-shirts, jerseys, and DVDs.

"Without a doubt, this is an excellent program and we're so happy to be able to entertain these troops who are away from their families. We wish them nothing but the best and a quick and safe return to their loved ones," said Arthur Seltzer, Jewish War Veterans of Cherry Hill, Post 126.

Back on Fort Dix, more than 700 Soldiers flooded Dining Facility 5640 for a Thanksgiving Feast with a twist. Behind the serving lines, wearing tall chef's hats and brandishing ladles and serving spoons, the command group and guests dished holiday wishes and hefty holiday meals. Among those serving were Maj. Gen. John Bednarek, commander, First Army East; Col. Timothy Williams, com-

mander, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade; Col. Ronald Thaxton, Fort Dix commander; Col. Larry Boyd, deputy commander for mobilization, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis.

"It wasn't quite home, but it sure was good," said Spe. Bradley Ward, 267th Military Police, looking up from his empty dinner plate and eyeing a chunk of pumpkin pie. "I was very impressed."

Amidst the festivities, there were reminders that we are a nation at war. Along the front wall of the facility, a table draped in black with a setting for one sat under the photo of Staff Sgt. Robert Hernandez, a hero of the Iraq War for whom the facility is named. The plate held a slice of lemon, for the bitterness of the loss of a Soldier, and a pinch of salt representing the tears of friends and family.

(For additional coverage of Thanksgiving activities on Fort Dix, see pages four and 12.)

WEATHER

FRIDAY – Clear skies giving way to afternoon clouds, high of 42 and overnight low of 22 degrees.

SATURDAY -- Mostly cloudy, slight chance of flurries, high of 39 and low of 25 degrees.

SUNDAY -- Flurries mixed with rain, daytime high of 39 degrees and overnight low of 20.

MONDAY -- Clear and sunny, continued cold with high of 41 and overnight low of 23 degrees.

TUESDAY -- Sprinkles or snow flurries, high of 42 degrees and overnight low of 35.

WEDNESDAY -- Rainy and breezy, daytime high of 45 and low of 36 degrees.

THURSDAY -- Showers in morning, clear in afternoon, warmer with high of 59 and overnight low of 36 degrees.

LaBelle, friends rock Timmermann



Ryan Morton

BELTING THEM OUT – Patti LaBelle sings to the crowd at Fort Dix's Timmermann Center, Dec. 2. LaBelle hit the stage serenading the audience belting out hits such as "Lady Marmalade" and "New Attitude." Preceding her was her opening act, singer Kevin Michael who electrified the crowd and got everyone ready for LaBelle. LaBelle expressed her gratitude and thanks to the Fort Dix community.

HONORING AMERICA – The singing group Tru warmed up the crowd and kicked off the festivities at the Timmermann Center with their rendition of the national anthem to start the show while Staff Sgt. Jason Knight accompanies on harmonica. Knight performed at Apollo night, which was held at Club Dix, Nov. 21. The judges were so impressed with his playing that night, he was invited to play the anthem for the LaBelle show.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Randy Niedt 1961-2008

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Randy Niedt of North Hanover, died Tuesday, Nov. 25 at home.

He was 47 years old. Born in Trenton, Niedt graduated from Ewing High School before joining the Army National Guard shortly thereafter, in 1979.

CW5 Niedt held the position of Command Chief Warrant Officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard, holding the rank of CW5 with over 28 years in the military.

The versatile citizen-soldier also held down many other positions in the NJNG hierarchy including rotary-wing aviator, Safety and Occupational Health manager, Administrative Specialist for the Recruiting and Retention Command, Active Guard and Reserve Human Resource manager and State Family Programs director.

Niedt was also an active member of the National Guard Association of New Jersey, served as past master and secretary of the Mt. Moriah Lodge #28 F&A.M., belonged to the Ancient



courtesy photo from "Gurard Life," the Magazine of the New Jersey National Guard
SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITY -- Chief Warrant Officer Randy Niedt, left, accepts the Linage Box from retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Langer, right, while Chief Warrant Officer Albert G. Curving, center, stands at attention during the Command Chief Warrant Officer Change of Authority executed by the New Jersey Army National Guard at Fort Dix on Feb. 10, 2006.

Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Central Jersey, and was a member of the South Jersey Ghost Research.

He is survived by his wife, Col. Roberta Niedt, currently serving as the Command



file photo
FAMILY MAN -- Keri, Jamie, Roberta and Randy Niedt check out the decoration on their car prior to leaving for Keri's statewide cheerleading competition held at Rowan State College circa 2001. The Niedts were described as "The Great American Family" in an article appearing in the Post in 2001.

Military and Veterans Affairs. The Niedts have two daughters, Keri Lynn and Jamie Leigh.

Other surviving members of the family include his parents Richard and Betty Niedt; two brothers, Richard and his wife Susan Niedt and Robert and his wife Lynn Niedt; his mother-in-law, Pauline Andrechick; brothers-in-law, David and his wife Terri Andrechick, Mark and his wife Kathleen Andrechick; and Daniel and his wife Kathleen Andrechick; sister-in-law Jody Torres and her husband Bill as well as seven nieces and five nephews. He was predeceased by his father-in-law, Robert Andrechick.



Randy Niedt

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the Fort Dix Chapel (Main Post) on 5240 New Jersey Avenue. Interment followed the service at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery.

Memorial contributions will be accepted, made out to the Readiness Council, P.O. Box 5692, Trenton, NJ 08638-0692. Team Dix salutes CW5 Randy Niedt; family man, citizen, Soldier and patriot of the first order.

Latest Bond movie lacks luster, loses 'larger than life' leitmotif



Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Roger Moore made some good James Bond pictures (*Live and Let Die*, 1973; *The Spy Who Loved Me*, 1977; *For Your Eyes Only*, 1981; and *Octopussy*, 1983) and some lousy ones (*The Man With the Golden Gun*, 1974; *Moonraker*, 1979; and *A View to a Kill*, 1985). Moore portrayed 007 as a fop, a dandy who acted too cute by half to ever reach the irony he was obviously straining for.

Timothy Dalton, conversely, played Ian Fleming's secret agent (*The Living Daylights*, 1987; and *Licence to Kill*, 1989) like a man suffering from chronic hemorrhoids. It's hard to deliver witty bon mots when you refuse to smile, and Dalton failed on both counts.

Pierce Brosnan proved to be a big improvement over Dalton, even turning in one Bond classic (*Tomorrow Never Dies*, 1997) while gamely slugging it out in three more pedestrian efforts (*Goldeneye*, 1995; *The World Is Not Enough*, 1999; and *Die Another Day*, 2002). Brosnan always struck one as a bit fragile to tangle with some of the things he went up against, though.

Of course, the man who first played Bond on the screen was Sean Connery. And he was sui generis, i.e., in a class all by himself.

Fans recall his vicious fight dispatching Red Grant aboard the Orient Express in *From Russia With Love* (1963); his wild ride in the Aston Martin being chased by *Goldfinger's* goons; Bond demolishing half of the crew in fistfights as the *Disco Volante* careened between reefs in *Thunderball* (1965); making the Orient safe for the dry martini in *You Only Live Twice* (1967) and in helping put sin back into Las Vegas in *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971).

And now Daniel Craig follows up a top notch performance in *Casino Royale* (2006) with another stellar job searching for a *Quantum of Solace*, released just prior to Thanksgiving. Craig plays it straight and hard as Bond goes after greedy corporate types responsible for killing his girlfriend in *Casino Royale*. The film is short (105 minutes) and action-packed. But something is missing. The license to thrill is gone.

As Newsweek's critic David Ansen points out, "rather than make us feel that he's given Bond 21st-century relevance, Forster (Marc, the director) has made a movie that feels like a watered-down version of other, more an ourant action movies (like the Bourne films)".



publicity poster
ENCORE AS BOND -- Daniel Craig is a workmanlike James Bond in his second outing as 007 in "Quantum of Solace," the 22nd film in the series produced by EON Productions. The film, though, shows signs of fatigue despite non-stop action which sets a brisk pace. Solace seems to have lost that larger than life quality which distinguished Ian Fleming's creation from hordes of imitators.

Director of the JASG-C in Baghdad as a member of NJNG's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In her civilian guise, Roberta Niedt serves as Public Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of



movie review

http://www.jamd.com

TOE TO TOE -- Sean Connery's James Bond takes on Goldfinger's henchman Oddjob in 1964's "Goldfinger" about the nefarious genius who tries to nuke Fort Knox in order to increase the value of his gold supply. It's a cliché but Connery remains the definitive Bond through his work in "From Russia With Love" in 1963, "Goldfinger," 1965's "Thunderball," and "You Only Live Twice" in 1967. Nobody did it better.



specialartgalleryvechits, suite101.com

BOND'S CREATOR -- Beginning in 1953, English author, journalist and wartime Navy commander, Ian Fleming, wrote 12 novels and nine short stories tracing the adventures of James Bond, his character named after a West Indian ornithologist (bird watcher). The books took off after President Kennedy said they were his favorite fiction. In 1961 Fleming sold film rights to Harry Saltzman who joined with Albert "Cubby" Broccoli to produce the most lucrative film series of all time.

Some recommendations for the next Bond flick:
● Craig needs to loosen up and watch the Connery classics several dozen times.
● Olga Kurylenko, the pouty Ukrainian female lead, should have left both her pout and accent back in the Ukraine. She's the best they could do? Now Gemma Arterton as



http://vroomvroom.wordpress.com

VERSATILE VEHICLE -- The Bond movies have all always been enthusiastic consumers of high technology, from the Aston Martin DB5 in "Goldfinger" with its passenger ejection seat to the Lotus Espirit S1, above. Pursued by a helicopter in 1977's "The Spy Who Loved Me," Roger Moore's Bond drives the Lotus off a pier whereby it converts into a submarine which promptly shoots down the trailing chopper with a surface-to-air missile. Two complete cars and two bodysells were used to film car's mythic properties on screen and someday, who knows, a convertible model may even be franchised. But by then it would be too dated to appear in a Bond flick.

Strawberry Fields was another excellent springboard for tor-ture. Luscious-looking and capable of wit.
● If they're interested in plumbing the depths of 007's psyche, the producers need to slow down the action and take a look at what Michael Caine accomplished in *The Ipcress File* (1965).
● Less can be more, even in a James Bond picture.

Remains of Sailor missing in WWII come home at last

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced Dec. 1 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing since World War II, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Ensign Robert G. Tills, U.S. Navy, of Manitowoc, Wis. He will be buried on March 23, 2009, in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Navy's Mortuary Office met with Tills' next of kin to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

On Dec. 8, 1941, two PB4Y-1 Catalina Flying Boats moored in Malalag Bay in eastern Mindanao, Philippine Commonwealth, were strafed and sunk by Japanese aircraft. All of the crew on board the PB4Y's escaped the aircraft with the exception of Tills, who was seen by another crewman to have been hit and killed by machine gun bullets. Tills was the first Navy officer to be lost in defense of the Philippine Islands. His body was not recovered.

In October 2007, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) was notified by the U.S. authorities in the Philippines that aircraft wreckage had been discovered in



Wikipedia
A PB4Y Catalina Flying Boat rides at sea anchor.

Malalag Bay. A fragment of the wreckage bore the markings "PB4-1."

In November 2007, a JPAC team, along with the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group-Philippines and the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG), surveyed the site and recovered human remains and non-biological evidence. Later that month, the PCG recovered additional remains from the site.

Among other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC also used dental comparisons in the identification of Tills' remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

the Post

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Master Sgt. Floyd Gladman

IN TRAINING IN TRANSIT — Soldiers of the 2-312th Training Support Battalion get a first-hand look at the technicalities of transporting "detainees" during a first of its kind role-playing training session in a C-130 at McGuire Air Force Base Nov. 20.

Dix trainers launch unique detainee transport operation

Sgt. Nichole Dykstra
72nd FA Public Affairs

In the first training operation of its kind for the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, Soldiers of the 2-312th Training Support Battalion conducted a mock detainee transport operation via aircraft, Nov. 20.

The seven "detainees" were transported in a C-130 from Coropolis, Pa., to McGuire Air Force Base.

They called it "Operation Con Air," as a playful nod to the 1997 movie starring Nicholas Cage.

"It was a creative way to relate theatre detainee transport into training here in the states," said 1st Lt. Thomas L. Kapolka, 2-312th, who oversaw the operation.

"We wanted to familiarize our Soldiers with the detainee transport procedure, and to reinforce how important the mobilization training mission is. The Soldiers we train will

soon be doing this for real, so it's important for our trainers to have a good grasp of the procedures."

It was also important to give the trainers an idea of what the transport procedure is like from the point of view of the

The prison garb, Arabic name tags and shiny silver shackles were as authentic as Soldiers could make them, but at the end of the training session these "detainees" from the 2-312th Training Support Battalion walked free after a first-hand look at how prisoners are transported by plane.

detainee in order to train how we operate in theater, said Kapolka.

The Soldiers acting as detainees wore orange jumpsuits and a bracelet with their simulated Internec Serial Number (ISN) and Arabic name, said Spc. Darryl Jackson, who commanded an element of 2-312th chosen to role play as a detainee during Oper-

ation Con Air. The jumpsuits and ISNs were authentic garb that Soldiers should expect to see on actual detainees in Theater Internment Facilities (TIF), he said.

"We were wearing restraints the whole time," said

ensured that the "detainees" in their care were securely restrained.

"Soldiers assigned to a TIF need to know how to communicate with the detainees and at all times must be treating them with dignity and respect, whether they are in the TIF or being transported," said Kapolka.

"This is going to help us train those Soldiers responsible for manning a TIF how to communicate."

This was the first mock detainee transport operation for the 72nd, but hopefully it won't be the last.

Leadership personnel in the 2-312th have already begun discussing the possibility of future operations to further training, said Kapolka.

One of the ongoing missions of the 72nd is to train internment operations to Soldiers deploying in support of the war on terrorism. This exercise was an effort to bring realism into that training.

Duo tackles Gulf War Illness

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 2008 — The Defense Department continues to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to resolve veterans' health issues, including maladies associated with the Gulf War, a senior DoD official said here today.

"We work very closely with the VA for those who've separated" from military service, Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, deputy director of health affairs for force health protection and readiness, told American Forces Press Service and Pentagon Channel reporters.

"We find that the No. 1 disability that veterans have is problems with muscles, bones and joints, ankles, knees and lower back," Kilpatrick said. These types of ailments, he said, also surface as the top health issues cited by active-duty troops at sick call.

"So, there's a relationship

between service and those kinds of wear-and-tear joint problems," Kilpatrick said.

Of the nearly 700,000 U.S. military members involved in the 1990-1991 Gulf War, Kilpatrick said, about 120,000 servicemembers returning from deployment in the Middle East reported a multitude of symptoms, including depression, tiredness, research unit

have "Gulf War Illness."

While 80 percent of those 120,000 veterans received a medical assessment and treatment for their ailments, about 24,000 veterans with Gulf War Illness-related symptoms remain undiagnosed, said Kilpatrick, a former Navy physician who commanded an Army/Navy infectious disease research unit

ans Affairs Secretary Dr. James Peake. The 400-plus-page report says Gulf War Illness is a genuine medical condition. The report also notes that pyridostigmine bromide pills taken by some servicemembers in theater as a prophylactic against nerve agents and the use of pesticides to ward off desert diseases are possible causes of Gulf War Illness.

Kilpatrick said he disagrees with the report's findings regarding causes of Gulf War Illness, especially

the alleged role played by anti-nerve agent pills and pesticides.

Previous tests had determined that the pills were safe for consumption by servicemembers, he said, and there's no medical evidence that pesticide use was responsible for Gulf War Illness-related maladies.

Other reports conducted on Gulf War Illness over the years, he noted, failed to substantiate its existence or couldn't provide medical evidence of possible causes.

Unlike today, the U.S. military did not conduct pre-deployment medical screenings of servicemembers during the Gulf War, Kilpatrick said. He suggested that some individuals reporting Gulf War Illness-related symptoms may have had pre-existing medical conditions before they deployed to the Gulf.

"I think if you take a look at chronic fatigue syndrome, where people are extremely tired even after a good night's sleep; they're lethargic, they may have some short-term memory loss, some muscle pain in joints," Kilpatrick said. "That's part of that syndrome."

"The War Illness isn't a medical mystery by any means, Kilpatrick said, but it is "something we don't understand, and we need to do more work."

POLICE LOG

Police Log is a weekly synopsis of significant police activities developed from reports, complaints, incidents or information received and actions taken, for the week of Nov. 24 through 30.

The abbreviation DoD stands for Department of Defense; NAFD means Not Affiliated with Fort Dix (the subject doesn't live or work here); NCIC stands for National Crime Information Center; DWI means Driving While Intoxicated; CDS means Controlled Drug Substance; POV means Privately Owned Vehicle; MAFB stands for McGuire Air Force Base; USAF EC stands for US Air Force Expeditionary Center; AHCC stands for Ambulatory Health Care Clinic (MAFB); VMHBC stands for Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County; CP# stands for Checkpoint Number.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a CO alarm in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed negative results. United Communities was contacted to change the alarm.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5989. Investigation revealed the alarm had activated for reasons unknown. A work order was submitted.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a chlorine gas leak at the indoor pool. Investigation revealed an employee was repairing the supply line when a valve broke. The gas was shut off and the building vented.

●Police responded to a traffic accident in Tac 13. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, struck a stump while backing. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was released to the operator at the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 6043. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by a water leak into a detector. DPW was notified.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5603. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by dust kicked up by workers in the building.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a smell of gas at Bldg. 5256. Investigation revealed a gas leak. The utility company was notified to make the repair.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at the Wrightstown Circle. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire Air Force Base, struck the curb resulting in disabling damage. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at the Main Gate. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, struck the curb resulting in disabling damage. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a smell of smoke at Bldg. 5418. Investigation revealed the odor was caused by a faulty light ballast.

●Police were notified by Range Control of hunters in Tac 5, which had been closed to hunting. Police made contact with five hunters, all civilians NAFD, and advised them to leave the area. All complied and exited the area without incident.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5432. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by smoke from food that had been left in the oven.

●Police units escorted six troop buses from Fort Dix to Cherry Hill and back for a Thanksgiving Day dinner hosted by Jewish War Veterans Post 126. The escort was completed without incident.

●During a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Wrightstown Gate, police discovered the operator, a military dependent, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on Pointville Road. Investigation revealed the vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, had expired registration and was uninsured. Further investigation revealed the operator had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●Police responded to a report of a suspicious person in the Garden Terrace housing area. A search of the area met with negative results.

●There was one expired identification card confiscated during the period.

●There were 13 Magistrate Court Citations issued for moving violations. DWI incidents remain at 12 for the year.

Military helps itself to relocation info

Special to American Forces Press Service -- WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 2008 — From a civilian perspective, it may be hard to understand the challenge of constant relocation that comes with military service.

Finding new schools, identifying new organizations to join and tracking down a safe neighborhood can be an overwhelming process.

As a result, many military families turn to others in the military community for information and resources.

"What one person doesn't know, someone else usually does," retired Army Col. Dale Kissinger said. "The problem is finding that person."

Kissinger is co-founder of MilitaryAvenue.com, a military-oriented Web site that offers moving, travel and lifestyle services and discounts. The site recently launched a new online platform for relocation information exchange.

"MilitaryAvenue Answers" is a community-based question and answer platform that allows the military community to seek information and assistance directly from other military members, the local base community and industry experts.

To access the online forum, visitors can go to www.militaryavenue.com/answers, type in a question and get answers from a variety of sources. The forum is organized so

users can either ask general questions such as "What moving company offers a military discount?" or more specific hard to understand the challenge of constant relocation that comes with military service.

"What is the best pizza place near Fort Bliss?"

Once a question is asked, it is forwarded to a stable of volunteer experts and posted online so anyone with relevant information can respond.

"The platform allows for multiple responses to help ensure a well-rounded answer for each question," Dan Kissinger, the company's chief executive officer, said.

"All information will be permanently catalogued and available to assist other military members with similar questions and concerns."

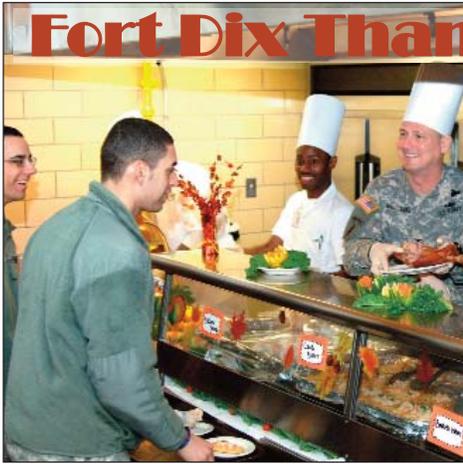
"MilitaryAvenue.com began as a way to disseminate information about local base communities and the military life to its highly mobile members," the CEO said.

"MilitaryAvenue Answers is empowering those members to disseminate their own information to the military community."

Dan Kissinger said he hopes the platform will be a useful resource not only for military members and their families, but also for military "outsiders" interested in better understanding the life and sacrifices made by military families or who may have access to additional information and resources.

WEATHER HOTLINE
When the weather turns nasty, tune in to WDX Channel 2, check www.dix.army.mil or call 562 - 4065 after 6 a.m. for updates on closures and delays

Fort Dix Thanksgiving 2008

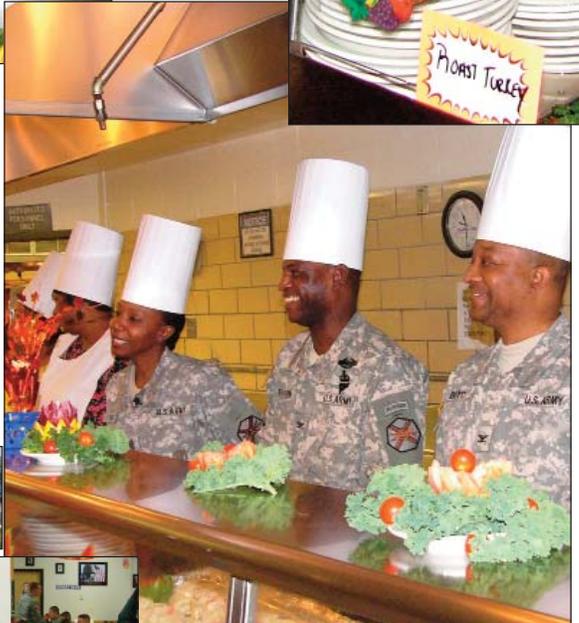


Photos by Carolee Nisbet and Jennifer Chupko
FULL HOUSE -- More than 700 Soldiers from across the country were treated to full plates and family atmosphere Thanksgiving Day at Dining Facility 5640. Above left, Col. Timothy Williams, 72nd Bde Commander, and Chef Shawn Capelano serve Soldiers healthy dishings of ham, turkey or roast beef, carved to perfection. Maj Gen. John Bednarek talks to Soldiers as he passes out turkey to the troops as they move slowly along the line. Bednarek donated his time to the troops as way to say thank you. Left, Caroline Damron and Maggie Wurzbach volunteered to serve bread and holiday cheer.



Dix Soldiers gobble the feast

COMMAND EMPHASIS -- Soldiers are greeted and served by Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis, Post Commander Col. Ronald Thaxton, and Col. Larry Boyd, deputy commander of mobilization. Facility staff and guests servers dished out 400 pounds of turkey, 400 pounds of roast beef, 300 pounds of ham and two roast pigs along with all the trimmings. Below, Soldiers of 267th Military Police, out of Tennessee, gather for dinner while the line in the background moves forward. With Thanksgiving appetites and plenty of food, the Dining Facility became a home away from home for a day of homestyle cuisine that included an array of vegetables, desserts and meat dishes complete with the fixings. Soldiers were able to take time and enjoy their meals without the usual rush. Below, Soldiers patiently wait to enter the building as they anticipate the special meal planned for them.



PREVIEW -- Chef Septon Bondoo gives instructions on how to carve steamship rounds. Bondoo demonstrated his carving skills on a large ham, whetting appetites as the succulent meat fell in perfect formation. Soldiers selected their favorite choices from the carvings then moved on to other delicious offerings along the line.

NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

Free child care offered for parents in need of break

The Child Development Center will be open for Friday Night Free Respite Care, Dec. 12, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years. Reservations are required. For more information call 562-4702.

Holiday dinner theater coming to Club Dix

Tickets are now available for "Once Upon A Christmas Dinner Theater." Bring the family for a buffet dinner and relive the immortal tale of Ebenezer Scrooge performed by The Ridlebrook Touring Company Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Club Dix. Tickets can be purchased at Club Dix or Family, Morale, Welfare Recreation Headquarters, 6043 Doughboy Loop. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Call 723-3272 for details.

Submissions sought for Army photo contest

The All Army Digital Photography Contest is seeking entrants. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 7. To enter, access the contest website and submit your photo at <https://artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil>. The contest is open to all active duty Soldiers and civilians. Contest information and assistance are available at the Arts & Crafts Center. Call 562-5691 for more information.

USO sponsors military shopping event

The USO and Cherry Hill Mall are sponsoring a military appreciation shopping event Dec. 14. The event features retailer discounts, raffle prizes and more. For more information visit www.libertyuso.org.

Fort Dix Spouses' Club Open House

The Fort Dix Spouses' Club Cordially invites you to a Christmas masquerade, Saturday, Dec. 13.

The halls will be decked with wreaths for auction, door prizes will be won by a lucky few, and elves will be in the kitchen preparing food just for you.

The event will take place at the Farm House located on One Jullustown Road, Fort Dix from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is for adults only and if you would like more information or would like to RSVP, please call 609-499-3969.

Pets invited to visit Santa Paws Dec. 6

Santa will be at the Outdoor Recreation Center Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for photo opportunities and pet print ornaments.

A Pet Fun Run will start the festivities at 10 a.m.

An \$8 entry fee includes a t-shirt and prizes for the top three finishers.

Dix ID Card Facility announces Saturday hours

Need a new ID card but just can't squeeze out the time during the week? The Fort Dix ID Card Facility will host Saturday hours for issuing identification cards Dec. 6 in Building 5418 on the first floor.

Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information contact Geneva Sturdivant at (609)562-3373/2177.

Pre-Retirement Briefing set for Timmermann Center

The Fourth Quarter Military Pre-Retirement/Separations Briefing will be held Dec. 9 through 12, at the Timmermann Conference Center on Pennsylvania Avenue at Eighth Street.

The time will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. This is a requirement for Soldiers within 120 days of retirement or departure on terminal leave.

Soldiers that are outside the 120-day window are encouraged to attend. Representatives from the VA, Department of Labor, Finance, Transportation etc. will be available to brief and answer questions.

If you require additional information or would like to make reservations for the briefing, please call the RSO at 562-2666.

Patti LaBelle entertains Dix

Veverly Wakefield
Public Affairs Staff

An evening of excitement and energy filled the Timmermann Center as Fort Dix welcomed legendary Rhythm & Blues singer Patti LaBelle and Friends, Dec. 2.

The event was sponsored by Fort Dix Family, Moral, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), along with TMEG Alycia and Mikahel Lerer-Spread the Laughter, who continues to bring dynamic entertainment to Fort Dix.

Their commitment to entertain troops this year has been very successful. Over 700 tickets were sold with more than half sold the first few days of availability.

The event began with Staff Sgt. Jason Knight on harmonica accompanied by singing group Tru performing the national anthem. Knight a contestant Nov. 21 at Apollo Night had impressed the audience enough to win an opportunity to perform for the LaBelle concert. Following Knight was Christina Sojoo, who won first place at Apollo Night, opened the evening performing several songs, including her electrifying rendition of "Proud Mary" by Tina Turner, complete with the sultry leg moves and hair toss that Turner is known for.

Kevin Michael, an up and coming artist whose first CD was released last year followed Sojoo. Michael, a 24-year-old Chester, Pa. native began to sing at six years old and started writing songs at 16. A graduate of Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Pa., Michael performed in shows and plays and knew early on in life that he wanted to pursue a career in music.

"Knowing that I can create my own piece of history by writing quality music that may one day become a classic," explained Michael when asked what inspires him with his music and song writing.

Michael stated that he was a little scared when he was asked to perform at Dix because he has so much respect for the men and women who are serving their country and putting their lives on the line every day. Michael's performance of R&B with a Neo-Soul mix had the crowd heads bobbing and moving.

The smooth rhythm of his band Blind Date along with Michael's vocals appear in some ways similar to Prince, with a relaxing and enjoyable sound.

After a short intermission, Patti LaBelle took center stage opening with the song "A Change is going to Come" and had the entire audience on



photos by Ryan Morton

LEGEND — Patti LaBelle performed for the Fort Dix community Dec. 2. Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis present LaBelle with a thank you plaque, flag, and Ultimate Weapon statue, above. Before the show, LaBelle met with Soldiers, signing autographs and taking pictures. Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turner, MRB, took the opportunity to meet LaBelle and maybe share a singing tip, left. Turner is also a singer and performs at many events on the installation.



their feet. LaBelle's stage presence is powerful but inviting as she asked three audience members to join her on stage to assist with her performance of "Lady Marmalade."

LaBelle later shared with the audience the passing of her three sisters all before they had reached the age of 45 to separate forms of cancer and the passing of her mother at age 55 after having both legs amputated from diabetes-related complications, as well as her own personal battle with dia-

betes.

LaBelle mentioned that she takes six insulin shots a day and various pills and acknowledged that she has diabetes, but the disease doesn't have her.

"I still live my life to the fullest and continue to perform as much as I can," said LaBelle.

This was LaBelle's first time performing at a military installation and when asked what she would like for her audience to take away with them

at the end of her show she stated, "I want them to know and feel the love I have for them in my heart and prayers."

To know that they are thought of and given praise for the dedication they have for America."

Col. Ronald Thaxton, Fort Dix installation commander, thanked LaBelle at the end of the show for her performance and presented her with a United States flag and a miniature Ultimate Weapon statue.

Program boosts Santa's cause



Ryan Morton

JOLLY ELF — Operation Santa Claus president Vince Bowker shows off some of the cuddly animals looking for a new home. The toys are donated to the children of Soldiers and Airmen in need. Operation Santa Claus is looking for volunteers to help re-furbish the gently used toys. For more information about the program or volunteering, call 562-3825.

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

The holidays are here and the spirit of giving is in the air. The Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base communities are doing their parts to aid in the spirit with the annual "Operation Santa Claus" toy drive. This toy and bike donation program gives to needy families in the Dix, McGuire, and surrounding communities.

The program began in 1958 by Staff Sgt. Samuel Divita, a member of the 5th Training Brigade, who donated toys to needy Soldiers in his unit. Word spread about his selfless acts and others followed suit, donating more toys and money to the cause.

"Last year we gave out toys and bikes to 250 families and anyone is welcome to come down and donate this year," said Vince Bowker, Operation Santa Claus president since 1996.

The Fort Dix Federal Corrections Institute (FCI) also aids in the cause as they fix up many of the bikes dropped off.

They make wooden toys to give out too. Volunteers are always welcome as they are needed to assist in Bowker with toy refurbishment, shelf stocking, cleaning, and toy distribution.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating toys, bikes, or money, please call 562-3825. Volunteers may also show up at two drop-off points, one at the McGuire/Dix BX/PX and the other is at Operation Santa Headquarters located at Building 5343, the corner of Delaware Avenue and Airfield Road. Toys may also be dropped off here after hours in a box located behind the building.

If you are a Soldier or an Airman and are interested in picking up toys or bikes for your families, please see your unit's first sergeant to pick-up an application.



Jennifer Chupko

Teens hold potluck

Cheryl Shervington, staff advisor of the Keystone Club, performed a dance to gospel music during the Thanksgiving potluck dinner hosted by the club at the Youth Center Nov. 22. The night also included teens from the club expressing why they were thankful and grateful this year. With the holiday season officially in gear the Youth Center's next big event will be the Christmas Ball teen dance, which will take place Dec. 20, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Ryan Morton

'Tis the Season

Paul Stinson ties his newly bought Christmas tree on top of his car to take home for the holidays at Fort Dix's Outdoor Recreation Center, Nov. 28. If you would like to buy a tree, stop by Outdoor Rec. and browse the selection. The hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 609-562-6667.

Donating blood ultimate lifeline

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

One miracle of modern medicine is the ability to replace blood lost through trauma or disease. On the battlefield, blood spells the difference between life and death. Blood shared is life shared.

One donated pint of blood can be used to save three lives. Demand is always there and donations too often don't meet the need. With demand as high as it is the question is often asked, "Why can't I donate?"

There are good reasons why people are turned away from donation centers. Persons needing blood transfusions are already at risk, so taking a chance on a blood-borne pathogen or medication is not an acceptable option.

The American Red Cross lists reasons why one cannot donate, but many more reasons why one can donate.

Most people have no problem donating if they want. If you are at least 17 years old, or 16 years if allowed by state law, weigh at least 110 pounds and are healthy and have healthy blood, you can donate.

Healthy means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. Your blood will be tested for hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, and other factors. You will be notified if you are disqualified from donating blood in the future or if something is found you should know about.

Three main categories for denial are:

- * Illness or physical conditions
- * Life choices
- * Travel in certain areas of the world

If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, healthy means that you are being treated and the condition is under control. Most medications will not keep you from donating. Medications that keep you from donating include those for psoriasis, baldness, prostate enlargement, drugs made from human or cow hormones, or Hepatitis B Immune Globulin.

When you go to donate, you will be asked what you are taking. Most of the time, you will be able to donate. Do not take aspirin or other blood thinners within 72 hours of donating.

Having been exposed to a cold or the flu won't keep you

from donating, but having symptoms will. A fever or runny nose, aches in your muscles, any of the common symptoms of flu or a cold means do not donate. Any common illness means it is probably better to wait until another time to donate.

The Red Cross will always ask about your health and illnesses. Pregnancy, nursing mothers, and persons with cancer will be excluded. Mad cow disease, a type of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) which can run in families, will always mean denial, so family histories are important.

The American Red Cross always asks about life choices. Having a piercing or tattoo in the past year will stop a donation. Risky sexual practices will stop donation, as will treatment for sexually transmitted diseases within the past 12 months. Rape victims are unable to donate for 12 months as well.

Any behavior that puts a person at risk for HIV/AIDS, or any symptoms of HIV/AIDS such as purple spots in mouth or on skin, white spots or sores in the mouth, lumps in the neck,

armpits, or groin that last more than a month or is persistent, and diarrhea mean you cannot donate. Since HIV antibodies take several weeks to develop after infection, don't donate if you have practiced risky behavior and may be at risk for HIV.

For Soldiers, deployment can cause problems in donating. Soldiers stationed in many



Lisa Evans

GIFT OF LIFE -- Master Sgt. Anthony Pamplin, NCOIC, chapel staff, is prepped to donate blood at the Red Cross blood drive held at the Fort Dix Chapel Nov. 26.



Wayne Cook



photos by Ryan Morton

Military Police deploy around the world

The leadership of the 168th Military Police Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, at left, hold the unit's Yellow Banner during a ceremony at Griffith Field House Nov. 28. The Tennessee National Guard unit hails from Dyersburg, Tenn. and is headed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From left to right, Master Sgt. Mike Henderson, acting first sergeant, Capt. Derrick Greer, commander 168th MP Bn., HHD, Lt. Col. Brad Bishop, commander, 168th MP Bn., and Command Sgt. Maj. James Smith. Second photo from left, Capt. Terry Lewis and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Mulhill, commander and first sergeant, 143rd Military Police Detachment, Law and Order, Montana National Guard, display their unit's Yellow Banner at Griffith Field House, Dec. 3. The unit hails from Livingston, Mont., and is deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Second photo from right, 1st Sgt. Wayne Hopkins and Capt. Ryan Mallory, commander, 266th Military Police Company, Virginia National Guard, display their unit's Yellow Banner Dec. 3. The unit, out of Manassas, Va., is deploying to Iraq for a Global War on Terrorism mission. At far right, Capt. Calvin Foreman, commander, and 1st Sgt. John Hebert, 39th Military Police Company, Louisiana National Guard, Minden, La., display their unit's Yellow Banner at Griffith Field House, Dec. 3. The unit is deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chaplain shares Christmas message of hope

Chap. Allen Raub
Installation Staff Chaplain

The Greatest Gift Ever

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christmas is a time of fond memories for many people. When I think back to my childhood Christmas memories, I remember the Christmas trees, the presents, the good food and the warm visits with relatives and friends.

As a young child on Christmas Eve I would get so excited that I didn't sleep at all during the night. As I got older some

of the wonder of Christmas began to wear off but as a parent I can now see some of the same excitement and anticipation in my own children. We have all probably heard the statement, "it is better to give than to receive." While this statement is true, it is only partially true, because Christmas is also a time of receiving. It is not necessarily a time to receive a new tie, a video game or an iPod but a time of receiving from God the greatest gift that was ever given, his Son Jesus Christ, a child who was born in a manger over 2,000 years ago.

Christmas is a time not necessarily to give only but also to receive the greatest gift ever

given-God's Son Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah tells us of the greatest gift that was ever given with a

"And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-- Isaiah 9:6

description of four names to describe God's gift because one name was insufficient to cover all the manifold blessings that this gift brings. Isaiah used four titles, which not only describe the names of God's gift but also his activities as well.

"And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." God has given his Son to be a blessing to our lives

in all of these different facets. But the message of Christmas that we often times need to remember above all is that God's Son brings peace as the

"Prince of Peace." Even if all things around us are in turmoil or trouble God can still bring peace to our hearts in the midst of very difficult times. His gift is to bring peace when peace

cannot be found anywhere else around us.

At the Fort Dix Chapel this year we collected almost 90 gift filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child which will be sent to children in desperate situations all over the world to share the good news of God's love. It was an incredible blessing to be involved in a project that will bring hope and joy to

children while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas-Jesus Christ. However, we are reminded at Christmas that God gave the best gift ever and he wants everyone to receive the gift of his Son.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).



Jennifer Chupko

Reaching the goal

The South Jersey Combined Federal Campaign announced the final total of \$36,000 in donations at the closing ceremony at Club Dix Nov. 25. Lt. Col. William Ayers, installation deputy commander, right, announced the Fort Dix results and accepted the Commander's Award on behalf of the installation from Mr. Bruce Conway of the United Way of Burlington County, middle. Accepting the Commander's Award on behalf of the Airforce, was Col. Scott F. Smith, vice-commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, at left.

Dedicated Dixans pursued excellence

Budget pros near end of 88 years in federal service

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

For staff in the Resource Management Office (RMO) on Fort Dix, it's almost as if General MacArthur is saying goodbye to West Point or George Washington's returning to Mount Vernon.

Sharon Valdes and Beverly Sills retire this month.

How do you say farewell to a pair of legends. One fact is a certainty. At RMO, things will never be quite the same.

The two budget analysts at RMO are ending a combined 88 years of federal service (83 of them spent on Fort Dix). They've known each other and worked together here since 1968, joining an elite cadre of public servants who've built imposing careers at Fort Dix (Valdes spent five years working for the government in Philadelphia prior to arriving at Dix in 1968).

Jay Schopp, director of RMO, worked with both ladies over the last 20 years or so and is thankful for those memories.



courtesy photo

SMILE -- Forty years working at Fort Dix has involved more laughs than frowns, informs Sharon Valdes, who's retiring at the end of this year from the Budget Office.

"Beverly worked on a kind of central fund," Schopp informs. "She kept track where the money was and where it should be," correcting any discrepancies.

Sharon Valdes "was sort of like a Ma Budget," explains Schopp. "Basically, she dealt with all the higher headquarters [who have fingers in the Dix budget pie] and had a lot to say about distribution" of funds, "who gets what on Fort Dix" to fulfill required missions.

"The two ladies have not only been tremendous professionals" but, in Schopp's estimation, first ladies of friendship, forming a vibrant, nurturing nucleus within the lifeblood of Team Dix.

Budget Officer Kathleen Ochipinti seconds those emotions.

"Sharon Valdes and Beverly Sills. They're a team. And they both just amaze me!", Ochipinti exclaims.

She notes that "Sharon has 45 years of service and [they] still have so much enthusiasm about getting the job done, and done right."

"On Sept. 30, when we close the fiscal year, they are always the last to leave," confides the budget boss. "They have been my right arm since I took my current position. Both are extremely pleasant, dedicated, dependable, competent, perfectionists, and, above all, professional."

"DRM is losing [two] legends," concluded Ochipinti.

Co-worker Cynthia Johnson is still another fan of the budget legends and is not shy about explaining why.

"I have known both for around 20 years," Johnson says, and "they both are two of the nicest people you could meet. They are very knowledgeable, hardworking and good friends. They would do just about anything for you."

Cynthia continues.

"They are usually the first to arrive and the last to leave, especially at year's end when we are closing out the books. I



Steve Snyder

Sharon Valdes
Supervisory Budget Analyst
Directorate of Resource Management
Ends 45 years of service to Fort Dix this month

have worked closely with them and have never been steered wrong either with work or with things going on in my life. Johnson's memories go back a long way.

"I remember years ago when Bev was working in what they called the pink room, now the ladies room in Bldg. 5418 (MacDonald Hall). Then they moved over to the last wing of 5418."

"Bev, Sharon and I still all use the good old stubby pencil. Their figures are always right on. They both taught me a lot," she says.

In Johnson's opinion, "You couldn't ask to work with better people. They will be greatly missed by the Fort Dix community. They are the ones who kept all the figures straight between Fort Dix, Devins and Kelly (and Fort Hamilton, too, at one time)."

"We have worked so closely together," Cynthia observes.



Steve Snyder

Beverly Sills
Budget Analyst
Directorate of Resource Management
Ends 43 years of service to Fort Dix this month

"We helped keep each other sane. I was truly lucky to have met and worked with them."

"I asked them if I could come (with them in retirement) too!", Johnson concludes.

Both of them have come a long way, already.

Sharon Valdes, who holds the title of Supervisory Budget Analyst, was born in Camden 63 years ago. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School there in 1963. From September 1963 to October 1966 she worked in various clerking jobs for the Naval Supply Depot run by the Defense Industrial Center in Philadelphia.

"All I wanted was a paycheck," she recalls. "But in March 1968 Sharon began working as an accounting technician in the finance office at Fort Dix. Infected, perhaps, by the patriotic ethos oozing from the military environment, she really began to get into her work."

In March 1976 Sharon became a supervising accounting technician in finance and accounting here and jumped another step up in 1981 as a budget analyst for the Directorate of Logistics. Beginning in May 1982 she did the same work for RMO until gaining a supervisory position in January 1991 - where she's been ever since.

Sharon admits to missing the hustle and bustle of basic training when the recruits flooded the post during the Vietnam War era and complains that commuting from Camden has not gotten any faster or more efficient over all the years.

Fort Dix's elder stateswoman says she intends to travel some in retirement but will miss completing the routine whose duties she executed so well over the last 40 years.

Unlike her soul sister, Beverly Sills never had to commute very far to work.



courtesy photo

SAYING GOODBYE -- How do you say goodbye to a legend who's grown up with the post and has been instrumental to the success of your office. If you're Resource Management Director Jay Schopp, you grin and bear it and try to hide the tears at a departmental ceremony honoring Beverly Sills for her 40 plus years of service to Fort Dix.

Born in Mt. Holly in 1941, Beverly has lived most of her life in Burlington, graduating from Burlington High in 1959. She says she was quite the athlete back then, starring on Burlington's basketball and field hockey teams.

And after high school her parents encouraged her to rest awhile. She worked a bit for the Internal Revenue Office before arriving at Fort Dix in 1966, about the middle of the Vietnam War.

Starting as a card or key punch operator in the finance office, Beverly moved upstairs to the Finance and Accounting Office in 1970, moving again in 1982 to the Directorate of Reserve Components (DRC) on Texas Avenue.

In 1993, she moved into the

Resource Management Directorate, remaining there since. "I like numbers," she says, adding that she "felt comfortable working with them over the years."

She lives in a 55-plus community in Woolrich Township and intends to visit a cousin in Las Vegas when she has the time and knock off other travel opportunities now that work requirements are abated.

What will Sills remember about her 40 plus years on Fort Dix? "The people I've worked with," she says, flashing a big smile.

Team Dix will sorely miss both Sharon Valdes and Beverly Sills. We salute them. And many love them, as well.



courtesy photo

THE USUAL SUSPECTS -- Sharon Valdes, left, and Beverly Sills flank co-worker Leroy Fields celebrating the culmination of another week of work well done in the service of Fort Dix and the United States Army.

Five deployments, still fighting strong

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Enduring Freedom, Operation Uphold Democracy, Task Force Gator, and now the Global War on Terrorism: First Sgt. John Hebert (pronounced A-bare), is beginning his fifth deployment.

His plans?
"Hopefully to lead Soldiers until I get too old. One of my greatest accomplishments is getting to lead Soldiers."

Sgt. Christina Prince said, "Sgt. Hebert is the heart and soul of the company."

Prince is a Louisiana State Military Commissioned Police Officer who works for Hebert at Camp Minden, La. where he is the full-time Chief of Military Police.

Prince and the other Soldiers of the 39th Military Police Company, National Guard, out of Minden, La., mention Hebert's name frequently when they speak of why they are in the Army. At least half have said that he is the person who led them into the 39th and more say he mentored them into the National Guard.

With 20 years experience, Hebert is primed to lead his Soldiers into their mission guarding prisoners in Iraq. In his position at Camp Minden, Hebert mentors and trains many National Guard Soldiers. Several of the Soldiers in the 39th work with Hebert at Camp Minden.

Hebert said he had worked



First Sgt. John Hebert

in most of the units of the Louisiana National Guard, meeting most of the Soldiers now in the 39th.

Soldiers under his command speak highly of his dedication and care for the Soldiers under his command.

"If it is good or bad, that's good training. Take everything and learn from it."
Sgt. John Hebert

When Staff Sgt. Greg Cawthon joined the National Guard he said Hebert was there for him. "That's when I first met Sgt. Hebert, after my four years active duty. He tucked us under his wing."

A lot of them came because of good leadership, Hebert believes. But he said he doesn't want Soldiers to look up to him, but to learn from him.

"Soldiers want to be led," Hebert said. "Bettering myself, getting knowledge, that's what I think is impor-

tant.
"They make me look good. I'm really humbled by that and want to thank them. That means I'm doing a good job and that's the highest compliment you can get," Hebert admitted.

During Hurricane Katrina, Task Force Gator, Hebert worked with the 2228th National Guard MPs at the Superdome before, during, and after the storm. Soldiers worked 24-hour shifts, working with thousands of affected people.

Hebert would only say that he was able, with the help of others, to save two people from a swamped raft in the flooding.

This was one of his most taxing missions, but not the hardest on him.

Hebert said he couldn't say which deployment was worse - Operation Uphold Democracy, in Haiti or Enduring Freedom in Guantanamo, Cuba. As part of the MP unit in Guantanamo, Hebert said it was very difficult working with prisoners who did harm to Soldiers. But in Haiti he said it was hard working with personnel and people who did things he hated.

Hebert, working in triage for emergency medicine. His group gave medical care to Soldiers and Haitian nationals alike.

He said it was difficult seeing what people did to each other, doing things to each other that he could not understand.



Matt Setzen

DEEP WATERS -- First Sgt. John Hebert carries a bag for a woman and child rescued from the flood waters after levees failed following Hurricane Katrina. The victims walk up a ramp and into the Superdome where the 2228th MP Co. Louisiana National Guard policed the area before and after the hurricane.

"We did a lot of good things for the people of Haiti. When the president was in exile, we helped build the economy back up and everything," Hebert said, adding they were very, very busy, in a difficult situation.

But he takes the good with the bad and learns from it all. "That's good training" is his motto.

"That's my quote," Hebert said. "Good bad, no matter what. If it is good or bad, that's good training. Take everything and learn from it."

He applies that to his career and to the professionalism he hopes to instill in his Soldiers.

Hebert attends all of the schools he can. He has been through the police academy and SWAT training.

He was a student at the University of Southwest Louisiana studying general business courses with a minor in accounting.

During his military career he has studied three separate military specialties and has attended basic and advanced non-commissioned officer and first sergeant courses as well as many others including arms and shooting instructor schools.

"I love to train and bring it back and train the Soldiers. I believe in mentoring Soldiers and sharing not only military knowledge but personal expe-

rience," Hebert explained.

"I hope that some of those bad images they saw before in training - everybody comes from different units and different leadership styles. Not everyone leads from the front, teaches the Army ethos, sets the example. That's what I try to instill. That's what I want to change."

Capt. Calvin Foreman, Hebert's commander, said that of the three first sergeants he has worked with, Hebert was the finest.

Foreman said Hebert doesn't punch a clock and leave at the end of the day.

"He is genuinely concerned and cares for his Soldiers and their welfare."

He spends time with the Soldiers and is always there if I need him or when the Soldiers need him," Foreman said.



Nicole Dykstra

Governor visits 143rd

Montana governor Brian Schweitzer (center) poses with the 143rd Military Police Company on Fort Dix, N.J., Dec. 1. The 143rd is currently training at Fort Dix for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where they will have a Law and Order mission.

Gates provides U.S. continuity

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Washington, Dec. 1, 2008 — President-elect Barack Obama today cited the need for continuity as the United States fights two wars in announcing that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates will remain at the Pentagon when his administration takes over next month.

"At a time when we face an unprecedented transition amidst two wars, I have asked Robert Gates to continue as secretary of defense, and I'm pleased that he's accepted," Obama said at a news conference in Chicago.

"He restored accountability. He won the confidence of military commanders, and the trust of our brave men and women in uniform and their families," he said. "He earned the respect of members of Congress on both sides of the aisle for his pragmatism and competence. He knows that we need a sustainable national security strategy, and that includes a bipartisan consensus at home."

The president-elect said he will tell the secretary to end the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control.

"We will also ensure that we have the strategy — and resources — to succeed against al-Qaida and the Taliban," he said. "As Bob said

not too long ago, Afghanistan is where the war on terror began, and it is where it must end."

"I am deeply honored that the president-elect has asked me to continue as secretary of defense," Gates said in Chicago.

"Mindful that we are engaged in two wars and face other serious challenges at home and around the world, and with a profound sense of personal responsibility to and for our men and women in uniform and their families, I must do my duty as they do theirs. How could I do otherwise?"

"Serving in this position for nearly two years, and especially the opportunity to lead our brave and dedicated soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Defense civilians, has been the most gratifying experience of my life," the secretary continued.

"I am honored to continue to serve them and our country, and I will be honored to serve President-elect Obama."

Obama said the national security challenges facing the country are as grave and urgent as the economic crisis.

"We are fighting two wars," he said.

"Old conflicts remain unresolved, and newly assertive powers have put strains on the international system. The spread of nuclear weapons raises the peril that the world's deadliest technology could fall into dangerous hands. Our

dependence on foreign oil empowers authoritarian governments and endangers our planet."

The United States must be as strong at home as it is overseas, and that is our American economic power must sustain military strength, diplomatic leverage and global leadership, he said.

"The common thread linking these challenges is the fundamental reality that in the 21st century, our destiny is shared with the world's," Obama said.

"From our markets to our security; from our public health to our climate - we must act with the understanding that, now more than ever, we have a stake in what happens across the globe."

"And as we learned so painfully on 9/11, terror cannot be contained by borders, nor safety provided by oceans alone," he said.

Obama called for a new dawn of American leadership to face and master the chal-

lenges of the 21st century.

"We will strengthen our capacity to defeat our enemies and support our friends," he said.

"We will renew old alliances and forge new and enduring partnerships."

We will show the world once more that America is relentless in defense of our people, steady in advancing our interests and committed to the ideals that shine as a beacon to the world — democracy and justice, opportunity and unyielding hope — because American values are America's greatest export to the world."

The president-elect also announced his choices for: New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state, Eric Holder as attorney general, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as secretary of homeland security, retired Marine Gen. James L. Jones Jr. as national security advisor and Susan Rice as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.



Lisa Evans

BEFORE THE FLIGHT -- First Sgt. John Hebert listens to some advice from Major Markus S. Lueder, 1/139th HQ Louisiana National Guard, before boarding the flight to Iraq.

WWW.DIX.ARMY.MIL
New and improved to better serve
YOU



Dix food service eyes new menu

Veverly Wakefield
Public Affairs Staff

Service and improvements were on the menu as the Subsistence Worldwide Customer Conference/Food Show and Army Worldwide Food Service Workshop took place in Dallas, Texas, Nov. 18-19.

Sponsored annually by the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), the event draws over 1,000 attendees, including 130 Army personnel, who gather to see and hear all the changes that will go into effect when supplying food to the troops. DSCP is the facilitator for servicing subsistence to dining facilities as well as troops overseas.

There are continuous changes to the way supplies are ordered, delivered, and used in food service. The conference

allows customers a chance to see and talk to personnel who handle their individual accounts with DSCP. Subject matter experts are available to address issues in group sessions and one-on-one conferences.

-Some of the workshops available:

-Common Food Management System (CFMS), this system will replace the current military system STORES over the next few years. CFMS will provide an automated interface with STORES to make ordering products easier by eliminating steps in the order and receipt process.

-Afghanistan Region Updates, providing an update on the support operations for deployed troops in Afghanistan identifying important challenges regarding anticipated troop redistribution in theater.

-DSCP Manufacturer's Pricing Agreement (MPA) Program, a new pricing system geared to representatives involved with the subsistence prime vending program.

-Exotic FF & V Demo: Exotic Fruits and Vegetables from Around the World, an educational hands-on presentation about expanding choices with fresh fruits and vegetables, giving attendees an opportunity to actually see, taste, touch and smell some of those exotic items they may or may not have ever seen.

-Operational Rations and Equipment, discusses changes to current products, such as MREs and UGRSes, updated on DSCP's Food Service Equipment and various Field Feeding Equipment.

-Product Safety, learning and understanding the Food Safety Program, and how to determine if a suspected product has been approved from a certified source and the documentation required when requesting an initial audit.

And many, many, more were available that were educational and informative.

After a morning of being educated and working up an appetite, conference attendees were able to see first hand what vendors had available by attending the Food Show. Over 75 vendors displayed items to customers to help improve the quality of food served to the troops.

Self-sustained meals to pre-cooked meats and vegetables were displayed for customers to sample.

Keith McRae, Fort Dix food service officer, and Joyce Jamieson, Fort Dix troop issue officer (TISA), were pleased

with the variety of displays and products that will be used in the future in the dining facilities.

The second part of the conference - food storage containers used to transport rations to the fields. These containers are more efficient in keeping cold food colder and warm foods warmer.

The Army Worldwide Food Service Workshops, Nov. 20-21. Unlike the Subsistence Worldwide Conference, this conference is held every several years, so there are many changes taking place and a lot of information is distributed and discussed at this conference.

Lt. Col. Robert Barnes, director of the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence (ACES) introduced Brig. Gen. Jesse R. Cross, 50th Quartermaster, Ft. Lee, Va. Cross welcomed Army logistics personnel and thanked them for the service they provide to the Soldiers.

Cross described all the changes that will be taking place over the next several years at Fort Lee, Va. Construction is underway and almost complete for the new Army Logistics Management College. By 2011 Fort Lee will be the training location for all food service personnel within the Department of Defense.

Cross closed by stating, "The Army has the best food service program in the world. Best equipped, best trained and it is all about the Soldiers."

John Q. McNulty, chief of the Food & Liquid Logistics



photos by Veverly Wakefield

GET THE PARTY STARTED -- Ray Miller and Navy Capt. Ed Rackaukas perform the ribbon cutting ceremony to start the Worldwide Customer Food show in Dallas, Texas.

Division, Headquarters Dept. of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, explained how the next couple of years will be difficult due to budget cutbacks throughout the Department of Defense.

"The operating costs of dining facilities are rising, but the Army Food Service program is committed to continue to give the Soldiers quality meals and service. Cooking more meals using fresh items and using less prepared items will not only be a financial benefit but

nutritional benefit as well," stated McNulty.

Col. George Dilly, senior dietitian, MEDCOM, also stated he would like to see more fresh food prepared and explained that today's Soldiers need to view their bodies as athletes in training, paying close attention to food and calorie intake. "Soldiers train long and hard, if not harder than athletes. Being aware of what you eat and drink is an important part of training," explained Dilly.



GOOD SHOT -- Keith McRae, Fort Dix food officer, hit a hole-in-one on the Wii golf simulator at the Subsistence Worldwide Customer Conference and Food Show Nov 19, Dallas, Texas. McRae was given a football jersey autographed by Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher.

Soldiers give to those in need

Antonia Greene
72nd FA BDE PAO

What started out as an ordinary holiday canned food drive sponsored by Headquarters, Headquarters Battery (HHB) 72nd Field Artillery Training Support Brigade, transformed into a holiday outpouring of hospitality.

After two weeks of donations from Soldiers and family members, the HHB Holiday Drive had collected over 200 food items for St. Mary's parish in Trenton.

From canned yams and string beans to au gratin potatoes and brownie mix, the HHB Holiday drive, organized by Capt. Javier Cortez, commander, HHB 72nd Field Artillery Brigade well exceeded expectations.

"We're already planning a second holiday drive for December to give back to the community. Several HHB Sol-

diers and their families live in the Trenton area and it's a great way to support those in need, especially during the holiday season," said Cortez.

Cortez' wife, Johana, has been a parishioner of St. Mary's since she was born and suggested that the Trenton Cathedral be the recipient of the donations.

"The biggest meal of the year is Thanksgiving and for weeks now I've seen the food lines getting longer and longer on Saturdays, it's worse this year than I can remember," she said.

In addition to food, Soldiers and family members also donated about a dozen winter jackets. Some were slightly used, but many still with tags. Most were warm wool coats and heavy blends.

Master Sgt. Tiana Brown-Berringer, Master Sgt. Milagros Vega and Sgt. Jameka Roberts, HHB 72nd Field Artillery Brigade Soldiers,

coordinated the holiday drive, decorated the food receptacles, and placed the collection barrels in headquarters locations.

"Soldiers felt they needed to give a little more this year, not just cranberries and corn, but all the fixings that make Thanksgiving special," said Roberts, HHB 72nd Field Artillery Brigade supply sergeant.

The donations were delivered to St. Mary's Cathedral Nov. 25. Father Alcides Castro Lopez, St. Mary's parish priest, along with Guiermo Lopez, volunteer caretaker, were more than grateful when the HHB

van pulled up with two decorated barrels full of food and boxes and bags of warm winter coats.

"We are very thankful for all the donations from the Soldiers and with so many people in need this season, we hope to help families in our parish and surrounding community make it through the tough holiday season," said Lopez.

Anyone interested in donating food items and winter clothing can drop it off at HHB 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, 5613C Doughboy Loop by Dec. 19. It's a great way to spread the spirit of giving.



Sgt. Nichole Dykstra

HOLIDAY HELP -- Soldiers from Fort Dix collected food items and winter coats to donate to those in need this holiday season. The items were taken to St. Mary's parish in Trenton. First Lt. Antonia Greene and Capt. Javier Cortez delivered the donations to Father Alcides Castro Lopez, above.

**NCO
Call
at Club Dix**
Wednesday evenings
at 6 p.m.

Announcements

Chapel Services

562-2020

Sunday Services

Protestant
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Catholic
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Gospel
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday School
10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

CCD
9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Chapel 5 - Bldg. 590
Church Street

General Protestant Service
6:30 p.m.

Camp Victory

Chaplain's tent

Hour of Power Protestant
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Catholic
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Mormon
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Jewish
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Religious Services

Islamic Prayer Room

Open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Room 24

Christian Men of the Chapel

Prayer Breakfast -
Fourth Saturday of each month
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Christian Women of the Chapel

Meets every Tuesday
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
at the Chapel and the
fourth Tuesday at
Bartonwood Hospital.

Holiday Services Schedule

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Catholic Mass
Monday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Gospel Youth Christmas Pageant - Dec. 13
5 p.m.

Christmas Concert
Friday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Catholic Children's Mass, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Protestant Candle Light Service, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day
Catholic Mass - 10:15 a.m.

New Year's Eve
Catholic Mass - 6 p.m.

Cinema Schedule

Theater is closed for renovations

Residential Refuse Collection

Monday and Tuesday
Green waste

Tuesday

Fort Dix Areas
201, 502, 5400's
1200's, 1500's, 1600's

Wednesday

McGuire AFB
4000's Except 4013-4027
4200's Except 4252-4260

Friday

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

*Bulk trash is picked up on regular trash day.

Recycling picked up every other Thursday

December 4 and 18
January 2, 15 and 29
February 12 and 26

*Bulk trash is picked up on regular trash day. Trash compactors are located on the property for bulk items.

*It is important to only put trash out on scheduled days.

*Only cans, glass bottles, and plastics are put in yellow/blue recycling bins.

*Cardboard and paper must be bundled or placed in a low lying container.

United Communities

562-5691

Upcoming Events:

Holiday Yard of the Month

The week of Dec. 15 United Communities will be judging for its annual Holiday Yard of the Month. UC will be looking for the most creative, festively decorated home in each of the housing areas. Each area will have a Yard of the Month winner and Honorary Yard of the Month winner.

Holiday Guess How Many

Come by the Leasing Office starting Dec. 1 and guess how many M&Ms are in the jar. You could be the winner!

Holiday Coloring Contest

UC will be hosting a Holiday Coloring Contest starting Dec. 1. Don't forget to stop by and pick up your coloring books!

Holiday Craft Night

Dec. 10, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
UC Leasing Office
All ages are welcome to attend. Call or stop by the leasing office for more details. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 8. Sign up and join the fun!

Pictures with Santa

Wednesday, Dec. 17
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Santa will be stopping by the UC Leasing Office to take pictures with the residents. Stop by to have your picture taken, and don't forget your wish list!

Operation Santa Claus

UC will be collecting toys for the 2008 Operation Santa Claus, a non-profit organization based out of Fort Dix that assists military and civilian families stationed or living in the local community. They provide toys, new and reconditioned, to the children of needy families at Christmas time. We have placed drop boxes at the Leasing Office and the Self Help Office. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Letters from Santa

For the second year in a row we have a link to Santa Claus. Santa has asked for any parent who wishes for their children to hear from him, to please contact UC with the name and age of all children, no later than Monday, Dec. 22. We will provide the list to Santa, who will then send a personalized letter to your children.

Calling All Football Fans

Sign Up for Our John Madden X-BOX Tournament for a chance to win an X-Box 360. For more information, visit the website at www.mcguire.dixuc.com or call the Leasing Office at (609) 723-4290.

Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! UC will be hosting a photo contest. United Communities is looking for the best photos of the housing area. Winner receives a \$50 AMEX gift card, second place receives a \$25 AMEX giftcard. The photos will be displayed on the UC website. Photos are due to the UC leasing office by Jan. 12, 2009. For more information, contact the UC Leasing Office at (609) 723-4290.

Going Green with Compactors

UC is proud to support the base initiative of "Going Green." The compactors support a green environment for many reasons:

- Fewer trucks driving through the base emitting fewer emissions.
- By using the compactors, we are able to make fewer trips to the landfill and drop off a smaller size load with more weight.
- Trash compactors promote our recycling program because with a regular door-to-door pick-up of recyclables, people are inclined to recycle rather than take a trip to the trash compactor.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in "going green" and helping us improve our environment.

All new housing areas on McGuire AFB and Fort Dix will be required to take their trash to designated Trash Compactor areas.

Arts & Crafts

Bldg. 6039 562-5691

Registration Hours:

Tuesday
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday
Noon to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Friday
11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Saturday
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Charles Dickens Tea & Holiday Workshops -

Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Join us for tea and cookies while enjoying the Dickens Village houses displayed in the gallery. We have two special workshops and are accepting registrations now for Gingerbread House making.

Evergreen Centerpiece

Dress up your holiday table with a fragrant centerpiece. Class will be held from Dec. 13, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; \$10 includes materials.

Holiday Photo Cards -

Create unique holiday cards and more on the Sony Picture Starter. Do it yourself instant, high quality prints are easy to create and affordable too. Sizes are available from wallets to 8" x 10". Personalize your prints with wording, borders, picture collages, scrapbook pages, cards, calendars, and more. Just slip in the card from your digital camera, or a photo CD, and you're ready to print! Scan some old photos and burn them onto a CD, or just copy onto a CD from your memory card. This machine does it all!

Adult Introductory Painting Course -

November 6 - December 18, Thursdays
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (6-week course)
\$30 registration fee, materials. Build on techniques learned in Introductory Drawing or discover all new painting skills. The course will cover various paint media including acrylic and watercolor paints. Come join us for a "colorful" and fun experience!

Contemporary Ceramics & Mosaic Studio -

The Contemporary Ceramics Studio offers a large selection of bisque pieces to choose from to decorate and paint. All finished pieces are food, microwave, oven, freezer, and dishwasher safe. We have lots of idea books, traceable designs, tools, and an experienced staff to help you create a finished piece you will love. Mosaics are a great way to express yourself with colorful glass for home decor.

Krafty Birthdays -

Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to two hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by to select the craft and make payment. Treat your loved one to a party they will remember.

CREATE-A-CRITTER -

Adorable Critters to stuff yourself! It's easy & fun! Choose from an assortment of Critters: Bears, Puppies, Unicorns, Frogs, Tigers and a whole lot more! You can even add an outfit! Create your own designs for T-shirts & canvas backpacks. Stop in today and have tons of fun stuffing your very own plush animal or you can take one home to stuff or give as a gift. Critter Birthday Parties also available.

Youth Center

562-5061

Bldg. 1279 Locust Street

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday
1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

Administrative Hours:

Tuesday - Friday
Noon to 6 p.m.

Weekly Schedule

Monday - Friday

Power Hour
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Computer Lab
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday

December 6
Open Rec.
3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Midnight Basketball
teens only
7 p.m. to midnight

Tuesday

Triple Play
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday

Fashion Design
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Shutterbugs
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday

Cosmetology
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Friday

Torch Club
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Scrapbooking
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Saturday

December 13
Holiday Activities
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SKIES Unlimited

Ballet
Wednesdays
\$45 Fee

3-5 years
3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

4 and up
4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Child Development Center

Gymnastics

Weekly
2-3 year olds - 30 min. classes
\$40 per month

4-6 year olds - 45 min. classes
\$45 per month
Child Development Center

Piano Lessons

Fee \$20 for 1/2 hour

Cheerleading

Saturdays
\$45 Fee

5-9 years - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
10-18 years - 11 a.m. to noon
Youth Center

Martial Arts

Wednesday & Friday
\$57 Fee

7-18 years
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Youth Center

Fountain Green Golf Course

FGCC News and Events
Hours of Operations
7 a.m. to dusk
(time changes daily)

Winter Hours Starting Dec. 1 -
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Recreation Center

Bldg. 5905
(Military Only)
Monday through Friday
4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday
Noon to 10 p.m.

ACS

562-2767

Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 9

Hearts Apart: Holiday Party
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Club Dix

Friday, December 12

Love and Logic Part 5: Parent Training for Parents of School Aged Children (5-12)
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Griffith Field House

Bldg. 6053 562-4888

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Combat Fitness Challenge

Military Only
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Monday

Mind & Body Yoga
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Total Toning
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Gut Buster!
6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday

Retirees in Motion
9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Spin-It!

Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Intro to Fitness
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

Turbo Kick
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Circuit Training
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Thursday

Kick Boxing Interval
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Pilates Fusion
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Turbo Kick
6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday

Spin-It!
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Fort Dix Installation Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 5, Wurman Hall at 4:30 p.m.

Santa and his helpers will lead the holiday procession from Wurman Hall to Club Dix for refreshments, games, crafts and pictures with Santa!

"A Christmas Carol" dinner theater

Hosted by Club Dix
Saturday, Dec. 6

Tickets are on sale for the show and buffet. Come out, bring the family and meet your favorite characters including Ebenezer Scrooge, the Ghosts from Christmas Past, Present and Future, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. Call Club Dix for more information at 723-3272.

Club Dix Hours of Operation

Java Café
Monday - Friday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Served
Tuesday - Friday
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saturday - Monday Closed

Bar Hours

Wednesday
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday - Tuesday Closed

Computer Lab

Monday and Tuesday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Friday
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday
Noon to 10 p.m.

Equipment Rental Center

Monday - Friday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

John Mann Park

Closed for the season

Upcoming Events

Christmas Tree Sales

Don't forget to purchase your Christmas tree at Outdoor Recreation this year. Join Outdoor Recreation on Dec. 6 for "Santa Paws" and have your pet's picture taken with Santa Claus. For more info, contact Outdoor Recreation at 562-6667.

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Read The Post!

Read The Post!

SPORTS

Army, Navy to battle on gridiron

WEST POINT, N.Y. - One of the most storied rivalries in all of sports resumes on Saturday when the Army-Navy contest will be played in Philadelphia for the 81st time in the 109 games between the two service academies.

It is the fifth time that Lincoln Financial Field will host the rivalry, CBS will broadcast the game to a national audience for the 13th consecutive season. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.

Army is looking to snap a

three-game losing streak after a 30-3 defeat at Rutgers on Nov. 22. The Black Knights last victory came on Oct. 25 against Louisiana Tech.

The annual rivalry game will feature two of the most prolific rushing offenses in the

nation. The Black Knights, in their first season running the option since 1999, boast the country's ninth-rated rushing offense at 254.09 yards per game. The Mids lead the nation, averaging 292.00 yards per contest. The two teams are 118th and 119th out of 119 Division I Football Bowl Sub-division teams in passing offense. The Mids average 63.50 yards per through the air while Army throws for only 45.73 yards per game.

The Army defense is hoping for a repeat performance of last year's game when the Black Knights held Navy, the nation's number one running team at nearly 350 yards per game, to 287 yards on the ground and forced the Mids to punt a season-high six times. The 2008 Black Knights rank 32nd in the nation against the run, allowing 124.82 yards per game. No team has gained more than 184 yards rushing against Army this season, and the Black Knights have held three foes to under 100 yards. In its first service academy game this season, Army held Air Force, the nation's sixth-ranked rushing offense to 142 yards, its

second-lowest output of the season.

While Army enjoyed the upper hand against Navy during the majority of the decade of the 1990s, Navy has turned the tide in recent years. The Midshipmen have captured nine of the last 11 meetings, including the past six, to grab a 52-49-7 advantage in the classic rivalry. The Mids current six-game winning streak is the longest in the series by either academy.

Taking a broader view, the last 22 meetings of the storied rivalry that dates back to 1890 have been split down the middle.

Senior FB Collin Mooney ran for 112 yards on 20 carries against Rutgers to move into second place on the Black Knights' single-season rushing ledger with 1,285 yards. He needs only 54 yards in his last game to break the Army standard of 1,338 set by Mike Mayweather in 1990.

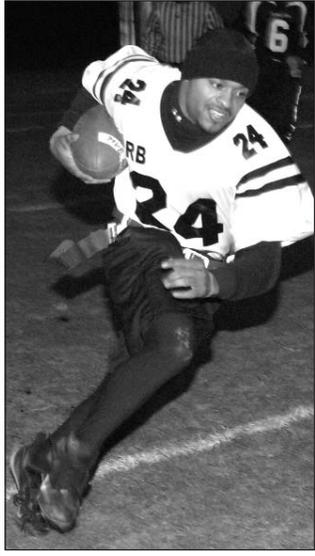
Mooney is the 10th Army player ever to rush for 1,000 yards in one season. Those 10 players have accomplished the feat a total of 13 times.

Mooney is ranked 11th in the nation with 116.8 rushing yards per game. He has five 100-yard performances this season which is tied for the fifth-best season total in Academy history. It is the most 100-yard games by an Army player since Michael Wallace had six in 2000. In two of those games, he has bested the 200-yard plateau.

AN ARMY WIN WOULD:

- Snap Army's three-game losing streak.
- End the Black Knights' six-game losing skid to Navy.
- Even Army's Commander-in-Chief's Trophy record at 1-1 in 2008 (lost at Air Force) and create a three-way tie for the trophy.
- Be the Black Knights' 50th win against Navy (49-52-7).
- End Army's six-game losing streak against its service academy rivals.
- Be Army's first win against Navy at Lincoln Financial Field (0-4).
- Surpass the Black Knights' win total from last season and mark the third time since 1997 that Army has won as many as four games in one season.
- Be the 638th win in the 119 seasons of Army football.

Football champs crowned



IN IT TO WIN IT -- Maurice Brown, MRB flag football team, heads straight down the middle for one of two MRB touchdowns during the Fort Dix Intramural Flag Football Playoffs at the Griffith Field House Main Field Dec. 3. After winning the top spot for the regular flag-football season against seven other teams, the MRB crew had success winning the championship for the second year in a row, with a score of 14-7, beating second place Warriors. The game started with an early MRB touchdown. The Warriors tied the score minutes later, but were defeated after a long defensive battle, with a late MRB score. The 14 MRB teammates were each given two trophies. One trophy for their championship victory and another for being regular season champions with a record of 8-2.

Sports Shorts

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

Combat Fitness Challenge
 Maximize the benefits of standard physical fitness training at the Griffith Field House.
 The Combat Fitness Training Challenge, every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. is an intense military-style group workout given by certified Griffith Field House personal trainers and Army master fitness trainers.
 The class includes running, military-style calisthenics and drill exercises, cardio kickboxing and more.

Basketball
 Sign up today for the upcoming Intramural Basketball Season at the Griffith Field House. Anyone interested can register a team, or register as a free agent.
 Call (609)562-3961 or (609)562-4888 for more info.

Mixed Martial Arts
 The Asylum Fight League will take over the Griffith Field House Dec. 12 when it presents a night of mixed martial arts competition.
 A limited number of tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20.
 Tickets will be available at the door for \$40.
 Field House doors will open at 7 p.m. First match starts 8 p.m.
 Call 609-562-4888 or stop at the Griffith Field House for tickets and more information.

Soldiers observe day of Thanksgiving



Staff Sgt. Russell Patterson, left, 178th Military Police Company, Georgia National Guard, out of Monroe, Ga., is interviewed by Bob Pruitt, cameraman from Channel 6, ABC News, Philadelphia, at a Thanksgiving dinner for Soldiers at Cherry Hill, Nov. 27. The event, hosted by Fort Dix honorary commander, Eric Spevak and the Jewish War Veterans, Post 126, took place in Cherry Hill and featured Soldiers from the 178th and 267th MP companies. Many former members of Philadelphia sports teams and other high profile individuals showed up to support and serve the Soldiers. Some of the special guests were Jill Horner, Miss New Jersey 2000, congressman-elect John Adler, 3rd congressional district, Senator Stephen Sweeney, legislative district 3, former Philadelphia Eagles Vince Papale and Garry Cobb, Ashley Fairfield - Miss New Jersey 2008, members of the Jewish War Veterans Post 126, and Eric, Michelle and Marshall Spevak.

LOOSENING UP -- Soldiers, at right, unwind and enjoy themselves during the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner in Cherry Hill, Nov. 27. The event featured Soldiers from the 178th and 267th Military Police Companies who are currently training at Fort Dix and was hosted by Eric Spevak and the Jewish War Veterans of Cherry Hill, Post 126. A bountiful feast and plenty of entertainment helped these Soldiers to relax and, for a moment, not worry about being away from their families for the holiday. The Soldiers were told and shown how much their sacrifice on behalf of the nation is appreciated by those around them.



photos by Ryan Morton



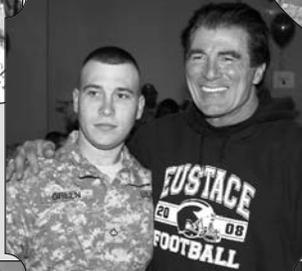
HO HO HOST OF THE PARTY -- Eric Spevak, Thanksgiving Day dinner organizer, and Santa, at right, talk to the Soldiers at the event held in Cherry Hill, Nov. 27. Sgt. Michael Spikes, 178th MP Co., Georgia National Guard, above, out of Monroe, Ga., breaks into a rendition of James Brown's "Living in America" during the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner in Cherry Hill. Everyone in attendance got into the impromptu performance as Spikes belted out the tune, energizing the crowd. He was joined by DJ Tommy E.



DINNER AND A SMILE -- Spc. Juan Ealey, 178th MP Co., Georgia National Guard, at left, out of Monroe, Ga., gets served Thanksgiving dinner by Ashley Fairfield, Miss New Jersey, 2008, Nov. 27. Fairfield took time to visit with the Soldiers throughout the dinner. At Right, Pfc. Matt Armitage, 178th MP Co., has his picture taken with Miss New Jersey. Many of the Soldiers in attendance were ecstatic about the opportunity of having their photos taken with Fairfield. She took time out for each interested Soldier.



FOOTBALL AND FOOD -- Vince Papale, the former National Football League player who was the inspiration for the movie "Invincible" poses for a photo with Pfc. Cody Green, 267th MP Co., part of the Tennessee National Guard, out of Dixon, Tenn., at the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner in Cherry Hill, Nov. 27. Below, Soldiers chow down on Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans Post 126 and Fort Dix Honorary Commander Eric Spevak at America's Best Value Inn in Cherry Hill Nov. 27. The Soldiers appreciated the meal and the days events.



LOAD ME UP -- Jewish War Veteran William Roth, below, serves up a huge helping of macaroni and cheese to Pvt. Antoinette Prince of the 267th Military Police Company, Tennessee National Guard out of Dixon, Tenn. during Thanksgiving Dinner at the America's Best Value Inn in Cherry Hill Nov. 27. Soldiers were treated to Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

