

thePost

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NEWSNOTES

ID Card facility offers Saturday hours

The ID Card facility located at 5418 S. Scott Plaza will be open Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 562-3373 or 562-6143.

Retiree Council hosts luncheon at Club Dix

A Luncheon will be sponsored by the Fort Dix Retiree Council for retirees and guests Feb. 28. Guest speaker for the event will be Col. Ronald R. Thaxton, Fort Dix commander. He will provide an update on the status of the Joint Base Initiative. The luncheon will be held at Club Dix, with the Social Time beginning at 11:30 a.m. followed by the luncheon at noon. The luncheon will be a Country Buffet that includes Barbecue Ribs, Chicken, Cat Fish, Corn Bread, Hush Puppies, Macaroni and Cheese, Vegetable, Coffee, Iced Tea, and Apple Pie. Tickets for the luncheon are \$24, gratuity included. Checks may be made payable to the Fort Dix Retiree Council. Retirees and guests are invited to send reservation requests and their checks to Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Norman V. Pallotto, 15 East Central Avenue, Moorestown, New Jersey 08057 no later than February 25.

Town Hall Meeting on calendar Feb. 5

The next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. in Timmermann Center, Bldg. 5441.

Topics to be presented include Joint Base Update; Management of Change in the Work Environment; Suicide Prevention; Fort Dix Suspected Terrorist Activity Reporting (STAR) Program; Prevention of Sexual Harassment; Construction/Housing Update; Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) Events; and Winter Driving Safety. Employees may ask questions at the meeting, or submit them in advance to Bill Howard at the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office (PAIO). Questions may be submitted by phone 562-6660, via e-mail at bill.howard1@us.army.mil, or sent directly to Bldg. 5418, Room 217A (adjacent to interior of PAIO Conference Room). Please submit advance questions no later than Monday, Jan. 26. Questions will be kept confidential and may be submitted anonymously.

WEATHER

FRIDAY -- Partly cloudy, warmer with high of 46 degrees and low of 31.

SATURDAY -- Cloudy with some afternoon sun, high of 40 degrees and overnight low of 15.

SUNDAY -- Cloudy, chance of flurries, daytime high of 30 degrees and overnight low of 19.

MONDAY -- High of 32, cloudy with scattered flurries, light breezes, overnight low of 13 degrees.

TUESDAY -- Clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon, high of 35 degrees and low of 20.

WEDNESDAY -- Snow showers in afternoon, daytime high of 31 and low of 21 degrees.

THURSDAY -- Cloudy, chance of snow flurries in afternoon, high of 35 degrees and overnight low of 30 degrees.

Coast Guard teams up for inaugural security



Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Unseen by most people, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) offered extra security to our nation's VIPs and more than a million American citizens during the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21.

The Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, located on Fort Dix, was part of a National Strike Team tasked with the critical responsibility of maintaining a maritime security zone in Washington. Consisting of waterway restrictions and closures on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, the USCG was tasked to be aware of, deter, detect, intercept and respond to threats or acts of aggression and attacks by terrorists.

"Our job is to prevent any security incidents that would close the waterways and impede recreational and commercial traffic beyond the normal constraints of our operational obligations," said Lt. Cmdr. Lynda C. LeCrone, the commanding officer (CO) of Coast Guard Station Washington.

To do this, roaming detection teams could randomly search vessels on the waters in and around the nation's capitol. The Coast Guard also joined people on the ground, testing the air and searching for any biological, chemical, or radiological (continued on page 3)



Lisa Evans

FUNCTIONALITY -- Lt. Michael Weaver, Atlantic Strike Team, US Coast Guard Fort Dix, function tests an oxygen bottle, part of the equipment used during inauguration security efforts.

Committee tackles AFAP issues

Carolee Nisbet
Editor

From medical issues to traffic jams at the Shopette gas station, the Commander's Army Family Action Plan Steering Committee hashed out issues raised by the community during an action council meeting Jan. 21 in the Command Conference Room.

The session was chaired by Col. Ron Thaxton, Fort Dix commander, and organized by Fran Booth, the post's AFAP coordinator.

"The October AFAP conference was very informative," Thaxton said. "We got a lot of issues on the table. Some will go higher for resolution, and some we will fix right here today."

First on the list was a request to improve the condition of the Fort Dix One-Mile Physical Training Track. Dave Pekham, director of Public Works, reported that the track has been graded and surfacing material added. Construction of a new track is on the long-range development plan for the installation, he added, but until

then, maintenance is the solution. The issue was marked as closed.

Multiple issues involving housing were raised at the conference.

Eligibility for on-post housing for military members assigned to duty outside of Fort Dix and McGuire was the first issue.

Residents also asked for clarification on the fencing policy. United

Communities is working on a consistent plan for uniform fence construction and a resolution on who is responsible for the cost of the fences.

A third housing issue was that of multiple moves required of Soldiers due to housing privatization.

While the issue was a major concern at the beginning of the project, when the contractor had to shuffle families to vacate quarters for demolition, construction is now complete in some areas and multiple moves have been eliminated.

(continued on page 7)



High-tech center opens for medical training

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers and civilian officials gathered on Fort Dix to usher in a new era of military medical training with the unveiling of the \$2 million Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) Jan. 17.

There are 17 other MSTC facilities Army-wide, but this is the first on an Army Reserve installation.

It will be used to train military personnel from all branches of service in classes held in simulated combat environments, down to lights, noise and realistic "casualties." The classes include Combat Life Saver (CLS), the Medic Sustainment Course (MSC), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Combat Medical Advanced Skills Training (CMAST). (continued on page 4)

TRAINING AID -- An emergency casualty simulator is part of a training scenario at the new Medical Simulation Training Center opened on Fort Dix Jan. 17.

military heritage

History reveals exploits of the 99th Infantry Division



Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

The 99th Regional Support Command (RSC), United States Army Reserve, conducted its activation ceremony at Fort Dix Sept. 20, 2008 becoming the latest addition to an expanding list of military units assigned to the premier post in the Garden State.

The 99th RSC is one of four regional support commands restructured under Army Reserve transformation initiatives. It's one of only four RSCs which were consolidated from 10 Reserve Readiness Commands.

Under the current U.S. Army Reserve transformation, the 99th RSC now becomes the regional support command for the entire Northeast Region, picking up geographical control formally assigned to commands representing the 7th, 94th and 99th RSCs.

The 99th Headquarters moves to Fort Dix from the Pittsburgh area. Its future mission is concerned with providing administrative, logistical, and facilities management support for all Army Reserve units operating out of a 13-state radius encompassing Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

The 99th RSC's historical roots sprout from the sinews of the 99th Infantry Division, whose legacy has won military renown, especially during World War II.

The 99th Infantry Division came into being on July 23, 1918 with the establishment of a headquarters at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. The unit was reconstituted on June 24, 1921 as Headquarters Command 99th (Checkerboard) Division, becoming part of the organized Army Reserve in Pittsburgh.

After assuming a military police mission in January 1942, the unit was reorganized as the 99th Infantry Division in April of that same year. Troops from the 99th trained at Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi in November 1942, expecting to see combat soon.

The 99th moved overseas on troop ships to England, arriving on October 10, 1944 before proceeding to Aubel, Belgium. Soldiers from the 99th first saw action on November 9, 1944, skirmishing with heavier enemy resistance. They again tangled with the enemy while patrolling their sector of the 22-mile long Siegfried Line in mid-December, 1944.

In late December, the Battle of the Bulge began. Cut in two and partially surrounded, 99th Soldiers nevertheless repelled Von Runstedt's fierce attack. They also held on to the Eisenborn Ridge despite massive German attacks rarely equalled in their ferocity. Having won their spurs under fire, the 99th now attacked through the Monschau Forest, crossing the Eifel Canal on the famed bridge at Remagen in March of 1945.

After capturing Gissen, the battle-hardened troops assaulted what remained of Nazi resistance in the Ruhr pocket. With the fall of Iserlohn, the pocket collapsed. Relentlessly, the 99th pushed forward, crossing the Aithmuhl and Danube rivers before halting at Giessenhausen on VE Day. Occupational duties followed.

The 99th Infantry Division became inactivated on September 27, 1945. A total of 1,134 men from the Checkerboard Division had been killed in action and another 4,177 were wounded during the campaigns and in 151 days of full-scale combat in the European theatre.

Reactivated as the 99th U.S. Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) on Dec. 22, 1967, the 99th has since remained under the Army Reserve umbrella. Soldiers from its subordinate units serving with distinction from Vietnam to the present day.



Wikimedia Commons

LEGACY OF VICTORY -- The 99th Infantry Division adopted a shoulder patch which earned it the nickname of the Checkerboard Division, left, before their Soldiers became famous as the "Battle Babies" for their combat exploits during World War II. On the right above, a 99th Soldier loads a belt of ammo for his .30 caliber machine gun during the Battle of the Bulge.



http://www.armyreserve.army.mil



National Archives

STALKING THE ENEMY -- Three GI's from the 99th "Battle Baby" Infantry Division move toward their fighting positions just outside of Krinkelt, Belgium, unaware that within three days they will be fighting for their lives against the tanks and Panzergrenadiers of the Sixth Panzer Army.



National Archives

BRACING FOR AN ATTACK -- Soldiers from the 99th, left, construct a winterized squad hut near the front lines during the Battle of the Bulge. That particular winter was among the coldest in decades in Europe. On the right, troops from the 99th and nearby 2nd Divisions man fighting positions and wait for the next enemy push. So determined was the GI's defense of Eisenborn that it threw off the German timetable and forced them to launch a series of all-out attacks. At one point, the Americans called in artillery fire on themselves to stop enemy tanks that were only half a football field away from foxholes like this one.



http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii

NASTY TERRAIN -- Troops from the 26th Infantry Division position an antitank gun near an expected German advance at butterback. Soldiers from the 99th fought near the 26th in this area and faced the same formidable forces of nature.



National Archives

POW -- A captured German tank crewman is marched away from his destroyed vehicle.



Tracking the 99th in World War II

According to the summary of Robert Humphrey's new book about the 99th Division, contained within the jacket of his work, Soldiers of the Checkerboard Division had a rough time in World War II.

"For the Soldiers on the front lines of World War II, a lifetime of terror and suffering could be crammed into a few hours of combat. This was especially true for members of the 99th Infantry Division who repelled the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge and engaged in some of the most dramatic, hard-fought actions of the war."

Once Upon a Time in War: The 99th Division in World War II (see picture at right) "presents a stirring view of combat from the perspective of the common Soldier. Author Robert E. Humphrey personally retraced the path of the 99th through Belgium and Germany and conducted extensive interviews with more than 300 surviving veterans."

Humphrey's narrative, "seamlessly woven to create a collective biography, offers a gritty reenactment of World War II from the enlisted man's point of view, revealing the physical and psychological hardships Soldiers endured and how they coped with them."

Humphrey, a professor of Communication Studies at California State University at Sacramento, has unfortunately not provided a copy of his book to this news source, presenting somewhat of a problem for a reviewer who doesn't claim clairvoyance.

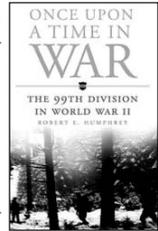
But ours is not to reason why, ours is merely to report.

Still, one manages to piece enough together from reviews Humphrey kindly sent out to determine, at least, that anyone who ever served with the 99th in its wartime or peaceful configurations, would probably be interested in reading the author's account.

While researching Humphrey's book I stumbled across an interesting excerpt for Maj. Gen. Walter E. Lauer's Battle Babies: The Story of the 99th Infantry Division in World War II, by Walter E. Lauer, A.G. Hallidin Publishing Co., first printing 1951, second printing 1967, softcover, 351 pages, price varies.



Maj. Gen. Walter E. Lauer



"Once Upon a Time in War: The 99th Division in World War II" by Robert E. Humphrey, University of Oklahoma Press, 2008, hardcover, 366 pages, U.S. list price \$24.05

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Lauer commanded the 99th when "For two days, Dec. 16 and 17, 1944, doughs of the 99th stood alone at a hot corner of the Battle of the Bulge -- in front of Eisenborn, at Krinkelt, Wirtzfeld, Bullingen - while the Wehrmacht's best troops lowered the boom against their thinly-held line. "Spread over a 20-mile front and without reserves, the green troops under Maj. Gen. Walter E. Lauer battled six divisions -- the 12th, 246th, 277th and 326th Volksgrenadier, the 3rd Panzer and the 12th SS Panzer Divisions, plus elements of paratroop units." And won.

-Steve Snyder

the Post

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Petty Officer 3rd Class Crystallynn A. Kneen
SAFEGUARDING D.C.--Lt. Cmdr. Lynda C. LeCrone acts as the patrol commander (PATCOM) for the Coast Guard's involvement in the 56th Presidential Inauguration. Petty Officer 1st Class Terence Braver, above, operates a Hazardous material I.D. Jan. 18.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandyn Hill.

Strike Team boosts security

(continued from page 1) threats using equipment that identified abnormal or elevated atmospheric readings or suspicious activities in the security zone.

Specialized skills and equipment brought the USCG to Washington. A hand-held piece of equipment called the Identifier used by the Coast Guard is able to detect radiation and classify it as a danger or not. Colored a bright yellow, the Identifier detects even very small amounts of radiation. It can tell the difference between natural ground radiation and even the tiny amount emitted by some wristwatches. It detects whether the isotopes in the radiation are harmful or not.

Once the equipment finds a source, a sample is sent to a lab that quickly responds with whether or not there is something to worry about.

Another piece of equipment is a Bio-Threat Alert Detector (BTA). Larger than the Identifier, the BTA is used to collect samples and test solids and liquids for any biological threats.

"Biological material is a living and growing agent," said Lt. j.g. Ryan Dickson, a response officer with the Gulf Strike Team. "The BTA detector gives an initial positive or negative response of the proteins that are found."

The other pieces of equipment the USCG brought to keep Americans safe during the inauguration were a Flame Ionization Detector (FID) which detects organic com-

pounds, and the Photo Ionization Detector (PID). Both are used to detect airborne chemical threats.

"The FID and the PID are used for initial entry in a hazardous or unknown environment," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Carol Bailie, an emer-

"The National Strike Force has a deep history in supporting this nation in large-scale events like these. Our teams have supported the Republican National Convention, The Democratic National Convention and now, this inauguration."

Petty Officer 1st Class Rick Mantiaci
Atlantic Strike Team

gency medical technician with the Atlantic Strike Team. "It gives you a starting point, and we go from there."

The Coast Guard members carrying this equipment are part of a specialized unit highly trained in threat detection.

The Atlantic Strike Team, Fort Dix, the Gulf Strike Team, Mobile Ala., and the Pacific

Strike Team, Novato, Ca., all took part as the new command-in-chief was sworn in.

"We are continuously training for any situation that arises," said Petty Officer 1st Class Rick Mantiaci, a response technician for the Atlantic Strike Team. "The National Strike

Force has a deep history in supporting this nation in large scale events like these. Our teams have supported the Republican National Convention and now, this inauguration."

These teams undergo a lot of training, but for special situations, training consists of an

80-hour Hazardous Material class, a 40-hour Weapons of Mass Destruction class, a 160-hour National Fire Protection Association HAZMAT technician course, and an 80-hour Basic Strike Team Equipment and Response training as well as numerous other courses.

"We are trained in numerous equipment. We can monitor air for contaminants, oxygen levels, flammability, explosive atmosphere and radioactivity," said Petty Officer 1st Class Dan Taylor, a response technician for the Atlantic Strike Team.

Beyond its training and specialized equipment, the Coast Guard has deployed a communications system used to communicate with the public when highly secured areas must occur. Called PIER, public information emergency response, the system includes a website used to communicate temporary security zone maps to the public. It can be found at www.uscgnews.com.

New administration sets agenda for veteran care

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 2009 — President Barack Obama has promised to deliver the care and benefits the nation's military veterans

deserve while transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization, according to an administration agenda posted on the White House Web site.

"Keeping faith with those who serve must always be a core American value and a cornerstone of American patriot-

ism," Obama said during a speech April 2007 in Kansas City, Mo.

"Because America's commitment to its servicemen and women begins at enlistment, and it must never end," Obama said.

Obama, who served on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, plans to reverse the 2005 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans into the VA system, allowing all veterans the opportunity for care, according to the agenda on veterans.

The administration also plans to continue the fight to end employment discrimination for Guardsmen and Reservists, who have faced both the loss of their jobs and the inability to get new jobs because of continued deployments.

Additionally, the administration aims to improve the process of transitioning from active duty to civilian life for military members leaving the service or returning from deployment.

To improve the benefit decision system, the administration will look at hiring additional claims workers with an improved accountability system across the board and training criteria.

Also, the administration plans to launch new programs and expand proven programs to prevent homelessness among veterans, as well as to explore the possibility of a national "zero tolerance" policy to ensure no veterans end up on the streets.

As they work to make VA a national leader in health care reform, the agenda says, administration officials will explore ways to improve mental health studies, polytrauma care, prosthetics development, spinal cord injury treatment and women's health.

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 Jan. 12 through 18.

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 responded to a motor vehicle crash at CP 9. Investigation revealed a truck, operated by a civilian NAFD, rolled backwards and struck another vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop on Pennsylvania Avenue police discovered the vehicle operator, a Soldier NAFD, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●During a routine traffic stop at the Wrightstown gate the vehicle operator, a retired military member, behaved in a combative, resistant, and belligerent manner. The subject was cited for the original violation (failure to inspect motor vehicle) and disorderly conduct.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5991. Investigation revealed the alarm activated for unknown reasons.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash near Bldg. 5602. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Fort Dix contract employee, struck a basketball pole 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 an incident in Bldg. 5231. Investigation revealed a Soldier, assigned to Fort Dix, was stuck in an elevator. Fire Department personnel opened the elevator doors and freed the victim. A work order to repair the elevator was submitted.

●Police responded to a traffic accident at the Main Gate. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, slid in the snow and struck a traffic light. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was released to the operator at the scene.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at Tenth Street and New Jersey Avenue. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, slid on ice and struck another vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop on Cookstown Road police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, and a passenger, also a civilian NAFD, had a shotgun in the vehicle cab. The subjects stated they were spotting deer. The subjects were transported to the police station for processing, cited for the original violation and for unlawful possession of a weapon, and released. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

●Police and emergency medical personnel responded to a motor vehicle crash at New Jersey Avenue at Philadelphia Avenue. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, slid into the inbound lane on the icy road surface and struck a second vehicle. The operator of vehicle two was stabilized at the scene and transported to VMHBC for further treatment. Vehicle two sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene. The subject's vehicle was released to the operator at the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5910. Investigation revealed no cause for the alarm.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5275. Investigation revealed a detector had filled with water causing an alarm.

While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Main Gate police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a CO alarm in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed an inoperable sensor was the cause of the alarm. United Communities was contacted.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5522. Investigation revealed a malfunctioning pressure switch caused the alarm.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center, police discovered the subject, a civilian NAFD, had an outstanding warrant out of North Wildwood. North Wildwood was contacted and issued a new court date.

●There were 11 expired identification cards confiscated during the period.

●There were 22 Magistrate Court Citations issued for moving violations. DWI incidents remain at one for the year.

Weather Hotline

When weather conditions cause a change in operations at Fort Dix, information on delays and closures will be posted on the Weather Hotline, 562-4065, by 6 a.m. each morning. Changes will also be posted on WDIX, Channel 2 TV for Comcast viewers, and on www.dix.army.mil. Please do not call the police desk for information.

International Spouses Group hosts Open House Jan. 30

The Army Community International Spouses Group is hosting an Open House Jan. 30 at 11:45 a.m. at Army Community Service, Bldg. 5201 between 8th Street and Maryland Avenue. Foreign spouses from all military branches and DoD civilians are invited to attend this meeting. Come to meet other spouses, find out what services are available in Fort Dix, McGuire, Lakehurst and surrounding communities and to share your experiences. At this meeting, the group will plan monthly activities for the year. Please bring ideas. Lunch will be provided. All attendees will receive a Valentine's Day gift. Children are welcomed. Registration in advance is required. For more information and registration call Amada Espinoza or Patricia Toler at 609-562-2767.

Marines to get new facility

Construction crews demolish the World War II era buildings along Texas Avenue Jan. 6. The buildings, which were used as an Army maintenance facility, were destroyed to make way for a new Marine Corps Reserve Air Corps Group helicopter hangar, below. The Marines are moving to Fort Dix from Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, Pa., as part of the Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) program. Construction on the new hangar is slated to begin as soon as possible, with a 2011 anticipated move-in date. Construction has already begun on the new Army maintenance facility situated off of Range Road.



Ryan Morton



artist rendition

High-tech medical center



photos by Ryan Morton

A CUT ABOVE -- Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Park, Medical Readiness Training Command (MRTC), above left, and Brig. Gen. Richard Stone, MRTC commander, cut the ceremonial ribbon for the grand opening of the Fort Dix Medical Simulation Training Center, Jan. 17. One of 17 such facilities Army-wide, the center located in the 3200 area, will provide Soldiers with the opportunity to learn combat life-saving skills in a realistic setting. The new center features life-like automatons called Emergency Casualty Simulators. These high-tech mannequins simulate breathing, moving, twitching, blinking, and can even bleed fake blood. In addition to working with the Emergency Casualty Simulators, training Soldiers experience the noise and confusion of performing battlefield life-saving techniques. The rooms in the new facility are equipped with the ability to add fog and sounds such as explosions and machine gun fire, through speakers.

(continued from page 1)
The number of MSTC's in the Army is expected to rise to 32 in the future.

Among those on hand was one of the men who cut the ribbon, Brig. Gen. Richard Stone, Commander of the Medical Readiness Training Command (MRTC), Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"This is extraordinary. This is great work. These kinds of projects are sacred. It's the combat medic who has made the difference in this war and these programs make it happen," said Stone.

This facility puts Soldiers in a simulated training environment with mannequins called Emergency Casualty Simulators (ECS). These ECSs, developed by Medical Education Technology Inc. (METI), work well in training because they are extremely lifelike. They breathe, move, blink, and even bleed. Fog and noise such as

explosions and machine gun fire are added through speakers in the rooms to add to the effect while the medical personnel work to treat the injured.

"We want to simulate as much blood and realism as possible so that when a Soldier sees it in combat he won't freeze," said Jamell Hassell, MSTC site manager, during the guided tour.

"We figure the more we stress them out here the better off they'll be downrange. We're excited about the potential of what this place has to offer," he said.

An outside litter obstacle course is currently under construction and is slated for completion in the spring time and will be used for training such as moving a casualty on a stretcher over walls and water in a combat simulated setting.

The first class to utilize this facility will be a CLS class starting next week.



NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

Vacancies available at School Aged Services

Vacancies are available for children in grades one through six at School Aged Services. Transportation is available to and from schools in the Pemberton School District and North Hanover School District. Call Central Enrollment Registry at 562-4702/5231 for more information and to register.

Popular games return to Dix

Back by popular demand, it is card night at Club Dix. Bunco and Texas Hold'em return to the Club Jan. 23. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the games begin at 7 p.m. The registration fee for Bunco is \$7. The registration fee for Texas Hold'em is \$19 in advance or \$24 at the door. For more information contact Bob Vogt at 562-6772.

Respite child care available for deployed military

Families of Deployed Military, under TCS Orders, PCS accompanied Tour Orders, TDY Status for 90-179 Days Orders, Rear Detachment Cadre in support of immediate Families of deployed Soldiers, and Wounded Warriors or Fallen Warriors are eligible for many free and discounted services in Child Youth Services (CYS) respite child care, reduced full day care fees, free sports and instructional classes.

Please call 562-2242 for more information.

Free YMCA memberships available for Active Duty families

Active duty families at McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station are eligible for free YMCA memberships as part of a pilot program. Memberships will be issued on a first come, first served basis with 300 to 450 family memberships available. For more information, please visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=12259>

Credit education classes offered at Army Community Services

Learn more about how to manage your credit at the Army Community Services Financial Readiness Meetings, Jan. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call 562-2767 for details.

Thrift Shop offers shoppers super-savings

The Fort Dix Thrift Shop is offering an additional 25 percent discount on seasonal items that were previously marked down for a total of 75 percent off the original price.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at the Thrift Shop, please call Sylvia at the Thrift Shop at (609) 723-2683.

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m. to noon. The store is also open the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Wednesday of the month from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Tickets still available for dinner theater

Tickets are still available for *Held in Trust*, a black history dinner theater event held at Club Dix on Jan. 29. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$12 for children 12 years-old and younger. For more information call 562-5355.

Club Dix to host Job Fair

Job-seekers are invited to attend a Job Fair at Club Dix Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more details call the Fort Dix Employment and Readiness office at 562-2186.

Chapel to hold New Testament seminar

The Fort Dix Chapel will hold a *Walk Thru the Bible* seminar on Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A children's seminar will be held at the same time. Registration is \$5 per person or \$10 per family and includes lunch. For more information call 562-2020.

Honoring King's legacy

Dixans honored the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15, celebrating his birthday with fine food and some fiery rhetoric at a luncheon within the spacious confines of Club Dix.

Although servers ran out of chicken fairly early during the lunch, speeches honoring Dr. King did justice to the memory of the man who had a dream.

Bryan Pitt sung an impressive National Anthem to get the affair rolling while members of the Pleasantville High School JROTC drill team presented the colors and later retired them in sterling fashion. Homer O. Justice gave a stirring account of what Dr. King's birthday and life meant to him but the guest speaker, the Rev. Hilda J. Covington, was especially articulate.

She challenged the audience, bemoaning the fact that "So many of us don't take the time to make a difference."

Covington traced progress over the centuries, noting that respect is a cornerstone of anything that is called love. "Our survival demands that we grapple with problems in history," whether they be educational, economic or emotional in nature, she said. The Reverend encouraged listeners to emulate the Masai tribe who always ask, "How are the children?"

Committee members responsible for organizing the King luncheon include Chairman Fay Marshall-Dease, Co-chair Francis Booth, Kelly Caesar, Gaylor Simmons, Denise Horton, Sharon Gardner and Vivian Cook.



National Archives and Records Administration
Martin Luther King Jr. addresses a crowd from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where he delivered his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech during the Aug. 28, 1963, march on Washington, D.C.



photos by Steve Snyder

FANNING FESTIVITIES -- Dixans attending the luncheon honoring Dr. King enjoyed the food, above, while it lasted and were treated to some impassioned oratory from the Rev. Hilda Covington, at right.



Volunteers offer aid for tax problems

The Fort Dix Installation Legal Office is once again preparing for the start of the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Active duty personnel, military retirees, and their dependent family members are eligible for free tax assistance to include preparation of federal and most state returns and electronic filing.

The tax program officially will begin on Feb. 2, and will run through April 15. This free service is comprised of volunteers who receive limited training from the IRS, and therefore, certain more complex returns, such as those involving rental property, private businesses, foreign-earned income, and inheritance, fall outside the scope of the VITA program.

The documents required for a tax appointment include the following: Social Security cards for all dependents you are claiming; a copy of last year's federal and state income tax returns; W-2 wage and earning statement(s); Form 1099 bank interest and dividend statements; the amount

of the economic stimulus payment you received in 2008; information on Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) you contributed to last year or plan to contribute to by April 15; information on any child care expenses you paid last year with the name and Social Security number or the tax identification number of the provider; alimony information; mortgage interest statement; and any other financial information for the tax year such as investment statements, medical expenses, and charitable contribution records.

If you desire direct deposit of your refund or direct debit if you owe taxes, you will need your bank routing number and account number. This information can be found on the bottom of your personal checks. The VITA tax site will be located on Fort Dix in Building 5506. Preparation of federal and state tax returns will be by appointment only. Eligible clients should call 562-3976 after Feb. 2 to schedule an appointment.

emergent wetlands, fallow fields, grasslands, meadows, airports and agricultural areas. An opportunistic hunter, the harrier consumes seasonally abundant prey such as small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. After spotting a potential meal, a harrier hovers and then pounces upon the intended prey.

They seldom pursue their prey in the air or watch quietly from an exposed perch, as do other birds of prey. The scientific name comes from the Greek word *kirkos* and refers to flying in circles, and cyan, a blue color alludes to the color of the male bird. Harrier is from the Old English word *hergian*, and means to harass, ravage, or plunder. Harriers roost and nest on the ground, often in groups in a traditional location. Unlike most hawks, harriers can use their sense of hearing to help locate prey. Their owl-like facial disk has stiff feathers to help transmit sound. The male Northern Harrier's courtship flight is a series of dramatic "barrel rolls" over his territory. Native American tribes believe that seeing a hawk on your wedding day is a sign of a long, happy marriage.

Migratory bird calls area winter home

Jennifer Armento
Fort Dix Environmental Office

The northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is the only North American member of the group of hawks known as harriers.

The harrier has an owl-like facial disk and white rump patch that is prominent in flight sets the harrier apart from other North American hawks and falcons.

The harrier is also one of the few raptors that are sexually dimorphic which means that males and females have different external visual characteristics. The males are slate gray above and white below with black wingtips, while the females and juveniles are brown above and buff colored below with brown vertical streaking on the chest and belly.

The Northern Harrier is a migrant and winter resident of New Jersey and has been sighted in the Fort Dix area. In New Jersey the bird is listed on the endangered species list and the Harrier is listed as a Federal Migratory Nongame Bird of Management Concern.

Also known as the marsh hawk, the northern harrier inhabits open country such as tidal marshes,

emergent wetlands, fallow fields, grasslands, meadows, airports and agricultural areas. An opportunistic hunter, the harrier consumes seasonally abundant prey such as small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. After spotting a potential meal, a harrier hovers and then pounces upon the intended prey.

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www.wikipedia.org

Army seeks talented troops for variety show

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

The USA Express, a top-40 variety show comprised of U.S. Army troops, is about to take the stage and embark on a world tour later this year.

Before they can leave, however, they have to select the band. The show is looking for talented active duty component, National Guard, or Reserve Soldiers who have the rank of sergeant or below who can play an instrument such as the guitar, bass, drums or keyboard. Singers are also being sought.

Also wanted is a qualified audio technician who can operate a public address system; one with the ability to operate a basic digital audio sound mixer and who possess a rudimentary knowledge of audio equalization.

Interested Soldiers should submit a demo tape or CD, a detailed resume outlining experience, a copy of his or her enlisted records brief and current DA photo, a copy of his or her latest record Army Physical Fitness Test, a current military driver's license, and copies of the last two Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Reports (NCOER), if applicable. Soldiers must also meet height and weight standards, be deployable worldwide, and if chosen, must receive a Letter of Release from the unit's commander for the TDY time period.

Qualified Soldiers should send application materials and contact information, including e-mail and phone number, by March 31 to: U.S. Army Entertainment Division, Attention: USA Express, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir VA 22060. Anyone using FEDEX or UPS should mail items to 6091 Jackson Loop, Bldg. 1434, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Application packets are accepted anytime during the year for consideration to tour with future Army Entertainment programs. For more information please call Cordell Hall, USA Express Program Manager and Musical Director, at 703-806-3220 or Sgt. Joe Lier at 703-806-3045.



courtesy photo

TALENTED TROOPS-- The Army is searching for talented troops to join USA Express, above, a touring variety show featuring Soldiers.

Brigade welcomes new commander

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Col. William Balogh took command of the troop program unit of the 2nd Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division (BTCD), U.S. Army Reserve from Brig. Gen. D. Christopher Leins in a ceremony held in the Fort Dix Griffith Field House Jan. 11.

The senior commander for the event, Maj. Gen. Eldon P. Ragua, 75th Division commander, recounted the history of the brigade and praised 70 Soldiers now in Afghanistan and 130 Soldiers helping Iraqis take control of security in Iraq. He also praised 400 Soldiers stateside saying the brigade was very busy and would remain busy in their tasking to train Soldiers to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

Praising the skills Leins provided the brigade after assuming command in November 2006, Ragua announced Leins has been reassigned as deputy commander of the new U.S. Africa Command, Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, activated Oct. 1, 2008.

Saying that Leins was moving to a much larger arena of responsibility Ragua said, "America would fit in the continent of Africa three times. It's a very large command you are taking over, sir."

Speaking on Leins' new duties, Ragua briefly discussed the U.S. Africa Command.

Leins will be coordinating 53 African nations and their military and security organizations. Regua concluded his speech by telling Leins he will receive a Legion of Merit after the paperwork works its way through the Pentagon in the next two months.

In his farewell speech, Leins said he had no notes but that he spoke from his heart. After thanking his Soldiers, he was overcome by emotion, and stood with his head down as he wiped his eyes. Leins simply thanked the Soldiers once more and sat down.

Balogh kept his remarks very short as well, beginning with, "I promise to keep my commitments brief - I see I have three group commanders already looking at their watches."

But he held nothing back in speaking of his former commander.

"Thank you for all you've done with the brigade. Your leadership, tutelage and guidance over the past two years have made this organization a much better one. You will be missed. Godspeed to you and your family as you go off to do great things in your next assignment."

Balogh ended his speech with the offer to help Mrs. Leins with anything she may need during her husband's deployment. Telling her not to hesitate to call, he said they were all there for her.

Balogh has served as the deputy brigade commander for

the 2nd Bde., 75th Div. since July 2007, giving him intimate working knowledge of his new command.

A New York native and 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, Balogh holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, a master's in guidance and counselor education from Providence College, a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College and a master's degree in Simulation Training Systems from the University of Central Florida. His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

First Lt. Richard Suzano presented yellow roses to Dominique Leins. Narrator Maj. Michael Reardon praised Mrs. Leins and thanked her and her husband for their dedication and sacrifices during past years and in the years to come.

Col. Larry Biederman blessed the proceedings, the Soldiers in attendance and those in harm's way and asked for guidance for the troops and commanders in coming times.

From his first commission in field artillery upon graduation from West Point, Balogh has served at postings in Germany, Iraq and across the U.S. He has served in command positions in artillery, combat maneuver training, simulation



Lisa Evans

COMMANDERS' ROW - Brig. Gen. D. Christopher Leins, outgoing commander, 2nd Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division, Maj. Gen. Eldon P. Ragua, 75th Division commander, and incoming commander Col. William Balogh salute the brigade guidon as it is brought forward to be passed during the Change of Command Ceremony Jan. 11 at Griffith Field House.

exercise groups, and training support. In Iraq, Balogh served as a division team chief in the Military Transition Team. Balogh's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service

Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters; the Army Commendation Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Achievement Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 2; the Combat Action Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Star; the Iraqi Campaign Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Achievement Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 2; the Combat Action Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Post gains two chaplain assistants

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

The Main Chapel staff has received help in the manning department with the addition of not one, but two new chaplain assistants after a period of shortages that goes back for more than a year.

In November 2008, Staff Sgt. Myron Green reported for duty at Fort Dix after completing a tour-of-duty at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Green, who hails from the South Bronx in New York, has been a member of the Army Reserve since 1981 when he joined the military to broaden his experiences and sought high adventures. He also was looking for help in paying for his college education and was looking for financial stability for his family.

A career chaplain assistant, Green attended chaplain assistant training at Fort Monmouth in 1982.

The first portion of his career had been rather event free. He didn't deploy during the first Gulf War, but, in 2004 the Army made sure he didn't miss out on the opportunity again when he was deployed to Camp Arif Jan in Kuwait.

"Being at Camp Arif was like being in the states," said Green. "We had all the amenities of home, pretty much."

Towards the end of his tour-of-duty in Kuwait in 2005 the Army decided to bring him home early along with about a dozen other Soldiers and sent them to the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course at the Fort Dix NCO Academy.

"We were the first Soldiers to attend a course at BNOC while wearing the desert uniform. I'm not sure why, but they made a big deal about that," Green said.

One of Green's goals while at Fort Dix is to improve the beautification of the chapel grounds and include it with a morale day for chapel staff members.

Green is married to his wife of 23 years, Nkechi, a social worker, and has a daughter, Nkiem, 31, who is the manager of quality control at a pharmaceutical company in Indiana.

Green's newest comrade-in-arms is Sgt. Nisan Cornibert, a New York City police officer when not mobilized, who hails from Brooklyn. Cornibert was mobilized Jan. 5 for a one year period.

"I decided to join the Army to better myself as a person. I knew the military had a lot of opportunities to offer me. It just happened that we were at war, but that didn't discourage me," Cornibert said.

Cornibert is a 7 year Army veteran having joined the Active Duty component in February 2002. When he first



Wayne Cook

DYNAMIC DUO - Staff Sgt. Myron Green and Sgt. Nisan Cornibert are the newest members to the Main Chapel staff. The chaplain assistants bring with them a lot of enthusiasm and desire to serve Soldiers.

joined the military he was in the infantry.

"I chose infantry because at the time I was young and I wanted to experience some adventure. Boy, did I experience it. I was deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005. I was in Samara, Mosul, Najaf, and Kirkuk doing combat operations. When we returned to the states I returned to my duty station at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. It was a lot easier returning from war to Hawaii than it was leaving to war. I was assigned to the 25th Division, 1/14th Infantry Battalion, A Company," said Cornibert.

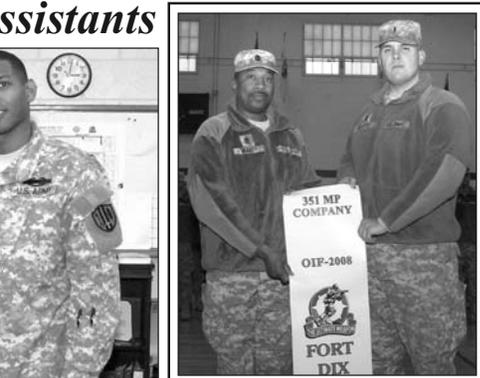
At the end of Cornibert's four year obligation to the Army he decided to switch over to the Reserve component

and reclassify as a chaplain assistant.

"I chose chaplain assistant because of the service I had received from other chaplain assistants while I was on active duty," he said.

"While I am here I would like to hone my skills and be able to provide as much help as I can to Soldiers who are deploying. I would like to get some of my schooling completed also," Cornibert added.

He has one daughter, 19-month-old Mya.



Wayne Cook

Heading for Iraq

First Sgt. Nathaniel Mulkey and 1st Lt. Jeremiah Blocker, commander, 351st Military Police Company, display their unit's Yellow Banner during a ceremony at Doughboy Gym Jan. 21. The unit, which hails from Ocala, Fla., completed seven weeks of training at Fort Dix and is headed for Mosul, Iraq to participate in a Police Transition Training mission.

At a time that begins a busy manpower turnover at the Main Chapel the two new chaplain assistants bring experience and stability.

Tri State Tire

Suluki

Petro Truck Stop

Calvary Baptist

Hanover Dental

Bible Baptist

Students meet finance challenge

Seven Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students at Pemberton Township High School have been awarded recognition certificates from the U.S. Department of the Treasury National Financial Literacy Challenge.

The students, all juniors, were recognized for scoring in the 25th percentile in the fall National Financial Literacy Competition. They were part of 75,000 high school students across the nation who competed in the challenge on financial literacy.

Receiving the certificates were: Anthony J. Balos, Marc A. Jones, Joshua K. Myers, Melanie L. Parson, Vincent A. Rossetti, Ariel Sears and Ashley Tinley.

Twenty-eight students enrolled in the JROTC high school financial planning course took the national test.

Together, they averaged a score of 53 percent, scoring above the country's average score of 52 percent.

"As a commander in the army, I saw 18 to 20 year olds coming into the army who didn't know anything about managing their finances," said Major John B. Cook, Senior Army Instructor at Pemberton Township High School. "When I had the opportunity to teach financial planning in high school, I jumped at the chance. It's important information they may not get anywhere else."

The financial planning course covers topics such as how to calculate interest rates, establish good credit, balance a checkbook, make and adhere to a budget and other tools to help students learn how to manage their money. All JROTC students take the course in their junior year.

The President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy was created in 2008 to assist Americans in understanding and addressing financial matters. The Council works with the public and private sectors to help increase financial education efforts for youth in schools, and recommended the initiative for the National Financial Literacy Challenge.

This is the first time JROTC students at Pemberton Township High School participated in the competition.



courtesy photo

FINANCIAL FINESSE - Members of the Pemberton Township High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps were awarded certificates for participating in the U.S. Department of the Treasury National Financial Literacy Competition. Back row - Superintendent Michael Gorman, Marc Jones, Anthony Balos, Vincent Rossetti, Joshua Myers and Principal Richard Nolan. Front row - Maj. John Cook, Ashley Tinley, Ariel Sears, Melanie Parson and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Deborah Beidman.

Latest tax changes could save you money

Gregg Semanick
IRS Media Relations

MOUNTAINSIDE, Jan. 22, 2009 - The Internal Revenue Service wants to remind taxpayers in preparing their tax returns to be aware of recent tax changes including new credits as well as recently reinstated deductions.

Some tax breaks and a review of your tax situation may result in a bigger refund or less taxes to be paid.

To ensure you do not miss out on any available tax credits, deductions and benefits, the IRS encourages taxpayers to

consider e-filing their federal tax returns. Over 2.5 million New Jersey federal tax returns were e-filed with the IRS last year. This accounted for 60 percent of all New Jersey federal tax returns filed.

E-filing coupled with direct deposit is a fast and convenient way to receive your tax refund in as little as 10 days. In New Jersey, approximately 75 percent of all filers receive a refund.

The Internal Revenue Service offers these tax tips:

First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit - First-time homebuyers can take advantage of a new tax credit available for a

limited time. The credit applies to primary home purchases between April 9, 2008 and June 30, 2009. This tax credit must be paid back in equal payments over 15 years.

The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price of the home, with a maximum available credit of \$7,500 for either a single taxpayer or a married couple filing jointly.

First-time homebuyers are those who have not owned a home in the three years prior to purchase.

Recovery Rebate Credit - If you did not qualify or did not receive the maximum amount for the 2008 Economic Stimu-

lus Payment you may be entitled to a Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2008 tax return.

Review the tax return filing instructions including the Recovery Rebate Credit worksheet.

Tuition and Fees Deduction - You may be able to deduct qualified tuition and required enrollment fees up to \$4,000 that you pay for yourself, your spouse, or a depend-

ent. You do not have to itemize to take this deduction.

However, a taxpayer cannot take both the tuition and fees deduction and education credits (Hope & Lifetime Learning Credits) for the same student in the same year.

Income limits and other special rules apply to each of these provisions.

To determine whether your expenses are qualified, refer to IRS Publication 970, Tax Ben-

efits for Education.

IRS Publication 970 also describes other education-related tax benefits. Check out the latest tax changes and other available tax credits on the www.irs.gov Web site and remember to e-file your tax return which helps ensure you do not miss out on any tax deductions, credits and benefits. Check out the benefits of e-filing at the www.irs.gov Web site.

Check law revises rules

Capt. Nick Mitchell
Judge Advocate

The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (popularly referred to as Check 21) became federal law on October 28, 2004. Check 21

allows banks to clear checks electronically instead of exchanging actual paper checks. Banks no longer have to return original checks with your monthly statements or even when there is a problem with a particular check.

"Substitute checks" are created which can be used as legal representations of the originals. Substitute checks are not photocopies of the originals, but include all the information contained on the original checks.

Banks usually take at least a day or two to process paper checks, but electronic processing of substitute checks can happen almost immediately.

This means that you have less "float" time between when you write a check and when the money is actually taken out of

your account. Quicker clearing also means less time to stop payment on a check. If you cash an unsolicited check that you have received in the mail, you may be agreeing to buy services and products that you really do not need or

want. Fake checks, including cashier's checks, can appear so real that even bank tellers are sometimes fooled.

However, just because you can withdraw the money does not mean the check is good. Forgeries can take weeks to

discover. You are responsible for the checks that you deposit. If a check bounces, you owe the bank any money that you withdrew. Never accept a check and then agree to send all or a portion of the money back to the sender. Remember - if you receive an unsolicited check in the mail along with a deal that seems too good to be true, it most likely is not true and is a scam to get ill-gotten money into the sender's hands (not your hands).



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra, 72nd FA Bde.

Bidding farewell

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher E. Melchoir, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, presents Sgt. Maj. Eric M. French with a plaque in appreciation for his service to the brigade. French served as the Communications Operations Section Noncommissioned Officer In Charge for the brigade for two years, and is leaving to deploy with the Pennsylvania National Guard in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Council tackles AFAP issues

(continued from page 1)

An additional issue raised by residents was lighting on streets. Residents are encouraged to call the customer service desk at 562-6021 to report inoperative street lights. Each utility pole has a small aluminum tag with a number -- those reporting malfunctioning lights should have that number before calling.

Traffic issues raised by the council included speeding in the parking lot of Bldg. 5139. Traffic patrols and tickets given to drivers taking short cuts through the lot have eliminated that problem.

Congestion at the McGuire AAFES entrance was also on the list, but the issue has been resolved since the checkpoint is

no longer active. Deactivation of the checkpoint also resolved the issue of double-checking ID cards when entering McGuire from Fort Dix.

The Fort Dix Chapel has been authorized to give entrance passes to parishioners who are not military ID card holders to attend Sunday services and other chapel-related activities, resolving another issue raised at the conference.

Sarah Johnson, director of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, responded to several issues raised at the conference.

First on the list was a request for expanded hours at the Arts and Crafts Center.

Johnson explained that the center makes every effort to ac-

commodate its customers.

"We try to adjust to the majority of requests, but it's a business and it has to pay for itself. If we expand the hours and no one shows up, we lose money," she said.

Another fee issue was raised concerning the Fort Dix Golf Course membership fees, with conference attendees noting that fees on Dix are higher than those on McGuire. Johnson noted that there is no requirement for courses to charge the same fees, and that like other services on post, the golf course must support itself.

Cost of meals and sanitary issues at the Club Dix buffet were also raised. Again, Johnson pointed out that the club is a business and cannot operate at a loss. On the cleanliness issue, she noted that food inspectors from the Fort Monmouth Veterinary Clinic monitor all food service facilities on post constantly.

Attendees raised the issue of school districts. As the Joint Base becomes a reality, students may be moved to one school district -- but while the state is considering that possibility, students will continue to go to school where they reside.

Wanda James from the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, noted in response to a U.S. Army Reserve families workforce training issue that writing classes for the National Security Personnel System are now scheduled every year before performance appraisals are due.

Army and Air Force Exchange System issues were also resolved.

A problem with customers pulling in to lanes at the gas sta-

tion from the wrong direction has been resolved by the cashier turning off the pump whenever he or she spots the wrong-way driver.

The manager also noted that the new pumps have been calibrated and certified by the state, and are just waiting for the stickers.

The issue of item availability at the Clothing Sales Store was also raised. While not every unit patch is carried at the store, all can be ordered either through the store or online.

Requests for a new chapette and food court in the housing area are being considered, with no location identified and some concerns over viability of such facilities based on the failure of such stores in the past.

A request by JROTC Cadets to participate in Post PT Runs was denied, based on the inability of the schools to get cadets to the field for the early-morning run and installation concerns about liability.

On the medical side, the issue of free TRICARE dental care for family members was raised, but it was quickly noted that such services are only offered overseas.

Issues passed up the chain include better information and services for National Guard and Reserve families for treatment of PTSD and other injuries, which is an active issue at the Department of Army level; and the use of AAFES and Commissary facilities by federal employees, which was closed by the Department of Army as unattainable.

Customer Service issues will be covered in next week's post.

Armed Forces Bank

Apell and Detrick

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.
CD
9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Chapel 5 - Bldg. 5950
Church Street
General Protestant Service
6:30 p.m.
COL-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.

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

Religious Activities

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
Buttonwood Hospital.

Fort Dix Spouse's Club

Pamper yourself at a luncheon
Feb. 18 at Club Dix. Pre-luncheon
gathering between
11:45 and noon. \$20 per person
Enjoy a free chair massage
for each attendee. Enter
to win a chance for a Choco-
late Spa pedicure. Contact
Jennifer Sanders 353-1470 or
502-644-7398 by Feb. 16.

ACS

562-2767
Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue
Calendar of Events
Wednesday, Jan. 28
AFAP/AFTP/
AVCC Overview
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
American Red Cross
Take Charge: The
Wise Use of Credit
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
ACS

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
Retires 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.
Step Fusion
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Cardio Muscle
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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 through Friday
Noon to 6 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Power Hour
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24
Soccer Game
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 27
Triple Play
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 28
Fashion Design
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Shutterbugs
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 29
Cosmetology
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30
Scrapbooking
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Keystone Club
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31
Cooking Project
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Fountain Green Golf Course
FGGC News and Events
Winter Hours
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Golf Course remains
open for play during the Winter
- *Conditions Permitting*
Visit our well stocked Pro-
Shop. Gift certificates are
available at the Pro-Shop.

FMWR presents

CLUB DIX 723-3272
Club Dix Hours of Operation
Java Café
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Smokehouse Restaurant
Lunch Served
Tuesday through Friday
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saturday through Monday
Closed
Blue Room
Wednesday
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Thursday through Saturday
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday through Tuesday
Closed
Computer Lab
Monday and Tuesday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday
Noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Out door Equipment Rental Center
Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upcoming Events

Black History Dinner Theater "Held In Trust" Jan. 29
Actor/artist Bob Stead brings
to life the story of Henry Ossian
Flipper the third black to be
accepted into West Point
Military Academy. Tickets are
now available, call 522-5355
for details.

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

Fort Dix Thrift Shop

723-2683
Hours of operation:
Tuesday and Thursday:
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays:
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
1st Wednesday: 3 p.m. to 7
p.m.
Shop for a good winter coat
or jacket as well as winter
clothes. Some Valentine items
on are sale, so shop early.
Check out a nice selection of
books. Need a lamp? There
are several to choose from.
And there is a fine selection
of household items available
from appliances to amoires,
furniture for every room in the
house. Come to the Thrift
Shop for every household
need.

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.
Black History Month Exhibit
View prints of the work of
famous African American
artists, on display through the
month of February.
Arts and Crafts Classes
Jenn's Backpack - Feb 5, 12,
19, 6:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Butterick B4583 See & Sew
patterns, view B. Home decor-
ator fabrics are perfect for this
project. See pattern back
for fabric needs as well as
required cost: \$30.00
Breakfast at My Window
Classes
Feb 7, 21, 28 and March 7,
21, 28
Moving into a new home
always brings challenges of
window treatments. Will the
drapes from our last home
look good here? Will they fit?
How can I update my win-
dows without spending a for-
tune? See the special flyer in
Arts & Crafts for details on
this class.
Framing Qualification Classes
Get qualified to use this great
facility and equipment.
Framers make one piece as
they learn to operate the
equipment. Students are
required to bring something in
to frame such as an 8 x 10
photo or certificate. All mate-
rials are available at the frame
shop which will be purchased
at the end of class.
Wednesday Classes: Feb. 4 or
18, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday Classes: Feb. 7, 9
a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Pre-regis-
tration fee of \$10 is required
prior to class. Materials not
included.)
Kids Introductory Painting
Class Ages 6 & up
Enjoy 4 weeks of creativity
while exploring various paint
media such as: acrylic, mixed
media, watercolor, and oil
pastels. Feb. 7 through 28
Saturdays 2:00-3:30 (4 week
course) \$30
Kids Pottery Class
Ages 6 to 9
Classes cover hand-building
(pinching, coiling and slab
building) as well as basic
wheel throwing skills. Stu-
dents will be shown basic
techniques that will lead to
their own creative solutions.
Clay, glazes and firings are
provided. Pre-registration
required.
Feb. 7 through 28, Saturdays
10:30 a.m. to noon (4 weeks)
\$30 fee

United Communities

Upcoming Events:
Need a computer?
Stop by the United Commu-
nities Leasing Office and use
the internet café. This service
is free to all residents of Unit-
ed Communities
Bingo Night
Join us at the leasing office on
Wednesday, Jan. 28th from 5
p.m. to 7 p.m. for UC's first
ever Bingo Night. Call the UC
Leasing Office at 723-4290
for more details to sign up.

**Attention Residents of Fal-
con Courts East:**
The enclosure for the com-
pactor in Parcel D (2700 area)
is now accessible. The new
enclosure is located near the
intersection of Mitchell Street
and North Lindbergh Avenue.

Going Green with Compaction

United Communities is proud
to support the base initiative
of "Going Green." Compac-
tors support a green envi-
ronment for many reasons:
• Fewer trucks driving through
the base emitting fewer emis-
sions.
• Fewer trips to the landfill
with a smaller size load with
more weight.
• Trash compactors promote
our recycling program
because with a regular door
pick up of recycling,
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.

Residential Refuse Collection

Monday and Tuesday
Green waste
Tuesday
Fort Dix Areas
201, 502
1200s, 1500s, 1600s
Wednesday
McGuire AFB
4000s Except 4013 - 4027
4200s Except 4252 - 4260
Friday
McGuire AFB
4013 - 4027; 4252 - 4260
4300s, 4400s and 4500s
*Bulk trash is picked up on
regular trash day.

Recycling picked up every other Thursday

Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 26
Recycling Memo:
Second recycling containers
are available at the UC Self
Help Office. Please call ahead
so the bins can be addressed
and ready for pick up. Reach
the Self Help Office at 724-
0550.

Good Year

Armed Forces Comm INC

The Real Es

Dixword Puzzle

Across

- Combat casual
- Before Walson
- WW I stalwart
- Not in uniform
- The ONLY way to fly!
- Could be hand-to-hand
- Home sweet tent
- What Fort Dix is known as
- Feet, don't fail me now!
- Outside friends
- They fix the net
- Head to the Sandbox
- Mainsides
- Good eats
- Airborne ambulance
- Head shed
- The Dix Fort Dix wasn't named for
- Get over it!
- The Army's backbone
- Citizen Warrior
- They make for a good company
- First Dix commander
- Customers first, people always

Down

- It makes a point
- Coasties
- Dix Spiderman
- Bringing it all together
- He's the boss
- Right on target
- Gals and guys in uniform
- Get yer beans and bullets here!
- Duffer's paradise
- Friendly neighbor
- He's an up front kinda guy
- All the fixin's are here
- Real hard promotion
- Before smoke alarms
- The Post
- Don't leave home without it
- A real boomer
- Sailor's digs
- He keeps it all running
- Let's get _____!
- Your biggest fans
- Always Faithful
- Enough, already!
- What comes first
- Crash pad
- Partnership
- Combat wheels
- Training evaluation
- Can I get a _____?

puzzle by Gerry Zanzalari
Answers in next week's paper

SPORTS

Military bobsledders dominate Nationals

Tim Hipps
MMWRC Public Affairs

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Military athletes displayed the past, present and future of USA Bobsledding at the 2009 Four-man U.S. National Bobsled Championships Jan. 10-11 at the Olympic Sports Complex.

Former and current U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program drivers swept the top three spots and an Air Force WCAP pilot finished fifth at the site of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Games.

Steven Holcomb, a former member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, teamed with Justin Olsen, Steve Mesler and Curt Tomaszewicz to win the four-man championship with a four-beat cumulative time of 3 minutes, 37.09 seconds on the 1-mile track.

WCAP Pfc. John Napier and teammates Jessie Beckom III, Jamie Moriarty and Cory Butner finished second in 3:38.66. Former WCAP Sgt. Mike Kohn of the Army National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program teamed with Rocky Lanz, Jacob Miller and Nick Cunningham to finish

third in 3:39.81. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Bradley finished fifth in 3:42.72, with Avian Jordan, Ben Fogel and Derek Kresser aboard his red sled.

Holcomb and Napier will compete for Team USA at the 2009 World Bobsled Championships Feb. 20 through March 1 in Lake Placid.

"This means validation," said Napier, 22, of Lake Placid, the youngest athlete in the group. "I'm good enough, I'm here, and I made it free and clear. I've made the World Championships, so I'm really happy."

One week earlier, Napier also qualified for the World Championships by winning the national two-man crown.

"He's no longer little John Napier, the junior bobsledder," said Holcomb, 28, of Park City, Utah. "He's coming around. He was national champion last week, which is cool, and he finished second today, so he's on the World Championship Team again, which is huge."

"He was a good driver to start with, and now he's getting the physical side down. His pushes are coming down and he's getting faster, so he's going to be a threat in Febru-

ary." Army WCAP and Team USA bobsled coach Sgt. Bill Tavares has helped Napier develop for the past decade.

"I've worked with him since he was 12," said Tavares, who also lives in Lake Placid. "He's been around for a while as a kid slowly coming through the junior ranks. He's a tall kid growing into his body. With his driving skills, he's just made that jump into the next level, and he's probably going to make one more."

"Right now, he's an up-and-coming driver. He's our future. We expect big things from him. He probably has great stuff in him for 2014 and even 2018 because he's so young, and he's still having fun."

"Coming into the Guard was probably one of the best things that ever happened to him. It taught him a skill after high school. He's learning a lot of stuff and he has direction now, so the military has been very positive for him."

Napier has been Olympic bobsled dreaming for as long as he can remember.

"My dad discovered this sport back in the late '60s and fell in love with it — just saw it one time and said he had to do it," Napier said of his "idol,"

Bill Napier. "He started sliding and made it up to the national level. When he was sliding, he bought a house out on the main road here — the entrance road, actually — about a mile away. It was just a good, prime location. He passed away about two years ago, so now I've inherited that."

"My dad met my mom at the bobsled track. She was a bobsled brakeman, and that's how they met. It was kind of a chosen path for me. I really don't ever remember having a choice of where I was going or what I was doing — it was bobsled since the age of 8. I was out here in the pee-wee program and I just kept going through junior programs and whatnot, and here I am 14 years later on the U.S. World Championships Team and sliding for the Army, as well. It's great."

Napier credits the military for keeping him on the bobsled tracks to success.

"I reached the point in my career the last few years where I just couldn't go any farther because, financially, this sport is the second-most expensive Olympic sport there is, next to equestrian riding," he said. "The runners alone — the blades we slide on — are \$5,000 to \$10,000 a pair and I usually purchase two new sets a year because sets of runners go faster on different tracks under different conditions, different temperatures, on different days."

"It's a really expensive sport with all the traveling and shipping big, heavy equipment around. I joined the Army and was able to be accepted into the World Class Athlete Program, which has helped me out and got me here where I'm at."

The stories of Holcomb and Kohn somewhat resemble Napier's, much like muffled echoes in the Adirondack Mountains now.

"There's no way I would've been able to support myself and the things that I've done without the backing of such a huge team, a huge family," Holcomb said of serving seven years in the Army World Class Athlete Program. "I'm proud of my country and I have a lot of respect for our Soldiers. It's an honor to represent them."

Kohn spent eight years in the Army World Class Athlete Program before joining the National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program.

"In the offseason, we do a lot of recruiting events, talking to schools, going to NASCAR races or whatever other events we might do to promote the Guard as a Soldier and an ath-



Tim Hipps

TEAM WORK — U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program bobsled pilot Pfc. John Napier gets a push from teammates Jessie Beckom III, Jamie Moriarty and Cory Butner en route to their second-place finish at the 2009 Four-man U.S. National Bobsled Championships Jan. 11 in Lake Placid, N.Y. The quartet will compete for Team USA in the 2009 World Championships Feb. 20-March 1 in Lake Placid.

lete," said Kohn, 36, of Chantilly, Va. "It's a fair balance between the two. They ask us for roughly three or four days every two or three weeks to do a recruiting mission. It cuts into your training schedule a little bit, but at the end of the day, the support that you get from them financially is unmatched really with any other sponsor."

The military bobsledders visit schools to talk with students, flash their medals, show their videos — "to show them what we do," Kohn explained. "To show them that the National Guard is about more than what they probably think it is."

"It's a great program. I'm thankful to be in the Guard, thankful to be an athlete. Yeah, I'm at the end of my career, but I've got a year to go and then I'll probably give back to the National Guard when I'm done with this in some other capacity. I'm halfway to retirement, believe it or not."

Bradley, 24, of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, made an unsuccessful two-year run at making the 2006 U.S. Olympic Team before deploying to Iraq. Now he's back in the sled and pointed toward Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

"Being off the ice for two years set us back a little bit, but

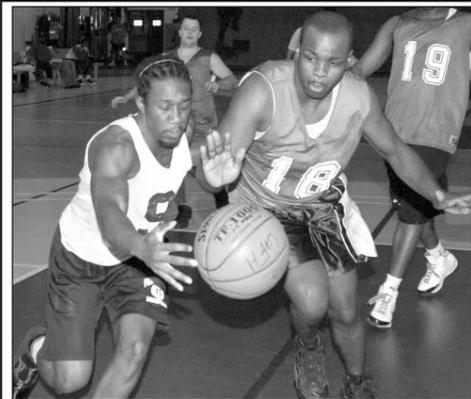
this season is an eye-opener of what I need to be doing to get to the next level and get back to where I was when I went back into the Air Force," Bradley said. "We're going to try and do everything we can to get as close to the Olympic Team as we can. Next season will be our big season to come out for the team trials and see where we go from there. This season is just kind of a mark of where we need to be and what we need to do during the off-season."

A native of Philadelphia, Bradley moved to Rhode Island and began bobsledding at age 12. Six years later, he competed on the America's Cup circuit. In 2004, he stepped up to the Europa Cup.

"My main goal and my final goal would be to make the U.S. Olympic Team," he said. "Right now we're just taking the steps we've got to take to get there and climbing up the ladder, little by little."

But now, Holcomb and Napier are firmly planted in Team USA driver's seats.

"Last year was my first World Championships in Altenburg, Germany," Napier said. "This will be my second one, so I'm hoping on my home track that I can better it. I'm hoping to podium."



Ed Mingin

Battle on the boards

Darren Gardner, left, and David Waterman fight for the ball Jan. 13, as Dynasty competed against the Warriors. When the dust settled, Watterman and his Warrior teammates won 51-37. See all game results at www.quickcores.com/fldix.