

**NEWSNOTES**

**Newcomers' Orientation set for Feb. 19**

Army Community Service (ACS) invites newly arrived personnel and their Family members to attend the ACS Newcomers' Orientation that will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the ACS building, 5201, on Eighth Street at Maryland Avenue.

Come to find out what programs and services are available to you, ask questions and to get a sense of community.

A complimentary lunch at Club Dix and a mini-tour of Fort Dix and McGuire facilities follow the orientation.

Free child care is also provided through the Child and Youth Services Central Registry. For child care registration please call 609-562-4702. For more information regarding the orientation and to register please call Amada Espinoza or Patricia Toler at 609-562-2767.

**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 at 11 a.m. 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. Norman V. Pallotto, 15 East Central Avenue, Moorestown, New Jersey 08057 no later than Feb. 25.

**Army Community Services sponsors Tax Seminar**

Army Community Services is sponsoring a Tax Rights and Responsibilities Seminar offered by the Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. Service and family members as well as DoD civilians are invited to attend this informative seminar at Army Community Services, Bldg. 5201, on Maryland Avenue at Eighth Street, February 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information and registration please call Amada Espinoza or Patricia Toler at 562-2767.

**WEATHER**

**FRIDAY -- Morning rain, windy with gusts up to 30 mph, daytime high of 45 degrees and overnight low of 23.**

**SATURDAY -- Cooler with flurries mixed with rain, high of 38 and overnight low of 28 degrees.**

**SUNDAY -- Fair, breezy, with daytime high of 42 degrees and low of 25.**

**MONDAY -- Fair and breezy, slight chance of light showers, daytime high of 40 and low of 24 degrees.**

**TUESDAY -- Partly cloudy, afternoon sun with high of 41 and overnight low of 25 degrees.**

**WEDNESDAY -- Flurries and light rain, high of 39 degrees and low of 34.**

**THURSDAY -- Overcast with afternoon snow, high of 37 degrees and overnight low of 27.**

## Warriors battle for top spot

### Army's Best competition rates mental, physical skills

Pascual Flores  
Public Affairs Staff

For a group of 11 Soldiers from the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the battle assembly weekend of Feb. 7 and 8 at Fort Dix represented a special challenge - one that would test their mental and physical strength as they prepared to participate for the honor of top Soldier in the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

Nominated to represent the 316th at the next level of competition for their exceptional knowledge and performance were Staff Sgt. Christopher Chesonis, who won the Non-commissioned officer (NCO) category and Spc. Jason Johnson, who won the enlisted category.

Chesonis, Mortuary Affairs Specialist (92M), 378th Combat Service Support Battalion (CSSB), 38th Regional Support Group, has served in the military for 12 years and recently returned from a deployment to Kuwait. While serving there, his supervisors said he demonstrated an excellent mental and professional attitude in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His skill and attitude resulted in his processing the remains of more than 30 servicemembers with no deficiencies.

These Soldiers exceeded the standards in events designed to test their mettle in the areas of marksmanship, land navigation and physical fitness.

(continued on page 7)



**RECALL -- Spc. Jason Johnson performs a function test on a single-channel ground and airborne radio system during the classroom phase of the Army's Best Warrior Competition at Fort Dix Feb. 7 through 8. Right, Col. Jack Skelly, center, acting commanding officer 316th Sustainment Command, is flanked by Staff Sgt. Christopher Chesonis, far left, winner in the NCO category and Spc. Jason Johnson, far right, winner in the enlisted category. They will represent the 316th at the next level of Best Warrior Competition**

Pascual Flores

## Troop increase differs from surge

**American Forces Press Service, Feb. 10, 2009** -- When discussing an increased troop commitment in Afghanistan, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff cautions that it won't be a carbon copy of the troop surge that proved so successful in Iraq.

"I actually don't use the term 'surge,' and I don't think it's right, because the 'surge' term has an implication that it is going to go up, then come down," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told reporters returning with him today after a two-day trip to Fort Drum, N.Y., and Ottawa.

That's what happened during the troop surge in Iraq, when 33,000

additional troops began deploying in early 2007 to boost security in Baghdad and Anbar province.

Violence quickly decreased when the new units arrived, and the last of the five original surge brigades redeployed in July 2008 after a 13-month deployment.

But Mullen has made no secret of the fact that he considers Afghanistan a tougher mission than the one in Iraq, and the challenges more daunting.

As a result, he said there's no set timetable anticipated for the additional 20,000 to 30,000 troops Army Gen. David D. McKiernan, commander of NATO and U.S. forces in

Afghanistan, has requested to improve security there, Mullen said.

"I don't know how long it is the troops will be there," Mullen said. "I think we will keep troops there long enough to provide the security and sustain it at a time when we will continue to build the Afghan security forces."

While the coalition has made good progress in training the Afghan National Army, there's still "a long way to go on the police side," he said.

So if the troop plus-up gets President Barack Obama's approval, as most officials expect, Mullen said one of the additional brigades will focus primarily on police training.

As the military shifts its focus from Iraq to Afghanistan, Mullen said he recognizes it's going to generate more questions about operations there.

"I think it is very important that we are clear and frank with what is going on in Afghanistan with the American people," he said. "I expect more questions, and there will be answers for them."

Mullen has been a vocal advocate of broader U.S. support for the Afghanistan mission, particularly by the State Department that's best suited to the task of nation-building.

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## Wire rolled out for downrange training plan

Ryan Morton  
Public Affairs Staff

Workers from IAP World Services deployed rolls of razor wire around a group of barracks in Fort Dix's 5900 training area Feb. 2, part of a new Contingency Operating Base being established in the cantonment area.

Col. Larry Boyd, Fort Dix Deputy Commander for Mobilization, outlined the changes. "Once the COB is enclosed, the Soldiers will carry weapons and control access (to the facility). All mobilizing units in the area will have the training," he said. Checkpoints and guard towers are also part of the plan.

"We're doing this to simulate what the environments look like downrange in theater," said Brandon Baker, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) Plans and Operations Specialist.

Baker said the move is intended to show Soldiers what they will find in theater, and give them the opportunity to adjust before they deploy.

Fort Dix created the same sort of environment at what was initially called the Forward Operating Base on the ranges, and the move to the cantonment area reflects changes in country in Iraq.

(Reporter Ryan Morton may be reached for comments on this article at ryan.morton@us.army.mil.)



Ryan Morton

**ROLLOUT -- Ron Ibins, Edgar Krampitz, and Michael Gooditis, IAP World Services, emplace razor wire in the 5900 training area on Fort Dix Feb. 2.**

the mind field

Presidents' Day

Commanders in chief who weren't very commanding



Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Everyone pretty much agrees on who ranks among the United States' great presidents. Washington, "indispensable man" and "modern Cincinnati," translated beautiful theories in the Constitution into hard rules of practical governance. Jefferson executed the Louisiana Purchase, ensuring that America would become a continental power. Lincoln acted to save the Union and would have bound up its wounds if he hadn't been gunned down. Teddy Roosevelt used a big stick abroad and trust-busting and conservation at home to leave an enduring legacy. And Franklin D. Roosevelt served four terms amid crises more severe than any since the Civil War; battling the Great Depression, Germans and Japanese in World War II - and licking them at the end.

Rightly, we celebrate their triumphs. But what about losers

in the presidential pool, those who flopped through timidity, bad choices, or excesses in their character. Historians investigate failure along with success because you can learn a lot from both.

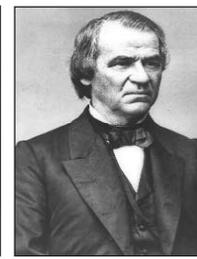
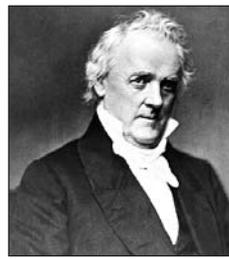
So, who was our worst president? There is a broad consensus among historians that our 15th president was our worst. James Buchanan really blew it.

The Democrat from Lancaster, Pa. was elected in 1857. When Southern states began to secede from the Union he did nothing to stop them. He didn't favor secession, mind you, but didn't think the federal government had any right stopping states who wanted to split from the Union. He was a novel political theory that accomplished nothing but making sure his successor would face a civil war.

Fortunately, Buchanan's successor was Abraham Lincoln, who was more than a match for the trials that faced him.

But the same can't be said of Lincoln's successor and 17th President of the United States, Andrew Johnson.

The first President Johnson and Japanese in World War II - and licking them at the end.



**SOME PRESIDENTS JUST COULDN'T CUT IT** -- The United States has had its share of great presidents but we've had some real bozos in the office, too. James Buchanan, left, was our 15th President. He was the only bachelor to occupy the White House and the lone leader hailing from Pennsylvania. Despite these advantages, historians have reached a rare consensus that Buchanan was America's worst president. Why? He did nothing to stop Southern states from succeeding in 1860. When Lincoln took office, seven states had left the Union and Confederates had looted arsenals in the South. Lincoln's successor was Andrew Johnson, middle, from Tennessee. Johnson was no gem, either. He was an unreconstructed racist who vetoed civil rights acts and blocked the 14th Amendment because of racial bias. He not only did not bind the nation's wounds, he inflamed them. Congress, rightly, impeached him to prevent him from butchering Reconstruction reforms. And then there was Richard Milhous Nixon, a very talented politician who did well in his handling of the Vietnam War but who couldn't overcome his paranoia, attempting to subvert Constitutional rule of law during the Watergate scandal.

posed during Reconstruction and intended to secure the rights of former slaves. The amendment broadly defines citizenship, overruling *Dred Scott*. Sandford (1857) which excluded slaves and their descen-

dants from possessing Constitutional rights. The 14th Amendment requires states to provide equal protection under the law to all people within their jurisdictions. It was used in the middle of the 20th century to dismantle racial segregation across the country. Johnson's intransigence on racial matters caused racial problems to remain a thorn in the side of a growing country and ultimately caused Reconstruction to sour, allowing pent-up problems to hold back progress in the southern states for years to come. He earns a place, then, on the paragon of losers and non-entites who have occasionally occupied the White House.

It's no thanks to Richard Nixon that the United States is not a banana republic today. Nixon was our only chief executive whose gang (or aides as they were called) engaged in spying and burglary while attempting to nullify efforts by the Justice Department, FBI and CIA to secure the law.

Nixon condoned extreme methods - not to win any war but to be used against personal and political opponents. This was an extremely dangerous position which, if it had not failed, may have meant the end of constitutional government.

James Madison was called "The Father of the Constitution." A founding father of the USA, Madison was not only a great patriot but a formidable intellectual. But he was a lousy president.

Madison declared economic sanctions against both belligerents (England and France) in the Napoleonic Wars, resumed trade too soon with the French, and blundered into the War of 1812 with the British, who promptly burned the White House.



www.westfaedubquest.

**ECONOMIC WOES** -- A mining engineer from Iowa, Herbert Hoover was a high-minded humanitarian famous for organizing the feeding and clothing of millions of Belgians in the aftermath of World War I. But when the stock market crashed in 1929 and postwar orders in Europe and Asia fell apart, Hoover had no answers. He was an engineer - not a politician.

Pragmatists (if it works, it's right) generally do pretty well in the White House. Philosophers do not. Madison inclined towards the latter persuasion.

In my lifetime, President Lyndon B. Johnson presided over a disastrous war, riots in the streets and, eventually, economic chaos, events not calculated to win friends or influence voters. Mullalians in Iran buffalooed President Jimmy Carter by jerking around American hostages. Carter was shocked by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and blamed double-digit inflation and unemployment on a "malaise." Even beleaguered presidents know how to play politics.

Films gotta have heart for Valentine's Day

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Say what you will about them, Hollywood types sure know how to make the emotions flow, especially in creating love stories. So if you need to revive a flaccid libido there are few better methods than to watch an appropriate movie. And many films not specifically famous for being love stories handle the genre far better than gross or juvenile competitors.

The blockbuster epic *How The West Was Won* (1962) captures the attraction between a girl coming West with her pioneering family (Carol Baker) who meets and falls for a genuine mountain man (James Stewart). The couple makes their farm right where her family drowned going down the Mississippi.

*Love Story* (1970) looks at



Davis Factor/CORBIS

**ROBIN AND MARIAN** Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn confirm that love is the greatest adventure in this beautiful heart-wrenching 1976 film detailing the last days of *Robin Hood and Maid Marian*.

Black History Month

Lena never had to toot her own Horne

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born June 30, 1917 in Brooklyn. She appeared onstage when only 14 and by 16 was singing at the famed Cotton Club. Her recording career would stretch from 1936 to 2000 and she won three Grammys, including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1989, along the way.

Lena also appeared in 16 feature films, singing the unforgettable "Stormy Weather" in 1943 in the film of the same name. She occasionally performed on Broadway, most memorably in the Tony-winning "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music" in 1981-82.

Horne did much to crack the color bar in Hollywood but was discouraged by discrimination which persisted beyond reason. In the 1950s she turned to building up a legendary nightclub career. In those years



http://www.classical.com

**Lena Horne** she she was also a staple on TV variety shows, dazzling fans in appearances with Perry Como, Ed Sullivan, Dean Martin and others.



Bettmann/CORBIS Collection

**FATHER GOOSE** (1964) -- Opposites attract when a shipless man falls for a shrewish schoolteacher in this romantic comedy set in the South Seas. Cary Grant and Leslie Caron are superb.

strangers meet in the most unlikely of places. It's genuinely touching. Daniel Day-Lewis and Madeline Stowe overcome almost heroic obstacles in a love as epic as anything in ancient Greece in *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992). Evil, in the form of Wes Studi's treacherous Magua, threatens the almost star-crossed lovers, adding just that touch of menace that makes their triumph resound.

Chemistry crackled between Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn in *The African Queen* (1951). A wild boat ride down one of Africa's raging rivers brings a Bible-thumping spinster and hard-drinking boat captain together - in more ways than they could've imagined. Director John Huston's classic pays tribute to the power of the human spirit.

Taken for granted by an outfish fellow teacher, high school principal Christine Lanti takes up with the school's janitor (Ruben Blades) in a romantic comedy which expertly slices through many layers of social hypocrisy in *Crazy From the Heart* (1991), originally a TV movie, I believe. Other films deserving much lengthier commendations but having to settle for mine include returning GIs picking up on their love lives in *The Best Years of Their Lives* (1946); naive vets struggling, this time in *The Way We Were* (1973); criminals' strange romance in *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967); John Ford's ode to Ireland in *The Quiet Man* (1952); Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck turning on the charm in *Roman Holiday* (1953); youthful passion thwarted in *Splendor in the Grass* (1961); a hit man hitting on his hit woman in *Prizzi's Honor* (1985); Jack Nicholson's quirky courting in *As Good As It Gets* (1997); and *Lovers and Other Strangers* (1970) mingling at a wedding.

It's cinema verite with a smile.

the Post

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Table with 2 columns: Position and Name. Includes Post Commander (Col. Ronald R. Thaxton), Public Affairs Officer/Editor (Carolee Nisbet), PAO Automation/Admin (Veverly Wakefield), PAO Media Relations (Pascual J. Flores), PAO OpEd/Features (Steve Snyder), PAO Community Relations (Gerry Zanzalari), PAO Writer/Editor (Jennifer McCarthy), PAO Writer/Editor (Lisa Evans).

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Jennifer Chupko

**TO THE RESCUE -- Michelle Schilling gathers with her rescuers, Capt. Brad Ponto, left, Firefighter/EMT Frank Malaga, right center and Firefighter/EMT John Gajderowicz, at Fire Station Number Two during a visit to thank them for rescuing her when she had a severe allergic reaction to anesthesia after outpatient surgery.**

## Firefighters rescue woman after critical allergy attack

**Jennifer Chupko**  
Public Affairs Staff

Firefighters rolled out their Emergency Medical Technician training Feb. 2 to save the life of a Garden Terrace mother of four felled by a critical allergy.

Fire station responders Capt. Brad Ponto and firefighters Frank Malaga, Jimmy McDonough and John Gajderowicz, all trained as first responders or Emergency Medical Technicians arrived two minutes after the emergency call 911 came in that a resident, Michelle Schilling, had collapsed and was in respiratory arrest.

"When we arrived she was ... not breathing. We rapidly went to work on her and began using a bag valve mask to breathe for her," said Malaga.

Though Schilling doesn't remember the rescue, she remembers the event. "I had an endoscopy procedure that morning," she said. "It turns out that I had an allergic reaction to the anesthesia."

Schilling was fortunate to have her husband home when the nearly-fatal allergy attack struck.

"I was supposed to be TDV," said Airman Samuel Schilling. "It was just luck that that changed."

On the way to the hospital, Michelle nearly went into cardiac arrest, according to the EMTs.

"I was in the ambulance the entire way and it was hectic," said Gajderowicz.

"She very nearly went into cardiac arrest, but once the medics from Virtua arrived and pushed some medications, she became stable."

The firefighters said they were very concerned about their patient.

"I have had a dozen of these calls before, and nine times out of ten, the end result is grim," said Ponto.

"Afterwards, we are always left wondering how our patient made out. We saw that she was a young mother of four, and you know you don't want to see a family to be left without their mother."

Shilling was admitted, kept overnight, then released the next day from Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly.

Once she was told about the firemen who saved her life, she headed to the station to give them a hug and to thank them.

"I am here today because of their efforts," said Schilling.

"I brought them cookies and a card, but there really isn't a way that I can thank them enough."

The visit, hugs and cookies delivered by Schilling were plenty for the firefighters.

"It's not often that folks will stop in and say thanks like

that," said Malaga.

"It is a warm moment that gives everyone involved a great sense of accomplishment and purpose in their work. I can't begin to tell you how good that can make you feel."

(The author may be reached for questions or comments about this story at [jennifer.a.chupko@us.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.a.chupko@us.army.mil))

## Tax assistance center now open

**Nurit Anderson**  
Legal Assistance Attorney

The Fort Dix Installation Legal Office Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is now open and stands ready to assist eligible clients with preparation of their income tax returns.

Active duty personnel, reservists on active duty orders for at least 30 days, military retirees, and their dependent family members are eligible for free tax assistance.

The available assistance includes preparation of federal and most state (i.e. New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) returns and electronic filing for both.

This free service is comprised of volunteers who received limited training from the Internal Revenue Service, 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.

Prior to scheduling an appointment, please make sure you have the required documents, which include: 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 statements(s); Form 1099 bank interest and dividend statements; the amount of the economic stimulus payment you received in 2008 (see

link entitled "how much was my stimulus payment?" in the bottom left-hand corner of [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)); information on Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) you contributed to last year or plan to contribute to by April 15, 2009; 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, total deductible medical expenses, and total deductible charitable contributions.

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.

If your filing status is married filing jointly and both spouses cannot sign the tax return, a power of attorney will be required from the absent spouse in order to file the return.

The VITA tax site is located on Fort Dix in Bldg. 5506, Room 105 and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Preparation of federal and state tax returns will be by appointment only.

Eligible clients should call (609) 562-3976 to schedule an appointment.

## 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 Feb. 2 through 8.

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 fire alarm at Bldg. 5275. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by dust kicked up by contractors.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5523. Investigation revealed no cause for the alarm.

●Police were notified by Pemberton Police that a domestic assault suspect had entered Fort Dix jurisdiction. The subject, a civilian NAFD, was located near Route 68 and Fort Dix Road and a high-risk traffic stop was conducted. Investigation revealed the subject also had active warrants from Burlington County and New Hanover. Further investigation revealed the subject had a suspended driver's license. There was also an open container of alcohol in the vehicle. The subject was cited and taken into custody by Pemberton Township Police. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP 9, 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 responded to a traffic accident near Bldg. 5435. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Soldier NAFD, struck a parked and unattended government vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP 9, police discovered the operator, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●A Soldier, NAFD, entered the police station and reported that personnel items had been removed from her work center by person(s) unknown. Investigation continues.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center, police discovered the individual, a civilian NAFD, had an outstanding warrant from Newark. Newark Municipal Court was contacted and issued a new court date.

●Police and the NJ State Police Commercial Vehicle Inspection unit responded when notified by the Safety Office of an unsafe vehicle at the ASP. Investigation revealed a truck, operated by a civilian NAFD, had a shifting body part and was unsafe to drive. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5602. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by dust kicked up by contractors.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5418. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by a system malfunction. A work order was placed.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a CO alarm in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed a dirty vent was the cause of the alarm.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash on Route 68. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, struck another vehicle from the rear when the operator's foot slipped off the brake. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police responded when notified of an illegally parked vehicle near Bldg. 5643. Investigation revealed the vehicle, owned by a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, had expired registration. The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop on Eighth Street, police discovered the vehicle operator, a Sailor assigned to Fort Dix, was under the influence of alcohol. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and released to his command. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

●A Fort Dix civilian employee entered the police station and reported that person(s) unknown had made threatening statements via the internet. Investigation continues.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5611. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by dust kicked up by contractors.

●Police were notified that a demobilizing Soldier, NAFD, had two outstanding warrants from the state of Texas. The subject was picked up and transferred to the Burlington County jail pending extradition to Texas.

●There were no expired identification cards confiscated during the period.

●There were 31 Magistrate Court Citations issued for moving violations. DWI incidents are now at two for the year.

## More troops bound for Afghanistan

(continued from page 1) Boosting security, he said, will help create conditions for other critical progress in Afghanistan.

"Security is going to have to be created for the people so that governance can be generated," he said.

Earlier today during a news conference in Ottawa, Mullen called the need to strengthen government institutions and eliminate corruption in Afghanistan the most pressing priorities.

Ultimately, he told reporters en route to Washington, the Afghan government must be able to provide "the full spectrum of what citizens expect from their government."

what we have here in America," he said. "But the people of Afghanistan are seeking a government at each level that provides them services" such as security, rule of law, education and other services.

Getting to that point will be a long-term effort, he conceded, but he emphasized that "it doesn't mean it's long-term combat."

Mullen has been a vocal advocate of broader U.S. support for the Afghanistan mission, particularly by the State Department that's best suited to the task of nation-building.

"And it is not about the United States," Mullen continued. "This is about countries throughout the world [that are] focused on Afghanistan, assisting ... as well."

Armed Forces  
Comm

Alstanz Sports Bar



Carolee Nisbet

# BE MY VALENTINE



Jennifer Chupko

**LET YOUR LOVE SHOW** -- There are plenty of ways to demonstrate how you care. Ashanna Johnson-Turner, above, creates a Valentine for her friend at the Fort Dix Child Development Center, Feb. 10. Let your beloved know you make them float on air by sending a balloon bouquet. Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center art instructor Taryn Pagliore, left, floats a bevy of Valentine wishes for a customer Feb. 6. The bouquets will be available through Feb. 13. Romantic souls are encouraged to call Taryn at 562-5691 to place their orders in advance.



Sgt. 1st Class Anayansi Corey



Sgt. 1st Class Anayansi Corey

**SHOPPING FOR SWEETIES** -- Staff Sgt. Richard Standish, UMA Assistant, 1/309th looks at potential Valentine presents for his girlfriend at an AAFES concession Feb. 11, while Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Caul, 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, above, searches for the perfect box of chocolates for a loved one at the BX/PX.

## Cupid wants to know...

Love's winged messenger recently sent his helpers, Sgt. 1st Class Anayansi Corey and Staff Sgt. Claudia L. Bullard, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, to ask servicemembers how they planned to shower his or her loved one with affection this Valentine's Day.



Staff Sgt. Michael Montique 414th Civil Affairs Battalion

"I am buying my girlfriend, Tiffany Harwick, flowers this Valentine's Day."



Spc. Adam McLaughlin, 384th Military Police  
"I'm going home for my Valentine's Day and seeing my 3-year-old."



Spc. Jerry Greer, 269th Military Police  
"I will be visiting my family in Tennessee!"



Airman First Class Kyle Conrad, 52nd Combat Communication Unit  
"It's very complicated, I'm going to get my girlfriend a webcam."

# NEIGHBORHOOD

## THE CORNER

### Divorce Preamble workshop offered

Army Community Service is sponsoring a Divorce Preamble and Child Custody/Support Workshop. Mary Acevedo, Senior Attorney and Director of Outreach and Continuing Legal Education, Legal Services of New Jersey, Inc. will present an overview of New Jersey divorce laws for people considering a New Jersey divorce or filing a New Jersey divorce with issues to be resolved about child custody, child support, visitation and alimony.

This workshop will be held at Army Community Service, building 5201 Maryland Ave. Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m. Registration is required. Call Amada M. Espinoza or Patricia Toler at 562-2767 for more information.

Acevedo will explain the divorce process, get you prepared for the initial client information for the consultation, and will provide you with insightful information on what to expect from your lawyer, child custody and child support. She will also provide information on how to file on your own (pro-se) if you are unable to afford an attorney.

### ACS to host Troops to Teachers seminar

The Troops to Teachers Seminar will be held Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the Army Community Services Conference Room, located at 5201 Maryland Ave. To register or for more information call 562-2767.

### Free YMCA memberships available for 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 [www.defenseinklink.mil](http://www.defenseinklink.mil).

### 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.

### 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.

### Tickets available for Black History Luncheon

Tickets are now available for the annual Black History Month Celebration Luncheon to be held Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Club Dix. Command Sgt. Maj. Sylvia P. Laughlin will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling the following individuals: Fay Marshall-Dease at 562-2666, Kelly Cezar at 562-5881, Fran Booth at 562-3930 or Gaylor Simons at 754-5346.

### Joint Chapels to host prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast featuring comedienne Carol Simpson will be held Feb. 26 at the McGuire Club. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$8 and must be purchased by Feb. 17. For more information call the Fort Dix Chapel at 562-2020.

## Reptiles rule at presentation



Ryan Morton

**OH HECK, HE'S UP TO MY NECK** — Jack Elson, above, holds up a paper snake he made Feb. 11 during a presentation to home school students by the Fort Dix Natural Resource Office about reclusive reptiles. Alex Hayes, below, gets to know Milky, the eastern milk snake during the class.



Spec. Anthony Jones

Spec. Anthony Jones  
145th MPAD

Fort Dix's home schoolers came together at the Fort Dix Youth Center Feb. 11 to learn about snakes and other reclusive reptiles.

Jennifer Armento, an ecologist with Fort Dix Environmental Division's Natural Resource Office, taught the class comprised of a dozen children ranging in ages from four years-old to teenagers.

The class focused on the reasons reptiles have adapted to their environments. Armento brought Milky, a rehabilitated eastern milk snake, to class, providing the children an opportunity to see first hand some-

thing they have read about in books.

"This was Milky's first time out," said Armento. "The children reacted well and were so respectful to him."

Armento said the Natural Resource Office conducts several classes throughout the year for the elementary school and School-Aged Services. They also hold classes for multi-age groups such as the Boy Scouts.

In addition to science experience activities such as this, home schoolers have the opportunity to participate in other educational activities such as sports, arts, technology and photography club, through the Fort Dix Child and Youth Services. For more information call Cathy Speigel, Outreach Services Director at 562-2242.

## Dollars, sense highlight week

Build Wealth, Not Debt! Military Saves Week which runs from Feb. 22 to March 1 is a week devoted to focusing on servicemembers taking financial action and making a commitment to save money.

A variety of partners work with command leadership to publicize Military Saves Week, encourage military members and their families to enroll as a saver at [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org) and offer resources that focus on individual financial fitness.

There are many events scheduled to help Soldiers and family members reach their financial goals.

On Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. there will be a Financial Resource Fair at Timmermann Center. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The fair features 15 Financial Resource Agencies ready to answer questions as well as two-hour seminars presented on topics such as credit, debt management, basic investing, investment scams and foreclosure avoidance. Seminars will be offered twice, once from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Get It Together- Organizing Your Financial Records will be held Feb. 11, at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and again at Army Community Services from 1:30 to

3:30 p.m. All classes require registration. Call 754-3154 to enroll.

With the current financial crisis, everyone should be looking at their spending habits, and how they can make positive changes.

Soldiers and family members can make a commitment to saving by taking the Military Saves Pledge at [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org). They may also enroll with their unit point of contact and attend the financial events scheduled throughout the week.

It is important for military members to save. Most servicemembers face a unique financial situation with frequent station changes and deployments. It often requires maintaining multiple households, and if servicemembers are not prepared for this burden, it increases the risk of not being mission ready.

During Military Saves Month Soldiers are asked to take a pledge to improve finances and more importantly take action. Soldiers are encouraged to complete a budget, open a savings account and make deposits regularly through an allotment and open a Thrift Savings Plan account.

Army Community Services offers a wide range of financial services including debt counseling, basic investing and emergency financial assistance. For more information call 562-2767.

## Fair opens doors for job-hunters

Wayne Cook  
Public Affairs Staff

Army Community Services and the Job Fair Company hosted a Job Fair at Club Dix Feb. 6.

Nearly 200 people from the military community from as far away as Dover Air Force Base, Del., checked out the employment prospects provided by 13 companies including the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Johnson and Johnson, Dish Network,

Aviation Institute of Maintenance, and New Jersey Helicopters to Harshats.

"I'm feeling out the job market. There seems to be plenty out there, you just have to apply. The economy is definitely a driving factor in which direction that I look for a future job," said Staff Sgt. Ruben Marrero, an instructor with the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.

Marrero, a fireman and emergency medical technician in his civilian life, may not be able to return to his former line of work due to disabilities

acquired while serving on military duty.

"I'm looking for something more in the line of information technology or in the federal government. Job fairs like this provide me with an array of choices for my future," he said.

Members of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, along with dependents, contractors and government civilians took advantage of the Job Fair.

"I'm thinking about joining the Air National Guard but I'm also looking to see what else might be available. Because of the economy, I'm looking for something to come up pretty quick," said Deseray Diaz, a dependant of a government contractor from Browns Mills.

Air Force Maj. Robert Simpson of the 314th Recruiting Squadron in Burlington City visited many of the representatives' tables speaking with employers and dropping off his resume.

"I'm retiring in the end of March and I've been looking since last October. I'm a little concerned with the economy today. I'm not sure what is actually available out there but I am hoping to find something soon," Simpson said.

Some of the company representatives seemed to be having a bit of success as prospective employees gathered around their tables.

Kelby Haven, an office manager

with The Real Estate School in Cherry Hill, said she had been receiving an excellent response from the Job Fair attendees. She said that there seems to be a niche in the real estate business that draws military members.

Of course, there are the intangibles about military

personnel which draw some companies to seek out prior service members for employment such as the ability to obtain a security clearance, devotion to duty, self-discipline, and higher levels of physical fitness.

David Recame, a recruiter with the New Jersey office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Newark, said that the military is a great source of employees for the bureau, especially for agent positions.

"By the time most of them are finishing their second tour of duty, or have reached the point in their career where they either get promoted or get out, they have reached the age of 30 years old, have a degree, are self-disciplined, have already shown they can obtain and maintain a security clearance, and are able to pass our physical fitness test. They also don't blink an eye if they are transferred from one office to another across country because they are used to moving around already," said Recame.

"Hiring former military personnel makes sense to us because the mili-

(continued on page 6)

**LOOKING** — Staff Sgt. Ruben Marrero, an instructor with the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, spoke with Kristine White, admissions director, Aviation Institute, about the prospects of future employment with the company while attending the Job Fair held at Club Dix Feb. 6.

# Martell ends 40 years of government service ACS employment manager retires this month

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

"Things have been good for me since I first set foot in this country," explains Rod Martell, and the Employment Readiness Manager for Army Community Service (ACS) at Fort Dix has worked like hell to repay the compliment.

After completing 26 years of stellar service with the United States Air Force, Martell spent the last 15 years working here to help others consummate their American dreams. He retires at the end of this month but vows to keep busy with voluntary efforts on post as occasions arise.

ACS co-worker Natasha Bryant is among many who will miss the charismatic counselor. She explains why.

"Anyone who has not talked to Rod should spend a few minutes with him - you are guaranteed a few laughs - and will feel inspired by here on he tells about growing up in El Salvador, his arrival in the United States (unable to speak English), entrance into the Air Force, marrying his wife and ultimately ending up here on Fort Dix working at ACS," Bryant says.

Bryant's four-year-old daughter also "loves" Mr. Rod. He always threatens to get nose which she takes literally and quickly covers her nose, but it also sends her into a fit of giggles when he says he is going to put hot sauce on it to season it," explains Bryant.

Fort Dix's Director of Army Community Service, Joan Cole, has nominated Martell for the prestigious Commander's Award for Civilian Service. She lists an impressive array of his accomplishments.

In his role as the Employment Readiness Manager for ACS, "Mr. Martell has consistently provided exemplary, selfless service to Soldiers, family members, and civilians in the Fort Dix community. He has provided clients with a full range of services including assistance with resumes, job search skills, training support and referral to appropriate employment opportunities. He has 'gone the extra mile' providing thorough, concerned assistance to his customers, often placing their needs above his own, mentoring them and ensuring all possible help was provided in a pleasant, positive manner. He has received excellent customer feedback; ensuring clients are connected to appropriate training, employment and/or volunteer opportunities to meet their needs."

Director Cole continues, "Mr. Martell has developed strong relationships and maintained excellent rapport with many federal, state, civilian and educational agencies and employers to promote employment and training opportunities. He has had full responsibility for 15 extremely successful post-wide job fairs over the years... averaging 30-100 employers and 700-900 attendees" over the years.

Martell "fully participated in the installation's 'Hire a Hero' job fairs which provided support to hundreds of military transitioning to civilian life. He has also initiated numerous mini-job fairs, employment education workshops and



Steve Snyder  
**Rod Martell**  
Employment Readiness Manager  
1994 - 2009  
Army Community Service  
Fort Dix



photo courtesy of Rod Martell  
**STANDING TALL -- Senior Master Sgt. Martell spent 26 years in the Air Force before retiring in 1992. He's pictured here with his wife Millie.**



file photo by Steve Snyder  
**MEETING THE PRESS -- Rod talks to a reporter from the Post newspaper in 2004 for a story highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month.**

employer recruitment opportunities finding gainful employment for hundreds in our military community.

In addition to his primary duties, Mr. Martell has taken on the extra duty of Fort Dix project officer for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for the past seven years. The success of the campaigns has been due to his hard work, warm relationships and extensive outreach and networking.

"Mr. Martell has donated many hours of his personal

Rod completed basic trainings at Lackland, AFB in San Antonio, Texas, in "just four weeks because they were shuffling us in and out like we were in a factory" because of the quick turnover of troops to Vietnam then in process.

"I didn't want to be a grunt. I wanted to be a desk jockey," Rod admits, explaining his professional career goals at the time. And he got his wish, completing training as an Air Force administration specialist. The young airman's first

world's most fertile sightseeing vistas.

The young scholar saw the wonders of the Acropolis in Athens where great minds like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle had gathered to ponder man's fate. Rod also visited Corinth, once a premier sin city of the ancients and found time to sail away to Rhodes and see other spectacular islands dotting the wine dark Aegean Sea.

Coming back to the states in 1976, Rod served as NCOIC in an orderly room for a trans-

association degree in middle management from the City College of Chicago and earned a BS (four-year degree) majoring in occupational education from the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale.

In 1988 the airman/scholar headed back to Torrejon, staying until 1992. Rod wrapped up a master's degree in International Relations from Troy University during this second tour of Spain, observing that one "might as well go for the gusto."

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm Rod estimates that over 7,000 troops passed through Torrejon on their way to war. He was in charge of housing them and essentially taking care of whatever else they needed while on base.

Master Sgt. Martell retired at Torrejon in 1992 after 26 years of active duty service in the Air Force. Returning home, he spent six months teaching as a Jr. ROTC instructor in a high school in the German-

town section of Philadelphia. But he grew to hate it.

"The kids had no discipline," he complains. "They weren't interested in anything," he recalls, seeming to suppress a shudder.

One day in March 1994 Rod was talking to some veteran buddies at Fort Dix when he stumbled across a job announcement pushing a part-time position at Fort Dix as an assistant in the relocation office. Rod applied and was hired.

One month later he stepped into his current, full-time position. And what he did in that position can be found in Joan Cole's glittering accolades nominating him for the Commander's Award.

Rod says he has no specific plans for retirement other than continuing to teach civics courses at Burlington Community College. On the job or in the classroom, Rod's been an icon in the pantheon of patriots who've worked at Fort Dix.



assignment proved somewhat of a shock, though. Duty at Duluth, Minn. was "ice cold."

Rod spent two-and-a-half years there from 1966-68 and didn't let the foul weather dampen his spirits. Instead, he worked on improving his language skills while attempting to master intricacies inherent in his administration post.

From there, it was off to Torrejon AFB in Spain, only 17 miles from the capital at Madrid. Rod served as chief of maintenance clerks from 1969 through 1975, the same job he had held back in Minnesota.

He also took some college courses in his free time. Duty near Madrid widened Rod's horizons. He toured and absorbed Spanish culture in what was considered in El Salvador to be the colonial "home country."

More momentarily, he met his wife-to-be, Millie, at this time. She was attending college in Mandrid, eventually graduating with a degree in social services.

The couple married in 1970.

In 1975 Rod was yanked out for a one-year unaccompanied tour to Tanagra, Greece, about one hour from Athens.

The Air Force used the site to store nuclear weapons and security was appropriately hush-hush. Rod took care of administration duties and in his free time explored of the

portation squadron stationed at the Dover (Del.) AFB. He says he "liked it but Dover was not that exciting."

The city did maintain a quiet ambience which was quite different from Rod's European duty locales.

"I considered every new job to consist of new learning experiences, new adventures and more people to meet," he says, explaining a philosophy that has worked quite well over the years for him.

Following his quiet turn at Dover, Rod was ordered to Upper Heyford AFB in England, near Oxford. He found himself touring haunts favored by Shakespeare and had time to jump over to the continent to explore Belgium and Amsterdam among other sites.

In 1982 Rod arrived at McGuire AFB, converting an initial three-year assignment to a six-year tour, serving as first sergeant and NCOIC for the 30th Airlift Squadron. In Rod's words, the job offered an "opportunity and challenge" and Rod was up to the task.

Throughout his military career Rod enrolled in every course he could "to get ahead." And his strong emphasis on education paid off.

Following his tour at McGuire, Rod picked up a two-year associate's degree in administration from the Community College of the Air Force. He gained still another

## Fair opens job doors

(continued from page 5)

tary specializes in a lot of the career fields that we have to fill like computer specialists, finance officers, military analysts, mechanics, weapons experts and so on. This year we are looking to fill 2,100 non-agent positions and 850 agent positions. Interested personnel can go to our Web site at [www.bijobs.gov](http://www.bijobs.gov) to find a listing of available positions," said Bryan Travers, public affairs officer, State of New Jersey Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

One attendee at the Job Fair, Sgt. Jameka Roberts, unit supply supervisor, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, found the experience to be exactly what she needed.

"I'm getting out within a week and I just discovered all the services and resources that are available for transitioning Soldiers. I've been seeking a job for a while but I didn't know about this job fair until someone mentioned it this

morning. This is so much more effective for me with the military bringing these employers to me versus me going online and placing my resume in a black hole, so to speak. I actually had an interview set up with a company and the recruiter called me up and told me the position had been done away with due to the downturn of the economy. I, like others in the Reserve, have been mobilized and now as we get ready to demobilize, are finding out that our former employers have down-sized and done away with our positions," she said.

"I know I have to sell my unique strengths and skills as I compete on the outside for employment. I am thankful for the opportunity here to do just that," Roberts said.

Rod Martell, employment readiness manager, Army Community Services, noted that the Job Fair Company had once again done an outstanding job in putting together

another job fair for the military.

"Today we had 197 prospective employees show up at the job fair to speak to the representatives of the 13 companies that showed up. We were able to provide a venue for our military community members to explore and find

new employment opportunities that they might otherwise not have known existed. We are happy to be able to do our jobs here and help the military," he said.

(The author may be reached for questions/comments about this story at [wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil](mailto:wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil))

Annual Fort Dix Black History Month Celebration  
**Quest for BLACK CITIZENSHIP in the Americas**  
Guest Speaker: CSM Sylvia P. Laughlin  
Thursday, 26 February 2009, 1130-1300  
Club Dix Bldg, 5435  
6th & Alabama Avenue Fort Dix, NJ  
Tickets: \$15.00  
The P.O.'s for the sale are:  
Fort Dix Bldg - 5435  
Club Dix - 5435  
6th & Alabama - 5435

**Army Community Service (ACS)**  
562-2767  
Bldg. 5201, on the corner of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue  
**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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# HONORS AND AWARDS

## Soldier strives for leadership, kindness

Sgt. Nicole Dykstra  
72nd Field Artillery Brigade

"Being an NCO means setting the example," said Sgt. Nekeisha Dennis, a brigade actions officer in the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade. "It is providing the kind of leadership that drives the entire Army."

Dennis tries to be that kind of leader. An Army Reserve Soldier from Woodbridge, Va., she processes mobilization packets for Soldiers in the training brigade and takes pride in her work.

Since she joined the 72nd last fall, she has been responsible for a number of jobs including, but not limited to: identifying and communicating with Reserve Soldiers whose job skills are needed to support the training mission at Fort Dix, working to mobilize those Soldiers by locating available positions within the brigade and its eight subsequent battalions, and at the same time, tracking Release from Active Duty (REFRAD) dates for Soldiers whose orders

are getting ready to expire and working with leaders to determine extension qualification where need be.

Dennis has eight years of service. She completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. in 2001, and went on to Fort Lee for her Advanced Individual Training, becoming an Automated Logistical Specialist.

In 2004, Dennis's unit, the 1004th Quartermaster Company, deployed to Camp Victory, Kuwait, and provided logistical support for units traveling in and out of Iraq.

Then Spc. Dennis was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of the Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) site. Her section issued body armor to Soldiers on their way into Iraq and collected it as Soldiers left theatre.

When asked about her experience in her first leadership opportunity, Dennis elaborated about the role of woman in the military and the difficulties associated with a male majority in the Army.

"It was difficult at first," she said. "I was supervising all male Soldiers, and my own

supervisor was male, so I felt that sometimes they didn't take me seriously."

It was during this deployment that she met Master Sgt. Jomarquita Jett, her detachment first sergeant. Jett mentored Dennis throughout their tour and provided valuable advice and guidance for the recently promoted sergeant, stressing the importance of upholding regulations and standing firm as a female in the military, said Dennis.

"She is so on point, and she definitely played a big role in my developing leadership skills," said Dennis. "She taught me the importance of maintaining my bearing and remaining professional at all times, especially as a female in the military."

The two have kept in contact ever since their deployment together. Jett is now stationed with the 620th Combat Sustainment and Support Command (CSSC) in St. Louis, Mo., where she serves as a unit administrator, Dennis said.

Upon returning home from Kuwait, Dennis returned to life



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra

**WOMAN POWER** — Sgt. Nekeisha Dennis, a brigade actions officer in the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade tries to be a good female military role model.

as a Reserve Soldier. She went to school part time and worked at a financial advisor at a credit union.

In the spring of 2007, Dennis's new unit, the 275th Quar-

termaster Company from Fort Pickett, Va., began preparing for a deployment to Iraq.

She completed the Shower/Laundry and Clothing Repair Specialist course at Fort Pickett prior to deploying, giving her an additional Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) needed for the mission.

While mobilizing at Fort Dix in 2007, members of her unit formed a tight bond, leading to a best friend forever for Dennis: Staff Sgt. Charlene Hazelton, who also joined the 72nd at Fort Dix, as an Operation Warrior Trainer recruiter, and even works in the same building as Dennis.

"The majority of the Soldiers in our unit were age 22-35, so we were very close," she said. "We didn't know where exactly we were headed or what exactly we'd be doing, and we ended up bonding through the experience."

With its headquarters in Mosul, her unit supported remote sites in Iraq, ensuring the smaller camps would have access to shower and laundry facilities, she said. At the seven sites her unit was

responsible for, Soldiers established and operated functional personal hygiene units where civilian-run facilities were not available.

Dennis served as an operations NCO and kept track of her unit's Soldiers assigned at the different sites. She also maintained laundry and shower load reports compiled from information she received from the Soldiers operating the seven facilities.

After returning from her deployment last April, she volunteered to remain at Fort Dix assisting the 72nd with mobilization, where she will remain on active duty until September of this year. In December of last year she completed the Warrior Leader Course and is looking forward to being promoted to staff sergeant in the near future.

For Soldiers becoming Noncommissioned Officers, Dennis has some advice. "In order to grow, you need to be able to accept the guidance of your leadership," she says. "But don't always wait to be given information; you can seek knowledge on your own."

## Top Warriors honored

(continued from page 1)  
fitness, as well as their knowledge of various warrior tasks and battle drills.

The 11 contestants, hailing from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, began their grueling series of events early Feb. 7 with a competitive demonstration of strength and endurance at the installation PT field.

The participants ran through the Army Physical Fitness Test, performing pushups, sit-ups and a timed two-mile run. "I know I didn't make it," said Chesonis, two hours before the results were made public. Chesonis hunch was wrong though, as he proved to be the winner, scoring 299 of a possible 300.

For the remainder of the day, competitors were hustled from one event to another, tested in their marksmanship skills, Army Warrior Training (specific warrior task and battle drills that support an Army at war) and a timed daylight and nighttime land navigation test before calling it a day.

The final day of the competition commenced with a harsh morning call as the contestants began their day with a 4 a.m.

wake-up, then a brisk 10-kilometer road march with body armor, rucksack, helmet and weapons.

First to return from the demanding 10K road march was Johnson, 475th Quartermaster Group, DET.1, Meadville, Pa., along with Sgt. Corey Mange and Spc. Henryk Bender, 334th Quartermaster Battalion, East Windsor, Conn.

Johnson, Petroleum Supply Specialist from Titusville, Pa., has deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom IV.

Johnson is currently a sophomore at Slippery Rock University, Pa., pursuing a degree in Health and Physical Education.

"I had a good time, it was a change from the normal drill weekend," said Johnson, referring to the competition.

Once all the physical aspects were concluded, a true test of knowledge began. The contestants dressed in their Class A uniforms and were presented a battery of questions on military and current events by a panel made up of Command Sgts. Maj. Mark Standing, 475th Petroleum Group, Thomas Donohue, 301st Regional Support Group,

John Hodges, 55th Sustainment Brigade, Sgts. Maj. Raymond Weis 38th Regional Support Group, Darryl Hall, 398th Financial Management Center, the top senior non-commissioned officers, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey Davis, 316th president of the board.

Prior to entering the board room, Davis addressed the contestants, providing some guidance for the next and final phase of the competition.

"Relax, but not so much as to lose your military bearing," Davis said. "We are giving you things to put in your mental rucksack. We will be looking for your oral expression. Don't look up, the answer will not be on the ceiling."

"On behalf of the 77th Sustainment Brigade, we are proud to have supported the competition on Fort Dix with our logistical and operational staff and the active participation of Sgt. Peter Wilson who was selected as the runner-up in the NCO category for the Best Warrior Competition," concluded Command Sgt. Maj. Najee Lunde, 77th Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major.

Presenting the awards to the winners of the 316th Sustainment Command Best Warrior Competition was Col. Jack Skelly, Acting Commanding Officer.

(The author may be reached for comments about this story at pascual.j.flores@army.mil.)



Ryan Morton

**WELCOME HOME** — Col. Larry Boyd, Deputy Commander for Mobilization, welcomes the 223rd Military Police Company home from Iraq, giving the Commander and 1st Sgt., Capt. Charles Hill and 1st Sgt. Michael Rowan, their yellow banner and ceremonial plaque, Feb. 10. The 223rd MP Co., part of the Kentucky National Guard, hailing from Louisville, Ky., originally mobilized out of Fort Dix last spring and deployed to Iraq where it participated in a Police Transition Team (PTT) mission training the Iraqi Police force.



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra

**FAMILY AFFAIR** — Maj. Malcom C. Cole, 2-315th Training Support Battalion, is promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony at the Kelly Reserve Center Feb. 5. Cole's father, Malcom Cole, a retired Air Force technical sergeant, was given the honor of placing his son's new rank on his chest, while Cole's wife, Beth, pinned new rank onto his cap.



Ryan Morton

**LUNCH IS SERVED** — United States Organization members showed up at Fort Dix to welcome home and serve breakfast to Soldiers from the 223rd MP Co. from a deployment to Iraq, Feb. 10. The 223rd MP Co., part of the Kentucky National Guard, hailing from Louisville, Ky., returned to Dix, the place they mobilized out of last spring.

The Real Estate  
Armed Forces Bank

Calvary Bank

N.T. Baptist

# Hoosiers engage in police training

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

Starting from ground zero in Sept. 2008, a new Indiana military police company was called up, pulled together, and is now heading for Iraq a mere five months later.

Indiana's 384th Military Police Company drew Soldiers from all corners of the state. Soldiers from the 381st and 38th Combat Support, the 287th Individual Readiness Company, and the 939th and 938th law and order detachments emptied all available personnel to the new company. Capt. Joe Cottone, the company commander, said.

Cottone said "It's been a very interesting challenge to get this number of people together. The company has done exceedingly well in coming together in training. When you have this many personnel pulled together at the last minute, the training can suffer."

The company drew from three types of military police units: law and order, combat support, and interment and resettlement. All had a different skill set, Cottone said.

"Sometimes that's a large plus. That's always been an advantage for the National Guard because we have so many skill sets. In a short time we ended up with a very cohesive unit," Cottone said. "This (police transition training, PTT) is not one of the five functional fields MPs usually do but it is becoming one. This company quickly developed into one (PTT) company."

The year before the company was being brought together, 60 percent of the unit was college first students or on basic training or annual individual training, Cottone explained. Most of the students elected to stay in school, but a few decided to deploy.

"I don't want to be in the **GIVING PEACE** -- Spc. Travis Thomas, gives a civilian on the battlefield chewing gum as she begs for anything he can give. Thomas offered the gum and accepted a heartfelt handshake as a thank you. These Soldiers from the Hoosier state will soon deploy to Iraq for a mission in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) training the Iraqi Police force.

military and use all of the benefits and never do anything. This will be my first of many (deployments) hopefully," said 20-year-old Spc. Brandon Cooper.

Cooper enlisted as soon as he turned 17 and now has four years under his belt. He is a student at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. studying mortuary science.

Cooper said he wanted to be a state trooper and had to have a college degree. It didn't matter what the degree was, so he chose one that he could use when he was no longer a trooper and age wouldn't matter. Once he has finished his degree, he will be able to handle entire funeral services from the business aspects to embalming, and offer family support through the worst of times.

"This is a field that not many people are interested in," Cooper said. "Somebody has to do it."

With a lucrative job he loves doing, Spc. David Ranyon, 22, of Southbend, Ind. said he has his own business producing live trivia shows called Brainblast, where he goes into restaurants and involves diners in the production.

"I enjoy it and I like doing both now, that and the military," said Cooper. "At first I wasn't really looking forward to it because all the accomplishments I have achieved."



photos by Lisa Evans

**EVACUATING CASUALTIES** -- Spc. Caleb Merriman, from Bloomington, Ind. and Spc. Caleb Goldsberry, also from Bloomington, guard medic Spc. Travis Thomas, from Demott, Ind., as he checks 'injured' Soldier, Spc. Brandon Ingram, from Cambridge City, Ind., during training on Fort Dix Feb. 11. They are part of the 384th MP Co., part of the Indiana National Guard.

But after training with other Soldiers, Cooper said, "I feel confident now that we can accomplish our mission. Now I'm glad I'm going since we're a diverse unit from all over the state. Now that we've trained about five months, I feel really confident."

The company has validated, enjoying their mobilization readiness exercises, and heads out of Fort Dix for Kuwait and Iraq as their next move. "We're looking forward to going over and doing the mission," Cottone said. "Seeing how we can help them build

police stations and personnel, we're looking forward to getting the mission on its way. The Soldiers just want to get the mission going."

(The author may be reached for comments about this story at [lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil](mailto:lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil))



**ON GUARD** -- Spc. Caleb Goldsberry aims his weapon at a target in the distance after an incendiary device exploded during a training scenario. Top right, Merriman, and Goldsberry guard the area after an improvised explosive device (IED) was found as they approached a bridge.

# Airmen prepare for detainee operations

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

"One team, one fight. We're all here to do a mission." Capt. Donna Porter-Simmons declared during detainee operations training on Fort Dix. Minutes later she was in hand-to-hand combat, fighting through a haze of a mace-like spray to the face.

Porter-Simmons commands the Air Force Combat Skills Training Alpha 6. Alpha 6 has been training on Fort Dix for several weeks and soon will deploy forward.

There the Airmen will work closely with the Army in a joint expeditionary mission involving detainee operations in Iraq. In this mission, Airmen will control visitors, families and friends while they visit

with the detainees.

Alpha 6 is just one of many Air Force detachments that have trained on Fort Dix during the past few years. In true joint military service, one team, one fight, all of the services have worked together and fought together in the War on Terrorism. The Navy, the Coast Guard, the Marines, and the Air Force have all sent men and women to Iraq and Afghanistan to fight and rebuild alongside the Army.

In 16 training sites around the country, the Department of Defense detailed the Army as the lead trainers for combat skills. As the effort to rebuild Iraq and the war effort in Afghanistan continues, more demands are made to fill support operation positions with service members from the Air Force and other services.

Most of these positions are not directly combat-related, but all are in areas where combat is a possibility.

Cooperation in combat training has given all of the services greater joint service visibility and a better understanding of each other.

Lt. Col. Cliff Palmer of the Alpha 25 Training Team said, "I think this training gives all of us a sense of ability to handle situations we wouldn't usually be trained for."

Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Browning of Alpha 25 added, "(The training) gave me an appreciation for the Army and what they have been going through."

All of the service members who have trained together have learned more about their sister services while maintaining their service pride.

"We are Airmen that bleed

blue, not Army Green. We are receiving training from the Army to hone our ground combat skills, there is no better Army in the world to train under, yet our newly honed skills will enable us to be more ground combat effective Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. Willie Graves, Jr., USAF.

"A lot of Airmen have been downrange (in Iraq) in joint tasks before," said Porter-Simmons. "We're ready to get the mission started."

All of the Airmen tasked for this mission are active duty with Alpha 6 Security Forces, the Air Force police.

This group of young men and women are all trained and ready to deploy, said Porter-Simmons, ready to use the skills they started with and the skills they have learned from their Army trainers.

**TRAINING IN THE COLD** -- Senior Airman Cassie Castillo, 21, from Riverside, Calif., kneels in position during training on Fort Dix, Feb. 4. The Alpha 6 Squadron trained in meeting and speaking with Iraqi officials played by Civilians on the Battlefield (COBs) on the coldest day of the year on Fort Dix with temperatures around 10 degrees. The Airmen will soon deploy to Iraq for a detainee operations mission.



photos by Lisa Evans



**ON THE MOVE** -- Senior Airman Cassie Castillo, 21, from Riverside, Calif., and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Fay, 29, of Palisade, Colo., members of Air Force Alpha 6, lead a team in learning how to enter and clear a building during training on Fort Dix Feb. 4. The building they trained in is called a glass house because trainees can see how trainees are performing. Top right, Capt. Donna Porter-Simmons, commander of the Air Force Alpha 6 Squadron, works her way through a training session after being sprayed with a mace-like substance used in self-defense training at the Detainee Operations compound. Porter-Simmons and the rest of her command learned how to continue fighting when they could not see and with their eyes burning and noses running from the effects of the spray.



# Announcements

## Chapel Services

**Fort Dix**  
562-2020  
**Sunday Services**

**Traditional**  
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. 5950**  
Church Street

**Traditional 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

**McGuire**  
754-4673

**Sunday Services**

**Contemporary**  
9:45 a.m. Chapel 2

**Gospel**  
11:15 a.m. Chapel 1

## 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 Fort Dix Main Chapel  
and the  
fourth Tuesday at  
Buttonwood Hospital.

**Remembrance Ceremony**  
and plaque unveiling  
Honoring the late retired  
Chap. (Maj.) Leon Bell, Jr.  
and late retired Command Sgt.  
Maj. David Deas  
Friday, Feb. 27, 1 p.m. at the  
Fort Dix Chapel. All are invited  
to attend. 562-2551

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

**CREATE-A-CRITTER -**  
Adorable Critters to stuff  
yourself! Chose 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.  
Critter Birthday Parties also  
available.

**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  
Saturdays

**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

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

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

**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.

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

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**Cardio Muscle**  
9 a.m. to 10 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.

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# SPORTS



**ON THE EDGE** -- Red Legs players Patrick James, 8, and Calvin Rouse, 00, from the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade watch as a lay up shot teeters on the rim of the basket during an intermural basketball game at Griffith Field House Feb. 10. At right, Emanuele Huff, 41, Warriors, watches as the ball arcs through the air towards the basket after he takes aim for a free throw. The men in black were over-matched as the Red Legs handily dispatched the 1/322nd Logistics Support Battalion Warriors 65-40.

photos by Spc. Daniel Hale



## National Prayer Breakfast

**26 February 09**  
**At the Club**

Tickets:  
Can be purchased from 1st Sergeants  
or  
McGuire Chapel at 734-4096  
 Ft Dix Main Chapel at 562-2020  
 Religious Services Office - 44th AFB  
 732-323-7579

**Cost: \$8.00**

**Carol Simpson Comelienne**

*"So help me God."*

## 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.

Call (609)562-4888 for more information.

### Valentine Workout

Treat a friend to a Hydro Sweetheart Workout Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Two for one special at the Indoor Pool. Call 562-2808 for details.

### Asylum Fight League

**Mixed Martial Arts**  
Watch one of the fastest

growing sports in the world at the Griffith Field House Feb. 21. The doors will open at 7 p.m. and the first bell rings at 8 p.m.

Advance tickets are \$20, cost at the door, \$40.

For more information call 562-6772 or 562-5355. Tickets are available at FMWR, Building 6043 or Griffith Field House, Building 6053.

### Diving Classes

Aquatics is hosting Diving Classes starting Feb. 23.

### Coming Soon

Hip Hop Fitness Class - every Thursday, in March. Noon to 1 p.m.