



Lisa Evans

GOT IT COVERED -- A Sailor of the Joint Sourced Training Oversight (JSTO) Counter Improvised Explosive Device Team takes a defensive position during pre-deployment training in reacting to improvised explosive devices and mounted training operations on Fort Dix Feb. 23. The unit is one of many composed of multi-service personnel, training on post as it will fight in country.

Joint training vital to mission

1st Lt. Antonia Greene
2nd Field Artillery Bde PAO

Anyone who has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom can attest to Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen operating in the same area, working together to ensure successful mission accomplishment. Whether at Multi-National Force Iraq battle update assessments in Baghdad or during routine security patrols in Mosul, service members are functioning as one team.

To continue to meet the needs of combatant commanders and the nation, Fort Dix Mobilization Training Center (MTC) mobilizes, trains, vali-

dates and deploys thousands of Joint Sourced Training Oversight (JSTO) units each year in support of the War on Terrorism.

While a longtime way of life for Sailors and Airmen, the JSTO is a fairly new concept in the world of reserve mission readiness. JSTO takes individual augmentees with similar skill sets and capabilities, both active and reserve component, and creates an effective mission specific team. It is challenging, but in order to meet modern global commitments, preparing Navy and Air Force personnel to take on traditional Army missions is nothing short of essential.

Although the types of JSTO units are diverse, primarily interment op-

erations and Civil Affairs (CA) Navy detachments train here at Dix. And with Army CA elements on ground as well, Timmons works to embed the Navy CA with its Army counterpart right from the beginning.

"The reason we embed them is to develop cohesion; they're a team, if we mesh them throughout the post mob training, they talk about each other's experiences and share lessons learned," said Major Alan Fontes, MATOP's Chief, 2nd Field Artillery Training Support Brigade.

JSTO is an example of the integration and transformation initiative spearheaded by the Department of Defense. Ground forces play a central role in re-establishing order and stabil-

ity to troubled areas such as Iraq and thus, the military as a whole is converting its typical service component capabilities into a more consolidated multi-functional operational force. Although it's not completely integrated from the ground up, training to one standard is a crucial step toward building capability and capacity to foster a ready and relevant land power.

Chief Petty Officer David Timmons, Navy Liaison Officer with the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center Detachment at Fort Dix, communicates each Navy detachment's specific mission to the 2nd Field Artillery Training Support Brigade and together with the Mobilization and Training Operations (MATOPs) cell,

develop a comprehensive, mission focused, training plan to prepare Sailors for land operations.

He explained that in order for Sailors to take on Army missions, they have to meet the Forces Command (FORSCOM) training requirements. Whether a small surgical element or a personal security team, Navy Captain or Seaman Apprentice, every JSTO unit learns common warrior tasks and skills necessary for asymmetrical ground combat.

"We train them for the worst, if the need arises they feel confident and able to respond," said Timmons.

When it comes to Army training, there are a couple of things that most

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NEWSNOTES

Ribbon cutting set for new Reserve Center

Major Gen. William Monk III, commander of the 99th Regional Support Command, will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new United States Army Reserve Center located at 5231 South Scott Plaza on Fort Dix Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

Mandatory Suicide Prevention Briefings set

Mandatory Suicide Prevention Briefings for Fort Dix civilian employees will be held March 13 in Timmermann Center. Two sessions will be offered, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. These sessions will be the last offered to meet this requirement.

Chapel to honor two stalwarts

The Fort Dix Main Chapel will host a remembrance ceremony for two former members of the community today at 1 p.m. Plaques honoring the late Chap. (Maj) Leon Bell and Command Sgt. Maj. David Deas will be added to a memorial wall in the chapel dedicated to those who have provided spiritual guidance to the community and the chapel. The ceremony is open and all are invited to attend.

Housing construction hits next phase, traffic shifts

Due to the next phase of construction, United Communities will sever the easternmost portion of Falcon Courts North. On March 1, severing will block all resident use of East Castle Drive east of Bolling Blvd. Homes along the east side of Prestwick Rd will be severed, but the street will remain available for the residents on the west side of Prestwick. The residents in this area will use East George St to Travis St for entry/exit. For more information, please contact Kelly Ledgerwood at the United Communities Construction Office, 609-723-4290, ext 2013.

Violence in Iraq drops to six-year low level

John J. Kruzal
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 2009 -- Violent attacks in Iraq are at their lowest levels since August 2003, a U.S. commander in Iraq said yesterday.

Army Maj. Gen. David Perkins, director for strategic effects at Multi-National Force Iraq, told reporters in Baghdad the downturn in violence marks a 90 percent decrease since the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq began in 2007.

Perkins added that on Feb. 20, no Iraqi civilians were killed or even targeted in attacks.

"This is a very significant event, and we are seeing more and more days like that throughout Iraq," he said.

Contributing to the improved security are the growing Iraqi security forces, which have increased the size of their ranks from 463,000 last year to 618,000 now -- a 25 percent boost.

"It's not only an increase in the size and numbers, but the capability such as planning, orchestrating these very complicated operations, and then leading throughout the country of Iraq," Perkins said.

He added that Iraqi forces led and planned security for the important nationwide provincial elections last month, in which some 7 million Iraqis participated in balloting that featured 14,000 registered candidates.

"On election day this year, there were no attacks which resulted in any disruption to any of the voting that went on," Perkins said.

"This is in comparison to the last national election period in 2005, where we had hundreds of attacks on election day, with 44 deaths."

Election results are being widely

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Wayne Cook

FELLOWSHIP ON THE MENU -- The joint leadership of McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix, and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst welcomes everyone to the National Prayer Breakfast at the McGuire Club Feb. 26. Speaking from the podium is Col. Larry Boyd, deputy commander for mobilization, Fort Dix, and from the far left are Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, McGuire installation chaplain, Capt. Phillip Beachy, commander, Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, and Col. Balan Ayyar, commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB. Behind Ayyar is Chap. (Capt.) John Boyer, staff chaplain and event master of ceremonies.

Prayer Breakfast prompts unity among communities

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

More than 175 members of the McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix, and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst communities came together to share in the first joint National Prayer Breakfast at the McGuire Club Feb. 26.

Airmen, Soldiers, and Sailors joined together over breakfast to pray for the country, the military and military families. Ever since 1952, when the United States Congress invited President Dwight D. Eisenhower to join them for a time of prayer over the nation, one day each

year has been designated as a day of prayer for the nation.

With the standup of Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst in the near future, it was only fitting that the communities joined together first in prayer.

Col. Balan Ayyar, commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire A.F.B., Capt. Phillip Beachy, commander, NAES Lakehurst, and Col. Larry Boyd, deputy commander for mobilization, Fort Dix, all welcomed the attendees and spoke briefly on the significance of the first joint National Prayer Breakfast.

Chaplains from all three installations assisted in the program -- some reading, others leading prayers. Many

different faiths were represented, along with members from the different branches of the military and the civilian community.

The guest speaker, Carol Summar Simpson, Protestant Women of the Chapel, Central Regional Coordinator, addressed the theme of the event, "So Help Me God."

"This phrase can be used in so many applications. It is an integral part of our oaths. Enlisted and officers include the phrase in their oaths. Even the president of the United States concludes his oath of office with, "So Help Me God." "

said Simpson. "When dealing with children we

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heritage

Saluting a tough taskmaster during Year of NCO

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

The dark soul of the Prussian hinterlands has produced more than a few military geniuses and even one who helped America win its Revolutionary War.

Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben was a Prussian-German army officer who served as inspector general of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and is credited with helping instill enough of the essentials of military drill and discipline into his fellow Soldiers that they won their struggle against the British crown to gain independence and become the United States of America.

The United States Army has recently declared 2009 to be the Year of the NCO. And Baron von Steuben is the patron saint, so to speak, of every one who has strapped on a Smokey the Bear hat to train troops or otherwise educated aspiring Soldiers in military science.

He was the American Army's grand daddy of drill instructors, a martinet loved by his men whom even the ice of Valley Forge couldn't deter.

Von Steuben was born in Magdeburg, Germany in 1730. His father was an engineer lieutenant in the Prussian Army and at 17 the young Von Steuben became an officer there, too. Von Steuben belonged to an infantry unit but served as a staff officer in the Seven Years War in Europe.

He served well enough to gain a spot in Frederick the Great's headquarters but at the age of 33, for unknown reasons, he was discharged from the army.

Von Steuben gained the title of "Baron" in 1771, just about the time he scouted out other countries for a military position. He met Benjamin Franklin in Paris, Franklin was duly impressed and gave him a sponsoring letter to George Washington.

The still youthful Prussian reported to Gen. Washington at Valley Forge in February 1778. He joined Washington's staff and concentrated on building up the new Army in drilling and discipline.

With his reputation as a Prussian officer, impressive military bearing, and powerful personality, von Steuben quickly made waves. Commissioned to mold the raw Americans into a fighting force, the lieutenant general formed a model drill company of 100 men who he trained to train others. They drilled incessantly, simplifying their firing procedures, initiated groundbreaking sanitary regulations that much improved life in camp, showed his Soldiers how to march the British in use of bayonets, improved their marching, military commands and signals until the men began to work as a team.



Charles Wilson Peale, 1782.
Baron Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben



Granger Collection, State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pa.

STEPPING INTO HISTORY -- Baron von Steuben, left, walks with Gen. George Washington during the terrible 1777-78 winter at Valley Forge, Pa. Washington had about 10,000 troops there of which 4,000 were listed as "unfit for duty" due to poor supplies (lacking boots, blankets, coats, etc.) and another 2,500 died of disease (typhus, typhoid fever, dysentery, pneumonia). Washington mentioned a lack of shoes so severe that his men's "marches might be tracked by the blood from their feet." Americans died but didn't give up, establishing a tradition second to none among armies throughout the world.

Von Steuben discovered that Americans had to be told why a maneuver was necessary before they would respond. He explained everything, then, with much success. The lieutenant general was happy when troops fell in line, threw tirades when they didn't and always swore - and did everything else - like a trooper.

He continually wrote "Regulations for the order and discipline of the Troops of the United States," compiling them into a "Blue Book," which then became the Army's bible for many years.

"The choice of noncommissioned officers is an object of great importance," he wrote. "The order and discipline of a Regiment depends so much

upon their behavior, that too much care can not be taken in preferring none to that trust but those who by their merit and good conduct are entitled to it. Honesty, sobriety, and a remarkable attention to every point of duty, with a neatness in their dress are indispensable requisites. A spirit to command respect and obedience from the men, to teach it, are also absolutely necessary. Nor can a sergeant or corporal be said to be qualified who does not write and read in a tolerable manner."

The results of von Steuben's training quickly became evinced as the colonials did well at Barren Hill in May of 1778 and held numerically superior British forces to a draw at the



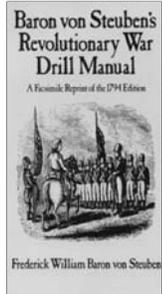
www.americanrevolution.com/ContinentalArmy.htm

BY THE NUMBERS -- Once a battle was joined, warfare in the 18th century was a relatively uncomplicated affair. Combat occurred at close range where the speed with which Soldiers on both sides fired assumed utmost importance. Speedy firing could only be attained by constant drilling after which the motions of loading and firing became second nature. Baron von Steuben was a Prussian-German army officer who became inspector general of the Continental Army during the American revolution and who taught American Soldiers the essentials of military drill and discipline. His innovative firing drills involved eight counts and 15 motions, considerably simplifying ponderous repetitions favored by most armies of the day.



Edwin Austin Abbey

WINTER OF DISCONTENT -- Lt. Gen. von Steuben reported to George Washington's camp on Feb. 23, 1778 during the dark days when American forces were freezing at Valley Forge, Pa. The first impression of one Soldier described him as "the ancient fabled god of War... The trappings of his horse, the enormous holsters of his pistols, his large size, and his strikingly martial aspect, all seemed to favor the idea." They inspired confidence, too. Von Steuben immediately inspected the troops and found them lacking in everything but spirit. He talked to the officers and men, inspected their huts, and checked out their equipment. He immediately began to write military drills for the men at night and set a precedent by working and drilling his troops personally when possible. His willingness and ability to work with his men under the most dire conditions as well as his unhesitant use of profanity in four languages, endeared him to American troops. Like his boss, George Washington, von Steuben was no armchair general.



Frederick William Baron von Steuben
www.germanplaza.com

BLUE BOOK - Von Steuben's "Regulations for the order and discipline of the troops of the United States" remained the official guide for the U.S. Army's military training and procedures until 1812. The facsimile at left describes the arms and accoutrements of officers and Soldiers, formation and exercise of a company, instruction of recruits, formation of columns, and many other fascinating military dispositions. And von Steuben wrote the manual under pressure, for troops to put into practice - immediately.

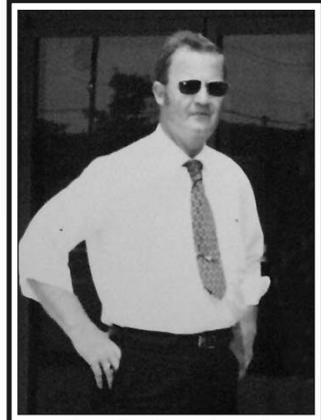
Black History Month



Satchel Paige Zora Neale Hurston Marcus Garvey Eldridge Cleaver

Who did what, when, where and to whom

- Thurgood Marshall was:
 - the architect of the Marshall Plan.
 - the founder of the Nation of Islam
 - the first black Supreme Court justice
- He was a great pitcher in the Negro Leagues. Who was he?
 - Jackie Robinson
 - Josh Gibson
 - Satchel Paige
- Which amendment to the Constitution granted black people equal protection under the law?
 - the 14th, b. the 15th, c. the 26th
- What landmark Supreme Court decision in 1954 struck down "separate but equal" schools for blacks and whites?
 - Plessy vs. Ferguson
 - Brown vs. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kan.
 - University of California vs. Bakke.
- He was the first black heavyweight boxing champion of the world and one of the ring's great fighters. Who was he?
 - Muhammad Ali
 - Sugar Ray Robinson
 - Jack Johnson
- Who said: "It is not integration that Negroes in America want, it is human dignity."
 - Malcolm X, 7 - Booker T. Washington
 - Marcus Garvey, 9 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Eldridge Cleaver, 10
- Who encouraged black self-reliance, saying, "In all things that are purely social, we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."
 - Malcolm X, 7 - Booker T. Washington
 - Marcus Garvey, 9 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Eldridge Cleaver, 10
- Who wanted to start a colony of black Americans in Liberia and said: "There shall be no solution to this race problem until you yourselves strike the blow for liberty."
 - Malcolm X, 7 - Booker T. Washington
 - Marcus Garvey, 9 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Eldridge Cleaver, 10
- Who said: "I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all... I do not weep at the world -- I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife."
 - Malcolm X, 7 - Booker T. Washington
 - Marcus Garvey, 9 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Eldridge Cleaver, 10
- Who wrote the book, *Soul On Ice* and went on to become a ringleader in the Black Panther political party?
 - Malcolm X, 7 - Booker T. Washington
 - Marcus Garvey, 9 - Zora Neale Hurston
 - Eldridge Cleaver, 10



Allen L. Snyder, Jr.

Long-time Fort Dix Director of Engineering and Housing Allen L. Snyder Jr. died Feb. 2 at the age of 86. Mr. Snyder, most recently of Riverton, retired from the United States Army as a lieutenant colonel after 28 years of service. His career at Fort Dix as a civilian spanned four decades of rapid change in the Army and on the installation. Friends of Mr. Snyder are invited to attend his Life Celebration Sunday, March 1, from noon to 1 p.m. followed by a Memorial Service, at Snover/Givnish Funeral Home, 1200 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson.

Joint training

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Sailors have to adjust to, like carrying 40 pounds of gear on their backs everywhere they go and the commingling of officers, enlisted and junior Sailors.

"The ship used to be our armor," said Navy Senior Chief Lewis Hyman, in reference to his new interceptor body armor (IBA).

"We have outer tactical vests in the Navy, but the ballistic plates are new," he said.

Like Army units, the combat skill levels of the JSTO detachments vary. Some units, like Naval Special Warfare (NSW) teams, far exceed the training lanes expectations.

"For special operations, mobilization training is low speed high drag," said Timmons.

A Naval Special Warfare Officer training at Dix for his upcoming mission in theatre added that the way the Army

runs things takes a little getting used to for his Sailors. He said it's rough waters at first, but over time, its smooth sailing; no pun intended.

And similar to Army training models, JSTO training tracks are tailored to the unit's specific mission in theatre.

"Reacting to fire and IEDs, really puts our mission in perspective. It's a learning experience to say the least, learning from different backgrounds and skill sets, it's a privilege to train with the Army and the Navy."

- Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Browning

Like Army mobilization training, JSTO unit training contains individual movement techniques, whereby service members train to maneuver under fire and detailed lessons on IED recognition and ways to defeat insurgent techniques.

Range 86 Feb 15.

"It's a learning experience to say the least, learning from different backgrounds and skill sets, it's a privilege to train with the Army and the Navy," said Browning.

Adapting to irregular warfare

and asymmetrical threats, post mobilization training continues to shift with the tides. Incorporating counter insurgency fundamentals for every service member keeps training relevant and mission-focused.

"It's all streamlined - IED recognition training across the services; we cross-level [service members] to give them a joint operations experience," said Sgt. Donald Davis, Operation Warrior Trainer (MDARNG) attached to 2nd Battalion, 309th Training Support Regiment, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.

The one thing Davis wants service members to remember if nothing else after leaving Range 86 is the importance of situational awareness.

"Don't get complacent, no matter how routine your job is, it's essential to stay focused, not only for yourself, but for your teammates," Davis said.

Joint operations, services working side-by-side, is nothing new to the way the military functions.

For decades, men and women across the armed services have been working together at the highest level and where the boots hit the sand. Take it from those whom have been there and done that.

"Transition teams by definition are an example of joint sourcing" said Lt. Col. Michael Hrycak, speaking of his former Staff/Maneuver Officer position with 59 Region Border Transition Team (BTT) operating primarily in Najaf Province, Iraq during 2006-2007.

"We worked with transition teams made up of Army advisors, Navy Civil Affairs specialists, sometimes Air Force advisors - all part of the same mission, training the Iraqi Army," recalled Hrycak.

Training side-by-side for wartime missions, keeps the U.S. military the most well-trained and equipped fighting force in the world.

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 16-22 Feb 09.

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 near Bldg. 5911. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Sailor NAFD, struck a sign while backing. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was released to the operator 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 and two warrants out of Mt Laurel. The subject was cited and transferred to the custody of Mt Laurel Police. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

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

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5911. Investigation revealed flying dust caused the alarm.

●During a routine traffic stop on Pointville Rd, 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, Fire Department, and Safety personnel responded to an incident in the United Communities construction area. Investigation revealed a vehicle had spilled approximately 60 gallons of fuel. United Communities agreed to take proper steps to remove the contaminated soil before continuing construction.

●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 was released to a licensed driver.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 4309. Investigation revealed smoke from a barbecue grill activated the alarm.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash on Brody Road. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, struck another vehicle from the rear. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police responded to an incident near Bldg. 5914. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, struck a parked and unoccupied vehicle while backing. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police responded to a traffic accident on Cooks Corner Road. Investigation revealed that during a training exercise, a government vehicle, operated by a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, was unable to stop in time and struck another government vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5612. Investigation revealed no cause for the alarm.

●During a routine traffic stop on Doughboy Loop, police discovered the vehicle operator, a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police responded to a traffic accident on Eighth Street. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, struck a parked and unoccupied vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop on Trenton Avenue, police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, was under the influence of alcohol. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

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

●There were 16 Magistrate Court Citations issued for moving violations. DWI incidents remain at three for the year.



Lisa Evans

CROSS-TRAINING -- Sailors of the Joint Sourced Training Oversight (JSTO) take defensive positions during improvised explosive device/mounted training operations on Fort Dix Feb. 23.

Leave policies revised by NDA

JoeAnn Robinson
Defense Military Pay Office

The Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDA), Section 551 revised leave provisions.

These revisions include increased leave carryover, improved Special Leave Accrual (SLA) retention, and the option for enlisted members to elect a one-time payment of accrued leave in excess of 120 days.

Increased leave carryover from 60 to 75 days. A member may now carryover up to 75 days of accrued leave from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year, i.e. September 30, 2008 to October 1, 2009.

This law is effective for fiscal year leave carryover until December 31, 2010, unless there are further changes to the law.

The Fort Dix Defense Military Pay Office (DMPO) is not authorized to "reinstated" lost leave back to Soldiers, including mobilized Reservist, and National Guardsmen, upon DEMOB or at any other time. Per the 2008 NDA, leave in excess of 75 days at fiscal year-end balancing is lost unless eligible for Special Leave Accrual (SLA).

Special leave accrual is based on law outlined in Section 701F, Title 10, United States Code (10 USC 701f). Special leave accrual is for deployed and non-deployed members in lost leave status as stated in AR 600-8-10, chapter 3, paragraph 3-2, "b."

Special leave accrual is authorized to Soldiers who served in an area in which he or she was entitled to hostile fire or imminent danger pay for at least 120 continuous days," or "d."

Soldiers who meet all the following conditions may also qualify for special leave accrual: (1) deployed for a lengthy period, normally 60 or more days; (2) deployed to meet a contingency operation in the United States; (3) deployed to enforce national policy or an international agreement based on a national emergency or in the need to defend national security; (4) prevented from using leave through the end of the FY because of deployment.

Lost leave must be requested back by the Soldier. The

request must be submitted through the Soldier's Chain-of-Command to the appropriate HRC office for approval or disapproval.

The CG, AHRC, is the approval authority for requests for special leave accrual for Soldiers who meet the criteria in paragraph 3-2.d. above.

Upon request by eligible Soldiers, up to 45 days of lost leave may be reinstated to the Soldier's accrued leave balance as Special Leave Accrual.

The situation preventing Soldiers from using leave fiscal year has been caused by a catastrophe, national emergency and/or crisis, or operation in defense of national security.

Furthermore, it should be a result of the member's inability to take leave or to reduce their leave balance to 75 days before the end of the fiscal year.

For example, if the Soldier submitted a DA Form 31 requesting leave and was denied the leave due to mission requirements, then the Soldier may be eligible for SLA.

But, if the Commander offered to approve leave for the week after the essential mission was completed and the Soldier decided not to take leave, the Soldier would not qualify for SLA. Special leave accrual cannot be approved for leave lost due to normal duty requirements.

Any Commander in the Chain-of-Command may disapprove SLA requests without referring to a higher-level authority when the Soldier's request does not meet the criteria for SLA consideration.

Special Leave Accrual guidance and request procedures are outlined in AR 600-8-10, chapter 3, Special Leave Accrual; and Military Pay Procedures Manuals (AC and RC/NG MPPMs), Chapter 6. The Reserve/National Guard MPPM gives SLA request procedures and guidance for RC, NG, and AGR Soldiers.

Annual accrued leave and SLA limit increases can be referenced in ALARACT 185/2008 and Military Pay E-Message 08-052.

Commanders on Fort Dix have been briefed and supplied with regulatory guidance and request procedures.

If you have lost leave and believe you meet the eligibility criteria for special leave accu-

al, contact your unit Commander or Personnel Administrator.

Improved Special Leave Accrual (SLA) retention limits. A member who serves for a continuous period of at least 120 days in an area where the member is entitled to Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HF/IDP), or duty designated as qualifying by the Secretary of Defense, can retain leave in excess of the normal carryover, up to 120 days, until the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the continuous period of qualifying service is terminated, if that leave is accumulated during the period Oct. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010.

The law previously allowed the retention only until the end of the third fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the continuous period of qualifying service ended.

A member who serves in support of a contingency operation (Home Station/Base Ops Soldiers) during a fiscal year, who accumulates SLA beginning Jan. 28, 2008, can now retain up to 120 days of leave until the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the qualifying duty terminated.

The law previously allowed 90 days retention until the end of the first fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the qualifying duty terminated.

Violence in Iraq drops

(continued from page 1)
accepted by victors and vanquished alike, he said.

"If you take a look at emerging democracies, historically, it is generally the second election that is sometimes more difficult than the first election," the general said. "By the time the second election comes, those who may have to lose power or give up power are not necessarily as excited about doing that."

"But the fact that we've had this second election and a very large number of people participating, both as candidates and as voters," he continued, "shows the enthusiasm that Iraqis have for the democratic process here in Iraq."

The downturn in violence comes as U.S. forces begin transferring a greater share of power to Iraqi forces keeping with the status-of-forces agreement that became effective Jan. 1. The agreement between Washington and Baghdad stipulates that American combat forces pull back from cities and villages to major bases by June 30.

"There is no doubt that we will be out of the cities by June, and we are working this day by day," Perkins said. "And you can see many of these facilities we have already transferred, as well as the upcoming ones, are part of this plan to move out of the cities."

WANTED

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Gates calls for tough budget choices



Cherie A. Thurlby

DEFENDER – Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates answers questions in this file photo from 2007. Gates called for forthright, collegial discussions among Defense Department leaders to make tough choices about programs, projects and procurement as the defense portion of the fiscal 2010 federal budget takes shape.

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2009 – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has called for forthright, collegial discussions among Defense Department leaders to make tough choices about programs, projects and procurement as the defense portion of the fiscal 2010 federal budget takes shape.

Gates asked those participating in the discussions to sign a nondisclosure agreement because leaks may discourage the free exchange of ideas, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said today.

"This is highly sensitive stuff, involving programs costing tens of billions of dollars, employing hundreds of thousands of people and go to the heart of our national security," Morrell said. "He wants this process to be as disciplined and as forthright as possible."

Gates wants the budget to

be judged as a whole, rather than in parts via selective leaks, Morrell said. The secretary thinks the agreement "will create a climate in which you can ultimately produce a better product, as people can speak candidly with the confidence that it will not be leaked," he added.

The secretary wants the budget to be judged in its

"This is highly sensitive stuff, involving programs costing tens of billions of dollars, employing hundreds of thousands of people."

- Geoff Morrell, Pentagon Press Secretary

totality "because that's where you will see the strategic balance he is trying to build," Morrell said.

In testimony before Congress in January, Gates talked about making the hard choices on procurement. Projects that are significantly behind schedule or over budget are more likely to face the budget ax, he said.

Gates called for discipline

in the acquisition process and said the department must freeze requirements at contract time.

Big-ticket items are going to go through a very thorough review as part of the fiscal 2010 budget process, Morrell said.

The White House's Office of Management and Budget is expected to announce top-line budget figures tomorrow, along with a fiscal 2010 war supplement.

Obama wants to stop the supplemental process and transfer the costs for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the base budget, but will not be able to do so this year, Morrell said.

"It's extremely difficult for us to predict what our level of commitment is going to be in either theater, let alone the thought of, God forbid, a year, two years, let alone 10 years from now," he said. "So we are trying to be as helpful as possible to this process, but some of this stuff is not known at this point."

Honoring the Colors

Reveille
6 a.m. (0600 hours)

Military personnel in uniform

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

Military personnel not in uniform, civilians

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

Military personnel in formation or in a group

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

Individual military personnel, civilians in a vehicle

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

Group of military personnel in a vehicle

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

Retreat
5 p.m. (1700 hours)

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

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

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

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

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



courtesy photo

Sutton-Browning gets ultimate gift

Former lead management and program analyst at the Plans, Analysis, Integration Office, Pamela Sutton-Browning, reacts to the ultimate going away surprise at her bon-voyage luncheon last month. Sutton-Browning requested an Ultimate Weapon statue as a parting gift, but unable to acquire the elusive figurine, her boss, Molly Libby, provided Sutton-Browning with the next best thing - Jay Schopp, director, Resource Management, dressed as the part of the Ultimate Weapon.



Guard & Reserve Retirement Benefit Seminar

Are you unsure of what benefits are available to you while waiting to receive retired pay? If this is you...this seminar can answer these questions & more.

• MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS!

- Saturday, 9 May 09 at Fort Dix NJ
- Timmermann Center
- 0800-1600
- Free to all guard, reserve, spouses & retirees. Civilian attire is authorized.

Contact NCC(AW) Currie, 757-444-7295 x2005 or email everett.currie@navy.mil for details.

Presenters from Military Service Centers, Veterans Affairs, Depart of Labor, and various Military Transition Organizations will cover topics from guard/reserve perspective such as: Survivor Benefit Plan, Tricare/Dental, Veterans Benefits, Disability VA, and much more!

Undoubtedly, those who attend will gain a much clearer understanding and appreciation for Guard & Reserve associated benefits.

NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

Volunteer Tax Center open for business

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 to include preparation of federal and state tax returns and electronic filing. The VITA tax site is located on Fort Dix in Building 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 562-3976 to schedule an appointment.

Military Career Fair to be held in Philadelphia

A free hiring event for veterans, personnel who are transitioning from active duty, Reserves, Guard, and military spouses presented by RecruitMilitary, the Presidents National Hire Veterans Committee (DOL), the American Legion, and the MSCN (Military Spouse Corporate Career Network) will be held in Philadelphia at Citizens Bank Park, March 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to register as a job-seeker, visit www.recruitmilitary.com

Volunteers needed for Read Across America

The Fort Dix Elementary School will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday as part of the national Read Across America program. As part of the celebration volunteers are needed to read to the students March 5 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in being a volunteer reader call Sharon Gardner at 562-6271.

Texas Hold'em, Bunco to be played at Club Dix

The Fort Dix Family, Morale, Welfare, Recreation will once again be hosting an evening of games March 6. The pre-registration fee for Texas Hold'em is \$19, \$24 at the door. The registration fee to play Bunco is \$7. Game play begins at 6 p.m.

Spouses' Club offers scholarships and grants

The Fort Dix Spouses/Friends of Fort Dix Club annual Scholarship and Community Grants Program is open to any Fort Dix military or community organization in need of assistance. If you wish to apply for financial assistance please submit a written request containing the amount requested and detailed information on how the grant will be used. Applications are also being accepted for the 2009 Scholarship Program. The program is open to family members of military or civilian personnel assigned, attached to or living on Fort Dix. Scholarships are available for graduating high school Seniors, spouses and civilians, and family members.

All applicants must meet eligibility requirements listed in the application. Applications are available at the Fort Dix Thrift Shop, Army Community Service and area High School Guidance Offices. For additional information or to request an application, please send an email to fortdixspousesclub@comcast.net, or call Bonnie Reed at 499-3969.

Mail all grant requests and completed scholarship applications to the Fort Dix Spouses' Club, PO Box 74, Fort Dix, New Jersey, 08640.

All grant requests and completed scholarship applications must be received on or before 1 April 2009.

Mulligan's re-opening for Spring season

Mulligan's Restaurant at Fountain Green Golf Course will re-open for business March 4. For more information call 562-6071.

Thrift Shop offers super savings

The Fort Dix Thrift Shop is currently accepting consignments of Spring items.

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

Service dog visits elementary school

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

The students and staff members of the Fort Dix Elementary School were treated to a visit by a real wonder dog on Feb. 18.

During a special assembly the children and adults at the school had the privilege of meeting Tango, a search and rescue dog, and his handler and owner, Sarah Atlas, of Barington.

Tango is an 8-year-old German Shepherd that is certified as both a search and rescue dog and a therapy dog.

During the assembly the children watched as Tango was removed from the room and their principal, Tamra Gurbutt, hid on the stage and in a storage room. When Gurbutt was hidden, Tango was released into the gym and proceeded to sniff around until he located her. The wonder canine completed both searches in short order to the delight of the children.

Atlas explained the mission of search and rescue dogs to the students and shared some of the rescues Tango has been involved in including a rescue three years ago in Teaneck when a three story building collapsed due to a gas explosion. He was also involved in a rescue one year ago in Irvington when two houses collapsed due to a gas explosion and in again in Newton, where an abandoned building housing squatters collapsed.

She added that it has been fortunate that Tango's skills have not been required more often.

Atlas also shared a story about her dog, Anna, who responded to the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Anna helped find people who were trapped in all the debris and rubble. After days of searching through the fallen buildings, Anna and Atlas returned home. Shortly thereafter Anna became ill due to the atmosphere she had breathed while at Ground Zero. There was nothing the veterinarians could do for her and not long after, she succumbed to the injuries and illnesses brought on from her rescue efforts in New York.

When teachers at a Haddonfield school heard the story of Anna they decided to enlist the aid of their pupils and families and hosted a fundraiser to help get another dog for Atlas. They were so successful that they were not only able to locate and purchase another

dog, but also fly him to the United States from the Netherlands. Since he spent his puppyhood in Holland, Tango responds to commands in both Dutch and English.

Tango was just one year old when he came to the United States Aug. 28, 2000, and once he arrived he underwent two years of training to become a certified search and rescue dog. Before he came to the states he had already been through basic obedience training.

His training as a search and rescue candidate included more obedience training, climbing up and down ladders, crawling through tunnels on his belly, jumping through openings, repelling, and other acts of dexterity.

Dogs have a keen sense of smell. They can smell dozens of smells individually at the same time. Because of this, they are trained to recognize specific smells and odors for their search and rescue mission.

Atlas shared with the children that handling a search and rescue dog costs more than \$10,000 a year in training and maintaining them. All the work the handlers and dogs do is volunteered. There is no monetary compensation for their efforts. The handlers pay all expenses.

"Most people think we get paid by the government, but most handlers are unpaid volunteers," said Atlas.

Atlas and Tango belong to the New Jersey Task Force 1, State of New Jersey Division of State Police/OEM, and Homeland Security, out of Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst. The organization is an all volunteer team that responds to collapsed buildings, water searches, hazmat, and medical search and rescues. The handlers are all civilians.

Tango has an easy demeanor and the children enjoyed crowding around him, petting him and having their pictures taken with him.

Atlas started the Search and Rescue Dog Foundation, Inc. to help provide grants to handlers who have to replace a search and rescue dog.

Not just any dog will do as a search and rescue dog. They must be physically sound and able to focus with multiple distractions.

To learn more about search and rescue dogs go to www.sardogfoundation.org.

(Comments about this article may be sent to the author at wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil)



photos by Wayne Cook

DOG DAYS -- Jasmina Rivera and Shakura Davis, above cuddle up with Tango, a certified search and rescue dog. Tango and his owner, opens the door with his mouth after locating a hidden individual, below. The dog showed off his skills to the children at the Fort Dix Elementary School Feb. 18. Jasmina Rivera and Shakura Davis, above spend some time getting to know Tango after the show.



Seamstress earns volunteer honors

Jacquie Longacre, right, receives a plaque and certificate from Frances Booth, volunteer coordinator, Feb. 25. Longacre was recognized as the Fort Dix Volunteer of the Quarter for July 2008 to September 2008. This is the third time Longacre has been awarded Volunteer of the Quarter. Longacre owns Signature Stitches, a sewing shop in Browns Mills, and volunteers her time at the Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center as a sewing instructor. She was also instrumental in bringing the Quilts for Kids program to the installation. Quilts for Kids is a national organization that sews and donates quilts and wheelchair bags to children in long term health care facilities and safe houses, as well as to children of deployed servicemembers, and Wounded Warriors. Longacre encouraged anyone interested in helping with the program to volunteer. Sewing skills are not required. The group meets at the Arts and Crafts Center the second Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Jennifer McCarthy

Well washes away potable water woes

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

Finally, after three years, the Internment Resettlement (IR) site now has potable drinking water available to the personnel who work and train out there. The IR site, located on Fort Dix's training ranges off route 70, trains military personnel from all branches of services in detainee operations. The site is constructed to resemble internment sites in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Cuba. For many years that training area did not have potable drinking water, instead they relied on water buffalos, large containers of drinking water. All that has changed with the completion of this well.

"The existing well was 42 feet deep and was not suitable for potable consumption due to storm water runoff and surface contamination and was used just for fire protection," said Rod Tozour, Fort Dix Environmental Program Manager.

"It was necessary to put in a deeper well to avoid storm water runoff and surface water contamination issues which could affect the quality of drinking water. Another concern during this project was to have a well that does not negatively affect the natural wetlands in the area and to prevent stressing surrounding aquifers."

With that knowledge, Fort Dix's environmental contractor, AMEC Earth and Environmental, designed a replacement well. The new well is

approximately 167 feet deep. The total time for design, award, construction and final approvals by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) took over three years due to the regulatory agencies review process and final water testing by the NJDEP.

"It was a long process, but we're very happy it's now complete. The reason we did this in the first place is to support the troops and their mission. It's very important for them to have potable drinking water out on the ranges," said Tozour.

The well project cost more than \$300,000, but those costs, according to Tozour, were attributed to the initial investigations, capping and sealing the old existing well and design and construction costs for the new well.

"This new well will eliminate the time attributed to bringing in potable water in water buffalos and allow more time for their actual training mission," according to Tozour.

Now that this well has met all requirements for a potable water well, the IR Site is able to use the well. Other areas in the training ranges which are in the process of acquiring potable drinking water wells, are the Contingency Operating Location area, the Boeing Vertol site and one in the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, which is presently being constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

(The author of this story can be reached for comment at ryan.morton@us.army.mil)



Lisa Evans

PUMP IT UP -- The new well pump head at Internment Resettlement (IR) site, off route 70, will provide potable water to training military personnel.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Soldiers, Civilians recognized for WMSE speedy support



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE -- Maj. Jeannette Oliver, Watson Aid Station, is handed a Commander's coin for her leadership of the Watson Medical Support Element (WMSE) from Col. John Ekstrand, Watson Medical Support Element, commander, right. Sgt. 1st class Merlena Edwards, Non-Commissioned Officer, Joint Readiness Center Medical, left, is given her Army Commendation Medal. Ekstrand had plenty of other hands to shake with the unit, who were recognized for their exceptional service for the mobilization of the 8,400 Soldiers, from Dec. 17, 2008 through Jan. 5, 2009. The WMSE Soldiers and the civilians that work beside them, were awarded for their quick and flawless work at the Watson Medical Support Element, Joint Readiness Center, Feb. 20. Eight Soldiers were awarded Army Achievement Medals, two Soldiers were given Army Commendation Medals, four Soldiers received Certificates of Achievement. Forty-nine civilians also received Certificates of Appreciation for their mission accomplishment.

photos by Jennifer Chupko



WHAT'S UP DOC -- Capt. Teresa Duncan receives her Army Achievement Medal for her work in the Immunization station from Col. John Ekstrand, Watson Medical Support Element, commander, left. She assists Soldiers with a particular disease or with emergency treatment for an illness. Sgt. Jessica Sporio, optometry station, right, receives her Army Commendation Medal before demobilizing, from Ekstrand. She said it was a pleasure working in the department and sad to leave it, but that she is happy she had the experience with the staff. Sporio worked along side a dedicated group of Optometrists.



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW -- Spc. Edward Carpenter, hearing station, above, gets his Army Achievement Medal from Col. John Ekstrand, Watson Medical Support Element, commander.



JOB WELL DONE -- Demobilizing Watson Medical Support Element (WMSE) Soldiers were awarded at the Main Chapel Feb. 19, after the 2009 Black History month celebration. The Soldiers were recognized for their outstanding part in the mobilizing of the 8,400 Soldiers, from Dec. 17, 2008 through Jan. 5, 2009 during their orders here at Fort Dix. Spc. Edward Carpenter, hearing station, left, and Spc. Edward Jablonski, Contingency Operating Location, both received Army Achievement Medals. Sgt. Mania Mullen, survey station and Sgt. Jessica Sporio, optometry station, right, were awarded Army Commendation Medals. All four reservists served one year of service, working for the Watson Medical Support Element Joint Readiness Center, at Fort Dix.



POWER AND PRIDE -- During the Watson Army Medical Support Element (WMSE) 2009 Black History month celebration, Gina Williams-Deas and Dana Burley, received Certificates of Appreciation for being outstanding guest speakers. The event also included a black history trivia game with prizes and a luncheon. From left to right, Master Sgt. Steve Jeffrey, Williams-Deas, Sgt. 1st class Samuel Peterson, Kimberly Washington, Staff Sgt. Donald Batisie, Burley and Sgt. 1st class Loranda Taylor.

ALSTARZ SPORTS BAR

Yellow Banners and Military Honors



Wayne Cook



photos by Ryan Morton



GODSPEED AND WELCOME HOME -- Maj. Jeff Houston, commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Humphries, acting first sergeant, at left, of the 324th Military Police Detachment out of Terra Haute, Ind., hold their unit's Yellow Banner during a ceremony held at Doughboy Gym Feb. 20. The MP unit is headed to Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, to perform detainee operations at the Theater Detainee Reporting Center. Capt. Tony Plata and 1st Sgt. Henry Mack, center, 133rd Quartermaster Company, display the ceremonial plaque their unit received at Fort Dix upon its return from combat in Iraq, Feb. 23. The 133rd QM Co. is part of the New York National Guard hailing from Brooklyn. At right, Capt. Joe Orecchio and 1st Sgt. Frank Brumfield, 812th Military Police Company, display the Yellow Banner and ceremonial plaque given to their unit upon its return from a deployment to Iraq, Feb. 23, at Fort Dix's Timmermann Center. The unit, hailing from Orangeburg, N.Y., returned to Dix, the same installation they mobilized out of last spring.



photo by Sgt. Melissa Harris

MISSION SUPPORT -- Jeffrey Takane, above, left-center, Postmaster of McLean, Va., United States Postal Service, is presented the Patriotic Employer Award by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative, Warren Johnson, Jr., at Fort Meade, Md. Master Sgt. Marvin Smith, far left, nominated his employer for the award and Maj. Timothy Holloway assisted in the presentation. Both Smith and Holloway are assigned to the 3/312th Training Support Regiment, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.



MOVING UP -- First Sgt. Garrett McAadoo and Capt. Javier Cortez, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, congratulate the newest member of the rocker club. Newly promoted Staff Sgt. Ana Ferreira was given her stripes during an afternoon ceremony on Fort Dix, Feb. 18. Ferreira, a native of New Bedford, Mass., joined the 72nd FA Bde. last December and works as a Defense Travel Administrator. Ferreira has been in the Army Reserve for seven years.

photo by Cpl. Maher Ramos

Community builders receive training

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

They don't blow up bridges; they rebuild trust. Civil Affairs (CA) Soldiers have trained out across Iraq, Afghanistan, America and around the globe to rebuild worlds—from small towns in New Jersey to farmers' fields in Afghanistan.

"They are fixers; they go in after natural disasters or war and rebuild the infrastructure," Sgt. Patrick deMuñecas, a trainer with the Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC) at Fort Dix, said. "They are employed in nearly every country in the world, whether in conflict or peacetime."

CMOC's main goal, said Master Sgt. David Pittari, non-commissioned officer in charge, is to teach Soldiers to win the hearts and minds of the populace so that they accept help when it is offered.

People skills are key in communicating with officials and helping them find resources needed to rebuild infrastructure, equip emergency responders, or save historic sites, among dozens of other needs towns may have. So that is where the CMOC begins with two days of in-class training.

"When the students come to Fort Dix, we first set up two days of flexible time for a handful of role players to come in and teach students how to talk to people, be pleasant and cordial," Pittari said.

"We are taking Soldiers from combat battalions. You can't kick down doors anymore, we tell them, you have to knock and you have to win the hearts and minds," Pittari said. "We're not an Iraqi or Afghan scenario. We're totally neutral."

During those two days of classroom training, the students go on three days of missions containing 18 to 19 scenarios and challenges. These situations are conducted on and off Post.

"The best way for civil affairs to teach Soldiers is to go off post," Pittari said. "The best place to win hearts and minds is in our own country. If it gets messy here, we can clean it up."

CMOC has rights to use 1500 square kilometers of area, Pittari said. And the Center has agreements with all of the towns from Trenton down to the Caranza Monument in the middle of the woods. These agreements with the townships and mayors, police departments, the State of New Jersey, the FBI, Homeland Security, and private businesses make the training ground a real world experience for the students.

Fort Dix offers a unique place where Soldiers can learn these skills, deMuñecas said. With its rich history and many historical sites, the farmlands, towns and dense population areas, as well as industry and an airport donated for their needs, this area is perfect for



Lisa Evans

HELPING HAND — Spe. Art Lochrie from Moline, Ill. shakes hands with Mayor Edward G. Tyler of the Borough of Fieldsboro, while Staff Sgt. Robert Valencia looks on. Lochrie and Soldiers from the Civil Military Operations Center school went to local communities to talk with real townspeople about township needs as part of their training to become Civil Affairs professionals.

teaching the basics of civil affairs.

One scenario used is a mission to VisionQuest, a rehabilitation facility for troubled youth with an equestrian rehabilitation team. The equestrian team relies on private funding above what the stable earns. CMOC sends a team to work with VisionQuest on locating funding. Trainers set up the

same scenario every few months to help the rehabilitation team maintain funding ideas.

The team has a contract to use the Pemberton Air Field, a private field where students not only learn how to help solve problems, they learn the basics on how to run an air field. By going into the towns and actually talking with the

Cross-training is a key element for the success of CMOC's efforts, deMuñecas said. CMOC cross trains Soldiers from many military occupation specialties thereby bringing in a wealth of training that is then applied to the civil affairs mission. Engineers, medics, chemical specialists, and all the skills needed for military operations are applied to civil affairs missions at CMOC.

"Civil Affairs Soldiers are trained and called upon to use both their warfighter training and civilian skills to accomplish their mission; assess and consider the impact of the civilian populace on the military mission and the effect of military operations on the civilian population," deMuñecas said.

"CA Soldiers provide the military commanders at every level perspectives, advice and often solutions to issues involving civilians affected by their operations and reducing the effects of those military operations on the civilian populace and facilitating the transition from military to civilian control," deMuñecas said. By providing this basic training, giving the Soldiers a chance to see what civil affairs really is, CMOC is able to help build a crucial cadre of Soldiers prepared to perform civil affairs worldwide.

(Lisa Evans may be reached for comments on this article at lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil)

Local hamlet provides learning opportunity

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Real-world problems come to attention for Soldiers of the Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC), Fort Dix.

As a practical exercise, seven Soldiers of CMOC-4 took a day trip to the Borough of Fieldsboro to scope out the needs of that small town.

Patrolman Scott Zapora took time to answer questions from the Soldiers as they asked him about the town and its needs.

Treating him with the same respect they would any police officer or town official while on a mission, the Soldiers asked about the town's resources, areas of concern, such as buildings or sites of historical or religious value,

and industrial/commercial businesses.

Zapora explained this small, a mere 0.3 square miles, town's history and provided a tour of the town.

A home built in 1723 and used for the Underground Railroad was the first stop.

Pointing out the nearness of the Delaware River, Zapora explained the house's place in history as a byway for slaves

escaping to freedom.

Immediately nearby, built on the Delaware River, a chemical processing plant is in operation.

Soldiers photographed and recorded it as a "place of interest" for their report back to headquarters.

Moving on to the center of town life, the Soldiers drove a few blocks to a converted schoolhouse that is now the town hall.

Built in 1916, the schoolhouse still has a message from the builders that immigrants and Irish nationals built the building but ran into delays because of the war in Europe raging at the time.

There, the Soldiers met with the town mayor, Edward G. Tyler and discussed the town's needs for more help in dealing with emergency services.

Students found that because the town has a river, a train station and is incorporated, it qualifies for special funding from Homeland Security for emergency equipment.

Later in the week, CMOC-4 took a road trip to find a person interested in starting a concrete business, but the person was a non-show.

The students moved on to



Lisa Evans

POLICE INTERVIEW — Staff Sgt. Robert Valencia and trainer Sgt. Carlos Adorno, from the Civil Military Operations Center, speak with Patrolman Scott Zapora of the Borough of Fieldsboro during civil affairs training on Fort Dix Feb. 17.

meeting with a role player whose field had been damaged by military vehicles going through the field and destroying crops.

Using map coordinates, the students took their Humvees through a series of small tracks

through ten miles of woods to find the field and successfully work with the farmer and conclude a deal to pay for damages.

(Lisa Evans may be reached for comments on this article at lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil)

Prayer Breakfast

(continued from page 1)

Sometimes say it, and it can be the last ounce of courage a Soldier needs before he takes up a new position under fire," she said.

With wit and compassion Simpson wove a speech that left people laughing and at times with tears in their eyes. She shared experiences with her nieces and nephews and

the deep admiration they have for the military. She told of how a 3-year-old nephew, J. J., at one time woke his mom at two in the morning because they had not prayed for the military before they went to bed that evening.

Her anecdotes rang familiar with many in the room and drew more than one smile from the crowd.

Simpson took a moment to fulfill a command from some of her nieces and nephews who requested she complete a task for them.

With all the dignity and honor she could muster she rendered a sharp salute to all in the audience.

"I was born into a military loving family. We can trace our family line back to the Revolutionary War and the War Between the States (on both sides). I don't take for granted the freedom that our military has secured for us. Being amongst a room of military men and women, this has been one of the honors of my life. I was overwhelmed with emotions as the color guard brought in the Stars and Stripes. I choked up when Captain Lonsberry sang the national anthem. I hope and ask that the theme for today may be the prayer of our hearts, in all situations and at all times," Simpson added.

As the Central Regional Coordinator for the Protestant Women of the Chapel, Simpson interacts with women from all over the country and throughout the world.

"I love working with the PWOC because they are front line women dealing with front line situations and standing in the gap for families and in support of their country," said Simpson.

The Christian comedienne loves to minister to people through sharing her own past experiences. She has seen the ups and downs of life in many ways and has been granted the gift of taking from them and helping others.

Simpson and her husband, and Army Lt. Col. Terry Simpson, are stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

(The author can be reached for comments on this article at wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil)



Wayne Cook

THANK YOU — Col. Balan Ayyar, commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, presents Carol Summar Simpson, with a plaque as a token of appreciation.

the Post

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Dix bids farewell to aviation maven

Donna Stella
Retired aviation coordinator

I first arrived on Fort Dix on April 17, 1952 as a three-year-old to entertain the G.I.s. My Mother told me a story about that day. She told me that when the Soldier presented me with flowers at the end of my performance, that if he did not give me a kiss on the cheek, I was to reach out and yank him back by his collar and give him a peck on the cheek. I have a vague memory of a lot of laughter.

I returned to Fort Dix in 1966, after high school graduation, as a temporary employee at the Reception Station for three months. My job was to encourage incoming

basic trainees to sign up for U.S. Savings Bonds. When the temporary appointment was over I took a position with New Jersey State's Green Acres Program in the Labor & Industry Building in Trenton. I was there until 1967 when the Department of the Army called to see if I was interested in returning.

Obviously I was, and worked in the Directorate of Housing and Engineering (DEH), and then in Transition Point preparing DD Form 214s until I got married and had a daughter, Kimberly, in 1968. In those days there was no such thing as maternity leave, and after missing quite a few days due to a difficult pregnancy I was told I would either have to resign or be fired. I choose to resign. I am glad that things are different for women today.

I again returned to Fort Dix in October 1970, working at the Directorate of Plans and Training (DPT) under Col. Rosenblum. DPT was then located in Building 5417. I also worked in Basic Combat Training Scheduling/DPT until a reduction in force sent me to Civilian Personnel, Incentive Awards.

In January 1975 the acting Division Chief of Aviation, Lt. Zaleski, established a position in Aviation and I was hired for the job as a clerk. I found a home and evolved from clerk to dispatcher to aviation administrator to aviation operations officer to aviation coordinator.

I have had many great experiences at the Aviation Section. I have made many friends, many of whom I still keep in touch with. I have met people from all walks of life - princes from Kuwait, Secretaries of the Army and Defense, for whom I had the pleasure to set up special buffets for them in the DV Lounge at the Aviation Division. I even met Reba McEntire who arrived at the Aviation

"I feel privileged, honored and blessed to have had such an opportunity to work with the greatest people in the world - Army Aviators and all the support personnel that go with them."

- Donna Stella, retired aviation coordinator

Section in order to read to the children of the refugees from Bosnia. Her aircrew inadvertently left her lunch behind in our refrigerator, and it wasn't long before it was gone. Reba is a vegetarian.

A little known fact was that Aviation's POL was tasked on numerous occasions to perform presidential refueling missions of Marine One, the presidential helicopter, in various locations around the northeast. Fort Dix Aviation coordinated and carried out the refueling operation for Marine One when the President arrived at Wall Street, New York City shortly after the Twin Towers collapsed on September 11, 2001. We felt privileged to contribute.

In recent years I have had the honor of obtaining aircraft and aircrews to support the Fort Dix Boss Lifts and Black Warrior Exercises; working closely with Lt. Col. Palinski and Lt. Col. Gillard, for whom I have the highest regard and

respect. My personal hero is a former Aviation Division Chief, retired Maj. Arthur Dietz. Together we fought to get the civilian pilot positions established at the Aviation Section so that we could continue to fly the aircraft and complete our assigned annual flying hours.

We performed numerous missions that were instrumental in saving Fort Dix as well as McGuire Air Force Base from BRAC actions. We were also able to save our remaining aircraft at least six years past other installations' TDA flight sections when they were losing theirs. However, without Maj. Dietz's support I could never have retired, so he is definitely my hero.

I have worked with aircrews from different services coming from all over the country, but since the Aviation Ramp was disconnected

from the taxiway in March 2004, (eliminating fixed wing traffic) I have worked very closely with rotary wing aircrews and operations personnel belonging to National Guard aviation units from

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., New Jersey and Maryland. My goal was always to insure mission completion and the safety of aircrews and aircraft landing in the cantonment area as well as the Range and at the Aviation Section.

There is not enough space here to be detailed and tell the entire story of the Fort Dix Aviation Section and all my experiences, but I must say that I feel privileged, honored and blessed to have had such an opportunity to work with the greatest people in the world - Army Aviators and all the support personnel that go with them.



Wayne Cook



courtesy photo

STAR POWER -- Fort Dix aviation coordinator, Donna Stella, receives the Order of Saint Michael, Feb. 15, at the McGuire Club. Stella, who retired after more than three decades of government service, received the honor for her outstanding support of the Army aviation community. Presenting the award is, left, Col. John Gallagher, commander, 244th Aviation Brigade, and Lt. Col. Richard Calchera, executive officer, 244th. According to co-worker, Lt. Col. Stuart Gillard, Transportation Corps (Aviator), Stella, "... had all the best attributes of an Army aviator; very smart, accuracy in all that she did, charisma, sharp wit and the right touch of glamour." Stella brought that glamour to Fort Dix at an early age. When she was three years-old, she visited the installation to perform for the troops.

SPORTS

Mixed martial artists invade Dix

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Tattoos and muscles dominated Griffith Field House Feb. 21 when cage fighters invaded Fort Dix to stage 19 bouts of mixed martial arts mayhem before a sell-out crowd. A buff group of young men fought to prove their skills by grinding foes to the mat, doing its best to revive machismo in its purest, exhibitionist form.

The audience seemed to know the rules, applauding loudly as fighters were dumped, pummeled, and tossed, groaning when some egregious move was made or when a favorite was pinned.

But if there are rules to the game, they weren't evident as fighters kicked and punched, twisted arms and legs, slammed heads face first onto the mat, or simply sat on their opponents. A whole lot of nothing seemed to be happening as one of the other fighter pinned the other down in individual tests of strength, straining muscle against muscle in relentless bids to emerge victorious.

After this show of silent war, bodies would sometimes flip and the order would change, with the other fighter on top. But mostly it seemed a



DUKING IT OUT -- Ray Brady, and Mike Serrano mix it up during the fourth fight of the evening Feb. 21. Cage fighting came to Fort Dix with a sell-out crowd. Brady took the fight by judges decision. Right, Claudio Ladesma pummels Pat Paulo during the second fight of the evening. Though he seemed to be on the bottom most of the time, Paulo was declared the winner after three rounds. The packed house didn't entirely agree with the decision, but they seemed to really enjoy the action.



tangle of arms and legs with any advantage to either fighter hard to determine.

Points were scored and winners declared as boos and applause rose from the audience which included Fort Dix's Commanding Officer, Col. Ronald Thaxton.

An obligatory beauty made her appearance before each round, carrying a sign with the round number on it, her clear, plastic, platform shoes wob-

bling on the mat. She garnered snippets of applause, throwing t-shirts to fans with aristocratic aplomb, displaying a throwing arm as good as many a ball player.

And not all the tattoos were in the ring. A fair amount of tattoos and nose rings adorned the audience that seemed to hold as many camp followers as it did Soldiers.

Cage fighting has a loyal following and seems popular

on Fort Dix, too. More than a few observers noted they had never seen so many people jammed into Griffith Field House. But crowds will do anything for culture which, in 2009, apparently includes mixed martial arts matches.

(The reporter may be reached for comments or questions on this article at lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil.)

photos by Lisa Evans



TAPED UP -- Jim Bova tapes Nate Hasara's hands before the match. Hasara was fighting in fight number 13, a title fight.

Old pro offers combatives tips to troops

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

Army combatives instructors hit the mats recently in attempts to master techniques that might just save lives in the future.

The instructors, from the Regional Training Center-East (RTC-E) and the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade took a special opportunity to harness their craft and learn some new tricks by training with a true wrestling champion and coach, Fort Dix's own, retired Army master sergeant and Viet Nam War veteran, Floyd Winter.

Winter is the Fort Dix Sports and Fitness Director and used his wrestling background to instruct the Soldiers in a class on how to incorporate the wrestling teachings for survival and self defense in hand-to-hand combatives training.

"You want to be in position to make your opponent vulnerable to attack," said Winter as he displayed a technique to the students during a combat demonstration.

The knowledge, experience, and wisdom Winter brings to the table speaks for itself. Winter had a 22-year military career and among his many stops, he served with the 101st Airborne Division in Viet Nam.

On the wrestling side, in 1972, he became the first American to win a Greco-

Roman wrestling gold medal in world competition when he won the World Military Championships in Ankara, Turkey.

Other accomplishments include winning 14 gold medals in the Armed Forces Wrestling Championships, the 1977 national championship, and three other times, a runner-up.

Upon retirement from competition, Winter has since coached at the highest levels including assistant Greco-Roman Olympic Coach for the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Calif. and Seoul, Korea, respectively, and the 1996, 1997, 2006, and 2007 U.S. Sambo wrestling coach in the world

championships, in Antalya, Turkey.

With Winter bringing the gamut of knowledge to the mat, the student instructors appeared to be very receptive and learned some new moves to take back and incorporate in their lesson plans, such as warm-up combat circuit training exercises to help strengthen their bodies, gymnastics exercises to work on their balance, and various submission hold techniques to combat an opponent with.

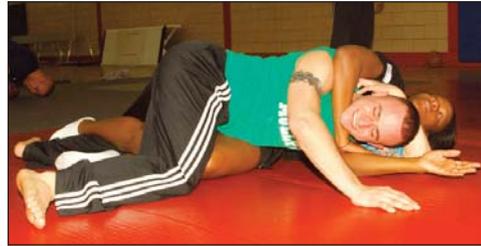
"This expands and elaborates a lot of the things we do with combatives classes and shows many of the theories behind the different types of techniques and martial arts we use to become better instructors," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Manzanares, RTC-E combatives instructor.

The students, according to Winter, appeared to take to the teachings fairly well.

"I think it's all new for them with, but they see the skill and technique involved and it should help them in their combatives," said Winter.

This class marks the beginning of a series of classes Winter plans to teach these Soldiers in the future with the intention of not only making the Soldiers better instructors, but also to help get them ready for an upcoming tournament in August, on Fort Dix, called the Northeast Submission Grappling Tournament for the Armed Forces, where they can utilize many of the bested lessons.

(The reporter may be reached for comments or questions on this article at ryan.morton@us.army.mil.)



CHOKE HOLD -- Staff Sgt. Nicholas Furia is put into a submission hold by Staff Sgt. Nicole Perrin at combatives training on Fort Dix at Doughboy Gym, Feb. 18. These Soldiers from the Regional Training Center-East, are combatives instructors who took part in a combatives training class incorporating styles of Greco-Roman and Sambo wrestling.

FCI dominate the Dunkadelics



OUT OF THE GYM -- Left, John Konetski, 3, Federal Corrections Institute (FCI), puts up a shot over the outstretched arm of Tony MacInez, Regional Training Center-East (Dunkadelics), during the FCI's 55-26 victory at Fort Dix's Griffith Field House, Feb. 18. On the right, Pat Vance, FCI, drives for a reverse layup. The win for FCI improved their record to 3-1 and dropped the Dunkadelics to 0-4.

photos by Ryan Morton



Sports Shorts

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

Energize with 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 kick boxing and more. Call (609)562-4888 for more information.

Aquatics offers scuba classes

Aquatics is currently hosting diving certification classes. For more information, call the aquatics center at (609)562-2808.

Hip Hop Class comes to Griffith

Hip Hop Fitness Class - every Thursday, in March.

Noon to 1 p.m.

Sign up for joint forces racquetball tourney

Come out and compete in the 2009 Joint Forces Racquetball Tournament March 14-15.

Participation is free with trophies going to the first and second place finishers in each division. All entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 12.

For more information call the McGuire Air Force Base Fitness Center at (609)754-6085 or Fort Dix's Griffith Field House at (609)562-3961.



photos by Ryan Morton

ATTACK POSITION -- Floyd Winter, Fort Dix sports and fitness director and a wrestling coach, instructs Sgt. Chase Ganany, Regional Training Center-East, on ways to counteract an attack. The Soldiers in attendance, all combatives instructors, utilized Winter's skills as a former world champion Greco-Roman wrestler and U.S. olympic team coach to learn other skills and techniques they can incorporate with their classes and use in their upcoming tournament in August.