

thePost

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Dix joins in Year of NCO

'Backbone of Army' honored in series of celebrations, events

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

"No one is more professional than I. I am a non-commissioned officer, a leader of soldiers. As a non-commissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time-honored corps, which is known as the backbone of the Army. I am proud of the Corps of non-commissioned officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself..."

Those were sentiments that echoed through Club Dix the afternoon of April 9, when Fort Dix Soldiers and officials took time to honor those known as the "backbone of the Army," the non-commissioned officers (NCOs).

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals.

Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission.

NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military battles and campaigns ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Part of

its mission has often been to help train NCOs in other nations.

In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, the Honorable Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, established 2009 as Year of the NCO. Establishment of the year-long honor continues an Army tradition of recognizing segments of the organization and the vital services they provide to the nation.

Fort Dix joined in the Army-wide event by hosting a ceremony and presentation to honor NCOs, which included comments by Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis; 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) commander, Maj. Gen. William Monk III; and NCOs from different organizations across the installation who exemplify the importance of NCOs to the Army and the nation.

"I know what it means to be an NCO. I used to be one before I went to Officer Candidate School (OCS). I personally want to thank you for what you do. You are the guardian of the standards," Thaxton told the crowd gathered for the event.

Davis remarked on the importance of the recognition of a vital part of the Army, and led the crowded room in reciting the NCO Creed.

After Thaxton and Davis spoke, NCOs from different organizations on the post spoke about their roles as NCOs and how they try to help their fellow Soldiers.

"In striving to always be a good NCO, along the way I have found

(continued on page 6)



TAKING THE CAKE — Maj. Gen. William Monk III, third from left, above, is surrounded by NCOs as they cut the cake celebrating the Year of the NCO at Club Dix April 9. At left, Sgt. 1st Class Dale Sanderlin, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Contingency Operating Location Victory, smartly leads the color guard into the ballroom at Club Dix to post the colors at the beginning of the Year of the NCO Ceremony April 9.

NEWSNOTES

Holocaust remembrance set at Main Chapel

A quiet time of reflection in observance of the Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust is scheduled at the main post chapel April 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to stop by to view posters and pictures and reflect on the meaning of the Holocaust.

Town Hall Meeting May 14 at Timmermann

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Timmermann Center Auditorium. Col. Grosso, the 87th Air Base Wing and Joint Base commander, will attend the meeting and will respond to questions from Fort Dix employees.

Employees are encouraged to submit their questions in advance to Bill Howard at the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office (PAIO). The E-mail address is bill.howard1@us.army.mil. His phone number is 562-6660. Questions will be kept confidential if requested.

Retiree Council hosts luncheon at Club Dix

A luncheon will be sponsored by the Fort Dix Retiree Council for retirees and their guests Saturday, May 9. The event will be held at Club Dix, with the Social Time beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m. The luncheon, an Italian buffet, will include tossed caesar salad, veal scallopini, lasagna, meat balls, penne vodka pasta, seasoned baked chicken, green beans with garlic and olive oil, garlic bread, hot/iced tea, coffee, and sorbet as dessert.

The cost for the luncheon plus gratuity is \$24.50. Checks may be made payable to Fort Dix Retiree Council, and sent to Sgt. Major Norman Palotto, 15 East Central Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057, (not later than April 30) to make reservations for the event.

Shifts in budget proposal detailed

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala., April 15, 2009, AFPS — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today made his second stop this week at a service war college, spelling out his thinking behind shifting \$13 billion in warfighter programs away from traditional supplemental funding and into his base fiscal 2010 budget proposal.

This is the first time Gates has traveled to speak to each of the services after releasing a budget proposal. The trip itself speaks to the significance of his shift in focus and intent to transform the Defense Department bureaucracy and balance the need to plan for future conflicts while providing needed programs for today's troops and families.

The secretary said his budget recommendations are a reflection of his past two years in office, during which he has struggled against an unwieldy bureaucracy to get equipment quickly to troops in combat and proper care for them when they return home.

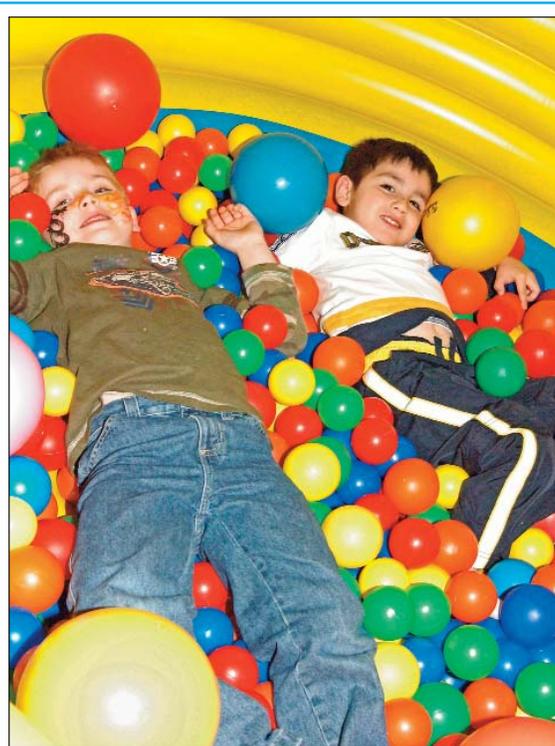
"I kept running into the fact that the Department of Defense as an institution ... was itself not on war footing, even as young Americans were fighting and dying every day," he said.

Gates said using supplemental funding for those programs puts them at risk of cuts should the Defense Department face funding shortfalls.

The secretary offered a frank assessment of the department's struggle to balance its ability to plan for the future and fund the current war requirements, saying that so far it has not yet met that challenge.

He put the onus for finding that balance squarely on the shoulders of top leaders within the Pentagon and the individual services.

"It is the willingness of service heads ... to say ... 'You're going to find a room in your base budget to take care of these problems,' and then seeing to it that it happens. I don't know any other way to make it happen," Gates said.



Jennifer Chupko

Community has a ball at Fun Fest

Colin Flannery, 2, right, and Benjamin Malinverni, 6, take a dip in the pool of balls at the Family Fun Fest at Griffith Field House April 15. More photos, story, page 4.

Somalis are our first pirate foe since the Barbary Wars



Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Like Yogi Berra once said, "It's deja'-vu all over again." After about 200 years, pirates once again stream across the American psyche. Americans cheered when Navy Seal snipers killed three Somali pirates in a daring rescue operation in the Indian Ocean on Sunday that saved the life of an American cargo ship captain from Vermont. The successful commando-type operation ended a five-day standoff between U.S. naval forces and a small group of modern-day pirates floating aboard a lifeboat off the Horn of Africa.

Piracy has been a scourge in recent years in sea lanes running through the Indian Ocean, especially near shipping lanes that sail out of the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean. Since the end of February for example, pirates have attacked 78 ships, hijacking 19 of them and holding 16 more vessels with more than 300 hostages from a dozen or more countries.

Kenya estimates that pirates took in \$150 million last year. But once again, talk about the difficulties of defending sea lanes and the costs of arming shipping there immediately arises. And it's bunk. What some "experts" are advocating is pure appeasement. And it doesn't work.

Just after its triumph in the Revolutionary War the United States lacked a navy to defend overseas interests, mainly trade. We tried to appease pirates preying on our merchant vessels by paying them tribute and even signing some peace treaties. But with the beginnings of our Navy, American presidents pursued different options. In response to Algerian seizures of American ships, Congress authorized construction of the first six ships of the U.S. Navy in 1794.

Thomas Jefferson committed the country to the First Barbary War which lasted from 1801-1805 after the Pasha of Tripoli had declared war on our young nation. The U.S. defeated Tripoli's forces with a combined naval and land assault by our Marines. A treaty ensued but proved, eventually, to be ineffective.

At President Madison's urging, Congress declared war on Algiers on March 3, 1815. Our Navy, now much larger, proceeded to kick ass. Americans had finally returned to one of their original mottoes, "Don't tread on me."

And nobody did, especially Barbary pirates.



www.earlyamerica.com

WARRIOR AT SEA -- Commodore Stephen Decatur was an American naval officer notable for his heroism in both Barbary Wars and in the War of 1812. The youngest captain in the history of the United States Navy led the first Marines in an attack on ships in the port of Tripoli during the First Barbary War, an exploit Admiral Lord Nelson called "the most bold and daring act of the age" in the Second Barbary War. Decatur and his squadron of 10 ships thoroughly wiped out every pirate in his path, earning the title of "the Conqueror of the Barbary Pirates."



Painting, "Decatur Boarding the Tripolitan Gunboat," by Dennis Malone Carter

NAVAL HEROICS -- On Feb. 16, 1804 during the First Barbary War (1801-1805, also known as the Barbary Coast War or Tripolitan War) Lt. Stephen Decatur Jr. led a small contingent of United States Marines in seizing the USS Philadelphia harbored off Tripoli after being captured by the Barbary Pirates early in the war. The Americans then burned the Philadelphia, denying her use to the enemy before capturing the city. When we sing "to the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Corps Hymn, we singing of these first U.S. Marines.



www.heritage-history.com

BARBARY PIRATES -- Barbary pirates or Corsairs, at left, pursue a galleon. The pirates were ferocious. "When they sprang to the deck of an enemy's ship, every sailor held a dagger in each hand and a third in his mouth, which usually struck such terror in the foe that they cried out for quarter at once," said Thomas Jefferson in 1786, then America's ambassador to France. At right, the Barbary Coast (today's Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya) is marked off in white on the top of Africa.

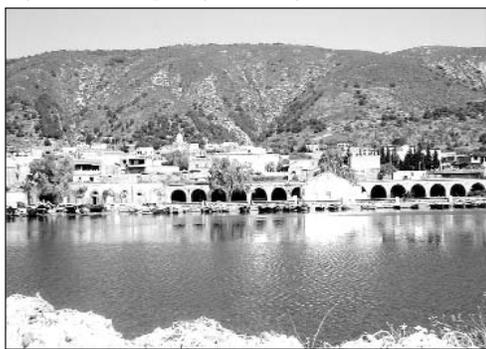


Painted by Edward Moran in 1897

NO HOLDS BARRED -- At left, a painting depicts the burning of the American frigate "Philadelphia" in the harbor of Tripoli on Feb. 16, 1804, an action of the First Barbary War. On the right, an art work depicts Lt. Stephen Decatur in mortal combat off Tripoli with Boatswain's Mate Reuben James shielding Decatur from an enemy swordsman. The scene closely resembles a fight to take over a Tripolitan gunboat on August 3, 1804.



Engraving, after a painting by Alois Chappel, New York, 1874, U.S. Naval Historical Center, photo



VirtualTourist.com

PIRATE PORT -- About 33 miles north of Tunis in Tunisia travellers can visit the sleepy sea village of Ghar el Melh (also known as Porto Farina). Ghar el Melh means "salt grottoes," appropriate because of the village's proximity to a nearby salt marsh. Founded by sea-faring Phoenicians, the village became an important base for Barbary pirates until it was destroyed by Admiral Robert Blake in 1634. Its harbor and defenses were rapidly rebuilt, though, and Ghar el Melh soon regained status as a base for British and Maltese pirates. In 1834 a huge arsenal belonging to a Maltese pirate blew up and destroyed part of the town. Ahmed Bey, last ruler of Constantine, attempted to turn the port over to legitimate trade but the estuary silted up. Today Ghar al Milh is just a small farming town which nourishes a fascinating history.

Year of the NCO New Jersey Soldier polishes leadership skills on tour in Iraq

Maj. Jason Fetterolf
2-113th Infantry Battalion

Age: 41
Current Unit: Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th Infantry BCT
Current Position: First Sergeant
Component: NGB - New Jersey Army National Guard
Current Location: Camp Bucca, Iraq
Hometown: Pitman, N.J.
Years of Service: 23

In the military, we have been told countless times the mission comes first.

For one top noncommissioned officer charged with taking care of the mission first, taking care of the Soldiers in his unit is just as important. Better yet, 1st Sgt. Mark Rizzo, Alpha Troop, 1-102nd Cavalry Squadron, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard, realizes by taking care of his Soldiers he will also accomplish the mission better - a win-win situation for the mission and his troops.

"I've always wanted to help people," he says. However, he considers the personal sacrifice he and his troop commander, Capt. Michael Tarricone, must make in order to help the Soldiers of his unit while meeting mission requirements.

As Alpha Troop's mission is multi-fold - including providing close base defense patrols, tactical transportation from Camp Bucca, Iraq to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and convoy security for detainee air transfers, meeting mission requirements is a constant challenge.

"We make decisions to make it harder on us [leadership] as long as it makes things easier on the troops," Rizzo added.

Rizzo grew up in Gibbstown, N.J., resides in Pitman, N.J. when not deployed to Camp Bucca, and has 23 years of military service, including a prior deployment to Camp Cuervo and Camp Fallujah, Iraq from 2004 through 2005. His full-time employment prior to the current deployment was as an operations sergeant with the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix, N.J.

Even though qualified to find another first sergeant position closer to his home in southern New Jersey, he chose to stay loyal to Alpha Troop, with its armory located in Dover, a two-hour-and-30-minute drive away from Pitman.

"If you are making decisions for yourself at this point in your career, I think you are misled," Rizzo explained.

As further evidence to how Rizzo is taking care of Soldiers, consider the fact 51 promotions have occurred in his unit in the last year since he took charge as the top NCO.

"This is my third deployment; I've never seen this many promotions; it's really unprecedented..." said Sgt. 1st Class Roman Charzenko, 2nd Platoon sergeant for Alpha Troop. [First Sergeant is] always looking for career progression for all Soldiers, even those not organic to Alpha Troop, and there are 40 of those.

A key principle of success Rizzo passes along to his NCOs are for them to coach and teach, and to "lead, never follow". Furthermore, he tells all Soldiers to look after their own personal growth, and to take responsibility for themselves as well as others.

"It's the NCO's job to mentor [Soldiers]; the Soldier's job to manage their career," adds Charzenko, from Goshen, N.Y.

In order to lead Soldiers to complete multiple missions and to improve themselves, coaching them to be future unit leaders, outstanding leadership and interpersonal skills are obviously necessary.

"He's a people person; knows how to joke [and when to be serious]. He is good at setting up officers for success, as the NCO creed says, do my job [as an NCO] so my officer does not have to," said Charzenko.

Further to this, Rizzo gets to know Soldiers extremely well so he can fit their skill sets and their desires to the mission requirements, whenever possible.

"He uses your personal experience in cooperation with the mission. He knows everything about everybody," explained 1st Class Ernest Iodaci, 1st Platoon sergeant for Alpha Troop and captain for the Lodi Police Department.

When considering the hard work, pride, Soldier care, selfless service and mission focus of Rizzo, one may wonder where he gets his energy. The answer not only explains his motivation, but also why he joined the military.

"My Dad and Grandpa were in the military. I had an unbelievable amount of patriotic drive from my Dad," said Rizzo.

the Post

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Task force seeks insight from sexually assaulted

It's time to hear first-hand victims and survivors of sexual assault in our military.

The Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the military services needs victims or witnesses of sexual assault to tell their personal story to gain valuable insight into the military's approach and response to this crime.

Anyone who's been a victim is being asked to contact the task force to participate in a confidential interview, whether or not the assault was ever reported, and who is not part of an ongoing case under investigation.

The task force is on a year-long, world-wide effort, looking at sexual assault programs in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force, to find out how the services' programs are working to prevent and respond to sexual assault.

When the assessment is complete, the task force will report to Congress about trends they have found in the military, and will make specific recommendations to improve our military programs.

If you, or someone you know, has been a victim of sexual assault and are willing to talk to a member of the task force, please contact DTF-SAMA at: 888-325-6640 or assist@wso.whs.mil.

For more information, please visit the website, www.dtic.mil/dtfsams



Jennifer Chupko

KEY TO AWARENESS — Col. Ronald Thaxton, Fort Dix commander, left and Capt. Phil Beachy, Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station Navy commanding officer, sign the joint-base Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation at Timmermann Conference Center, April 1. Air Force Col. Gina Grosso, commander, 87th Air Base Wing, McGuire Air Force Base also signed the proclamation. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month.

Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month: What you don't know CAN hurt you

Jennifer Chupko
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort Dix Substance Abuse program personnel are determined to educate Soldiers on Fort Dix, especially during April in observance of Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month.

Alcoholism is widely recognized as a disease of compulsive drinking, which can be arrested, but not cured. It is a progressive illness, which will get only worse as long as the person continues to drink.

Twenty-one percent of service members admit to drinking heavily. This is a statistic the military hasn't managed to lower in 20 years.

"We're focusing on prevention. We're certainly not opposed to alcohol use, but we are trying to reduce the prevalence of alcohol abuse," said Denise Horton, alcohol/drug officer and employee assistant.

"The average Soldier spends about \$7,000 in court costs, insurance rates, fines and alcohol awareness classes," she said about getting caught drinking under the influence.

According to Al-Anon, it is estimated that each alcoholic

affects the lives of at least four other people.

No matter what relationship you have with an alcoholic, it is a disease that doesn't just change one person.

"It's not the use, it's the alcohol abuse that gets people into trouble," said Horton.

"In the last quarter, the Fort Dix's drinking while intoxicated (DWI) number has reduced. We only had one on base."

The legal limit of alcohol measured in a person's system is .08 while driving in New Jer-

ssey, but drinkers don't always know the definition of "one drink."

One standard drink equals 13.6 grams of alcohol, but there are beers and coolers that have more alcohol than that in just one drink.

"People don't always take into account any medications they are taking. They can intensify the effects dramati-

cally," said Horton. Studies have turned up some frightening statistics. Thirty-one percent of all occupational injuries are alcohol-related, as are 23 percent of suicides and 32 percent of homicides according to Al-Anon.

Recent surveys also show many youths, who don't drink, cite their parents and other family members as the biggest influence in their decisions to avoid alcohol.

Data from the National

Alcoholism is widely recognized as a disease of compulsive drinking, which can be arrested, but not cured. It is a progressive illness, which will get only worse as long as the person continues to drink.

Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate youths are less likely to drink when parents talk with their children regularly and factually about alcohol, and make known their disapproval of underage drinking, and set clear rules with fair and consistent consequences.

Communities can also play a big role during this year's Alcohol Awareness Month by

using prevention strategies, effective policies, and enforce them.

Alcohol Awareness courses are only given if mandated by the commander. There are some very proactive commanders that put emphasis on the risks of alcohol usage.

Alcohol is just as bad as any drug because it is a drug. It is addictive, but there are programs at Fort Dix that can assist in the steps to recovery.

"AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) is for personal recovery and is based on progress not perfection," said a member of AA. "It is very helpful because you can go at your own pace."

"The program brings the person out of the dark-hears the silent screams and requires belief that there is something greater than the need of alcohol," said Horton. "The question is why—once that is answered, you can move forward."

The Fort Dix substance abuse drug treatment center and alcohol rehabilitation program information is available at the Substance Abuse Program, building 5203 or call 562-4011.

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 April 6 to 12.

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. 3164. Investigation revealed the alarm was caused by a power outage.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a smell of smoke at Bldg. 6738. Investigation revealed negative findings.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at the Burger King. Investigation revealed the alarm was accidentally activated.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at the USAF EC. Investigation revealed a water leak caused the alarm.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at Bldg. 6047. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Fort Dix civilian employee, struck the building while backing. There were no reported injuries and the vehicle was released to the operator at the scene.

●Police responded to a traffic accident on Saylor's Pond Road. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a retired military member, turned in front of an oncoming vehicle resulting in a collision. There were no reported injuries. The subject was cited for failing to yield and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police responded to a report of lost property at Bldg. 5372. Investigation revealed a refrigerator left unsecured outside the building had been removed by person(s) unknown.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5231. Investigation revealed the alarm had been accidentally activated.

●Police responded to an incident in the Laurel Hill housing area. Investigation revealed two residents were having a verbal dispute that did not escalate into violence.

●During 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 and a passenger had two outstanding warrants out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The driver was cited and the passenger was transported to the police station for processing. Grand Rapids Municipal Court declined extradition and issued a new court date. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Wrightstown Gate, police observed the inspection was expired. Further investigation revealed the driver, a civilian NAFD, was unlicensed. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 3152. Investigation revealed an unknown person had activated the alarm. All was in order and the alarm was reset.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Wrightstown Gate, police discovered the vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, had expired registration. The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop at the intersection of Montpelier and Juliestown Roads, police discovered the vehicle, operated by a Soldier NAFD, had expired registration. The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●During a routine traffic stop on Saylor's Pond Road, police discovered the vehicle operator, a Soldier assigned to Fort Dix, had an open container of alcohol and was driving under the influence of alcohol. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and was cited for careless driving, open container of alcohol in vehicle, and driving under the influence. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

●Police responded to a report of illegal fishing at Laurel Pond. Investigation revealed three individuals were fishing in an age-restricted area during a closed season. Additionally, two of the subjects did not have appropriate licenses or permits. All three subjects were cited.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash on Brody Road. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a retired military member, struck another vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●During a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP#9, police discovered the operator, a civilian NAFD, had an outstanding warrant out of San Jose, California. The subject was transported to the police station for processing. San Jose authorities declined extradition and the subject was transported off base and released.

●Police were telephonically notified by a deployed military member that a dependent resident of the Garden Terrace housing area was suicidal. Police responded and, after no one answered the door, forced entry into the quarters. The subject, who had three knives, attempted to stab herself in the abdomen. The subject was secured and Fire Department/emergency medical services responded. Further investigation revealed the subject had taken unknown medication and consumed a large amount of alcohol. The subject was treated at the scene and transported by ambulance to VMHBC. United Communities responded and secured the quarters.

●Police responded to an incident in the Laurel Hill housing area. Investigation revealed a resident and his spouse had a verbal altercation which escalated into physical violence. The subject, an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB was arrested, transported to the police station for processing and released to McGuire AFB Security Forces. Family advocacy was notified and responded.

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

●There were 18 Magistrate Court Citations issued. DWI incidents are now at five for the year.

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FAMILY FUN FEST

Community fills field house with laughter

"The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat the house all that cold, cold wet day..."

The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss

The sun definitely did not shine, but Fort Dix had a blast anyway at this year's combined Family Fun Fest and celebration of the Month of the Military Child April 15 at Griffith Field House.

This fun-filled informational fair is a big success every year and this year again it offered everything military families need to know, from changing to more environmentally responsible light bulbs to planning their financial future.

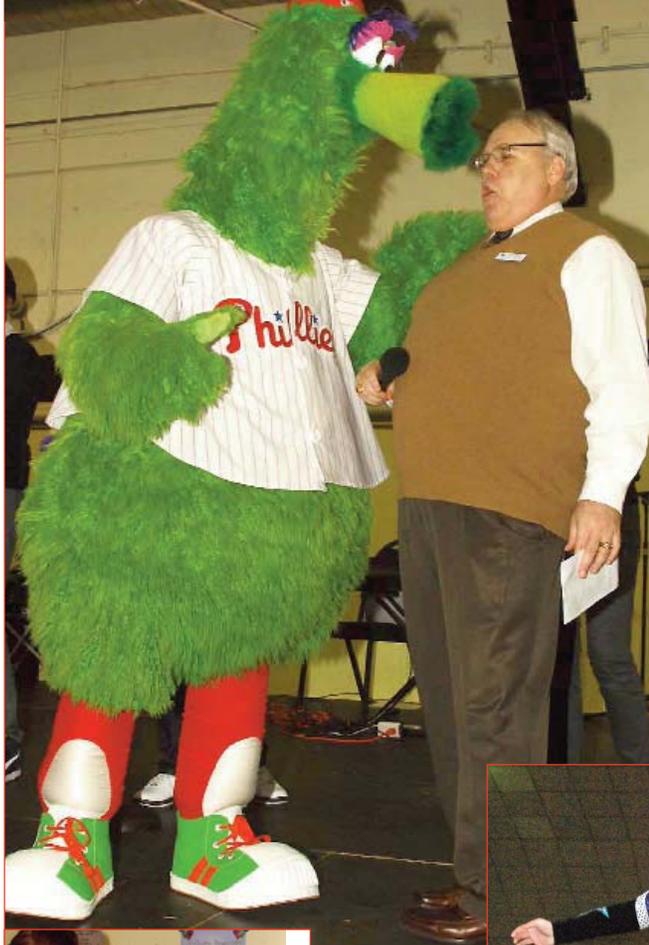
The rest was just plain fun. The little ones liked making bracelets out of Triv cereal (eating most of it instead), and falling among hundreds of colored balls or bouncing as high as they could in an air-filled castle. Older children seemed to love having their likenesses drawn by an artist who could really whip out a keepsake. Others were fascinated by magicians, singers, face painters and Joe-Joe on stilts.

Cotton candy was definitely in demand, that table among the most popular. Everyone who wanted spun sugar got some. But cotton candy and popcorn were not the only gourmet food for the day. More than a thousand hot dogs were cooked by Bobby Brown, Personal Finance Management Army Emergency Relief officer, with Fort Dix Army Community Services.

The Chapel's crafts were popular as was the wildly successful Home Depot tables. Businesses were there, offering vacation ideas, home repair, or self-help. The State of New Jersey was represented by the Department of Children and Families, offering advice and smiles. Many tables offered ideas on handling the problems and worries families have in a time of war.

The Fun Fest offers a venue that is geared towards releasing a wealth of information upon families who can use every morsel and everyone enjoyed an afternoon without pressure and with many things to keep children hopping. All in all, the Fun Fest games, food and information were apropos to any taste.

Sponsors included The Home Depot, Toys R Us, Nesquik, and the Adventure Aquarium in Camden. Even though the weather didn't cooperate, there was also a petting zoo set up outside the Field House which included goats, llamas, sheep, and rabbits. Inside entertainment included music from the boy group, DIVERse.

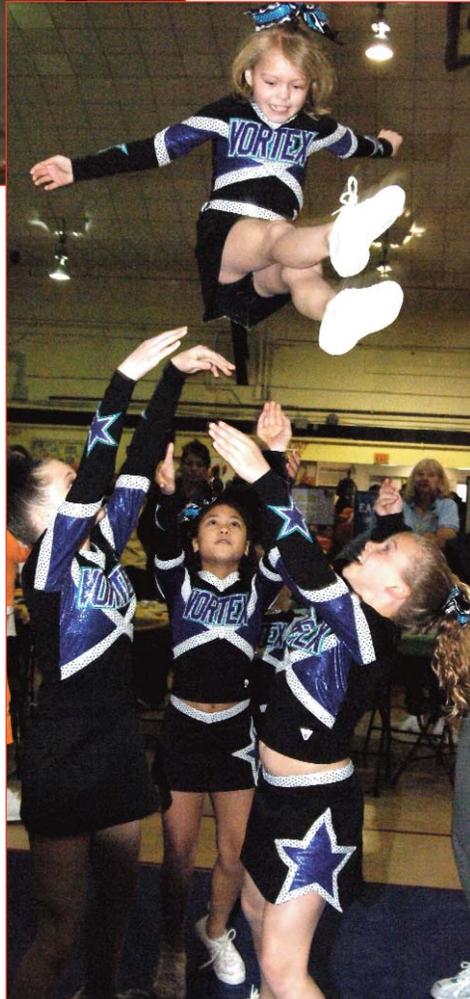


FAMILY PHUN --The Philly Phanatic, mascot for the Philadelphia Phillies, kisses an unsuspecting Bob Vogt, chief, community recreation division, during the Family Fun Fest activities at Griffith Field House, April 15. Clockwise from top, Emission Vortex All-stars cheerleaders take fun to new heights to entertain guests at the fest. All have active-duty parents. Rachel Pehrson, from Home Depot of Mount Laurel, helps Zachary Pehrson build a model car at one of the many craft tables that were part of the event. Sandra Bongart, Adorn Beauty Center and Spa owner cuts Daniel Vanbramer's hair. The company uses a fun atmosphere with pets and kid-oriented seats to reduce the stress of haircutting for small children.

Jennifer Chupko



Ryan Morton



Jennifer Chupko

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THE CORNER

Army Emergency Relief seeks donations

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) is seeking donations to help meet its 2009 fund-raising goals. The Army Emergency Relief fund is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of Soldiers and their families. To donate to the fund call Bobby Brown at 562-4245.

John Mann Park now open

John Mann Park is now open for week-end fun. Bring the family out for an afternoon of go-carts, batting cages, miniature golf and playing. The areas are also available for parties or family outings. For more information call 562-2727.

Mystery Dinner Theater to appear at Club Dix

The Riddlesbrood Touring Theater Company will present Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Vanishing Van Gogh, May 1 at Club Dix. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$12 for children 12 years old and younger. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. A dinner buffet featuring baked chicken, roast pork, vegetable lasagna and more will be served from 5:30 pm. to 6:45 pm. Tickets are available to purchase now at Club Dix or at Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Headquarters. Call 723-3272 for more information.

Soldier Show makes annual stop at Fort Dix

The 2009 Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation United States Army Soldier Show rolls into Fort Dix for two performances at Timmermann Center, May 2, at 7 p.m. and May 3, at 3 p.m.

Soldiers from across the Army audition for this show which tours worldwide performing for Soldiers, families, and DOD civilians. They perform popular song and dance routines of many different styles from yesterday and today. Admission is free. Call 562-6772 for more information.

Autism Support Seminar comes to ACS

An Exceptional Family Member Program support group meeting on autism will take place at the Army Community Service building April 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Certified professionals will be available to talk to parents about using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) under TRICARE Extended Civilian Health Care Option (ECHO) or field any other questions. Reserve a space with Ken Papale by calling 562-2150.

Lifeguards needed for Outdoor Pool

The Fort Dix Outdoor Pool is seeking lifeguards. The pay is \$8.50 per hour. Qualified applicants may apply in person at the Civilian Personnel Center in Building 5418 or online at www.cpol.army.mil.

WEATHER

FRIDAY -- Mostly sunny with a high of 70 and an overnight low of 45 degrees.

SATURDAY -- Partly cloudy with a high of 75 degrees and an overnight low of degrees.

SUNDAY -- Mostly cloudy with a daytime high of 60 and low near 46 degrees.

MONDAY -- Showers during the day with a high of 53 degrees and an overnight low around 47 degrees.

TUESDAY -- Few showers throughout day, high of 64 degrees and low of 43.

Fort Dix goes green at Earth Day event

The annual Fort Dix Earth Day celebration will kick off at Laurel Pond April 25 at 9 a.m. and last until 3 p.m.

The theme for this year's environmental extravaganza is "Army Green is Army Strong." The goal of the event is to show military families and community members how they can reduce their ecological "footprint" and lighten their personal and professional impacts on the environment. Earth Day activities will highlight many different ways that people can make small changes in various areas throughout their daily routines.

From wind & solar power, to non-toxic cleaning, to unpolluted waterways, to changing a light bulb, it is often these small changes by large groups of people that serve to make the biggest impact for a healthier environment.

Some of the events this year include:

- Cell Phones for Soldiers Program: Bring an old cell phone to recycle—each phone gets a 100 minute phone card for an American Soldier. Donate your phones at the registration tent.

- Sign the light bulb pledge at the Operation Military Change Out booth and receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb compliments of Fort Dix Natural Resources Office.

- Bring old clothing and shoes to donate at the Planet Aid booth.

- Please DON'T bring plastic bottles of water. Reusable water bottles will be provided to use all day and refill by the lunch tent.

- The Woodland Creatures Puppet Theatre will present its' new puppet show "A Story of Stuff" by Roger Smith. The puppet show will be at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. in the big tent.

Games, hikes, crafts and demonstrations will be held throughout the day.

For more information call Jennifer Armento at 562-5428.



Students raise funds for phone calls

Jennifer Chupko
Public Affairs Staff

Burlington County school children lent a helping hand to keep deployed Soldiers in touch with their families through the Fort Dix/McGuire American Red Cross' Quarters of Kindness drive.

Thirteen private schools and pre-schools participated in raising money one quarter at a time, for international phone cards that were donated to the Army Community Services (ACS) and the Air Force Family Readiness Center for military distribution.

"The drive was started in February of 2008," said Penny Tedesco, American Red Cross Disaster Services volunteer. "It was an idea that started with public schools and 20,000 quarters were given to the fund then."

The schools asked their students to bring a quarter to donate during World Kindness Week in November 2008.

"We thought a quarter was something a child could understand," said Tedesco. "They were excited at my son's school because they all had a quarter to share from their piggy banks."

"Part of our curriculum is voluntary service projects. During circle time we talked about how to help the Soldiers," said Anne Buddendorf of the Education Station preschool. "It was something the kids could relate to—we have active duty service mem-

bers—fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts—related to some of the children in our school."

The schools raised more than 4,800 quarters. Half the purchased calling cards were given to ACS and the other half to the Family Readiness Center.

"It was nice because the children decorated cookie containers to put the quarters in," said Buddendorf. "We have about 70 children in our school and almost every student participated."

After the coins were collected, the money was dropped off by the schools to a Commerce Bank/TD Bank and deposited into the Red Cross Quarters of Kindness drive account.

Tedesco said it was a smooth transition with no bumps in the road.

"One hundred and twenty phone cards were donated to ACS," said Fran Booth, Army Volunteers Corps program manager. "They're being distributed to our mobilizing Soldiers out of the Joint Readiness Center."

A letter is given to every service member receiving a calling card. Part of the letter reads, "The enclosed international calling card is the student's way of saying 'thank you' to you for your service to our country."

The list of schools is included to send thank you cards back to the private and nursery schools.

The schools that participated in the Quarters of Kindness drive were: Gail's Nursery and Arts Centre, Maple Shade; Education Station,



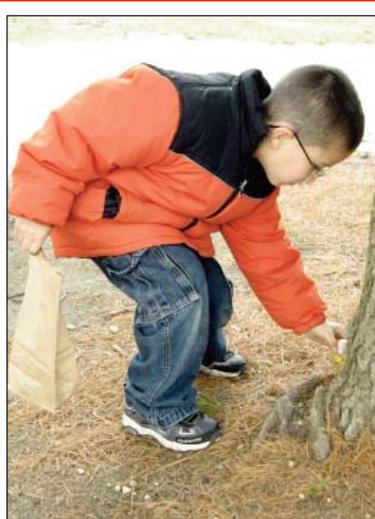
Jennifer Chupko

CALLING ON FRIENDS -- Joseph Blazewski, American Red Cross chief executive officer, left presents Frances Booth, Army Volunteers Corps program manager, phone cards bought with money raised for the Red Cross "Quarters of Kindness" fund, while Penny Tedesco, Red Cross Disaster Services volunteer hands Master Sgt. Rob Day, McGuire Air Force Base Family Readiness Center, another set of phone cards.

Shamong; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Moorestown; Hampton Academy, Mt. Holly; Excel Learning Center, Mt. Laurel; Mac 'N' Tots, Shamong; Life Center Academy, Burlington; Westhampton Township Preschool, Westhampton; Excel Learning Center, Lambert; Brightest Beginnings, Lambert; The Patriots Academy, Wrightstown; Tots Cooperative Nurs-

ery School, Delran and the Early Childhood Center at Adath Emanu-El. For more information about volunteer services or fundraisers, visit the Fort Dix/McGuire American Red Cross station located in Bldg. 6051 or call 562-2258.

(Jennifer Chupko may be reached for comment at Jennifer.chupko@us.army.mil.)



Jennifer McCarthy

Youngsters honored during Month of Military Child

Crafts, games, activities and events highlighted the Fort Dix School Aged Services' (SAS) celebration of the Month of the Military Child. Joshua Cooper, above, finds the egg that won him a special basket during the SAS egg hunt, April 10. The 4-H Seeing Eye organization presented a hands-on seeing-eye dog demonstration for the children, April 14. Nyzhir Brown makes friends with Natalie Tzap and her dog, Pat, a black labrador, who is training to become an assistance animal.



Ryan Morton

Local official visits deploying troops

Wayne Woolley
New Jersey Department
of Military and Veterans Affairs

FORT SILL, Okla. — As the mayor of a municipality in the shadow of Fort Dix, Pemberton Township's David A. Patriarca has plenty of opportunities to watch soldiers train. Most of the invitations come from the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, which often arranges trips to allow elected officials to observe National Guard and Reserve troops train before they head to war. Patriarca always declined, opting to tend to constituent needs instead. "I figured I didn't need to know what they were doing as long as they knew what they were doing," Patriarca said with a laugh recently. That changed when Patriarca got the opportunity to travel

to Fort Sill, Okla. on April 9 for the departure ceremony for the Iraq-bound 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard. Thirteen of the battalion's roughly 250 lawmakers and other elected officials and employers as well as Major Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the state adjutant general. The elected officials and a half dozen of the soldiers' civilian employers made a

"I'm so proud to be mayor of a town with so many military residents. They make great residents. We'll be waiting for these guys when they come back."
— David A. Patriarca, Pemberton Township mayor

one-day round-trip to Oklahoma from McGuire Air Force Base aboard a New Jersey Air Guard KC-135 tanker. Arrangements for the trip were made by ESGR, a Pentagon-sponsored organization that protects the employment rights of military reservists. In a whirlwind series of events, the dignitaries joined the New Jersey troops for a barbeque, signed a statement of support for the work of the ESGR and then headed to the parade field for a departure

ceremony for the 150th and its higher headquarters, the 28th Aviation Brigade of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The New Jersey troops were the guests of honor at a smaller departure ceremony that followed. More than a dozen soldiers were promoted at that ceremony. After it was over, the soldiers from Pemberton Township made their way over to Patriarca. "When I found out the mayor of my town came all this way for this, I was kind of blown away," said Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Cole, a full-time member of the 150th and a township resident. "It's an honor." Patriarca said the honor was his. "I'm so proud to be mayor of a town with so many military residents," he said. "They make great residents. We'll be waiting for these guys when they come back."



Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

GREETINGS — Pemberton Township Mayor David A. Patriarca greets one of the 250 New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion as the troops prepared to leave Fort Sill, Okla. to start a deployment in Iraq. Patriarca was in a group of civic leaders that included Governor Jon S. Corzine that made the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift on April 9.



photos by Ryan Morton

Dix welcomes Soldiers home

Two units serving in support of the Global War on Terrorism were welcomed back to Fort Dix, April 13. Representing the 340th Military Police Company, Sgt. Michael Hess and commander, Maj. Lawrence Clossum, above left, receive their Yellow Banner and plaque. The unit, out of Fort Totten, N.J., is comprised of 164 Soldiers. The 126th Brigade Support Battalion Forward Logistics Element acting first sergeant, Master Sgt. Richard Foye and deputy commander, Maj. Robert Falcone, above right, receive their ceremonial welcome home plaque. The 27-person unit is part of the Massachusetts National Guard, out of Framingham, Mass.

Tax scams continue to target past deadline

"Tax Scams are prevalent this time of year since we are in the midst of the tax filing season. The IRS reminds the public that scammers just don't go away after April 15. Tax-related scams are still prevalent throughout the year," said IRS Spokesperson Gregg Semanick. "Taxpayers should be wary of scams to avoid paying taxes that seem too good to be true, especially during these challenging economic times," IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said. "There is no secret trick that can eliminate a person's tax obligations. People should be wary of anyone peddling any of these scams."

Tax schemes are illegal and can lead to problems for both scam artists and taxpayers who risk significant penalties, interest and possible criminal prosecution. This year's list of Dirty Dozen Tax Scams alerts the public about phishing e-

mail scams, hiding income offshore, return preparer fraud and frivolous tax arguments. Phishing scams often take the form of an e-mail that claims to be from the IRS. The IRS never initiates unsolicited e-mail contact with taxpayers about their tax issues. Taxpayers who receive unsolicited e-mails that claim to be from the IRS can forward the message to phishing@irs.gov. To date, taxpayers have forwarded thousands of confirmed IRS phishing sites. If you believe you have been the target of an identity thief, information is available at IRS.gov.

There are numerous scams in which people receive unsolicited e-mails, phone calls or faxes that claim to come from the IRS or include an IRS logo or send recipients to a phony IRS Web site, and which request personal and financial information that may be used

to commit identity theft. Typically, identity thieves use someone's personal data to empty the victim's financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name, file fraudulent tax returns or even commit crimes. Anyone who receives one of these bogus e-mails, phone calls or faxes should avoid responding, clicking on any links or opening attachments. Recipients may forward the e-mails or report the calls to phishing@irs.gov.

The IRS aggressively pursues taxpayers and promoters involved in hiding income overseas via abusive offshore transactions. Taxpayers have tried to avoid or evade U.S. income tax by hiding income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts or through other entities. Recently, the IRS provid-

ed guidance to auditors on how to deal with those hiding income offshore in undisclosed accounts. The IRS draws a clear line between taxpayers with offshore accounts and those who fail to come forward. Taxpayers also evade taxes by using offshore debit cards, credit cards, wire transfers, foreign trusts, employee-leasing schemes, private annuities or life insurance plans. The IRS has also identified abusive offshore schemes including those that involve use of electronic funds transfer and payment systems, offshore business merchant accounts and private banking relationships.

Disonest return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their ploys. Such preparers often derive financial gain by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated

fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds. Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. No matter who prepares the return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for its accuracy. Since 2002, the courts have issued injunctions ordering dozens of individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has filed complaints against dozens of others, which are pending in court.

Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage people to make unreasonable and unfounded claims to avoid paying the taxes they owe. The IRS has a list of frivolous legal positions that taxpayers should stay away from. Taxpayers who file a tax return or make a submission based on one of the positions on the list are subject

to a \$5,000 penalty. More information is available on IRS.gov. Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using Form 3949-A Information Referral. Form 3949-A is available for download from the IRS Web site at IRS.gov. The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. The mailing should include specific information about who is being reported, how the activity being reported, how the activity became known, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful in an investigation. The person filing the report is not required to self-identify, although it is helpful to do so. The identity of the person filing the report can be kept confidential.

Year of NCO

(continued from page 1)
important to have our soldiers set goals and dreams to strive for. "Staying motivated, encouraged, and focused along the way is sometimes a hard task. Sometimes it takes a peer's superior or even subordinate's help to keep you on track," said Sgt. Patrick Franks, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade. Master Sgt. Christopher Peffley, 77th Sustainment Bde., spoke of the importance in the role of NCOs from his personal experience training Iraqi Soldiers a few years ago on a deployment. "It wasn't our superior grasp of the Arabic language that made us successful. What made us successful was the belief in the NCO creed. It was more than just words to us. We lived it and we implemented it in everything we did. "We saw the fruits of our labor through the transformation of the Iraqi Army from an Army led solely by officers to

an Army led by both officers and non-commissioned officers. We gave them the tools to be successful and empowered their NCO corps," said Peffley. "That is what it means to be an NCO. We lean forward in the foxhole when things get tough. We are trainers and mentors, the standard bearers of the Army values, leaders and professionals," he said. For Sgt. 1st Class Charles Roberts, Warrior Transition Unit (WTU), the grass once looked greener on the other side, as he served time as an officer, but found he liked being an NCO better. "I decided that being an officer was not for me, so I went back to being an NCO," said Roberts. Roberts entered the Army in 1972 and served first as an NCO, then went to OCS, and then went back to the NCO side. Years later, in 2007, while training at Fort Dix with the 251st Military Police Company, he was injured and was nursed

back to health at the WTU. He appreciated the assistance he received from his fellow Soldiers and was able to mentor other wounded warriors in the same situation he was. Roberts was about to be sent home when the WTU asked him if he would like to extend his stay and become a member of the cadre. "The mission changed, but the job didn't. I wanted to help out Soldiers. You are your brother's keeper," said Roberts. Monk delivered the closing words to the event, when he talked about the critical role that NCOs play in the execution of the Army mission. "There's clearly no way we can be as successful as we are and will continue to be without you. You are the glue that holds our Army together," said Monk. "Thank you for your service and contributions. It is you who keep and will continue to keep us Army strong. I am proud to Soldier with you," he said.

Annual Fort Dix

Armed Forces Ten Mile Run

Saturday, May 16, 2009
8:30 am - RAIN or SHINE

- Registration**
\$18 pre-registration; same day registration \$25 (0700-0800)
This run is also a qualifier for the Ft. Dix Army 10 Mile Run, as well as the Blue Cross Broad Street Run, May 3rd in Philadelphia. Please bring official run time to Chris O'Donnell, Sports Programmer (Bldg. 6043) or call 609-562-2769
- How or Where to Register**
• In Person at Griffin Field House or mail form to Bldg. 6053 8th & Millville St.; Fort Dix, NJ 08640. Checks should be made payable to: IMWRP
• Register online at www.quickcores.com/ftdx (processing fee will apply)
• First 150 people registered will receive a T-shirt
- Open To**
Everyone, military and civilians. NO pets permitted.
- Runners Check In:**
No later than 0800 at Infantry Park (Starting Point), next to Griffin Field House
- Categories**
Men and Women, ages 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+
- Awards**
Top 3 categories-Top 2 overall for male and female
FREE refreshments and entertainment provided

For more information please contact: Griffin Field House: Bldg 6053 8th & Millville Street, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640
Ph: (609) 562-4888 or 562-2769; Web: www.dixmwr.com

Honors and Awards

Retiring Soldier goes out with bang



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade

KABOOM— Sgt. Maj. Ray Drinkard, 2nd Training Support Battalion, 315th Regiment, fires the ceremonial cannon during the lowering of the colors on Fort Dix, April 9. Drinkard is retiring this month after 26 years of service.



Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade

Employee honored for dedicated service

Karin Schieve, chief human resources administrator, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, receives the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Lt. Col. John Vinzant, brigade executive officer, April 2. Schieve, also an Army Reserve officer, is moving to the 99th RRC at Fort Dix, where she will serve as a supervisory human resource specialist.

Calvary

Rita's

Hanover

Sgt. Nicole Dykstra
72nd Field Artillery Brigade

"One round, by round, at your command!"

With the rest of his battalion watching, Sgt. Maj. Ray Drinkard, 2nd Training Support Battalion, 315th Regiment, jogged past the Fort Dix installation flag to the ceremonial cannon and prepared to fire. It was nearly 5:00 p.m., and this round would signal both the lowering of the flag and the end of Drinkard's military career.

In a field artillery unit, it is customary to allow "Redlegs" about to retire to pull the last "tail," or lanyard, on an artillery piece in the last field exercise of the day.

The tradition was adapted to

give Drinkard a "last round," as he is retiring this month after 26 years in the Army.

"Being that we are a training support battalion, we are not assigned our own artillery pieces," said Lt. Col. Gerald Damron, 2-315th commander. "So we partnered with the D&D police, who have the evening gun, to allow Sgt. Maj. Drinkard to pull the tail one last time."

Drinkard, a native of Thomasville, Ala., attended Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Okla., graduating as a cannon crew member.

Over the rest of his career, he served in every enlisted field artillery position, from Howitzer driver to chief of firing battery, or "Chief of Smoke."

He joined the 2-315th in

August of 2005 after serving with the 2nd Infantry Division as the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) Operations sergeant major. While assigned to the 2-315th, Drinkard and his Soldiers provided mobilization assistance and live fire training for over 25,000 mobilized Soldiers. Drinkard also improved the readiness of his battalion and served as an advocate in improving housing conditions for 72nd Soldiers.

In the summer of 2008, Drinkard helped organize several motorcycle safety runs for Soldiers of the 72nd, and in a panel of all the sergeant majors in the brigade, he spearheaded the writing of the brigade motorcycle safety SOP, said Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Tinsley, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade command sergeant

major.

"He not only made sure the folks in his battalion were squared away, but he also worked with the brigade as a whole to ensure we had a successful program," said Tinsley. "He was absolutely instrumental in its development."

Additionally, he mentored Soldiers across the brigade to achieve personal excellence, including an Audie Murphy recipient, a Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman recipient, 14 Air Assault graduates, a brigade motorcycle safety runs for Soldiers of the Year winner and a brigade Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter.

"He provided invaluable leadership and was an example to all Soldiers in the 72nd," said Damron. "We hate to see him go."

Troops receive recognition



photos by Wayne Cook

ABOVE AND BEYOND — Four Soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal following the Year of the NCO celebration held at Club Dix April 9. Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, presents Capt. Seung Lee, installation legal office, above left, the award for his outstanding service as the active duty trial counsel and legal assistance attorney at the Joint Readiness Center. Capt. Michael Brown, left, also of the legal office, receives the award. Sgt. Jason Rivera, administration specialist, Human Resources - Military, above, was recognized as was Sgt. Felix Acevedo, chaplain assistant, below, who received the Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding service.



Read
The Post!

Bible

TriState

GoodYear

Suluki



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade

Smith promoted

Newly promoted Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Smith, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, his wife, Lin, and sons, Ed and Sam, stand outside the 72nd headquarters after Smith's promotion ceremony April 4.

SPORTS

Derby Girls and She-Devils do battle

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

Athleticism and satirical punk ruled Doughboy Gym on Fort Dix April 9. Few falls but many hard-fought points from

the co-ed skaters kept the crowd on edge and bleachers full for the second annual Roller Derby skate off. The Soldiers, families, and Fort Dix employees present cheered or booed as they kept their eyes on the action on the

court. During a break, the skaters spent time with the crowd, answering questions, keeping the crowd involved with the sport during a well-deserved rest period. When Judy Sowinski, the roller derby coach and

announcer at Thursday's event, was asked how she felt about bringing fun to the troops training at Fort Dix, she said, "I think it's the greatest thing in the world. I think they need morale more than anything else in the world."

"I don't think people realize because they're not in the service. They think they can go about their everyday lives as if nothing has changed. There's a lot of people out there who really care and I happen to be one of them," Sowinski said.

like a pace car in car racing. The pivot keeps an eye on all the skaters and calls the plays. The skill of the pivot can make all the difference in the game, but the jammers get the glory. Jammers start skating 20 feet behind the blockers and pivots, waiting for a whistle blow from a referee to start.



Spc. Christopher Toby

STAMPEDING THROUGH — South Jersey Derby Girls skated with the Penn State Jersey She Devils at the Doughboy Gym on Fort Dix April 9.

This year, the two teams of skaters were co-ed, the Penn Jersey She-Devils and South Jersey Derby Girls each had a couple of male skaters to add a little spice to the game.

The teams were well matched with excellent skaters, the women displaying show-girl can-do spirit, striking some poses between hard skating.

The men seemed to take it easy on the girls, keeping their distance in the frays, but the women fought it out with some excellent blocks, shoves and classic leg whip and sidestep action.

After an hour of hard skating, with only four skaters having to sit out a minute each in the penalty box, the red team defeated the black team by a score of 59-51. The score was tied more often than not, going back and forth for the lead until the final minutes of the game.

Play and rules may seem confusing, but the rules are fairly easy. Each two-minute session of play is called a jam. Each team has five skaters, one jammer who scores, three blockers, and a pivot, who acts

like a pace car in car racing. The pivot keeps an eye on all the skaters and calls the plays. The skill of the pivot can make all the difference in the game, but the jammers get the glory.

Jammers start skating 20 feet behind the blockers and pivots, waiting for a whistle blow from a referee to start. Beginning on the second lap, the jammers score one point for each opposing skater they pass.

But the blockers are trying to keep the jammers from passing, which is why the skating can get exciting as skaters block, shove, trip, and generally do what it takes to stop the opposing team.

The jam can end anytime during the two minutes if the lead jammer puts her hands on her hips after reaching the front.

Telling the skaters apart is easy. Just look at their helmets: Jammers wear stars, pivots wear stripes and blockers have blank helmets. Getting to know their names is a little trickier. The winning Red Team skaters use names like LateBug, Wags (who scored 27 points in this game) and Shilleleigh Law. The names they choose are as fanciful as the attitudes they display.

(Lisa Evans can be reached for comment at lisa.kay.evans@us.army.mil)

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Heavy rain didn't deter determined youths from pulling in fish big and small in the annual Kiddie Fishing Tournament, sponsored by Ernie Yeager's intrepid crew at Outdoor Recreation and held on Saturday morning, April 11 at Laurel Lake.

Wrapped in raincoats and wielding fishing poles of various lengths, participating boys and girls got into the sport with an enthusiasm only youths can muster. Parents, guardians and friends seemed free with advice for the young anglers but in the end it was the fisherman who had to bring home the bacon or, in this case, the fish.

For age group 5 and under, Aydan Shermin hauled in the largest trout at 14 1/4 inches, eking out Wade Hammit's 13 1/2" beauty and Ryah Fitzgerald's 13 incher. The smallest trout caught in the under-5 set was an 11 1/4 whopper reeled in by Matthew Tomaini, followed by a 12 1/4 incher by Cameron Rowles and a 12 3/4" catch by Matthew Tomaini.

Among the 6 to 9-year-olds, Taylor Ault took honors for the largest trout with a 15 1/2 incher, closely followed by master reelman Jacob Cooper's 15" and Ashlynn Tomaini's 14 1/2 incher. The smallest trout caught in this class was wrestled in by Autumn Martinek who caught a 10 1/4" classic, followed by Millissa Yensel's catch at 11" and Ryanna Morgan with a 12 incher.

For the big kids from 10 to 13 years old, Anyear Ford tied Morgan Payne for top honors, each bringing in a large trout at 14 1/2 inches with Kevin Martinek closing in with a 14" catch. Jonathan Brown won kudos in the smallest trout category with a 11 1/4" catch but had Josh Parker and Dominic Rice nipping at his heels, both with catches measuring 11 and 1/2."

And then there were the ones that got away. (Steve Snyder may be reached for comment at stephen.snyder@us.army.mil.)



Steve Snyder

GONE FISHIN' — Foul weather failed to dampen anyone's ardor at the 2009 Kiddie Fishing Tourney.



David Bertagnoli, Outdoor Recreation

BIG FISHERMEN — Lukas Frader, above, racked up an impressive number of fish in Saturday's tournament. Fishermen, below, spilled out onto the perimeter surrounding Laurel Lake.



photos by Steve Snyder



photos by David Bertagnoli, Outdoor Recreation

FISH IN HAND — Ashlynn Tomaini, left, and Dustin Rice, right, proudly display their day's work at Fort Dix's annual Kiddie Fishing Tournament held April 11 at Laurel Lake. The weather may have been nasty but the smiles were real.

Burlington Vo

City Auto

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

Protestant
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Catholic
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

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

Protestant Service
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

COL - Chaplain's tent
Hour of Power Protestant
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

Armed Forces

Arts & Crafts

Bldg. 6039 562-5691
Registration Hours:
Tuesday
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

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

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

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

Fire Sale and Photo Exhibit

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fire that destroyed the old Arts and Crafts building, 6508, on April 8, 1989, there will be many items on sale in the Arts & Crafts store. On display in the gallery are photos of the fire by a former Post photographer, Sgt. Phil Clark.

April is Month of the Military Child-The home art class has been busy creating and putting together an art exhibit. Works can be viewed in the gallery through April 30.

Krafty Birthdays - Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties. Parties include up to two hours of party room use and one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects, to choose from. Select the craft and make a down payment today.

Youth Center

562-5061
Bldg. 1279 Locust Street
Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday
1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday CLOSED

Administrative Hours
Tuesday through Friday
Noon to 6 p.m.

Monday - Friday
Power Hour
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Saturday, April 18
Cooking Project: Cupcakes
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
Sports Fitness
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
Fashion Design
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

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

Thursday, April 23
Cosmetology
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Friday, April 24
Torch Club
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Teens and Hot Topics
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
Sports Day-Youth Choice
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Body Art

Apell

FMWR presents

CLUB DIX
723-3272
Club Dix Hours of Operation
Java Cafe
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

Blue Room
Wednesday
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Sunday through Tuesday
Closed

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

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

Saturday
Noon to 10 p.m.

Sunday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Outdoor Equipment Rental Center
Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Events Calendar
Friday Night Dance Party with DJ Ace at Club Dix
Saturday, April 18
9 p.m.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show
Saturday, May 2, 7 p.m.
and Sunday, May 3, 3 p.m.
Timmermann Center

ACS

562-2767
Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue
Calendar of Events
Monday, April 20
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent (Part 3)
Ages 5-17 years
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
ACS

Tuesday, April 21
Troops to Teachers
9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
ACS

Autism Support Group: Info on ECHOS and ABA Therapy
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
ACS

Compassion Fatigue Workshop
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
ACS

Wednesday, April 22
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Club Dix

Investing Basics- 10 Steps for Beginners
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
SFAC

Banking Basics
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
ACS

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Seminar for Teens & their Parents
10 a.m. to noon
Youth Center

Thursday, April 23
Newcomer's Orientation
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ACS

Becoming a Love & Logic Parent for age Birth to 6 years Part 3 of 6
1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
ACS

Friday, April 24
International Spouse Group: Trip to the United Nations
11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
ACS

Fort Dix Thrift Shop
5105 Pennsylvania Ave. 723-2683
Hours of operation
Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1st Wednesday
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Special Happenings
Annual Thrift Shop Yard Sale-
May 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Booth set-up begins at 9 a.m.
Sign up any time before the sale. Bring your own table to display your wares. This year the sale will be in the Fort Dix Main Chapel parking lot. Refreshments will be available all day: hot dogs, baked goods and drinks.
Consignments of Spring and Summer clothing needed.

Volunteers needed
Call Sylvia at the Thrift Shop.

United Communities

Self Help Office
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday
724-0550

For information regarding United Community events, contact Amber Stadler at 723-4290

United Communities Events
Spring Guess How Many -
Guess how many bunny coins are in the jar in the leasing office. Contest ends Thursday, April 30. Closest guess wins a prize.

Spring Coloring Contest -
Show off talent and creativity and join in this month's coloring contest. Winners are by age group and are chosen by management staff. Each winner receives a prize.

Internet Cafe with FREE Skype Access!
Stop by the United Communities Leasing Office and take advantage of a free internet cafe fully equipped with Skype access. Come and video chat with your friends and loved ones or surf the net anytime during office hours. This service is free to all residents of United Communities.

Need a Job?
United Communities has the perfect summer job! The pool management company is currently looking for lifeguards for the pool on McGuire. Call Progressive Pool Management for more information at 888-766-7665.

Landscaping Information:
Fertilization for crab grass control began April 6. Clear front and back yards as well as fenced in areas of any personal items and debris. Note that weed and feed will only be taking place in areas where grass has grown. For areas where grass is beginning to grow, a starter fertilizer will be used instead.

Green Waste picked up.
Monday: McGuire
Tuesday: Fort Dix

Trash
Will be picked up every Wednesday in all areas (except compactor areas).

New Lawn Mowing and Landscaping Schedule
Monday
Fort Dix: Mahlenbrock, Anciros Lane, Froehlich, Karolasz Court, Dixon Way
McGuire: 4200

Tuesday
Fort Dix: Fir, Gum, Kalmia Court, Locust (North side), 1400 on Juniper and Hemlock
McGuire: 2700, 2800

Wednesday
Fort Dix: Redwood, Pointville, Locust (South side), Scott Plaza, 1100 on Juniper and Hemlock
McGuire: Starlifter

Thursday
Fort Dix: 1500, 1600 on Ash, Birch, Cedar, and Dogwood, Grove Park and Holly Crest

Friday
Fort Dix: Finish Grove Park and Holly Crest, Farm Houses, Section 1200

Should you choose to mow your own lawn, please contact 723-4290 to be placed on the "No Cut List"