

thePost

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NEWSNOTES

Census Bureau set for initial canvass

The United States Census Bureau will conduct its initial address canvassing on Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base beginning May 18.

There will be a team of approximately 5 to 7 people in the housing areas for five days who will update address listings of all housing, including group quarters. All Census Bureau Personnel will be wearing orange vests and have Census Bureau identification. Census personnel will not ask for any personal information. If you are asked any questions other than address information, or if the person does not present the correct identification, please call Master Sgt. Barbara Bookard / Maj. Marisol Lanza at 562-2746 or 2598, or Ronald Avery, Government Housing Office, at 754-3662.

Texas Avenue/Broidy Road traffic signal to change

The traffic signal on Texas Avenue at Broidy Road will be switched from regular cycle to flashing from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. beginning June 2. The change is designed to ease traffic flow during slow use hours.

Document Automation Service sets open house

The Defense Logistics Agency's Document Automation and Production Service will hold an open house June 3 at Bldg. 6044 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The community is invited to see and learn about the full range of services available, meet with the staff and tour facilities. For more information, call Maggie Batchelor at 212-264-1049.

Grants available to help with summer camp

Army Community Service (ACS) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is once again able to provide grants to help defray the cost of a summer camp experience for children with special needs. These grants, known as camperships, are made possible through Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) donations made to Army Community Service, Fort Dix.

Children must be enrolled in the EFMP program of the sponsor's branch of service. The actual amount of the grant is dependent on the number of eligible applicants applying, financial need, and participation in the EFMP program. Funds will be made available in mid-July. To pick up an application please come to ACS, Building 5201, 8th Street. Completed applications must be returned to ACS no later than June 15. Applications must be picked up and/or turned in person.

Employers go for green

Bosslift opens window on mobilization missions

Pascual Flores
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers from the Guard and Reserve welcomed their civilian bosses to Fort Dix May 20 as part of a program designed to let them "Take the work back and let them know what our Soldiers are all about."

That was the message from Col. Ronald R. Thaxton, installation commander, to more than 65 guests, employers and Soldiers during this year's Employer Appreciation Day Bosslift that started at Timmermann Center early Wednesday morning.

Unlike recent Bosslifts, this year's event boasted a sunny and warm day allowing for much-anticipated helicopter rides for the employers, from the Command Helipad to the Fort Dix ranges where all the activities awaited.

How many civilian supervisors ever get the opportunity to ride in a U.S. Army Blackhawk or Chinook aircraft, live-fire an M-9 or an M-4 or witness training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site? Excitement was the word for the day.

Although standard operating procedure for Soldiers, employers got a taste of what it's like to cram an impossible number of activities into one day, giving them all a different perspective on what their employees do while in uniform. Guests and employers were hustled from one event to another to demonstrate the intensity of training and somewhat less-

(continued on page 4)



READY FOR ROLLOVER -- Thomas Palinski, left, Korean War veteran and father of Lt. Col. Cynthia Palinski, and Devon Shelton, supervisor with PSE&G, listen to Sgt. 1st Class Alex Arroyo, RTC-E, describe the training for the HUMMV Egress Assist Trainer (HEAT) during the Bosslift 2009 at Range 47.

Sgt. First Class Jeffery Chase, RTC-E

Change on menu at Town Hall

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Command representatives presented the most current information on the upcoming implementation of Joint Basing, dominating the agenda at Fort Dix's Town Hall meeting on May 14.

Joint Basing is scheduled to take effect in October. The process promises to transform Fort Dix, McGuire AFB and the Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst communities by shifting select installation support functions and personnel in an attempt to gain a higher degree of economy among local military reservations having disparate missions.

Understandably, base changes were the major topic of conversation as members of Team Dix gathered in Timmer-

mann Center on Thursday afternoon. Joined by various department heads who took turns reporting and answering questions from the audience, Fort Dix's Commanding Officer, Col. Ronald Thaxton, faced lines of inquiry with an equanimity usually wielded only by old Soldiers. The colonel reminded his

The pace of change is on the upswing as transition to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst nears, and employees have numerous question on both the process and the outcome. For those questions and the detailed answers, see page three.

audience that Team Dix's traditional regard for reason and civility was expected to weather the winds of change - no matter how shattering. Thaxton also expressed regret that Joint Base Commander, Col. Gina Grosso, who commands the 87th Air Base Wing at McGuire AFB, was bound by other

commitments and could not attend. Fort Dix's commander promised she would be at future meetings.

The day's program began on a high note, with Tiffany Colby, customer service officer in the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO), presenting Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE)

recognition awards.

ICE awards focus on recognizing superior performance by individuals in customer service areas.

And Team Dix has plenty of worthy candidates.

Workers from the Directorate of Human Resources Military (DHRM)

who labor in Forms and Publications/Records Management finished in third place, honorable mention, and include Saeed Goodman, Jim

Wolfe, Jimmy Keyes and Henry Melon-Lopez, director of DHRM. Finishing second, honorable mention was the crew of the Directorate of Information Management Systems, Systems Support division, Information Technology Service Desk, whose "help desk" is graced by Mike Polk, Larry Drazdik, Ed Jackson, Yolando Acevedo, Reita Moran, Charlie Cox, Fred Taylor and Bruce Waite. Coming in first place, honorable mention, were stalwarts from the Directorate of Human Resources Military, Personnel Operations and Mobilization Services who work in the ID Card section. They are Geneva Sturdivant, Tiffany James and, once again, DHRM director, Henry Melon-Lopez.

(continued on page 11)

Raiders roll over JROTC competition obstacles

Cadets from Beaver High School JROTC carry a ninety-pound weight while scrambling through the Obstacle Course on the ranges at Fort Dix during the JROTC Raiders competition May 16. Story, more photos, page 9. (Photo by Lisa Evans)



Saluting our sacred dead on Memorial Day

compiled by Steve Snyder, Public Affairs Staff
**"So as through a glass, and darkly
 The age-long strife I see
 Where I fought in many guises,
 Many names, but always me."**

from the poem, *Through a Glass, Darkly*
 by Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.



www.virginalighthousefreeservers.com
REBEL CAVALRY -- Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart of the Confederate States of America leads attack at Upperville, just prior to decisive battle at Gettysburg.



file photo

"I have one sentiment for Soldiers living and dead: cheers for the living; tears for the dead."

Robert G. Ingersoll

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely as they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Lincoln's first inaugural address
 March 4, 1861



file photo

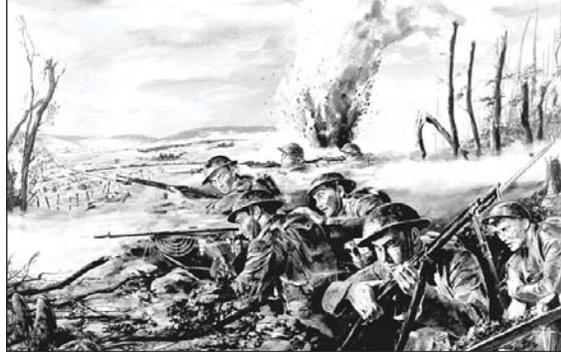


www.wtv-zone.com

QUAGMIRE IN THE JUNGLE -- The Vietnam War lasted a decade and proved frightfully expensive - in both blood and treasure - for both Americans and Vietnamese.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph..."

Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*, Dec. 23, 1776



U.S. Army Center of Military History

ROCK OF THE MARNE -- The German Army made its last great attack in World War I near Mezy, France, in July 1918, striking in the Marne River area on the road to Paris. The weight of the attack fell on the 30th and 38th U.S. Infantry Regiments of the 3d Division. This was their first fight. They were firing in three directions, blasted by artillery fire in return and basically took all that flesh could endure. But the American regiments held on, doggedly, and even threw the enemy back across the Marne. Their defense blocked the German assault and made an Allied offensive possible. Gen. Pershing called their performance "one of the most brilliant pages of our military annals."



www.armchairgeneral.com

FROZEN CHOSIN -- U.S. Marines take a short break near Yudam-ni before preparing to break out of the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. The weather was as savage as the enemy in that conflict.

Teddy Roosevelt

"Let us keep untarnished, unstained, the honor of the flag our fathers bore aloft in the teeth of the wildest storm, the flag that shall float above the solid files of a united people, a people sworn to the greater cause of liberty and justice, for themselves, and for all the sons and daughters of men."

Celebrate Memorial Day safely

FORT RUCKER, Ala. (May 18, 2009) -- Memorial Day weekend is a sacred time for many in the Armed Services, serving as an opportunity to salute Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation and to remember those service members and civilians currently serving in harm's way. The holiday weekend also offers some well deserved "down time" for our busy service members to reflect and relax.

This weekend, members of the Army Family will assemble at beaches, parks and homes to re-

member the nation's most precious resources and celebrate the unofficial start of summer. These gatherings will be great opportunities for Soldiers and their Families to create lasting summer memories but, without proper planning, Memorial Day weekend festivities can quickly turn tragic.

Last year, the Army logged four fatal and eight non-fatal off-duty accidents from May 23 - 26. Two Soldiers were killed in motorcycle accidents, one Soldier was killed while operating an ATV in a state park and one Soldier was killed while attempting

to rescue distressed swimmers in the Florida Gulf. Five of the accidents involved motorcycles, one involved a bicycle, one accident involved an ATV, and the final accident involved broken glass at the Soldier's quarters.

These losses are too great for an Army at war, according to Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center commanding general. Wolf said, this year, he is counting on battle buddies to help keep Soldiers safe throughout the holiday weekend.

"In combat, a Soldier's battle buddy is frequently the first line

of defense when it comes to affecting a Soldier's decision making process or reaction to a particular situation," he said. "I am encouraging Leaders, Soldiers, and Family members to be a battle buddy this weekend to help ensure a great start to a fun, safe summer season."

Whether traveling, camping, swimming, biking or barbecuing, the USACR/Safety Center stands ready to assist Army Civilians, Soldiers and their Family members in properly preparing for safe summer activities. Information and safety tips relating many summer fun activities can be found on the USACR/Safety Center's Web site at <https://safety.army.mil>. Clicking on the Safe Summer 2009 icon at the bottom of the page will open a vast set of resources aimed at providing every member of the Army Family tips and tools to make every summer activity fun and not fatal.

"To all of those Soldiers and Civilians serving our country today in harm's way, know that we are deeply grateful to you and to your families," Wolf said. "Thank you for your contributions, dedication and service to the Army and the United States of America. May God bless all of you."

the Post

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Holiday fun

Although the water will be too cold for swimming on Memorial Day, kayaking and canoeing are a different story. It's perfect weather for a bit of amateur sailing and the Delaware River is right on top of us. You might want to check with Outdoor Recreation for information about prices, locales and conditions.



blog.nj.com

Answers published for submitted Management of Change questions

Will Civilians be eligible for early retirement? Civilian employees are eligible for early retirement based on their own age and service information, whether it would be for full retirement or early retirement. At this time, however, Fort Dix will not be offering early retirement, as we are not running any RIF or action which would lead itself to use of that Authority.

What kind of offers will be made to employees and how will the Air Force determine who is qualified? Army employees will transfer in their current title, series and grade, effective 1 Oct 09. After that, Air Force may use many options to fill positions, to include competitive actions, noncompetitive actions, reassignments, etc. Air Force will determine qualifications.

Will term employees be extended? How long? How much notice will temporary and term employees have if not extended? That issue is still being reviewed and worked with the Air Force. However, all temporary and term employees are aware that they have a 90-day date on their appointment SF 50's (Notification of Personnel Action). Unless otherwise notified by their supervisors, that should be the expected date of termination. Fort Dix will extend appointments where there is continuing need and funding to support the position, as well as employee eligibility for extension, through 30 Sep 09. Again, these issues are still being worked.

Will most of the positions be filled by Air Force "military personnel?" Again, employees will transfer in place and performance of work will continue until Air Force determines its required structures. It will be an Air Force decision on how jobs are filled after 1 October 2009.

Are any employees allowed to have contact with the Air Force? What type of contact is allowed? In the very near future, communication between transferring employees and their new AF counterparts must begin, to effectively coordinate and manage the transition to the Joint Base, and ensure continuity of operations. For now, however, contacts with the Air Force should be through Army leadership and supervisory channels to the Air Force leadership excluding, of course, those individuals on the functional working groups.

We know some of the spaces that will be moved, but not faces. When will we know "WHO" will be moved to "WHAT" position? Initial notifications will be made between mid-May, early June.

Will there or is there a list of personnel who will be affected by Joint Basing, and who will be their higher authority? Army or Air Force? Prior to 1 October 2009, Army employees report through Army channels. After 1 October 2009, transferred employees will report through Air Force channels.

How is it that the Leaders of some organizations are shifting "their preferred" personnel into positions that will not be affected by the Joint Base, but not others? Should this be based upon seniority or RIF rulings? Is this unfair? Management may use multiple authorities to fill positions on their current TDA structures; they can compete positions, reassign people, use noncompetitive authorities to fill current positions; etc.; however, the ASA structure will not be effective until 1 October 2009. Up until that time, management may fill current vacancies, or not fill them, at its discretion. There is no difference in these authorities during this period. There is no plan or need to run RIF actions, and this has been discussed at previous Town Hall meetings.

I would like to know if management could keep us informed about how long after the transition happens after 1 Oct 2009 before the Air Force makes the decision that they effectively reduce the number of employees, or if they shall increase the workforce or if it will remain the same? The current information provided by McGuire AFB commanders is that they are not expecting to run any reductions for at least 18 to 24 months after FOC; however, it would be their authority to make changes after FOC, if deemed appropriate by AF. It is their stated plan to right size the organization through competition, other assignment authorities and attrition, wherever possible.

Does the Air Force have flextime and alternate work schedules for the civilian workforce? Yes, these authorities extend across the federal agencies; however, continued use would need to be worked through the AF supervisory chains, upon transfer to the AF.

What is the difference between the Army Retirement fund and the Air Force Retirement fund? Will we suffer a loss if we choose one over the other? For appropriated fund employees, your retirement plan transfers with you; it does not change. NAF employees will, upon entrance on duty to the AF, be given a one-time opportunity to retain their Army retirement, or select the AF retirement system. We will address this separately in NAF benefits briefings at a later date.

Will the Air Force offer maternity leave? The same statutory entitlements for leave and benefits apply across all federal agencies.

How will this affect those that have dental insurance through the Union? If you are a bargaining unit employee, you will be able to continue your dental benefits through the union, through either payroll deductions or personal remittance of another form. If you are not a bargaining unit employee, but receive dental benefits through a union, you may continue to do so through personal remittance, but not through payroll deductions.

Will we get New York locality instead of Philadelphia? Until changes are made by the Office of Personnel Management, in collaboration with many state and federal agencies, Fort Dix will remain in the Philadelphia Region. This has been a subject of discussion for several years within DOD but, to date, there has been no change.

Will we be able to change jobs, and is there potential for advancement? This is a very broad question; however, it is certainly anticipated that opportunities to grow in careers and apply for advancement will be available, both within the Joint Base complex and the Army Support Activity (ASA).

If ASA TDA has not been approved yet, and there are rumors that it will be cut, why is Dix hiring permanent positions? The only positions being filled are positions on the current Fort Dix TDA. No positions for the projected ASA are being filled now.

How will the questions asked in each class be shared amongst all employees? Answers to questions will be shown in The Post newspaper, as well as being e-mailed to all Fort Dix employees.

Note that some questions have been re-worded, or combined with other questions. Duplicates were deleted. Additional questions may be e-mailed to Bill Howard at the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office. bill.howard@us.army.mil. Questions sent to PAIO will be confidential, if requested.

Did McGuire get the lead position on Joint Basing because "Active duty always gets the lead?" McGuire AFB was selected based on its operational forces. Fort Dix and McGuire were compared using Military Value Analysis (MVA). MVA used dif-

ferent criteria (facilities, infrastructure, etc) to score Fort Dix, McGuire AFB, and Lakehurst. Fort Dix scored slightly higher than McGuire AFB; however, the score was considered too close to use MVA as the sole factor for determining the lead installation. McGuire AFB, which supports operational forces, has a larger footprint and a larger supported installation, and was considered the predominant installation with the best overall capacity to receive the Installation Management functions.

Could someone explain all of the BRAC/Joint Base terminology? Could someone tell teach us Air Force terminology/acronyms? A listing of BRAC/Joint Base terms was provided in The Post, and will be e-mailed to all employees. There is a lengthy glossary of Air Force terms which will be e-mailed to all employees. Hard copy of each will be made available to Administrative Officers.

Why is there no Town Hall for McGuire? Will we still have Town Halls under the Air Force? McGuire AFB has its version of the Town Hall meeting, called Commander's Calls. These are mandatory for military, and encouraged for civilians. These are normally held on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Questions can be asked at these sessions.

Quite a few employees said that they did not feel that they are provided the truth. They said that they are told by the command/leadership at the Town Halls, "This is the best we can do right now," and that the information is constantly changing. We want to know why. Early Joint Base guidance was very broad and did not get into the "nitty gritty" details of exactly when specific functions and positions would transfer. These details were being worked through the chains of command of each service, and there was not always agreement between the services in terms of what functions/positions would transfer and when. Consequently, information was changing on almost a daily basis (and is still subject changes). At this point, the MOA is signed, we're looking towards FOC. JPCs are being held. We're in Phase 1 of the Joint Bases, and there is a steep learning curve.

How is it that some organizations "outside" of CPAC have insider knowledge of the future manpower? They know "who is going where." Why is it that this information is not shared with the rest of the employees on Fort Dix? Due to the process of determining and documenting future manpower, other direct reports, to include the Resource Management Office, and Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, are involved in, and aware of, future manpower. This does not mean they know who is going where, but rather, what positions will move to Joint Base, and which will be part of the Army Support Activity Fort Dix. As for sharing information on manpower positions, this was not specifically disallowed; however, Joint Base policies were changing at a nearly constant rate, which prevented final information from being presented.

Did anyone check with other bases for "Historical knowledge" on Joint Basing? Fort Dix is part of Phase 1, the first group of Joint Bases to form. There is really no historical knowledge available.

Why was Management of Change training mandatory? How do I know how I will react to change when I have no information on what's changing? If we don't know what the change is, how do we prepare for change? The command is aware that the ongoing Joint Base changes are stressful because we don't know at this time what all the changes will be. For this reason, the command wanted to provide training that would offer coping strategies for employees to deal with the unknown as we move toward Joint Base.

I believe that it would be helpful if the command could e-mail employees with information as to the progression of decisions/timelines for implementation of the Joint Base. Is this a possibility? Can employees be provided with a realistic timeline/timeframe of when changes will take place? Directors should provide periodic Joint Base timeline updates to their employees as information becomes available. Joint Base information will also be provided at Town Hall meetings.

Rumor has it that the Air Force treats civilians badly. Is this so? What is the Army culture vs. Air Force culture? What are major differences? What are the similarities? This response below is from a former Fort Dix employee who worked here for several years before transferring to McGuire AFB in 1992.

"The Air Force does NOT treat civilians badly. If that were the case, there would be no Air Force civilians and there are thousands of us. I work in a fantastic organization where our Commander (2-star General) knows just about everyone by name. Everyone takes a lot of pride in their work and believes we're accomplishing an important mission for our country. I am very happy here.

"Army culture vs. Air Force culture: Everything is different! Mission, organizational structure, language, processes, workforce (more military).

"One of the biggest differences is the turnover in leadership every two - three years as the military moves on. I have to get used to someone new every couple of years. This can be good or bad depending on the supervisor. This may or may not affect you depending on how your organizational structure changes. My current supervisors and leadership are excellent. They do a fantastic job of promoting the "one-team" philosophy. I feel like I belong and am valued equally for my contribution.

"While flextime and alternate work schedules are an OPM initiative, here only one person has it, but it may be because the rest of us never pursued it. I believe other organizations on McGuire have it. Whether or not it's approved would depend on your mission (no different than with the Army).

"I wish I had some strategies I could share to help your transition. I think your experience will be different from mine, since my transition was on an individual level, as opposed to organizationally. The change might be relatively seamless. It's all good; just realize things will definitely be different and give yourself time to adjust."

Volunteers are needed for Fort Dix Special Observance Committees

- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 - Black History Month
 - Women's History Month
 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
 - Asian Pacific Heritage Month
 - Women's Equality Day
 - Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Native American Heritage Month
- For more information call Denise Horton at 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 May 11 through 17.

The abbreviation DoD stands for Department of Defense; NAFD means Not Affiliated with Fort Dix (the subject despicable of 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 Virtum Memorial Hospital of Burlington County; CPJ stands for Checkpoint Mischiefer.

●Police responded to a report of malicious mischief at Bldg. 5997. Investigation revealed two vending machines had been damaged by person(s) unknown. Investigation continues.

●Police responded to a traffic accident near Bldg. 5417. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by Fort Dix contract employee, went through a stop sign and struck another vehicle. There were no reported injuries. Both vehicles sustained disabling damage and were towed from the scene.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at the Visitor's Center. Investigation revealed a parked vehicle, owned by a civilian NAFD, had been left unattended without the parking brake being set. The vehicle rolled and struck another vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

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

●Police responded to a report of larceny of private property at Bldg. 5985. Investigation revealed person(s) unknown had taken property belonging to an Airman NAFD. Investigation continues.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Main Gate, police discovered the operator, a civilian NAFD, had three outstanding warrants from Mullica Township, Lawrence Township, and Trenton. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and transferred to the custody of Mullica Township Police.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash on Fort Dix Road. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, was struck by a deer. The deer was killed on impact. The vehicle operator was uninjured. The vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center, police discovered the subject, a civilian NAFD, had an outstanding warrant out of Ocean County. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and transferred to the custody of the Ocean County Sheriff's Department.

●Police responded to a traffic accident on Texas Avenue. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, struck another vehicle from behind after the victim's vehicle suddenly stopped to avoid a collision with a third vehicle. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police responded to a report of theft at Bldg. 4455. Investigation revealed that while doing inventory a Fort Dix civilian contractor noted several items missing. Investigation continues.

●While conducting a credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP99 police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police responded to a report of vandalism in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed an unknown juvenile had painted on the porch and door of a residence.

●Police responded to a traffic accident at the Wrightstown Gate. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a retired military member, lost control while the driver was putting away his ID and struck the curb coming to a stop in the grass. There were no reported injuries. The vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene.

●Police, Fire Department, and emergency medical personnel responded to a traffic accident on Cookstown Road. Investigation revealed a vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, struck another vehicle from behind. The victim was treated at the scene but refused medical transport. There were no other reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Main Gate, police discovered the operator, a civilian NAFD, had eight outstanding warrants from multiple municipalities and a suspended driver's license. The subject was transported to the police station for processing, cited, and transferred to the custody of the Burlington County Jail. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

●Police responded to an incident in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed a resident, an Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, and his spouse had a verbal altercation that escalated into violence. The subject also had been throwing items in the house and had flipped over a table. The victim also believed the subject had damaged her vehicle. Weapons in the quarters were taken by police for safekeeping. The subject was arrested, transported to the police station for processing, and transferred to the custody of his unit. The victim declined assistance from medical and victim advocate personnel. Investigation continues.

●Police, Fire Department, and emergency medical personnel responded to an incident in the Laurel Hill housing area. Investigation revealed a dependent spouse had attempted suicide. The subject was stabilized at the scene and transported to VMHBC for further treatment. Investigation continues.

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

●There were 17 Magistrate Court Citations issued for violations. DWI incidents remain at seven for the year.

Guilty plea results in dishonorable discharge

Steve Snyder
Public Affairs Staff

Spc. Andres Padilla, once a member of Company B, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, pleaded guilty to several charges dealing with pornography recently and was sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in rank to private, confinement for one year and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Padilla served with the 270th Military Police Co. in a

war zone overseas. While deployed and demobilizing at Fort Dix, during the period of August through November 2007, the Soldier had an extensive sexually explicit dialogue by computer with his 14-year-old niece back home.

He was charged with possession of pornography, induced a minor to participate in pornographic acts and indecent exposure in violation of General Order One, and in violations of Article 134, Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.



Pascual Flores

ALL ABOARD -- Employers and guests of this year's BossLift 2009 prepare to load onto an AH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from the Maryland Army National Guard for transportation to Range 59C, where they were then bussed to 59E for live fire exercise and lunch with Soldiers. Employers were briefed, trained on safety procedures and led through a course of fire with the M-9 pistol and the M-4 rifle.

BossLift offers look at reality

(continued from page 1)

than-desirable conditions that today's Soldiers must endure to meet our nation's military needs.

Under the expert guidance of Lt. Col. Cynthia Palinski, officer-in-charge (OIC) of BOSSLIFT 2009, the endless task of synchronizing the many tasks necessary for this event finally paid off as every key part of this puzzle fell into place as the day progressed.

The day started as guests and visitors were offered the opportunity to get close-up views of military vehicles and the personal equipment issued to every Soldier. Each visitor was then issued a helmet and a bag containing a Meal-Ready to Eat (MRE), dust mask, bottle of water, ear plugs and hand sanitizer. The continental breakfast offered to all prior to the start of activities ensured that they were all fueled up and ready to go.

Briefings that outlined the event itinerary, along with background information on the importance of the partnership between Soldiers and employers were next up on the agenda.

Immediately following the presentation of a video entitled "Boots on the Ground," Palinski, introduced Brig. Gen. Blake Williams, Deputy Commanding General, First Army East. Williams was visiting his Soldiers on Fort Dix and took time from his busy schedule to address the group to offer insight on the mission of the First Army, its role on Fort Dix and the benefits reaped by employers when they hire a Soldier. "When you hire a member of the Army Reserve you have a trained, dependable, individual," said Williams.

Next up, Col. Thaxton provided a barrage of information, emphasizing the innumerable accomplishments of Fort Dix and the significance of the services provided by its Soldiers and civilians. "Hooah! Hooah means everything to the Soldier," said Thaxton.

"The video you just saw on Boots on the Ground tells us what the end product is here at Fort Dix," he added.

"There are three types of deployments: the first is Combat, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan; the second is Humanitarian, such as the services provided in the Philippines, and the third is Peace-Keeping in places like Bosnia and Kosovo," Thaxton added. Referring to the role of Fort Dix, "We are the enablers, we have the ammo, the trainers and the equipment."

Retired Col. Carmen Venticinque, State Chairman, New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR), then provided details of the organization's mission, the responsibility of the NJESGR and the importance of strength in partnership between the military and employers.

With all the briefings complete, the remaining events were described by Palinski. Participants formed up into ten separate groups, each with a military escort for the anticipated activities.

Three AH-60 Blackhawk helicopters manned by Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard and one CH-47 Chinook helicopter from B Company 5/159 Aviation Regiment, Fort Eustis, Va., airlifted a portion of the employers groups to Range 59E, providing a rare bird's-eye view of Fort Dix. The participants were then bused to Range 59C, where they had opportunity to fire both the M-9 handgun and the M-4 rifle and indulge in a sumptuous meal of MREs.

"I did well with the rifle but I was a little shaky with the pistol," said Thomas Palinski, Korean War Veteran and father of Lt. Col. Cynthia Palinski. "I'm proud of my daughter and her grandfather served at Fort Dix in 1917," he added.

While the initial groups were flown to the ranges, other groups were transported to the Small Arms Readiness Group (SARG) for pre-marksmanship training on the fundamentals of the M-9 and M-4.

Next on the itinerary was a stop at Range 47 where the HMMWV Egress Assist Trainer (HEAT) is located. Soldiers from the Regional Training Center East (RTC-East) provided a live demonstration to showcase how the Army trains Soldiers in the techniques necessary to survive and exit an overturned vehicle.

"I enjoyed the entire presentation and how the Soldiers trained to do the maneuvers," said Devon Shelton, a supervisor with PSE&G and supervisor of Sgt. 1st Class Alex Arroyo. "The presentation by Sgt. 1st Class Arroyo was phenomenal," he added.

The group then toured the Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site for a demonstration of the training conducted at that location provided by Soldiers from the 72 Field Artillery Brigade.

The final stop after a long and tiring day with the Soldiers was at the Contingency Operating Location (COL), with all the groups touring the area, its living conditions and a well-earned dinner with the troops.

"It makes me proud to be an American," said Capt. Rob Blaker, New Jersey State Police. "I would challenge any employer to ask themselves: 'are we doing enough for them?'"

"We have 18 troopers deployed with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard. It's not the same as watching it on television," he concluded.



OBSERVERS LEARN THE WAY -- Members of the 320th Chemical Company out of Jamaica, Queens, N.Y., watch over a downed insurgent played by a civilian on the battlefield (COB) role player during a simulated battle at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain training site during BossLift May 20. Watching the training from the background are guests of the ESGR BossLift Program. Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis, below, accompanies guest of this year's event on a helicopter ride to the ranges to view training and facilities.



NEIGHBORHOOD

The Corner

Lone Bugler to render honors over Memorial Day

Retired Army 1st Sgt. Richard Pinter will perform an official Taps ceremony at area cemeteries. Pinter will explain the history and proper customs of respect during the sounding of Taps.

The ceremony is open to the public and will take place **May 24** at 11 a.m. at the Greenwood Cemetery, 1800 Hamilton Ave. Trenton and **May 25** at Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 350 Provenceline Rd. Wrightstown.

Items available to rent at Outdoor Recreation

Add some fun to your family or community event this season by renting items from the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center. Bago, three bouncy castles, and two sizes of table covers are available to rent. Canoes, boats, tents, tables, chairs, super cookers, mountain bikes and other equipment are also available to rent. Maximize your outdoor entertainment for not a lot of money. For more information call 562-6667.

Comedy Show coming to Club Dix

The comedic stylings of Dennis Ross along with Davin Rosenblatt and Paul Oates will be coming to Club Dix **June 12**. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased at Family, Morale, Welfare, Recreation headquarters located at 6043 Doughboy Loop, or at Club Dix, 5455 6th St. and Alabama Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. For more information call 562-6772.

Youth Services offering Middle School Summer Camp

Students in grade six through eight are invited to attend the Fort Dix Youth Services Middle School Summer Camp. The camp runs from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Activities include swimming, bowling, arts and crafts, weekly trips and more. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided. Parent orientation is scheduled June 11 at noon to 1 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Dix Youth Center, 1279 Locust Street. Sign-up at Central registration located at 5203 Maryland Ave. For more information call 562-4702.

Framing classes offered at Arts and Crafts Center

The Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center is offering a framing qualification class for anyone wishing to use the equipment. Students are required to bring one thing to frame such as an 8X10 photograph or a certificate and learn how to use the equipment while completing a project. Classes are held June 10 or June 17 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or June 13 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$10 plus the cost of materials. Materials are available to purchase at the frame shop. For more information call 562-5691.

Hunter education classes offered on Dix

Any person on active duty in the Armed Services or non-resident stationed at Fort Dix who would like to obtain a New Jersey hunting license must show either a resident license from their home state or proof of successfully completing an appropriate Hunter Education Course in order to obtain a license to hunt or trap in New Jersey. Anyone wishing to hunt on Fort Dix or New Jersey this fall or winter and do not have a prior license from a different state or certification in hunter education, may attend a Fort Dix Hunter Education Course. The next course will meet May 31. Pre-registration with the state is required. More information may be found by at www.njfishandwildlife.com. For more information on hunting on Fort Dix call 562-4676 or visit the Rod and Gun Club at Range 14, 9060 Range Road.

Ladies Night with DJ Ace coming soon

DJ Ace will be pumping out the dance music **May 29** at Club Dix from 8 p.m. to midnight. For information call 723-3272.

Conference gets motors running

Jennifer M. McCarthy
Public Affairs Staff

Attendees of the Enrichment Conference were ready to start their engines and hit the road after motivational speaker, radio show host, and author Jennifer Keitt brought her message of empowerment to Fort Dix May 15.

After sharing a personal story about a recent pricey automobile breakdown, Keitt used the metaphor of a car to explain how focusing on the self can help propel one into success.

Keitt explained that everyone's life is like a car. The four tires represent a person's spiritual, physical, financial and social well being. Emotional well-being

is symbolized by the steering wheel, while an automobile's headlights are like one's career and self-esteem. Just as a car needs regular maintenance to make sure all its parts are in functioning order, Keitt encouraged attendees to examine their "life car" to see what sort of maintenance it might require.

And just like any trip in a real car, Keitt reminded everyone that a life car journey also required having a destination in mind before setting out and traveling at a safe speed. But she reminded the audience that what was a safe speed for one's life journey may not be the same for someone else.

"Check out the totality of the season you are in right now and drive your own speed," she said.

Keitt, a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, turned her love for reporting into a radio show that would make a difference in the lives of women across the country. Listeners tune into her radio show, Today's Black Woman, to receive her message, "there is hope...you can be victorious over life every day!"

While Keitt brings her message of hope to more than a million listeners each week, this was her first time speaking before a military audience.

Keitt said that she had a slightly different approach for a military audience than she did for a civilian one - she encouraged military audiences to be selfish. "When lives are committed to serving others, you have to shut off responsibilities. You have to say, 'this is me time.' It is really critical," she said.

The message Keitt brought seemed to resonate with the crowd.

Sgt. Corena Curry, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 72nd Field Artillery said about Keitt's presentation, "Not only did she share her experience with us, but she was very interested in our lives as women in the military, and how we cope with deployment, family separation, and just being women in the military - she was genuinely concerned about our challenges and was excited to speak with her first military audience."

Following Keitt's presentation, a brief intermission allowed attendees time to have Keitt sign copies of her book or visit one several information booths set up at the event.

After the break, a panel consisting of Keitt; Col. Gina Grosso, 87th Air Base Wing commander at McGuire Air Force Base; Fort Dix Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis, and Maj. Joyce Toriano, officer in charge of the Joint Readiness Center, took questions from

the audience and provided honest answers on a range of topics affecting servicemembers, particularly female servicemembers. The panel shared stories about career progressions, health, education and balancing career and family obligations.

"As a single parent, hearing from senior NCOs who have been through similar experiences and found ways to triumph along the way, helps bring a sense of normalcy to military life - that you're not the only one, and it's the quality of time you spend with your children, not necessarily the quantity, I'm going to focus on that," said Staff Sgt. Rosaura Juarbe, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 72nd Field Artillery about the panel discussion.

(Jennifer McCarthy may be reached for comment at jennifermccarthy@us.army.mil.)



THE WRITE STUFF -- Jennifer Keitt, guest speaker at the Joint Base Enrichment Conference held at Club Dix May 15, signs a copy of her book for Staff Sgt. Lorri Darbes, 2nd Battalion, 309th Training Support Regiment post-mobilization unit assister.

Couple faces challenges of Army life

Jennifer M. McCarthy
Public Affairs Staff

It was not love at first sight for Sgt. Nicole Dykstra and her husband, Joshua. "I hated him," said Nicole.

The two grew up in Douglas, Mass. and met in a high school art class. They also worked in the same small restaurant, Nicole as part of the wait staff and Joshua as a cook. "We fought a lot. My jokes weren't always understood," said Joshua.

Following high school graduation in 2003, Nicole moved from Douglas to New Bedford, Mass. Joshua, who graduated a year before Nicole, went to school at Johnsons and Wales University. The two lost touch for two years but

remained in communication with common friends. So when Joshua decided to have a party at his house, it seemed natural to invite Nicole along with their other buddies.

"We just started hanging out, said Joshua." The next week, they went on a date to the Chesapeake Factory on Rhode Island and a couple of months later Nicole moved from New Bedford into an apartment with Joshua and three other people.

The awkward pranks and teen-aged antics that set the two apart in high school were replaced with love and respect and the couple married in October of 2006.

By that time, Nicole had been in the Massachusetts National Guard for four years. She joined the 2002, while she

was a senior in High School.

"I was too young to go to basic on the split-option. I had to wait until I graduated, so I did pre-basic training drills until then," she says.

While the National Guard provided some direction in Nicole's life, Josh was still struggling a bit. He was working in automotive modification, but felt he needed something more.

"Nick was in the guard. She would tell me there were things she didn't always like about it sometimes, but it (the Army National Guard) would at least benefit me in some way, even let me get back to school, which was what I wanted. Nick was a good drive for me."

So following his wife's lead, Joshua joined the Massachusetts Army National Guard in 2005. He serves as a pneuadraulics repairer with D Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Having a marriage survive when one spouse in the military is not always

easy, but when both spouses wear a uniform the issues can be even more complex.

"By the time I returned from Basic Training, I only had a few weeks with Nicole before she deployed to Iraq. We never had a chance to settle back home," said Joshua.

Scheduling time together can be one of the biggest challenges dual-military couples face, particularly in cases such as the Dykstra's where Nicole is stationed at Fort Dix and Joshua still drills in Massachusetts. The couple makes frequent trips between Massachusetts and New Jersey.

"You try to arrange your schedule at work with thoughts to the five-and-a-half hour drive. There are times I would wake up at 2:30 a.m. just to get to work and then drive here. You sleep in the car before your shift. It's tough," admits Joshua.

"Everything you do revolves around your schedule. You spend as much time (continued on page 6)



photos by Capt. Antonia Greene.

START YOUR ENGINES-- Motivational speaker and author, Jennifer Keitt, gives helpful life-tips to attendees at the Enrichment Conference held May 15 at Club Dix.



Jennifer Chupko

Students cook up 4-H awards

Bailey Appleba left, Emerald Cray center, and Anais Nolasco participated in the 4-H Club Food Judging cooking contest held at the Youth Center May 2. The girls took home ribbons for whipping up a cinnaberry cake, fruity cheesecake, cookies and truffles.

Spouse club shares world of experience



courtesy photo

GLOBAL BUDDIES -- Members of the International Spouses Group celebrate during a recent trip to New York City to visit the United Nations.

Marianne Fontillas
International Spouse Group

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines culture as, "the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an institution or organization. Having said this, it is not surprising to say that it is challenging to have two or more cultures work together as a group but it IS possible.

The Army Community Service International Spouse Group (ISG) is an example of how people from different backgrounds, languages, and beliefs can

unite for a common good. With more than 16 years of implementation, the ISG continues to empower its multi-cultural members through educational assistance, career advancement, and a support system to help them adjust to their environment. The group holds its monthly meetings every last Friday of the month. Some of this year's events have been a presentation on the life and works of Maya Angelou during Black History Month in February, a visit to the United Nations in New York in March, and an Egg-citing Event filled with egg dishes, a post-Easter celebration held in (continued on page 6)

Couple faces challenges

(continued from page 5)
travelling as you do spending time together," he said.

The Dykstras confess that the time spent apart has its own risks. "You fall into your own habits. The way I live at home without her is not the way I live with her," said Joshua, who also

admitted that the dishes may not get as washed as often when he is alone as when they lived together. "You get lazy," echoed Nicole.

But schedules and chores are not all that need adjusting when both husband and wife are in the military. It can be difficult to bal-

ance the career needs of both parties, something the Dykstras have already considered.

"For two years I've had the opportunity to benefit my career. Josh was behind that—now when that's done, Josh is going to flight school at Fort Rucker to forward his career," said Nicole

"We both have military careers, and goals in them. I have to sacrifice something now, but when I try to advance my career she'll be behind me," concluded Joshua.

(Jennifer McCarthy may be reached for comment at jennifer.mccarthy@us.army.mil.)

Building dedicated to memory of fallen New Jersey Soldier

Jennifer Chupko
Public Affairs Staff

The Fort Dix community honored fallen Soldier Sgt. Trista L. Moretti, 425th Bde. Special Troops Battalion, 4th Bde. Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richard-

son, Alaska who was killed in the line of duty while serving in Nasir Lajfath, Iraq. Building 5646, currently housing the Warrior Transition Unit was dedicated in memory of Moretti during a ceremony May 15.

Moretti began her military journey at Fort Dix when she raised her right hand, and swore

to defend her country as an American Soldier in 2003. "She will never be forgotten and she is part of the Fort Dix family," said her father Frank Moretti. "No wounded warrior will enter Bldg. 5646 without knowing her sacrifice."

The 27-year-old woman from South Plainfield, was sleeping in her trailer when her unit was attacked by insurgent mortar fire. Twenty-one other paratroopers in the unit were injured during the attack June 25, 2007. Moretti was the only casualty.

A plaque that was placed outside of Bldg. 5646, was unveiled by Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander and Judy and Jennifer Moretti, Trista's mother

and sister, during the dedication ceremony that began at B Company. The attendees were then escorted to the building.

It is more than two years after her death and yet, Moretti is still leading by example. Her face now looks down upon the wounded Soldiers housed in the building where a portrait of the fallen Soldier now hangs in the day room. The building now bears her name.

"The role women play in combat is expanding," said Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander. "Sgt. Moretti is the first female Soldier killed in Iraq with a Fort Dix dedication—it is important for her to be immortalized on this installation."

Moretti's father, Fred took basic training 41 years ago at Fort Dix. He said he remembers the day he brought his daughter to her final military exam before she

deployed overseas. "I will never forget the smile she had on her face when I took her," he said. "She was proud to be in the Army and I was proud of her."

Moretti's sister Jennifer attended the ceremony. She said the family thought her sister was safe on the base and spoke or emailed her at least once a day.

"We were closer when she was overseas than when she was in the states," she said. "She never complained about anything overseas—no even once."

The ceremony brought many to tears. For Fort Dix Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis, the dedi-

cation was very emotional.

"These kinds of ceremonies always get to me because it makes me think of my son and nephew," she said. "They are about the same age."

Prior to entering the military, Moretti wanted to become a teacher. But too much about her demeanor suggested she wasn't going to settle for a quiet life.

"Trista joined the Army because she wanted more out of life and was determined to serve after 9/11," said Moretti. "My sister was fearless."

Moretti said she spoke to her sister the day before the fatal attack. She even had an email waiting to be read in her inbox after hearing the news. It was from Trista and written before the assault.

"She was tough, caring and decisive," said Moretti. "She was full of life and always positive and I am proud to be her sister." (Jennifer Chupko may be reached for comment at jennifer.a.chupko@us.army.mil.)



courtesy photo

AMERICA'S FINEST-- Building 5646, currently housing the Warrior Transition Unit, was dedicated in memory of Sgt. Trista L. Moretti during a ceremony May 15. Moretti, from South Plainfield, was killed when her unit was attacked by insurgents' mortar fire in Nasir Lajfath, Iraq. Moretti was assigned to the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division of Fort Richardson Alaska.



Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA Bde.

NAUGHTY OR NICE -- Sgt. Nicole Dykstra, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, non commissioned officer in charge, sits on her husband Joshua's lap during the 2008 72nd Field Artillery Holiday Party. Joshua is a member of the Massachusetts National Guard. The couple is just one of many couples Army wide trying to juggle dual military careers and marriage.

Spouse club shares

(continued from page 5)

April. On May 29 at 11:30 a.m., the group is excited to celebrate the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month by learning a few Asian dances and savoring delicious Asian dishes. In addition, the group provides helpful information regarding Citizenship and Immigration Services, English as a Second Languages classes, education support, career advancement, services available for their specific needs, and much more. Of course, in every ISG meeting, attendees get to share their experiences, enjoy delicious food, and enjoy each other's company. The group is planning to put together a "one-stop" booklet and send out updated flyers about schedules for English classes and other events. Anyone can volunteer to help in these tasks.

These activities are ways to take pride in one's culture, and at the same time, to give respect to others' cultures. Aside from this, the ISG enables its members to learn from one another instead of proving which culture is better. It serves as a venue for those who have the same experiences being military spouses and being far away from home.

The ISG is open to all military families from the Fort Dix, McGuire, Lakehurst and surrounding communities. Certainly the ISG is an example of a joint base service.

For more information regarding the ISG please call Amada M. Espinoza or Patricia Toler at 562-2767.

To add your name on the mailing list and/or to volunteer for the group, please email marianelufontillas@yahoo.com.

Nurses tended to thousands during World War I

Shari Lynn Wigle
special to the Post

During May 1919, ships carrying 333,3031 of the over two million American troops from World War I streamed into New York Harbor.

Unlike the secretive departures during wartime, tugs and fireboats greeted the vessels. Nearly two million troops returned home between November 1918 to June 1919.

On shore people waved flags, cheered and sang as a band played patriotic music. The Soldiers disembarked and headed for demobilization locations such as Camp Dix, where Soldiers from the 78th and 87th Divisions trained and returned after the war.

One of 32 National Army and National Guard cantonments across the nation in World War I, Camp Dix was named for Maj. Gen. John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. During his distinguished public career, Dix held the offices of united States senator, secretary of the treasury, and minister to France, as well as governor of New York.

Constructed during the summer of 1917, Camp Dix became a training and staging ground for the 78th, 87th and 34th Divisions before troops crossed the Atlantic to join the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Camp Dix rapidly expanded into the largest military reservation in the Northeast.

Like other World War I Army cantonments, Camp Dix offered Soldiers activities to boost morale and to stimulate their physical and mental health.

An athletic program scheduled competitive sports among company, regimental and division teams. Soldiers enjoyed

music festivals, bands, choirs, community singing, theater productions, motion picture shows, a library and weekly camp newspaper.

The 78th Infantry Division, nicknamed the Lightning Division, wore a shoulder insignia with a white lightning bolt streaking through a red semicircle.

According to one explanation, the insignia symbolized the quick action of the 78th, which the French compared to a bolt of lightning that scorched a field as it raced through it.

Activated in August 1917 at Camp Dix, the 78th Division included four infantry regiments — the 309th, 310th, 311th and 312th; three artillery regiments — 307th, 308th and 309th. Maj. Gen. James H. McRae commanded the original division's 20,000 Soldiers.

The 78th Division, in France during the summer and fall battles of 1918, acted as the "point of the wedge" for the final offensive, the Meuse-Argonne. That last battle was the biggest operation and victory of the American Expeditionary Forces.

The 78th Division, which participated in two other major campaigns of St. Mihiel and Lorraine, demobilized at Camp Dix in June 1919.

The 87th Division activated, organized and trained at Camp Pike, Ark., before its mobilization, and January 1919 demobilized at Camp Dix.

The division, which entered the combat zone late in the war, mostly conducted combat support missions (construction, guard duty, convoy escort, military police operations). The division started moving to the front lines in November 1918, when the war ended.

The 34th Division, established as the 13th division of the

National Guard in early 1917, became the 34th Division in late 1917. The Division trained at Camp Cody, N.M., before mobilizing at Camp Dix. Since the 34th arrived in France in October 1918, the division did not see action before the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice.

Although World War I is nearly gone from living memory, *Pride of America, We're With You*, a 2008 non-fiction book, sheds light on the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Through her letters and story, Grace Anderson, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, speaks for over 10,000 Army nurses who aided the troops in France.

During her Army training at the Camp Pike, Ark., hospital, Anderson cared for Soldiers of the 87th Division. Anderson served as chief anesthetist for Base Hospital No. 115, one of the AEF's 127 base hospital military units in France.

Although base hospital units did not organize or train at Camp Dix's hospital, medical personnel from New Jersey joined the units of seven New York City hospitals — Bellevue, Presbyterian, Mount Sinai, Post-Graduate, New York, Roosevelt and Kings County. Base units consisted of 35 Medical Corps officers, 200 enlisted men, 100 nurses and some civilian employees.

The Army designated base hospitals, located a safe distance from combat zones, for more extensive and definitive treatment of ill and injured Soldiers. These fixed facilities operated in conjunction with battlefield first aid, dressing stations, ambulances and hospital trains as well as field, mobile, evacuation, convalescent and camp hospitals.

The AEF assigned two New York City base units to hospital centers, clusters of base hospital units.

Hospital Center received most of the head, face and jaw injuries. Vichy Center developed an excellent reputation in the AEF for neurosurgery, maxillofacial and oral surgery.

Before antibiotics and high-tech medicine, the U.S. Army doctors, nurses, and medical personnel saved the lives of the over 200,000 American Soldiers wounded in World War I.



courtesy photo

AMAZING GRACE -- Army nurse Grace Anderson was one of thousands of nurses who tended to sick and wounded Soldiers both in the United States and abroad during World War I. Anderson's story is told in the book *Pride of America, We're with You: The Letters of Grace Anderson, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, World War I*.



Ryan Morton

DEPARTURE — Col. Charles "Chuck" Hardy, right, relinquishes command of his former unit, 2nd Bde., U.S. Army Cadet Command, by passing the unit guidon to Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command, at the Relinquishment of Command ceremony on Fort Dix May 19.

Brigade and facility receive upgrade with facelift

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

Colonel Charles Hardy, commander of the 2nd Brigade, United States Army Cadet Command, bade farewell to the men and women of the organization May 19, as he embarks on the next chapter of his military career.

As the colonel reminisced over the two years of his command at Fort Dix, he recalled how, when he assumed command he had but a handful of staff members and no facility from which to work. "We were undergoing a transformation within the Cadet Command at the time and I was tasked with standing up the largest officer-producing brigade within the command. I had to do that while assembling a staff and locating a new facility for the brigade headquarters," Hardy said.

In 2007, the 2nd Brigade was comprised of 19 battalions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. The brigade was required to train 3,500 to 3,800 new officers per year.

As part of the new transformation of Cadet Command the colonel was tasked to take the lead and transform the brigade in an effort that doubled the size of its footprint.

"The 2nd Brigade absorbed the 1st Brigade and part of the 3rd Brigade, which included expanding our area of influence and responsibility to the nine northeastern states including 41 Reserve Officer Training Corps battalions, 200 affiliate battalions or schools, and 111 Junior ROTC programs

(including Germany and Italy)," he said.

Even before the transformation of authority Hardy set the conditions for success by establishing effective staff liaisons and command dialogue with the former 1st Brigade and the three battalions from the 3rd Brigade.

Not wishing to move the brigade headquarters off Fort Dix, Hardy asked Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, to provide a building the 2nd Brigade could utilize. The only acceptable building available at the time was Building 5212, once the Housing Office on Maryland Avenue.

Hardy and his staff went right to work and designed the renovations needed to make the building functional for the brigade. The Directorate of Public Works, David Peckham, moved quickly on the project and the building has been transformed into a first-class facility.

By the time the new brigade commander reports for duty on July 1, the renovations will be completed with space set up for teams handling the ROTC battalions, the JROTC battalions and the Nursing Corps.

"The staff here will get to celebrate the grand opening of our new facility by the end of May," Hardy said.

The handful of staff workers has multiplied into 25 contractors, civilians, and active duty Soldiers, with an authorization of 28 staff members.

Throughout this major organizational transformation, mission success never faltered.

(Wayne Cook may be reached for comment at wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil.)

Second Brigade bids adieu to commander

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

The Second Brigade, United States Army Cadet Command, said good-bye to its commander of the past two years, Col. Charles "Chuck" Hardy, at a Relinquishment of Command ceremony, held on Fort Dix at the 99th Regional Support Command Headquarters Building May 19.

"Today is a special day — and not because I'm departing. It's a special day because it really marks the completion of the brigade team. The staff is hired and trained, the headquarters (Building 5212) is finished and ready for full occupation, systems are in place, SOPs established, and we are functionally aligned with our higher headquarters," said Hardy.

"I'm sure we didn't get everything right and we don't know what we don't know. However I

can report with a high degree of confidence — the right people are on the bus, in the right seat, with the right skills, travelling in the right direction for sustained success. I depart satisfied and with high hopes and expectations," he said.

On hand for the occasion were members of the 2nd Bde., and U.S. Army Cadet Command including the commanding general, Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, and members of the Fort Dix community including the installation commander, Col. Ronald Thaxton, and the Post Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis.

"Perhaps Colin Powell, a product of the Army ROTC program said it best... "We must never lose sight of the reality that people, particularly gifted commanders, are what make units succeed. The way I like to put it, leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible."

And Chuck Hardy is precisely the kind of talented and caring leader that Colin Powell had in mind when he wrote those words," said Bartell.

Bartell continued to praise Hardy, who will depart Fort Dix and deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, for his next assignment.

"Throughout his tenure in the Second Brigade, Chuck was always an innovator who took an 'enterprise' approach to every task; working hard to establish and sustain close working relationships. When the term 'multi-tasking' was coined, they must have had Chuck Hardy in mind," said Bartell.

The incoming commander for the 2nd Bde., Col. Glenn Goldman, will arrive on the installation in July.

(Ryan Morton may be reached for comment at ryan.morton@us.army.mil.)



photos by Wayne Cook

NEW BEGINNINGS — Colonel Charles Hardy, commander, 2nd Brigade, United States Army Cadet Command, proudly stands in the brigade's recently renovated headquarters building at 5212 Maryland Ave. Hardy led the transformation of the Army Accessions and Cadet Command structure when the 2nd Brigade absorbed the 1st Brigade and part of the 3rd Brigade. With a run down building and a skeleton crew, Hardy established an organization that has assumed the responsibilities as the largest USACC brigade without degradation of performance. The headquarters building has been transformed into a first-class facility.

Bureau chief sees peacekeeping as likely Guard mission

Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 18, 2009 - The National Guard can expect peacekeeping roles in Afghanistan and Iraq in the

future, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here last week.

"I've challenged our staff with thinking through what happens after Iraq, what happens after Afghanistan," Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley told an audi-

ence at the Heritage Foundation on May 13.

"In many cases, the National Guard - primarily the Army National Guard - stays behind, and they are the people who finish the job," McKinley said. McKinley said he could see a time when the National Guard may be used for peacekeeping in other parts of the world, just as in Kosovo.

"People kind of forget that [Kosovo] was a major conflict, but there's still a lot of peacekeeping going on in that part of the world," McKinley said. The National Guard has troops deployed today on its 13th peacekeeping rotation in Kosovo. The National Guard also contributes to the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai, an international peacekeeping force overseeing the peace between Egypt and Israel crafted in the 1979 Camp David Accords.

National Guard troops also

perform duty with Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, whose tasks since 2001 have included preventing conflict and promoting stability.

Meanwhile, the National Guard is playing a large and increasing role in warfighting, McKinley said.

"Over 40,000 men and

significant, non-kinetic, soft-power role in Afghanistan, he said.

These teams that draw on the civilian-acquired skills of National Guard members to help Afghan farmers improve agricultural practices came out of an initiative from Missouri and now involve multiple states.

"People kind of forget that [Kosovo] was a major conflict, but there's still a lot of peacekeeping going on in that part of the world."

-Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley

women today are serving in a federal capacity ... in our wars overseas or domestically ... with Noble Eagle," he said. Operation Noble Eagle is an ongoing, post-Sept. 11 mission to protect North America's skies in which the National Guard plays a significant role.

McKinley said that along with peacekeeping and supporting the war, the National Guard is involved in other international operations.

National Guard agribusiness development teams are playing a

"What [started] out to be an experiment now has turned into 12 teams," McKinley said. "The land grant universities from all over the Midwest are now eager to put these ... teams out into the remote areas of Afghanistan to help. ... Just something as small as trellising a crop, getting it up off the ground, has produced crop loads in excess of anything they've ever seen before."

One National Guard initiative that fits the emerging national security strategy very well is the State Partnership Program that

pairs National Guard states with foreign countries, McKinley said.

The SPP started in the Baltic region of Europe in 1992 after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, and focused on matching U.S. states with former Soviet satellite nations. The SPP later expanded to South and Central America, Central Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific and Africa came next.

Partnerships are created through discussions among countries, ministers of defense, the U.S. ambassador, regional combatant commanders, adjutants general, governors and the chief of the National Guard Bureau, which administers the SPP. The program works to enhance theater commanders' security cooperation efforts by building partnership capacity. There are currently 61 partnerships.

Strong preparations are being made to approach future domestic challenges, McKinley said.

The Guard Bureau chief said he recently was involved in a Cabinet-level hurricane exercise, during which he was struck by the level of federal readiness in every branch of government and pleased by the close relationship between the National Guard and U.S. Northern Command.

"I don't think we've ever done as much rehearsal as we've done to be prepared for this year's hurricane season," he said.

McKinley joined the Air Force in 1975, the heyday of the Cold War. He recalled 1975 as "a similar time of constrained budgets, and a time when leadership was vital to our nation. ... These are very dynamic times. They are very challenging times."

McKinley said young people who are willing to serve, equipment and strategy that allow them to perform their jobs and leadership are vital ingredients to a healthy, all-volunteer force.

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State Department, Civil Affairs join forces

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers of the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade were briefed by a representative of the State Department, May 14, on fundamental changes to Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) missions in Iraq.

State Department representative Bob Cassilly explained the new mission format to the Civil Affairs brigade, based in Homewood, Ill., and Navy and Air Force personnel at a session in the Contingency Operations Location on Fort Dix.

Previous PRT Civil Affairs personnel have moved among multiple locations while in Iraq during a single tour of duty. According to Cassilly, these Soldiers will now be assigned a specific location where they will conduct their missions and build stronger relations with the local leadership and town residents. They will no longer move from one area to another.

"The focus of the training today is to brief these Department of Defense servicemen and women on how they will operate as members of PRTs and their individual roles. This joint State Department and Department of Defense effort in Iraq is a collaborative effort between the two governmental agencies to help support the ever-evolving mission.

"We have PRTs in all 18 provinces in Iraq. Civil Affairs personnel play a major role within the PRTs. The president has said that PRTs are key components of the strategy in Iraq. The

PRT mission is to develop the capacity of the provincial government to develop the local economy," Cassilly said.

"Building the capacity of Iraqi government institutions to provide essential services and to assist local economic initiatives are what we are being sent to do," said Lt. Col. Robert Bensburg, Civil Liaison Team leader.

"PRTs, which are civilian-led, are tasked to assist with local governance, economic, health, agriculture, rule of law, and educational programs. We will be directly involved with reinforcing

"Building the capacity of Iraqi government institutions to provide essential services and to assist local economic initiatives are what we are being sent to do."

-Lt. Col. Robert Bensburg

ing processes that will hopefully endure long after our departure."

Bensburg, an Army Reserve Soldier from Mahopac, N.Y., member of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, Staten Island, is on his second deployment to Iraq. He attended specialized training at the Foreign Service Institute, part of the George Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Va., before being mobilized for this mission.

He said that each province has a Unified Common Plan that encourages a synergy of effort of the PRT between the Department of State, Department of Defense, and other governmental agencies, such as USAID and Department of Agriculture, to address the challenges faced by the emerging Iraqi democracy.

Lt. Col. Paul Hettich, deputy PRT commander, stated, "This is my very first PRT mission.

Those of us in Civil Affairs are very excited because we are incorporating our joint services. This will be the third or fourth deployment for some members of the teams. We are excited to go back to Iraq to see the ongoing improvement processes. Another point of excitement is the interagency role we are playing with the State Department. I am so pleased that we are out here in the field training and someone the caliber of Mr. Cassilly has taken the time out of his schedule and come up from Washington, D.C., to train us.

"In terms of the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade, I was part of the very first brigade in Iraq at the beginning of the war. Here we are going back to see how things have changed. Myself included, many of us are excited to be going back to see the progress that has been made in Iraq."

Other members of the teams are also excited about the opportunity to go to Iraq as members of the PRTs.

Sgt. Jacob Lappin, from New York City, a fireman at Engine 240 in Brooklyn, joined the Army Reserve before September 11, 2001, and re-enlisted during his first tour in Iraq. He is also a member of the 353rd CA Bde.

"This is a phenomenal opportunity to work with joint operations. My first time over was in a quartermaster unit. This time I get to be involved on a more personal level, working and interacting with the people of Iraq. If I can help improve the life of one Iraqi civilian or help one Soldier improve his or her career, then it will all be worth it," Lappin said.

For some, serving in the military is a family tradition.

"My dad served in the Army in Germany and Vietnam. I've always known I was going to join. I've always had a passion to serve and have been very happy ever since I enlisted. I'm looking forward to assisting the citizens of that country with my fellow team members. I want to participate and learn with Civil Affairs Soldiers, on how they build stronger relations with Iraqis while offering them ways to improve their lives," said Spc. Vincent Sutter from Oak Lawn, Ill.

A member of the Air Force assigned to the PRTs, Staff Sgt. Dorian Brown, from the 635th Supply Chain Management Group, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., sees the upcoming deployment as a welcome challenge in her career.

"I joined the military to experience some independence. I grew up in a family with eight siblings and figured the military was the way to go. I haven't regretted this decision thus far.

"I'm very excited about being a part of a Joint Civil Affairs unit. Usually as an Air Force supply or logistics sergeant, you sit behind a desk. This time I can get out amongst the people and see the effects of our interaction with the citizens of Iraq. I'm very excited about this opportunity. I feel secure being part of a joint unit. I truly appreciate the Army and Navy members who bring so much experience to the team. This is a new experience and mission for me and I am grateful to be able to participate with the PRTs," Brown said.

This will be Brown's second deployment to Iraq. During her first deployment, she was stationed at Balad where she helped stand up a forward operating base.

These servicemen and woman have been assigned to several PRTs that will be spread out all over the country of Iraq. They will have a wide range of unique challenges wherever their mission takes them. As the military draws down its presence in Iraq, the PRTs continue the work of long-term development and stability.

(Wayne Cook may be reached for comment at wayne.a.cook@us.army.mil.)



photos by Wayne Cook

READY, AIM, FIRE -- First Lt. Jim Malowitz, 308th Joint Civil Affairs Bde., darts between firing points, encouraging team members as they take aim down range at simulated insurgents during training on Fort Dix May 14. The members of the 308th are training for missions in Iraq as members of Provincial Reconstruction Teams.



LAST HURRAH -- Sgt. Kevin Garrity of the 308th Joint Civil Affairs Brigade and Lt. Col. Michael Pope, deputy PRT commander, train for their mission on the firing range at Fort Dix, above. The members of the 308th are training for missions as members of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq. Pope has served multiple tours in Iraq and at the age of 55 is deploying for his last tour. Below, Air Force Staff Sgt. Dorian Brown and Sgt. Jacob Lappin meet with Robert Cassilly, a representative of the State Department, during training on Fort Dix May 14. The members of the 308th were briefed on the responsibilities of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq by Cassilly.



**Read
The Post!**

Cadets cop kudos in military training

Lisa Evans
Public Affairs Staff

They won again. Francis Lewis High School cadets from Fresh Meadows, N.Y. defended their championship at the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Raider Challenge 2009 competition held on Fort Dix May 16. "My cadets won the National Raider Competition in 2008," said Master Sgt. Peter Rompf before the competition. "I think we can do it again."

Francis Lewis cadets fell behind only on the land navigation and first aid tests. They easily earned high ratings in the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), the single-rope bridge, and the 3K team run. Beaver High School, Beaver, Pa. took first place in land navigation and Scotland School for Veteran's Children from Scotland, Pa. scored highest in first aid. Teams from Pemberton, New Brunswick, and Medford and Norristown, Pa. and Highland Falls, N.Y. won in their leagues and competed in this year's competition on Fort Dix.

Twelve high schools normally compete in this regional competition, but four schools were unable to come this year. High schools from seven Northeastern states make up 12 leagues with 10 to 12 schools in each league. Cadets in grades 9 through 12 make up teams of 10 cadets which compete within their leagues for the right to compete

in regional competitions. Winners from regional competitions then go to the national event.

"They work all year for this and it comes down to one day," Rompf said. "My team has been doing pushups and working since September just for this one day. They practice three days a week in order to make the team, but their academics are extremely important. They have a lot to worry about. A lot are also active in student government. They juggle a lot."

Focused solely on the job at hand, cadets spoke only when necessary and only to each other or to their commanders, even the joking and jostling normal among high school students absent on this important day.

The physical competitions are not easy. Starting at daybreak, cadets from eight high schools met on Fort Dix's One Mile Track for a morning warm-up of sit ups, pushups, and a one-mile run; the APFT. These high school cadets met Army physical fitness standards, using the same physical training (PT) model for their first challenge of the day.

Chief of JROTC, 2nd Bde., Fort Dix, Brenda Gainey, said "We use the military model to teach that (physical training) to our student. If a student has good leadership skills, he or she will be successful in anything they do. The students who participate in the Raider Teams are the athletes of the JROTC. There are academics teams as well."

As soon as they concluded the first event, students took buses to



photos by Lisa Evans

HELPING HAND -- Antonia Jones, a tenth grade student from New Brunswick High School, uses a single rope method of crossing a river, also known as a rope bridge, during the JROTC competition held on Fort Dix May 16. One of the more challenging obstacles on the course, the rope bridge tested the skill, teamwork and speed of each team. Miguel Rodriguez, crossed first and helped other cadets as they pulled themselves along the rope.

the obstacle course where teams immediately began the other four tasks of the competition: single-rope bridge skills, first aid, land navigation, and a 3K team run. If a team mate is injured during a team run, these teams have been known to carry a cadet over the line. As long as all cadets complete the race, the team is timed and finishes the race.

Team work is the basis of the entire competition, Rompf said.

"It's all about teamwork and it's about building confidence in themselves and competence. It makes them better in the world, better competitors when they leave high school, better able to accept challenges when they go

on in college," Rompf explained. "The pressure makes them learn to work as a team. The team commander and assistant commander and assistant commander

"It's all about teamwork and it's about building confidence in themselves and competence."

-Master Sgt. Peter Rompf

mander are able to work under pressure and handle it."

One of the questions JROTC commanders most often receive is whether or not JROTC cadets are obligated to military service. They are not, commanders stress in all brochures and when interviewed. The training is simply to help students reach their poten-

tial. Some of the students enjoy military discipline and do the military or continue in ROTC in college, commanders state, but

There is no obligation and no pressure to enlist.

"The doctrine is to take young men and women and make them better at life," Rompf said. "They are usually the best children in the high school. The principals really love them."

Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Henry Gant, JROTC commander for

Lenape High School, Medford, said, "Lenape High School has been there now 14 years. My cadets participated in the State of New Jersey league and came in second. They are a very motivated group of students. They love the training at Fort Dix. The purpose of the Raiders training is to test the physical endurance of each cadet and each school as a team."

Cadets certainly proved they were willing and able to meet the test during this year's competition on Fort Dix.

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



MEDICAL ASSIST -- Jacob Weber, a ninth grade student at Beaver High School in Beaver, Pa. and member of the Beaver JROTC works to set a broken leg on a dummy during the JROTC Raider Competition on Fort Dix May 16, left. JROTC Cadets from Norristown, Pa., transport a 90-pound weight on a stretcher as they run a quarter mile through an obstacle course during the Raider Competition. The event culminated a year of training and confidence building for the Northeast Regional competition, and ultimately the national competition.



Ops center coordinates battlefield

Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher
145th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq - The battlefield is a complex place. Having to account for all of the moving pieces and the threats that may hinder those pieces can sometimes be an arduous task.

The job of the tactical operations center for the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division is to understand this battlefield and those elements that go into it in order to succeed in security and stabilization.

For the Soldiers that man this tactical operations center, the mission often differs from other operations centers. Because the battalion is field artillery there are fewer Soldiers available for staffing. This aspect, along with the exchange of one of their FA batteries for an infantry company early on in the unit's deployment, puts an additional twist into the operations field.

"The duel mission requires two separate frames of mind," said the 2-8 Battalion Operations Officer Maj. Jon Sowards.

The TOC uses these mindsets to oversee three different areas around the Diyala province

where howitzers fire from, along with two different combat outposts that are manned by 2-8 Soldiers.

"At any given time we have 13 platoons moving around in our sector. We are also the only battalion that shares boundaries with every other battalion in the brigade," said Sowards.

Spc. Josh Burton, a Fire Directions Coordinator for the TOC, has manned the office for longer than any other lower enlisted for the Battalion. He says his training has prepared him to accomplish his mission under high pressure situations. "You have to be calm, collec-

tive and confident in this job. The TOC has to run smoothly...or nothing else will," said Burton.

Working at the TOC also allows younger Soldiers to gain experience that they may not receive if they were not at the operation center.

"Being here at the TOC, I see more operations and have a better understanding of our battalion; it is a great atmosphere to work in," said Spc. Christopher Strection.

While gaining experience, these Soldiers are often placed in positions where they must be responsible for extremely serious events. Whether it is synchronizing with explosive ordnance disposal or coordinating a medical evacuation of injured personnel, the Soldiers must be at the top of their game around the clock to ensure safety.

"We are like a safety valve. We get a mission from brigade and we need to make sure all of the pieces are in place to make the mission work. We need to know where everyone and everything is at," said Strection.

For the Soldiers of the 2-8 the demanding pace that can come from life in the TOC is all too necessary when dealing with the controlled chaos outside the wire.

These Soldiers often do not receive the glory for their work but without it, no operation would be possible.

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HONORS AND AWARDS



A FAMILY AFFAIR -- Maj. Will Clemons, 2nd Battalion, 315th Field Artillery Regiment (TS) is promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. assisted by his wife, Rene, his two sons, William and Kyle and his daughter Nia.



Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA BDE

GOING TO THE BIRDS -- Newly promoted Col. Beverly Rivell, brigade surgeon, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, holds a bronze eagle presented to her by the brigade medical section in honor of her promotion May 19 at the Kelly Reserve Center.

OUTSTANDING -- Pvt. 1st Class Lamar Gordon-Holmes, 2nd Battalion, 309th Regiment (TS) is presented the Army Commendation Medal, Soldier's sword, and \$100 AAFES gift card for winning Soldier of the Year (SOY) for the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade. Gordon-Holmes went on to win SOY for First Army Division East and is preparing to compete for First Army SOY. Col. Timothy R. Williams, commander, 72nd FA Bde, awarded Gordon-Holmes at the brigade town hall May 18 held at the Timmermann Center.



photos by Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA BDE



photos by Samuel E. Edwards



Banquet recognizes volunteers

The Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Fort Dix held its 15th Annual Volunteer Banquet on April 30. The event honors individuals for their contributions and services to the inmate population and community, Warden J. Grondolsky, presents the Joint Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award to Christopher and Sharron Ryan, top. The Ryans were recognized for their contributions as Life Skills Instructors at FCI. Jo-Ann Roseman, chief pharmacist, above, was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for her contributions as a volunteer at the Camden County Animal Shelter and as Girl Scout leader. The Federal Bureau of Prisons is seeking volunteers. To receive an application or for more information call Samuel Edwards, volunteer coordinator, at 723-1100, ext. 5189 or email to sewards@bop.gov.



WELL DONE -- Sgt. Brian Tarr, 2nd Battalion, 309th Regiment (TS) is presented the Army Commendation Medal, Soldier's sword, and \$100 AAFES gift card for winning NCO of the Year for the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade. Col. Timothy R. Williams, commander, 72nd FA Bde, awarded Tarr at the brigade town hall May 18 held at the Timmermann Center.



HAVING A BLAST -- Fort Dix Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense School class 07-09 graduates May 19, attending the class were Coast Guard Chief Kurt Wahtera, Coast Guard Lt. William Ioven, Sgt. Sean Berthiaume, Capt. Donald Oprey, Spc. David Sack, Sgt. David Lindow, Maj. Craig Anderson, Pfc. Logan Krause, Warrant Officer 2 Steven Erb, and Spc. April Simmons.

Employment seekers find leads at fair

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

With the nationwide unemployment levels reaching close to ten percent, hundreds of job seekers came to a job fair at Club

Dix searching for prospective employment May 14. The fair, hosted by civilian-jobs.com, featured representatives from companies including the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Bradley-Morris Inc., NCI Inform-

mation Systems, Inc., Northrop Grumman, and the Department of Veterans Affairs searching for qualified applicants. "The turnout today has been fantastic. We had more than 500 people pre-register and the support from Fort Dix has been

tremendous," said Vicki Washington, Senior Career Expo Coordinator from civilianjobs.com. There was a mixture of transitional military personnel, military retirees, and civilians alike who came out to see which companies might be able to utilize their services and skills.

"I received some good information and websites to check out," said Edie Oelschlagler, a job applicant who has an accounting background. "I've gained some positive feedback from the companies here and I'll just keep looking," she said.

Many of the potential employees are just hopeful for an opportunity. "Times are hard right now and I'll work for whoever decides to give me a job," said job seeker Leroy Taylor. All the companies at the fair are military friendly and target many transitioning or former military personnel.

"We've seen a lot of promising people here today and our company really promotes trying to hire transitioning military," said Maureen Boyette, NCI Information Systems, Inc. With a qualified skill set in such high demand for many careers, the University of Phoenix was on hand to encourage the job applicants to seek an educational route.

"We operate online and have campuses in Philadelphia and Jersey City," said Tony Bell, Northeast region military education liaison, University of Phoenix. "We offer a military discount up to 25 percent off and tuition assistance. Military personnel usually make great students because they tend to have that instilled great discipline within them," he said.

For more information or to apply for a job at the aforementioned companies or others listed on the site, log on to civilian-jobs.com.

(Ryan Morton may be reached for comment at ryan.morton@us.army.mil.)



Ryan Morton

RESUME READY -- Prospective job candidate Pequerot Gedeon talks to Maureen Boyette and Jim Sweeney, NCI Information Systems, Inc., at a job fair held at Club Dix, May 14.



Jennifer Chupko

Troops celebrate Asian-Pacific Island heritage

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Oliver gets into the hula spirit during the Watson Medical Support Element Asian-Pacific Island heritage celebration held at the Main Chapel May 15. The event featured colorful dancing, heart-felt music, a lively cultural-inspired speech and plenty of food. Guest speaker Chong Kyu Kim, a Korean-American, spoke on a variety of topics related to the hardships created by the language barriers between his native Korean and American English. Other highlights of the celebration included Hula dancers who handed out leis, a Tae kwon do presentation, Origami and an international smorgasbord that featured Chinese sweet and sour chicken, sushi and macaroni and cheese.

Simulator demonstrates drunk driving dangers

Sgt. Antony Dahab, a motor sergeant in the 2nd Training Support Battalion, 309th Regiment, tests his skills behind the wheel of the Save A Life Tour DUI simulator, as part of driver's awareness training at the Timmermann Center May 14. Matt Kwant, one of the simulator facilitators, helped Soldiers by giving suggestions and making them aware of the changes that happen as alcohol impairs their judgement. Accidents caused by driving under the influence are a leading cause in fatalities among Soldiers.



Sgt. Nicole Dykstra, 72nd FA Bde.

Change on menu

(continued from page 1)

The ICE winner for the 2nd quarter of Fiscal Year 09 is a member of the Directorate for Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS) headed up by Dennis Bush, none other than the Training Support Center's (TSC) Doug Satterfield and Bob Stodnick.

Satterfield has served as a Reserve Officer in the war zone for at least two tours during recent years. He was a distinguished former member of the 1079th Garrison Support Unit, Fort Dix's mainstay do-it-all unit for about a decade.

After ICE award recipients basked in the limelight, Molly Libby from PAIO took over, giving a succinct review of what the upcoming Organizational Self Assessment (OSA) is designed to accomplish. Col. Thaxton called the OSA an important tool "showing us how to get better."

The purpose of OSA is to let Team Dix know what we are doing right as well as where we can improve. The survey is an Army tool that enhances communication and helps to establish organizational priorities.

Col. Thaxton then gave a Joint Basing update, calling upon Beverly Wozniak, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, to handle technical questions within the realm of her expertise. Several questions dealt with the chain of command, i.e., who had authority to order what and the colonel repeated that the date of the new order wasn't until October and things would proceed as usual until then.

The colonel thoroughly reviewed progress by different sections on Post in meeting change guidelines initiated by the Joint Partnership Council. The following changes were noteworthy:

- In the Chapel ministries,

- two Army civilian employees are slated to transfer to McGuire AFB. Changes for customers involve chapel tithes and offerings.

- Security Services did not resolve all "friction points" and transfer plan is in limbo. The 87th ABW commander decided to immediately stand up the Installation Security Council with reporting requirements to the JPC.

- Under Advisory Services, Drug Testing, Fort Dix will transfer funds, not positions. McGuire Drug Demand Reduction Program will assume responsibility for testing Fort Dix civilians and will assume

routed through 87th ABW/PA.

- Changes for customers using Custodial Services will involve different categories of service (prestige, administrative, industrial, medical, etc.) and future contracts will utilize new Air Force templates which comply with Joint Base Common Output Levels (COLS).

- Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) changes do not apply to personnel executing a Temporary Change of Station (TCS). Army Permanent Party UH members will be assigned from McGuire UH Office. A change for customers involves Army Permanent Party UH may be assigned rooms on McGuire pending space availability.

- Three Fort Dix civilian positions transfer to Joint Base in the Postal Services.

Col. Thaxton reiterated that it was important for civilian workers transferring to Air Force-controlled jobs to update their resumes as resumes retain high importance in the Air Force scheme of personnel affairs, relating to promotions or job opportunities. And Wozniak reviewed CPAC procedures which will be followed to review changes wrought by Joint Basing.

Dennis Bush then gave a very brief review of a training and mobilization update which bodes for a busy summer. He was followed by Staff Judge Advocate's Capt. Nicholas Mitchell's briefing on living wills and related personnel forms.

A vigorous preview of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's list of summer events was given by Robert Vogt followed by still another question and answer session directed by Col. Thaxton at the end of the day's business.

Leaving Timmermann, one was reminded of Robert F. Kennedy's adage, "The future is not a gift; it is an achievement." At Fort Dix, it also looks like hard work.

The purpose of OSA is to let Team Dix know what we are doing right as well as where we can improve. The survey is an Army tool that enhances communication and helps to establish organizational priorities.

oversight for Lakehurst military testing.

- The Army Inspector General (IG) will continue to work Army mission or personnel complaints and will transfer installation support complaints to the AF IG.

- Lodging will change its way of doing business by utilizing new software, initiating central reservations, and by having CC (Air Force Command) inspections which will occur annually. Changes for customers involve different rates (lower at Fort Dix, higher at Lakehurst) and the elimination of the continental breakfast at Fort Dix. Col. Thaxton said he couldn't buck the other services on that one because Dix alone offered the breakfast.

- In Public Affairs, three Army positions will be transferred to McGuire on Oct. 1 and all inquiries related to installation-specific activities will be

SPORTS

Runners compete in 10-mile race

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

More than 80 military personnel and civilians ran through the morning fog in the Fort Dix Armed Forces Ten Mile Run at Infantry Park May 16.

The sponsor of the event, Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, raised more than \$1,500 dollars from entry fees and race officials were very satisfied with the turnout.

"It was a great turn-out and we were very fortunate the weather held up and it wasn't too hot," said Floyd Winter, Fort Dix athletic director.

"It was a great joint installation team effort with Fort Dix, McGuire, and Lakehurst in helping put this event on," he said.

T-shirts were given out to all the running participants and medals were awarded to the top male and female overall and age-group category finishers.

"I thought this was a great race. It was organized well and the volunteers who helped out did a great job," said overall first place female finisher, Malene Duncan, who came down from Brooklyn, N.Y. to participate.

"I definitely hope to come back next year and race again," she said.

The top three overall male finishers were Dan Taylor with a time of 1:02:28, Matthew Moore with a time of 1:02:50, and Philip Lozada with a time of 1:05:07.

The top three overall female finishers were Malene Duncan with a time of 1:13:41, Shannon McGinn with a time of 1:15:52, and Kristina Pachman with a time of 1:16:40.

The top three male finishers

age 18 to 29 were Matthew Moore with a time of 1:02:50, Ali Saufimat with a time of 1:11:23, and Eugene Gelfgat with a time of 1:17:56.

The top three female finishers age 18-29 were Shannon Gaffney with a time of 1:19:11, Maria Mendez with a time of 1:26:37 and Jessica Spivey with a time of 1:29:16.

The top three male finishers age 30-39 were Dan Taylor with a time of 1:02:28, Philip Lozada with a time of 1:05:07, and Matthew Schaad with a time of 1:05:34.

The top three female finishers age 30-39 were Malene Duncan with a time of 1:13:41, Shannon McGinn with a time of 1:15:52, and Kristina Pachman with a time of 1:16:40.

The top three male finishers age 40-49 were Beaugywn Sandor with a time of 1:29:18, Julie Astrachan with a time of 1:32:11, and Dawn Frazee with a time of 1:33:29.

The top three male finishers age 50-59 were Jose Vera with a time of 1:12:36, Anthony Geneva with a time of 1:13:25, and Lito Fine with a time of 1:19:13.

The top three male finishers age 60 or over were John Thomas with a time of 1:29:42, James Bergum with a time of 1:33:20, and Dick Heuser with a time of 1:35:09.

There were no female participants in the 50-59 or 60 or over age groups.

(Ryan Morton may be reached for comment at ryan.morton@us.army.mil.)



photos by Ryan Morton

AND THEY'RE OFF -- Participants in the Fort Dix Armed Forces 10-Mile Run kick off the race the morning of May 16 at Infantry Park, where more than 80 runners competed.



LEADING THE PACK -- Dan Taylor led the males with a time of 1:02:28 and Malene Duncan led the females with a time of 1:13:41.

'Lil Bit' lifts All-Army women to hoops glory



Tim Hippi

GOING FOR IT -- Sgt. Shamyra "Lil Bit" Daigle of Fort Bragg, N.C., goes for a steal against All-Navy's Tysheka Simpson during All-Army's 74-70 victory over tournament champion All-Navy in the 2009 Armed Forces Basketball Championships May 16 at Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn. The All-Army team finished tourney play with a 3-3 record.

Tim Hippi
FMWRG Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Sgt. Shamyra "Lil Bit" Daigle brought the biggest game to the All-Army women's 74-70 victory over All-Navy in the 2009 Armed Forces Basketball Championships May 16 at Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

Daigle, who insists that she measures all of 60 inches and 105 pounds, seemingly played larger than a 5-foot guard against women from the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps who were head-and-shoulders taller.

"We call her Lil Bit," All-Army women's coach Capt. Mark Knight said. "She's five-foot-nothing. They tower over her. She's probably 4-11-and-some-change, but that Soldier is solid and full of intestinal fortitude. If Lil Bit sees somebody two-thirds of the way up the court, she will make it her sole goal to catch up and steal that ball from behind. You've just got to unleash her and let her go."

"She's the best defensive point guard I've ever seen. I've never seen anybody who can track down people that well. She's lightning fast."

Throughout the six-day tournament, Knight employed Daigle against the opponents'

best offensive threat at guard, regardless of size.

Lil Bit converted two steals into breakaway layups that helped All-Army maintain control midway through the second half against All-Navy, followed by a nifty assist at breakneck speed off another fast break.

"I'm like faster than the ball," said Daigle, 24, a native of Lafayette, La., who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. "So it's just about me controlling myself when I get the ball."

Spc. Aquanita Burras, another guard from Fort Bragg who played for the University of Kansas, led All-Army against All-Navy with a game-high 27 points.

Capt. Caitlin Chiaromonte, 29, who played collegiately for Richmond and Fordham, professionally for three teams overseas, and is now stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., had 16 points and 12 rebounds. Pfc. Theais Edmonds, one of Daigle's teammates on Fort Bragg's post-level team, added 15 points and 13 rebounds. But when push came to shove and All-Navy guard Erica Boutry squared up for a potential game-tying 3-pointer in the waning seconds, Daigle dashed in seemingly from nowhere and cleanly blocked the shot.

"You don't expect that kind of electricity and lightning coming out of someone so small. And when you see it, you're in awe."

Daigle has heard it all before – things like "She ain't nothing but three feet, why you let her just go straight to the hole?" and "you can't stop her, just stuff like that," she said.

During training camp, the All-Army women played against

three pro-am teams – the New York Gazelles, Baltimore Stars and D.C. Blue Streak – and split a pair of games with the Washington Area Military Athletic Conference All-Stars.

"We played three solid games in New York City the last weekend before coming here," Knight said. "So I felt very confident in what we had."

The All-Army team then headed to Tennessee to take on the best from its sister services. They wound up in third place with a 3-3 record. Although they defeated All-Marine Corps twice, their highlight was the Saturday night victory over host All-Navy.

"It really probably didn't change our outcome in the tournament standings, but it definitely can change theirs," Chiaromonte said of All-Navy, which won its second consecutive Armed Forces title with a 70-62 victory over All-Air Force on Sunday. "It's nice to be able to come in here and make some noise and lift this tournament up."

Daigle, Chiaromonte, Burras and Staff Sgt. Tarina Lloyd of Ansbach, Germany, were selected to represent All-Army on the All-Armed Forces team, scheduled to compete Aug. 7-9 at the Tournament of the Stars Basketball Classic in Lake Charles, La.

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 of all levels.

The class includes running, military-style calisthenics and drill exercises, cardio kick boxing and more.

Call 562-4888 for more information.

Monday Night Volleyball is here

The Monday Night Volleyball season is about to kick off on Fort Dix June 1. Sign-ups are on going and the league is open to everyone with a military, dependent, or government I.D. Call 562-4888 for more info.

Youth Sports Returns to Fort Dix

Youth Sports clinics will kick off this summer for children of all ages starting July 6 and running through the end of August. Morning and afternoon basic skills clinics will be offered in various sports including baseball, softball, flag football, volleyball, and soccer.

Each class will run for one week at a time in the morning or afternoon and will cost \$35 each. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, call Child Youth Services at 562-6296. You can also call Youth Sports with any questions at 562-2819.

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.
Islamic Prayer Room
Open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Room 24
Chapel 5
Bldg. 5950 Church Street
Protestant, Catholic, Latter Day Saints
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.
Open for prayer
Monday through Friday
Islamic Prayer Room
Jewish Prayer Room
If Chapel is closed call 562-2311 to schedule a time for prayer
NCO Academy
Protestant Field Service - Bldg. 5516 Texas Ave.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
COL - Chaplain's tent
Hour of Power Protestant
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
McGuire
754-4673
Sunday Services
Contemporary
9:45 a.m. Chapel 2
Gospel
11:15 a.m. Chapel 1
Religious Activities
Christian Men of the Chapel
Prayer Breakfast - Fourth Saturday of each month 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Christian Women of the Chapel
Meets every Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Dix Main Chapel and the fourth Tuesday at Buttonwood Hospital.

**Read
The Post!**

ACS

562-2767
Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue
Calendar of Events
Tuesday, May 26
Hearts Apart
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ACS
Stress Management
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
SFAC
Wednesday, May 27
10 Steps to Financial Success Seminar
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
ACS
Friday, May 29
International Spouse Group
11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ACS
Fountain Green Golf Course
Commander's Cup Golf Tournament, third Wednesdays
Sign up today. Call 562-5443
Mulligan's Restaurant and the **19th Hole** sports bar are open for refreshments before, after or with no golf.
Visit the well stocked Pro-Shop. Gift certificates are available. Call 562-6071

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.

Fort Dix Thrift Shop

5105 Pennsylvania Ave.
723-2638
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.
Volunteers needed.

FMWR presents

CLUB DIX
723-3272
Club Dix Hours of Operation
Java Café
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Smokehouse Restaurant
Lunch Served
Tuesday through Friday
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saturday through Monday
Closed
Blue Room
Wednesday
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Thursday through Saturday
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday through Tuesday
Closed
Computer Lab
Monday and Tuesday
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday
Noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Outdoor Equipment Rental Center
Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Coming Events
Dennis Ross and Friends Comedy Show - June 12
Club Dix 8 p.m. \$8
4th of July Celebration
Fireworks headlined by R&B Grammy Award winner John Legend
Hot August Night Wine and Jazz Festival at Club Dix - August 14
A night of good wine and smooth jazz greats: Eugene Groove, Jeff Golub, Jeff Lorber and Jesse J. Tickets are \$24
Details to come
Commander's Cup Golf Tournaments at Fountain Green Golf Course
Third Wednesday of every month. Scramble formats with a different theme each month. Noon shotgun start.
Call 562-2043 for information and registration.

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.
Hearts Apart
Come in and paint a heart for the service member close to your heart. Free.
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.
Contemporary Ceramics & Mosaic Studio
The Contemporary Ceramics Studio offers a large selection of bisque pieces to choose from to decorate and paint. All finished pieces are food, microwave, oven, freezer, and dishwasher safe.
There are lots of idea books, traceable designs, tools, and an experienced staff to help create a finished piece you will love.
Mosaics are a great way to express yourself with colorful glass. From mirrors to wall plaques, there are many items to make as gifts or add pizzazz to your home décor.
Just come in, pick out a piece, and the staff will help with the rest.
There is no time limit on completing a project, so relax and enjoy the friendly, creative atmosphere for as long as you like.
Create-A-Critter
Adorable Critters to stuff yourself! It's easy and fun. Chose from an assortment of Critters: Bears, Puppies, Unicorns, Frogs, Tigers and a whole lot more. You can even add an outfit. Create your own designs for T-shirts and canvas backpacks. Stop in today and have tons of fun stuffing your very own plush animal to take home.

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

Community News

Spring Planting Supplies:
Flower vouchers, mulch, topsoil, and grass seed are available. Supplies will be available during normal business hours. Normal operating hours return May 30.

Stay Cool at the Pool:
The McGuire Pool will have its 2009 grand opening on Saturday, May 23 and be open seven days per week from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Sept. 7 for residents of United Communities Only.
Rockin' Raft Nights pool
Tuesdays from 5 pm to 8 pm beginning June 23. Ages 12-18 only. Rafts, water basketball, water polo, pizza, and teenage rock n' roll.
Movie nights will be every other Tuesday.

Trash Schedule:

Wednesday
Fort Dix 1200s, older 1500s and 1600s - Including quarters 201, 502, and 1900
McGuire AFB 4000s, 4200s

Recycling Schedule:

Thursday, May 7 and 21 and June 4 and 18
Attention Residents in Compactor Areas: Please make sure when disposing of trash, it is placed inside the compactor. Please do not put trash on the ground or on top of the compactor. The compactor will run automatically when the door is opened. Place trash inside and close/lock the door.
Bulk Trash: As a reminder, we do not pick up bulk items. Take all bulk items to the compactor.

Moving & Landscaping Schedule:

Mondays
Fort Dix: Mahlenbrock, Aneiros 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

Announcing A very exciting Bible School
Come join in the fun and adventure and discover the 10 Commandments! Travel back in time to exciting places that will help you understand God's Word.

Visit a Mayan jungle, a medieval castle, an ancient laboratory, a Native American village, and a Hawaiian volcano. Dive into fun games, meaningful activities, Bible memory, cool crafts and creative snacks.



Children aged three to 14 are invited to join this very exciting Bible school program.
Fort Dix Main Chapel -
July 13 through 17, 9 a.m. to noon.
Call 562-2020 for more information





photos by Wayne Cook and Sgt. Nicole Dykstra

BIKES, BIKERS AND SNOOPY – The Nam Knights, a military veteran and law enforcement club with chapters across the country, joined nearly 1,300 other riders and braved the weather to show their support for the military. Proceeds from the Armed Forces Freedom Ride (AFFR) benefited the Burlington County Military Affairs Committee and the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation of Philadelphia, above. Members show off their colors before embarking on the 3rd annual AFFR May 17, right. Riders arrived at Fort Dix around noon and proceeded to John Mann Park, above. Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, and Col. Gina Grosso, commander, 8th Air Base Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, were on hand at John Mann Park, and enjoyed a visit from Snoopy, above right.



Bikers unite to support freedom

Capt. Antonia Greene
72nd FA Bde., PAO

Overcast skies did little to dampen the spirits of nearly 1,000 veterans, supporters, and service members who gathered at Barb's Harley Davidson in West Collingswood Heights, for the third annual Armed Forces Freedom Ride (AFFR), May 17. The event benefits the Burlington County Military Affairs Committee (BCMCA) and the U.S. Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation of Philadelphia. BCMCA helps provide assistance to military personnel in times of financial or personal need. The organization fosters silent partnerships with the leaders of Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base, and is committed to annual fund raising and hosting military appreciation dinners and pizza parties for

troops being deployed or returning from duty abroad. BCMCA also provides phone cards to service members deployed throughout the world, donations of bicycles and helmets to dependent children of military personnel, and arranges for local Medal of Honor recipients to visit with and eat with the troops. Last year, the AFFR raised more than \$45,000 for charity. The U.S. Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation of Philadelphia received half of that money and continues to help make a positive impact on many young lives and families that have been affected by the tragic loss of a parent. The foundation helps provide funding for educational scholarships benefiting children of military and law enforcement personnel whom have made the ultimate sacrifice. This year's AFFR sponsors included: MetLife, Bryn Mawr,

United Services Organization, PNC Bank, and United Communities, to name a few. Individual riders were encouraged to donate \$30 to benefit the two charities and participate in the 32-mile trek from West Collingswood Heights to McGuire AFB and Fort Dix. Active duty personnel were exempt from the fee; however, many service members donated anyway. "It's a great cause – to support our brothers and sisters in arms, both past and present together," said Staff Sgt. Cameron Eichen, 3rd Battalion, 312th Training Support Regiment, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, stationed at Fort Dix. "I'm riding with about three or four from my unit; it's about giving back, esprit de corps and building camaraderie." Eichen and several other service members rode in their military duty uniforms. Eichen's bike, a Harley purchased at Barb's back in February, sports the Department of the Army crest on the clutch cover. Staff Sgt. Joseph Librecht, 2nd Battalion, 312th Training Support Regiment, was glad to see supporters turn out despite the inclement weather. "It is nice to see the civilian support for the Armed Forces is strong around here, and the police and fire departments, all helping to make the ride possible and raise money for service members and their families," said Librecht. Event organizer, Sue Manuel, and Barb Borowicz, dealership owner, expressed their gratitude for the AFFR supporters and men and women in uniform. They thanked Fort Dix, the Burlington County Military Affairs Committee, the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation of Philadelphia and everyone involved in the planning, preparation and execution of the AFFR. Prior to departing, event organizers presented retired Marine Corps Col. Harvey C. Barnum, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient from Cheshire, Conn., with a custom leather Harley Davidson jacket embellished with the AFFR logo and Medal of Honor patches. "This morning is an outward showing of your undying patriotism, but the event wouldn't be possible without the men and women who protect this great nation," said Barnum. "So I'd like to dedicate this ride to the men and women who are serving in harm's way around the world." Barnum earned the 1st Marine Corps Vietnam Campaign Medal of Honor as a first lieutenant, for his actions on Dec. 18, 1965. With just two weeks on ground, Barnum assumed command of his displaced company after its commander was killed in action.



STARTING POINT – A rider prepares to depart on the 3rd annual Armed Forces Freedom Ride May 17. Rain and clouds aside, nearly 1,300 veterans, supporters, and service members participated in the 32-mile ride from Barb's Harley Davidson in West Collingswood Heights, N.J., to Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base.



photos by Sgt. Nicole Dykstra

GEARED UP – Retired Marine Corps Col. Harvey C. Barnum, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient from Cheshire, Conn., speaks to riders at Barb's Harley Davidson in West Collingswood Heights, N.J., before the 3rd annual Armed Forces Freedom Ride, May 17. Prior to departing on the 32-mile ride to Fort Dix, event organizers presented Barnum with a custom leather jacket embellished with the AFFR logo and a Medal of Honor patch.

Under a barrage of fire, he removed the radio from the dead operator and called for medical evacuation while skillfully directing a successful counter-attack on a key enemy position. The AFFR stretched an estimated three miles along Black Horse Pike traveling east. State and local police helped divert traffic and manage the onramps as fellow drivers honked their horns in support and pedestrians cheered and waved from an above overpass. The procession came to an end after roaring down the airstrip on McGuire Air Force Base just after noon. The unofficial 1,300 participants, many joining the ranks along the ride route, circled John Mann Park & Doughboy Field, lining the large parking lot adjacent to the 5900 block on Fort Dix. The riders were greeted by the patriotic tunes of the Star Spangled Banner performed by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turner, Mobilization Readiness Battalion, and Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, welcomed the supporters and expressed his appreciation to the riders. He encouraged the visitors to take advantage of the activities available on Fort Dix and partake in the festivities co-hosted by Barb's and Fort Dix Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR).

Col. Gina Grosso, commander, 8th Air Base Wing, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, also took the podium, recounting Barnum's biography and thanking the AFFR participants. "I cannot state how much the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines appreciate what you do for our men and women in uniform. You are great community partners with the military," said Grosso. Barnum again spoke to the freedom riders, sharing his story and patriotic rhetoric with the crowd. "It was 44 years ago that this young lieutenant got to lead great Marines and Corpsmen... It was a day when they came together as a team and beat 10-1 odds," said Barnum. Congressman John Adler, 3rd District, N.J., also joined the festivities and offered his appreciation to the AFFR. "The motorcycle riders are among some of the most patriotic Americans you could ever meet – they turn out time after time to support our troops, their families and our veterans," said Adler. "Many Americans forget we are fighting two wars to keep us safe at home. These freedom rides are a great reminder to all Americans about the sacrifices our troops and their families make in the name of freedom."

Just prior to the arrival of the big bikes, some 140 plus shiny red, white and blue pedal bicycles were awarded to deserving military kids. BAE Systems headquartered in Wayne, partnered with Fort Dix FMWR, held its annual bike give-away while the AFFR was well on its way. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Gonzalez, newly assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade Logistics section, was most thankful for the bicycle donations to his family. "Coming from Hawaii at my last assignment, it was blessing to have been the recipient of these bikes here at Dix. My kids, the two older boys and the twins are really grateful," said Gonzalez. On a day when many people wouldn't consider going for a ride, these supporters did just that, and nothing short of a full-out cook-out Jersey-style barbecue featuring hot dogs, grilled chicken and all the fixings was quickly consumed by the riders, whose spirits weren't dampened by the weather. And off they went, one, two at a time, others in groups and small convoys, back home to our military-friendly communities; stronger together.