

## NEWSNOTES

### Help available for VA claims

VA representatives will be available July 9, to assist with VA claims processing. They will go over medical records, certify those records if necessary, and assist with the completion of the application. Contact the Retirement Services Officer, Fay Marshall-Dease, to schedule an appointment with the VA reps, (609)562-2666 or send an e-mail to fay.marshall.dease@us.army.mil.

### Independence Day festival this weekend

Fort Dix is welcoming home the New Jersey National Guard with a bigger-than-ever July Fourth Celebration!

Doughboy Field will be the site for two days of family entertainment and fun. On July 3, enjoy performances by the Grammy nominated punk pop sensations, Plain White Ts, Army Entertainment band "USA Express" and others.

Then on July 4, R&B artists Musiq Soulchild, Chrissette Michele and Trey Songz will perform before a phenomenal fireworks display.

Both days are free and open to the public. Visitors without valid military or civilian IDs should use either the Wrightstown gate or soccer/activity gate. Shuttle busses will be available to transport guests on July 4 only.

Visit [www.dixmwr.com](http://www.dixmwr.com) for more information.

### New hours for ID cards

The ID Card Facility hours of operations have changed.

The Hemingway Visitor's Center new hours of operations: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., location: Bldg. 2270 Route 68, & ID Card Facility, Bldg. 5418 (Room 125) Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monthly Saturday hours of operation for the remainder of fiscal year: July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 12 with operating hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Vets' personnel records available online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his or her DD-214 for employment purposes.

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

## Weather

**FRIDAY -- Mainly sunny with a few afternoon clouds. Daytime high 82, with an overnight low of 62.**

**SATURDAY -- Sunny. High temperature of 80, with a low of 60.**

**SUNDAY -- Bright sun. Daytime high of 82, with lows dropping to 63.**

**MONDAY -- Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s, with lows around 60.**

**TUESDAY -- Mostly sunny. High temperatures reaching 81, with a low of 62.**

**WEDNESDAY -- Partly cloudy. High temp of 79, with a low of 63. Slight chance of rain.**

**THURSDAY -- Partly cloudy. High of 82. Low of 63.**

# Dix welcomes new commander



Ryan Morton

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD -- Fort Dix bids farewell to Col. Ronald Thaxton, left, who served as installation commander for the past two years. With Thaxton's departure, Col. Patrick Slowey, center, takes the helm in a ceremony held on Doughboy Field June 30. Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis, Fort Dix command sergeant major, stands at right. Also a part of the ceremony is Russell B. Hall, Director, Northeast Region Installation Management Command. See more photos on page 4.**

## Program helps grieving families

Jennifer McCarthy  
Public Affairs Staff

It is the situation every Soldier's family dreads the most—a chaplain and a casualty assistance officer arrive at the door to inform the family that their loved one has made the ultimate sacrifice. Casualty assistance officers, as well as other Army services, help the family through the first 180 days of learning the news.

But grief does not follow a timetable, and unresolved issues and questions may arise months or years after a loss. Recognizing this, the Army has recently launched a new program that aims to provide continued support for families of fallen Soldiers.

The Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) program is a holistic and multi-agency approach that offers continued support to families who have lost a servicemember. SOS provides a team of professionals who can supply information about benefits and financial counseling as well as providing bereavement support resources.

SOS is available for families of fallen servicemembers whose service dates as far back as World War II.

Services provided by SOS include financial planning for next of kin, coordination of Veterans and education benefits, social services and bereavement information to include support group and counseling referrals.

"It is the single greatest sacrifice a family has made, and as a member of the Army family, it is a most crucial time for them to know that we care," said Maureen Genuardi, SOS coordinator.

In addition to services offered by SOS, Army Community Services is hosting a grief recovery workshop. This six-week workshop begins Aug. 3, and meets at Building 5209 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This program is geared towards anyone who has experienced loss whether in the form of the death of a loved one, divorce or the end of a relationship, loss of a career, loss of a substance dependency, loss of trust, loss of dreams, loss of health or loss of security.

The program helps participants resolve their issues and move beyond their grief to have a richer quality of life.

All SOS and grief recovery services are free and confidential.

For more information about SOS or the grief recovery workshop call Maureen Genuardi at 562-3797.

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Col. Patrick Slowey replaced Col. Ronald R. Thaxton as commanding officer of Fort Dix in a change of command ceremony held Tuesday morning, June 30, at Doughboy Field.

Slowey becomes the 92nd commanding officer (including interim and temporary appointments) of Fort Dix since Camp Dix began training doughboys for duty in World War I in 1917.

The post has fallen under the U.S. Army Reserve Command since 1997, with its mission as a power projection platform greatly expanded since 9/11. Since that time, more than 153,000 Soldiers have mobilized and demobilized through Fort Dix in support of the Global War on Terrorism, a record unmatched by any other military installation in America.

Although its mission won't change, Fort Dix will join McGuire AFB and the Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst in a streamlined Joint Base with property and funds transferring to Air Force control on Oct. 1 of this year.

But Tuesday's 55-minute ceremony concerned the Fort Dix chain of command with Installation Deputy Commander Lt. Col. William Ayers acting as commander of troops. Other participating units included the 10th Mountain Division Band, fresh from Fort Drum, N.Y. They were commanded by Chief Warrant Officer Three William McCulloch, who was aided by his drum major, Sgt. Christopher Lawrence. First Lt. Kenneth L. Tenbro led a contingent force representing Mobilization and Demobilization Soldiers from Fort Dix. NCO Academy and Trainers at Dix were ably commanded and represented by Sgt. Maj. McClinton Brown. Maj. Denise Wurzbach brought along some Soldiers representing Fort Dix, too, along with the installation color guard putting Dix's best foot forward.

Chief Air Control man Donovan Davis stood in front of the line with other members of the U.S. Navy's delegation, which was composed of Sailors from Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station and the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center at Fort Dix. Representatives from the United States Air Force included Airmen from McGuire Air Force Base, commanded by Capt. (continued on page 4)

### Command changes abound

• Lt. Col. Thomas M. Shabazz accepted both flag and command of the 2nd Bn. Training Support (TS) 312th Regiment, Combat Support/Combat Sustainment Support (CS/CSS) of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, in a ceremony held on Sharp Field June 27.

• Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 315th Field Artillery welcomed Lt. Col. Troy J. Ramirez as their new commander June 27.

(See stories, photos on page 4.)

## Army combatives class teaches defense, fitness

Sgt. Ryan Twist  
139th MPAD

The open gym door leads to individuals wrestling around on the mat inside. The sweat drips from their faces as they flow through the movements of each practice exercise. Soldiers grapple and move with little hesitation as they listen to shouted instructions.

The instructors of the Modern Army Combatives Program at Fort Dix were busy training Soldiers June 24, to be the "Ultimate Weapon." Many of these Soldiers will soon be deploying overseas. "It's similar to the Marine Corps program except they start standing up and we start from the ground," said Spc. James Lindsey, a combatives instructor who deployed to Iraq with the 175th Infantry Battalion, 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Maryland from 2007 to 2009.

Lindsey said the program is based on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He also stated the program is beneficial because it gives Soldiers alternate tools to use during a hostile encounter with little or no access to conventional weapons. It can also be used for physical fitness or a confidence builder, said Lindsey.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Beach, also an

instructor, said MACP teaches level one combatives, a 40-hour class that starts Monday at 8 a.m. until Friday afternoon. Times can vary depending on the training, said Beach.

"You begin with a physical training session," said Beach. "Then you do an RPT, which is rotations and stretching. Then your day begins, learning the 17 moves throughout the week. Friday you test out, word for word, on all 17 moves taught. You've got to be able to teach the next Joe underneath you."

Lindsey said the Army is making combatives part of the physical fitness program and starting in 2012, the Army wants all Soldiers to be level one certified.

Beach said the courses are a wonderful thing, and told a story about a fellow instructor who had to use these techniques while deployed overseas. The instructor entered a building with a fellow Soldier and was attacked and taken to the ground. He used his training to subdue his assailant and keep him restrained until help arrived.

"Hand-to-hand combat is definitely a huge thing to learn in the Army," Beach said.

"I think it is a great program. I love it. It forces you to stay in shape. It gives you something to strive for. It's a com-



Sgt. Ryan Twist

**FIT TO FIGHT -- Spc. James Lindsey, orange shirt, an instructor for the Modern Army Combatives Program, watches servicemembers June 24 as they learn hand-to-hand fighting techniques at Fort Dix.**

petition form that transcends easily onto the battlefield. Competition breeds excellence and that's what we're striving for," said Lindsey.

The exhausted and sweaty Soldiers gather around the instructors who

choose two individuals to enter the ring they have formed. These two students serve as training aids, their movements studied and critiqued. Everyone watches the Soldiers in the middle closely, knowing they will be next.

heritage

# Saluting the Spirit of '76



Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

Automobile baron Henry Ford said that "history is bunk." But philosopher George Santayana claimed that those who ignore the past are condemned to repeat its mistakes.

Who's right? David McCullough, author of several best-selling popular histories ranging from the building of the Panama Canal to the Johnstown flood, observes "The laws we live by, the freedoms we enjoy, the institutions that we take for granted... are all the work of other people who went before us." We celebrate the accomplishments of many of those people tomorrow, July 4th, on the 233rd anniversary of the American Republic.

Founding a new country proved a tempestuous affair, as pictures on this page illustrate. Our forefathers were giants but not supermen, patriots who simply tried their best and rose to the occasion time and again, overcoming tremendous obstacles. It's as Ben Franklin said, we've given you "A republic, if you can keep it." We'd stand a better chance of keeping it if we could abandon what McCullough calls "the hubris of the present - the idea that everything we have and everything we do and everything we think is the ultimate, the best."

It's not. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

McCullough suggests, "First of all we have to get across the idea that we have to know who we were if we're to know who we are and where we're headed." For example, "if you've inherited some great work of art that is worth a fortune and you don't know that it's worth a fortune, you don't even know that it's a great work of art and you're not interested in it - you're going to lose it."

We need teachers, in and out of the classroom, who know and love history. Many textbooks and more than a few teachers approach history as if it's a museum piece - dry and lifeless. It's not.

Properly conceived, history is nothing more than a story, a very exciting story, of what happened in the past and why. Like art, music, literature or philosophy, history expands the experience of being alive, which is what education should be largely about.

One could spend a lifetime studying the story or narrative of the wild times, people, events and ideas that shaped the founding of our country.

It's time to get started!



file painting

**"Freedom has been hunted round the globe; reason was considered a rebellion; and the slavery of fear had made men afraid to think. But such is the irresistible nature of truth, that all it asks, and all it wants, is the liberty of appearing."**

- Thomas Paine  
writer & thinker



www.authentichistory.com

**BOSTON TEA PARTY** -- On Dec. 16, 1773, after officials in Boston refused to return three shiploads of taxed tea to Britain, a group of colonists boarded the ships and threw the tea into the Boston harbor. The "Boston Tea Party" was a culmination of protests by the British colonists against the Tea Act which was imposed on the colonists by the mother country and not by the colonists' own representatives. "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry of protest within the 13 colonies in 1773 and joined a list of many other grievances the colonists held against the crown. Three years later, revolution ignited.



J.S. Copley, Wikimedia

**RABBLE ROUSER** -- Samuel Adams was a statesman, politician, and a founding father of the United States. He was an architect of American Republicanism that helped shape the country's political culture. Adams agitated for a revolt against England after deciding the mother country no longer had the colonies' best interests at heart.



Frederick Yohn at Art.com

**VALLEY FORGE** -- Gen. George Washington stoically salutes one of his men in the snow at Valley Forge. After the Battle of White Marsh in 1777, Washington wanted to move his men to a secure location for the winter. He chose Valley Forge, 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia, a site close enough to keep track of the British but far enough away to avoid surprise attacks. On Dec. 19, 1777 Washington's poorly-fed and ill-equipped army arrived at Valley Forge, 12,000 strong. Within six weeks log cabins were completed for everyone. But the winter proved brutal that year. Snow was not heavy but alternately froze and melted, making it impossible for soldiers to keep dry and ideal for diseases to fester. Food was scarce, too. Washington complained "that unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place... the army must inevitably... starve, dissolve or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence..." Typhoid, jaundice, dysentery and pneumonia were rampant, killing as many as 2,000 men. But the men, inspired perhaps by their leader, hung tough. Survivors may have figured that if Valley Forge couldn't kill them then nothing could. And General Washington had set a damn good example.



www.britishbattles.com

**LIVE FREE OR DIE** -- Brig. Gen. John Stark leads the New Hampshire Militia, including some Green Mountain Boys, against Hessians (German mercenaries) fighting for the British in the Battle of Bennington (Vermont) on August 16, 1777, which was part of the Saratoga campaign. "There are your enemies, the Red Coats and Tories. They are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow," the flinty New Englander told his men. Stark's minutemen carried the day, handing Gen. John Burgoyne the first major defeat a British general suffered during the war. A veteran of Rogers Rangers in the French and Indian War, Stark also distinguished himself in the Battle of Bunker and Breed Hills in Boston. In a letter to friends shortly before he died Stark advised them to "live free or die." That became New Hampshire's motto in 1945. It was the creed Stark lived by.



www.usmilitary.com

**BIRTH PANGS** -- When Gen. Washington seized three vessels flying the British flag near Massachusetts in October 1775, Congress decided to add a few more ships to America's armada. But our fledgling naval force was still hesitant in tangling with the Royal Navy, reputed to be the world's finest at that time. At one point during the Revolutionary War our Navy had 24 ships, at another time only two but we produced sailors the like of John Paul Jones. The Navy was disbanded for a short time after the war but became established again with the commissioning of three ships in 1797.



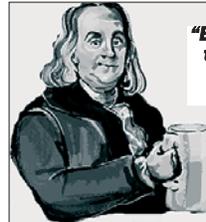
www.currierandives.info

**HARDY BREED** -- Mary Ludwig Hays was a camp follower who accompanied her husband John, a member of the 1st Pennsylvania Artillery, into the Monmouth campaign in New Jersey in 1778. During the battle Mary supplied water to the troops earning the name of "Molly Pitcher" from grateful parched throats. When Mary's husband was wounded, she assumed his duties assisting the other artillerymen in the company. Thus began the tradition of hard-nosed female pioneers, capable of fighting for their families and country without neglecting any of the feminine virtues. Shortly after the war ended Mary's husband died and her second marriage didn't last long. She supported herself with grants from the new government but never received a full pension. But like her sisters-in-arms Deborah Sampson and Margaret Cochran Corbin, Molly Pitcher set the standard for patriotism.



Jone Johnson Lewis, About.com

**GRAND OLD FLAG** -- Philadelphiaian Betsy Ross is credited with making the first American flag. Legend has it that George Washington himself asked her to sew the "stars and stripes." Born a Quaker, Betsy nursed both American and British soldiers after the Battle of Germantown even though she had joined the "Fighting Quakers" who supported the colonial rebels and American independence.



**"Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."**

- Ben Franklin  
a founding father & philosopher

## the Post

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# 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 15-21 Jun 09.

The abbreviation DoD stands for Department of Defense; NAFD means Not Affiliated with Fort Dix (the subject doesn't live or work here); NCIC stands for National Crime Information Center; DWI means Driving While Intoxicated; CDS means Controlled Drug Substance; POV means Privately Owned Vehicle; MAFB stands for McGuire Air Force Base; USAF EC stands for US Air Force Expeditionary Center; AHCC stands for Ambulatory Health Care Clinic (MAFB); VMHBC stands for Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County; CP# stands for Checkpoint Number.

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

●Police and emergency medical personnel responded to an incident at the VA Clinic. Investigation revealed a civilian, NAFD, had suicidal tendencies. He was transported by ambulance to Lourdes Hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

●While conducting a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Wrightstown Gate, police discovered the vehicle, operated by a civilian NAFD, had expired registration. The subject also could not produce proof of insurance. The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●Police responded to six reports of larceny of private property in the Garden Terrace housing area. Investigation revealed person(s) unknown had entered six unsecured vehicles owned by housing area residents and took property. Investigation continues.

●Police assisted New Hanover police in serving a warrant at bldg 5645. The subject, a Ft Dix civilian employee, was taken into custody without incident.

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

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center police discovered the subject, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license. After determining the subject had driven to the Visitor Center, the subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash on Range Rd. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a soldier assigned to Ft Dix, was struck by a deer. The deer fled into the

woods. There were no reported injuries.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center police discovered the subject, a civilian NAFD, had two outstanding warrants from North Hunterdon and a warrant from Union City. The subject was transported to the police station for processing and then transported to the Buttonwood Female Correction Facility.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center police discovered the subject, a soldier NAFD, was driving alone on learner's permit. He was advised he was not authorized to drive the vehicle alone and instructed to contact the vehicle's registered owner or licensed driver. The subject subsequently drove the vehicle away and was cited for driving while unlicensed and for failure to obey the directions of a police officer.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center police discovered the subject, a civilian NAFD, had an outstanding warrant out of Southampton and six federal warrants. The subject was transported to the police station for processing. Southampton Township was contacted and issued a new court date. The subject was transferred to the custody of the US Marshall Service.

●Police responded to a report of attempted forced entry in the Laurel Hill housing area. Investigation revealed person(s) unknown had attempted to pry the door to a residence. Investigation continues.

●Police responded to a motor vehicle crash in the Burger King parking lot. Investigation revealed a government vehicle, operated by a Ft Dix contract employee, struck another vehicle while backing from a parking space. There were no reported injuries and the vehicles were released to the operators at the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at bldg 5418. Investigation revealed no cause for the alarm.

●Police responded to an incident at Laurel Pond. Investigation revealed several children had been swimming in the pond. They were advised on the prohibition against swimming in the pond.

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

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Range #18. Investigation revealed a fire had started in an electrical panel box. The Fire Department disconnected the electricity, notified DPW, and a work order was initiated.

●There were 2 expired identification cards confiscated during the period.

●There were 13 Magistrate Court Citations issued for violations. DWI incidents remain at 7 for the year.

# Soldiers take cameras to war

Wayne Cook  
Public Affairs Staff

With training nearing completion on Fort Dix, the Soldiers of the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), Illinois Army National Guard, are packing their cameras for the flight to Balad, Iraq.

After spending time on the post honing their warrior skills and practicing their job specialty skills, the Soldiers feel confident they are ready to take on the mission of providing print and broadcast news to military personnel in the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater of operations.

"I absolutely feel confident with the type of training and quality of training that I have received. The trainers have built up my confidence in that I can meet my requirements in all aspects on the mission," said Spc. Brandy Oxford, photojournalist and public affairs specialist with the 139th.

"I feel that for as many Soldiers as the Army has, they do a great job of preparing us to go overseas without fear. I think that is very big. The CLS [Combat Life Saver Course], Humvee rollover training, convoy operations and job specific training have been fantastic. Also the language and cultural awareness training was great so we don't go over to Iraq and totally mess up in front of the populace," she said.

First Lt. Dutch Grove, acting commander of the 139th, was impressed with the caliber of training his unit has received.

"Between our individual war-

rior skills and the collective warrior tasks, the trainers have been outstanding. All of them have recently returned from overseas. They were excited to pass along their knowledge to us to help us be successful. On the logistics side I am very impressed on the amount of time that was spent to help us get ready and everything has gone so smoothly. The MRX [Mission Readiness Exercise] allowed the Soldiers in the unit to do their specific jobs, which allowed us to explore everyone's strengths and utilize them to bring each Soldier's expertise up to standards," Grove said.

For the lieutenant, this will be a return trip to a location he deployed to in the past.

"I think it will be interesting to return to the same base in Iraq. Sometimes the folks back home don't realize that while we are gone we are working all the time. There is time off, but it's not time away," he said.

The Soldiers feel confident and prepared, and are motivated to get the mission underway.

"I'm looking forward to this opportunity. I look forward to working with the Iraqi people and experiencing their culture. I don't think you can truly know what a war is like until you get a taste of it for yourself," said Oxford.

"I'm looking forward to telling the story of the people you never hear about. We're covering the sustainers while we are there — the Soldiers that supply the water and the beans — the folks behind the scenes. I definitely feel prepared to go. I'd go today if I could," said Sgt. Keith VanKlempenberg, also a photo-



Wayne Cook

**EYE ON TARGET** — Spc. Brandy Oxford, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, zooms in on her target as she takes photos at the installation change-of-command ceremony June 30. The 139th is preparing for a mission in Balad, Iraq where they will provide both print and video news of military personnel on the ground.

journalist with the unit.

"I'm very confident heading into theater. Everyone has worked very hard. They are in good spirits with a good sense of humor. We are excited to go and do our jobs. It is not hard to stay motivated when you have the coolest job in the military," Grove said.

## U.S. meets withdrawal deadline, Iraq declares national holiday

John J. Kruzal  
American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON — As the United States completed its withdrawal of combat forces from Iraqi cities in accordance with today's deadline, Baghdad commemorated the milestone with a national holiday.

The departing American brigades and battalions leave behind a significantly smaller contingent of U.S. trainers and advisors in the cities, where Iraqi forces now have primary authority, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said.

The move comes as part of the status of forces agreement between the United States and Iraq.

"A small number of U.S. forces will remain in cities to train, advise, coordinate with Iraqi security forces, as well as enable them to move forward," Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno told reporters at the Pentagon today. The general declined to provide the number of troops to remain, saying that the figure will fluctuate on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, news reports from Baghdad describe Iraqis marking the day with a military parade attended by Iraqi reporters and dignitaries in the international area known as the "Green Zone" at the official monument to an unknown soldier.

Similar celebrations took place around the country in

recent days as the American drawdown from cities neared completion.

A U.S. military video shot yesterday in Baqubah, a city north of the Iraqi capital in Diyala province, shows a parade in which Iraqi police march through a city scene marked by a distinct absence of American boots on the ground.

Since October, the United States has closed or returned to Iraqi authority 150 bases and facilities, including 30 this month. Odierno noted that U.S. troops have been out of most Iraqi cities for the last eight months, with drawdowns over the last few weeks focusing mainly on Mosul and Baghdad.

But today's transfer of responsibility to Iraqi security forces represents a "significant milestone," Odierno said.

"It is a day when Iraqis celebrate as they continue to move towards exercising their full sovereignty," he said. "The Iraqi people should be very proud of the dedication, progress and sacrifice of the Iraqi security forces and the government of Iraq. Their accomplishments in preparing for this day are commendable."

As Iraqis secure the cities, Odierno said, U.S. forces are establishing a layer of defense outside the urban areas, conducting full-spectrum and stability operations alongside Iraqis to eliminate safe havens, crack down on insurgents and stem the flow of foreign fighters. U.S.

forces also will support civil efforts led by the U.S. Embassy, the Iraqi government, and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, he said.

"Our combat forces, partnering with the Iraqi security forces, will secure the belts and borders in an attempt to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries and to limit freedom of movement of insurgents and prevent the facilitation of foreign fighters through the borders," he said.

The United States is committed to full, transparent and continued implementation of the security agreement in a spirit of partnership with the sovereign nation of Iraq, Odierno said. President Barack Obama has announced plans to commence a phased drawdown of U.S. combat brigades from Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010.

As Iraqis celebrate a nationwide holiday highlighting their added responsibility, Americans also can be proud of the efforts by U.S. forces to stabilize Iraq, which last month had the lowest levels of violence since the war began six years ago, the general noted.

"The American people can also be very proud, as well, of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as our civilians, who have worked so hard over the past years — and tirelessly and sacrificed so much in helping the people of Iraq progress towards a peaceful and democratic society," Odierno said.

## Holiday Hours for post activities

Due to Independence Day being celebrated on the installation this weekend some of the post activities have adjusted their hours. Below is a list of known changes. For further information call the organization of interest.

All facilities will resume normal business hours on July 5 except for the Education Center which will resume normal business hours on July 7.

Activity	Address	Phone	Hours
<b>Arts and Crafts</b>	Bldg. 6039	562-5691	July 3 and July 4 CLOSED
<b>Aquatics</b>	Bldg. 5901	562-2808	July 3 Indoor Pool Lap Swim 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Lap Swim 11 a.m. to noon Outdoor Pool Lap Swim 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rec. Swim noon to 6 p.m.
<b>Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation</b>			July 4 Indoor Pool Lap Swim 10:30 a.m. to noon Rec. Swim noon to 6 p.m.
<b>Griffith Field House</b>	Bldg. 6053	562-4888	July 3 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 4 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Fountain Green Golf Course</b>		562-5443	July 3 and July 4 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (weather permitting) Mulligan's 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
<b>Recreation Center</b>	Bldg. 5905	562-4956	July 3 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 4 noon to 10 p.m.
<b>Commissary</b>		754-2153	July 4 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Bowling Center</b>	Bldg. 6054	562-6895	July 3 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 4 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Army Air Force Exchange Service</b>		723-6100	July 4 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Club Dix</b>	Bldg. 5455	723-3272	July 3 thru July 5 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Computer Lab OPEN Cafe Dix and Revolution Bar CLOSED Java Cafe CLOSED
<b>Shoppette and Gas Station</b>		723-0469	July 4 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
<b>Education Center</b>	Bldg. 5403	562-5001	July 2 noon thru July 6 CLOSED



Lisa Evans

**A NEW PATH** -- Col. Ronald Thaxton has guided Fort Dix for the past two years. Much of his time at Dix was spent coordinating the Joint Base. Thaxton turned over command of Fort Dix to Col. Patrick Slowey June 30. Now he will head to Fort Bragg, N.C.



photos by Jennifer Chupko

**FIRST LADIES** -- Col. Ronald Thaxton's wife Maria, left, and Col. Patrick Slowey's wife, Kristin, right, each received a bouquet of flowers at the change of command ceremony. It's a small token of appreciation for all they do to support Fort Dix - such as giving up time with their husbands while he works at post business.



Ryan Morton

**WELCOME** -- Russell Hall, Director, Northeast Region Installation Management Command, hands the Fort Dix installation guidon to incoming commander, Col. Patrick Slowey during the change-of-command ceremony on Fort Dix's Doughboy Field, June 30.

## Dix welcomes new commander

(continued from page 1)

Donovan Davis and Lt. Michael M. Weaver, led the Atlantic Strike Team from the United States Coast Guard detachment at Fort Dix.

An invocation by Fort Dix's Chap. (Col.) Thomas H. Brouillard began the day's ceremonial rites, which were spruced up considerably by marching tunes played by the 10th Mountain Division Band. Their version of "It's A Grand Old Flag" was especially stirring. Mellifluous tones also sprung forth from the public address system courtesy of Col. Douglas Satterfield, commander of the 3rd Brigade's Hunter Division (Civil Affairs-Psychological Operations), a nationwide unit headquartered in the Bronx and dedicated to making enemies uncomfortable. In his civilian guise, Satterfield serves as project manager for training support material under the aegis of K-Mar Industries, Inc. at Fort Dix.

Satterfield announced the formation of troops which was followed by a presentation of flowers to wives of the respective commanders.

A socko version of the national anthem rang out and then the flag, or colors, was given from Thaxton to his successor, Slowey, symbolizing and effectively authorizing an official change of command.

The first speaker to grace the dais was Russell B. Hall, director of the Northeast Region's Installation Management Command. He urged the troops to rest and relax as he praised them and their comrades-in-arms for serving the country when it's in need. He observed that this is the year of the NCO and Dix represents the best of that breed anywhere in the Army.

Outgoing commander Col. Ronald R. Thaxton did a hell of a job in Hall's estimation, keeping track of a killing training pace while simultaneously planning for integration into the upcoming

Joint Basing scheme. He wished Thaxton well in his upcoming command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Hall also read greetings from former Congressman Jim Saxton (R-NJ 3rd, in office 1984-2009), who did so much for the success and survival of Fort Dix while he served in Washington before retiring for health reasons.

Outgoing Installation Commander Col. Ronald R. Thaxton spoke next, thanking God and nearly everyone on Fort Dix for helping make his tenure here a successful one. He had especially kind words for the civilian work force at Dix, noting it was the first time he had worked closely with such a group and he leaves them behind following a halo of admiration. He also praised his Command Sgt. Maj., Bonita Davis, for being rock-like in her execution of command imperatives.

Finally, the new commander, Col. Patrick Slowey spoke. He praised the 10th Mountain Division Band, and extended the salutation to all the soldiers standing under an increasingly formidable morning sun. Slowey said he was very grateful to be back at Dix after eight years, expressed admiration for many improvements he's seen and observed that the one constant over the years has been the dedication of Soldiers and civilians here who make up Team Dix and have helped build Fort Dix into an impressive military enterprise.

Slowey is a graduate of Colorado State University at Fort Collins, where he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in May 1983.

Slowey's first assignment in the Army was as an Assault Gun and Anti-tank Platoon Leader and Rifle Company Executive Officer with the 2nd Bn., 60th Infantry (Motorized), and as Battle Simulations Officer, G-3, 1 Corps, and Fort Lewis, Wash. In 1987, he left active duty to

attend graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC).

While at UNC, he joined the United States Army Reserve as an assistant S-3 in the 3rd Battalion, 87 Infantry at Fort Carson, Colo. While assigned there, he commanded both the Combat Support and Headquarters Companies to include a mobilization and deployment to the Federal Republic of Germany in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Following that deployment, Slowey served as a battalion executive officer for the 244th Engineer Bn. out of Denver and as an assistant inspector general

in the 96th Army Reserve Command operating from Salt Lake City.

After serving as operations officer for USEUCOM's Military Liaison Team in Trencin, Slovakia, the colonel entered the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program as the Inspector General for the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Dix. Subsequently, he was assigned as operations officer at Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe, Va.

In 2002, Slowey was selected as the deputy garrison commander at Fort Hood, Texas before being tasked to command the

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Battalion at Michigan Technological University in Houghton two years later. In June 2006, Slowey joined the 9th Regional Readiness Command located in Fort Shafter, Hawaii. There he served as inspector general before moving up to the post of deputy commander.

Militarily, the colonel's education has been very thorough. Completed courses include the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service Staff School, USMC Amphibious Warfare School, Command and General

Staff College, and the Army War College.

Slowey holds a Master's Degree in History from the University of Northern Colorado and in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

The colonel's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters along with various other awards and decorations.

After the colors were retired, everyone sang along to the Army Song and the official party departed, closing still another chapter in the ongoing saga of Fort Dix.

## Tenacious leader takes command

Spec. Brandy Oxford  
139th MPAD

The 2nd Battalion, 315th Field Artillery welcomed its new commander to Fort Dix in a change of command ceremony June 27 at Sharp Field.

Lt. Col. Troy J. Ramirez, a 19-year veteran from San Antonio, assumed command from Lt. Col. Gerald N. Damron who praised Ramirez for his enthusiasm and experience commanding three other units.

Ramirez said he sets himself apart as a leader through his tenacity and willingness to follow a mission to its completion. "It's pure tenacity," Ramirez said. "In some ways, it's a little more of a scrappy sense of tenacity."

Damron said Ramirez's enthusiasm would benefit him with thousands of troops mobilizing through Fort Dix in the coming months.

"The big project that we have right now is that we're in what we call a surge of training units," Damron said. "He's coming here with a full plate."

Ramirez said his new duties are unlike those he had as

Deputy Fire Support Coordinator for U.S. Army South at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

He said he loves being in the field and looks forward to training servicemembers.

Although his family will remain in Texas, where they are building a new home, Ramirez said he never feels he is without family in the Army.

His wife, Laura Ramirez, attended the ceremony and praised her husband's devotion to the Army and its Soldiers.

"He's a strong leader," she said. "If it's running right, he won't mess it up, but will fix anything if it needs fixed. He's just really down to Earth."

Ramirez said he has already met the people he will work with and is confident he is surrounded by great people.

He said he understands the cyclical nature of the mission and how to work with his new unit.

"I'm willing to work with them," he said. "I'm not going to bring a tyrannical sense of leadership. I'm going to listen. I'm going to understand the wants and the mission. If my way is not the best way, then we'll do the best way."



Spec. Brandy Oxford

**LEADING THE WAY** -- Col. Timothy Williams passes the flag of the 2nd Battalion, 315th Field Artillery to Lt. Col. Troy J. Ramirez in a change of command ceremony June 27 at Sharp Field.

## New commander assumes control of training battalion



Lisa Evans

**SEASON OF CHANGE** -- Lt. Col. Thomas Shabazz, incoming battalion commander 2/312th (TS) (CS/CSS) accepts the unit flag from Col. Timothy Williams, brigade commander, during a change of command ceremony held on Sharp Field June 27.

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

With his family nearby, Lt. Col. Thomas M. Shabazz accepted both flag and command of the 2nd Bn. Training Support (TS) 312th Regiment, Combat Support/Combat Sustainment Support (CS/CSS) of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, in a ceremony held on Sharp Field June 27.

Col. Timothy Williams, brigade commander, 72nd Field Artillery Bde. presided as Lt. Col. William McLean handed over the flag, ending three years as battalion commander with the 2/312th. He moves to the 98th Division in Rochester, NY as the Deputy Training and Operations commander.

Under a bright sun, Williams began the speeches with, "The weather couldn't be nicer, but it could change while we're standing here, like the storm we had last night... This is the season of change, more so in the Reserves where we are changing the structure from a reaction force to an operational force."

Turning to outgoing commander McLean, Williams said,

"Much of what we do at Fort Dix is considered among the best practices of the Army. Lt. Col. McLean, you have managed different MOS's [military occupational specialties] with skill and expertise."

In his departing speech, McLean said, "As my time in command draws to a close, I want to thank everyone... For the past three years I have worked with fine Soldiers, some of whom have since left. And I owe a debt of gratitude to commanders present and past, especially you Col. Thaxton," McLean said. "I worked with a lot of great people within the brigade and the installation and it was a great experience for me." McLean said during practice before the ceremony.

In his first speech as the new battalion commander Shabazz was extremely brief. "Thank you everyone," he said. "Col. Thaxton, I not standing here long because we have work to do."

With a salute, he left the podium. Shabazz takes command of the 2/312th TS, CS/CSS moving from 2/312th detainee operations. Since September 2007, as commander of detainee operations,

Shabazz managed training for all branches of service in conducting National Police Transition team (NPTT) and detainee operations training.

Shabazz served in theater at Camps Victory and Bucca, Iraq, from July 2006 to September 2007 thereby bringing firsthand knowledge to the job. He ensured detainee operations under his command were realistic and relevant to theater operations, reflecting real-world scenarios.

In this role, he managed a team of 60 trainers, directed coordination with the Mobilization Assistance Team to schedule units for training, ensured standards were met for military police unit training, and that all service members were trained to represent military standards of conduct.

Shabazz received two special performance recognitions from commanders during his command of detainee operations. The first for implementing a new Point of Capture Program of instruction for NPTT units and the second for an International Committee of the Red Cross brief built into mobilization readiness exercises.

In his new command, Shabazz will oversee mobilization and training. The 2/312th CS/CSS trains warriors by enhancing individual and unit readiness to meet peacetime or wartime requirements. Shabazz will manage escalation of force (EOL), Counter IED (C-IED), and Counter Insurgency (COIN) training for mobilizing troops.

Shabazz holds a bachelor's degree in business from Wilmington University in Delaware. He is a graduate of many military schools. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conductor Medal-Marines, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star (BSS), The Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

His wife, Frances, received a bouquet of yellow roses signifying her contribution and sacrifices for the success of training at Fort Dix.

# NEIGHBORHOOD

## The Corner

### Post-9/11 GI Bill briefing scheduled

Military members and dependents are invited to attend a Post-9/11 GI Bill briefing at Timmermann Center July 21 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Education Office advises waiting to apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill until after attending one of these information sessions.

### 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. Baggio, 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.

### Youth Services to hold car wash

The Fort Dix Child and Youth Services will be holding a free car wash July 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. In lieu of money they ask that a donation of canned goods be made to support the Ronald McDonald House and Army Community Services food banks.

### Ultimate Warrior job fair coming to Fort Dix

Soldiers and spouses are invited to attend technical workshops and a career fair July 29 and July 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Timmermann Center. More than 60 employers such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Lockheed Martin, CACI, Global Options, Inc., Homeland Security and the Secret Service will be on hand to recruit new employees. Workshops covering resume writing skills, veterans benefits, social security disability benefits, Tip of the Arrow, ACAP and Military One Source will also be held. For more information call Sgt. Maj. James Clark at (301) 674-9428 or Sgt. 1st Class Loranda Taylor at (609) 864-2565.

### Hot August Night Wine and Jazz Festival returns to Club

Enjoy a night of wine and smooth Jazz at Club Dix August 14. Live performances by Jazz greats Jeff Golub, Euge Groove, Jeff Lorber and Jessy J, along with a variety of wines and spirits highlight the evening. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$24 for ID card holders and \$29 for all others. Anyone attending the wine tasting must be 21 or older. Tickets may be purchased at Club Dix or at FMWR Headquarters. For more information call 562-6772 or visit [www.dixmwr.com](http://www.dixmwr.com).

### VA representatives available to help claim processing

VA representatives will be available on July 9 to assist with VA claims processing. They will go over medical records, certify those records are necessary, and assist with the completion of the application. Please contact the Retirement Services Officer, Fay Marshall-Dease to schedule your appointment with the VA reps, by calling 562-2666 or emailing [fay\\_marshalldease@us.army.mil](mailto:fay_marshalldease@us.army.mil), a night of wine and smooth Jazz at Club Dix.

### Deadline extended for Army Arts and Crafts Contest

The Deadline has been Extended to July 15 for the All Army Arts and Crafts Contest. Artwork being accepted in the following categories: ceramics, drawings, wood, prints, fibers and textiles, water base painting, glass, oil base painting, metals and jewelry, mixed media - 2D, and mixed media - 3D. Contact your local Arts and Crafts Center for more information by calling 562-5691.

### Bowling Center now open for lunch

The Bowling Center is now open for lunch. Serving begins at noon, Monday through Friday. A full menu is available. Stop by for tasty burgers, chicken wings, chicken tenders, chicken Caesar salad, pizza, fries, and more. Call 562-6895 for carryout orders.

## Soldier conquers deadly illness



Sgt. Jayson A. Hoffman, 139th MPAD

**MAJOR FUN** -- Maj. Adam Steidinger stands next to his longboard and mountain bike that he rides around Fort Dix. The boarding, biking, and skiing enthusiast survived advanced-stage melanoma cancer.

Sgt. Jayson A. Hoffman  
139th MPAD

A man of forty-two glides across the pavement in his Army Combat Uniform, a golden-brown helmet on his head matching the gold cluster in the middle of his chest. He sways through the parking lot like a surfer on the waves of the Pacific Ocean.

The four-foot longboard below him reflects light like a perfectly polished side table, as it delivers him to his destination.

Upon arrival he hops off the board and heads upstairs to his room to don proper mountain biking gear for his next escapade.

This is a typical day for Maj. Adam Steidinger, the Medical Operations and Plans Officer for the Army Reserve Medical Brigade in Devens, Mass., while he is at Fort Dix completing the final phase of his Intermediate Level Education course.

This course is required for majors to be considered for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Steidinger, a long-time cycling enthusiast, picked up long boarding from his sons about five months ago on his 42nd birthday, but times were not always so simple.

In 2005, he was diagnosed with advanced-stage melanoma, which changed his life priorities, Steidinger said.

The early stages of melanoma have about a 90 percent survivability rate whereas the advanced-stage melanoma Steidinger was diagnosed with, has roughly a 10 percent survivability rate, he said.

"It's my life now. It will always be a part of my life. It's changed my life and it changes my thought process before I walk outside each and every day. It will affect what I do for jobs, it will affect how I make charitable donations," he said.

Steidinger, a Fort Dix basic training graduate, underwent 18 months of failed therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a hospital in Germany, where doctors told him his best chance of survival would be at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Md.

He spent three months at the NCI where he received systemic treatment, becoming one of only 8 percent to completely respond to the procedure, he said.

Steidinger said the Army was a great help in the recovery process. Additionally he was paid on medical leave, allowing him to support his family while dealing with this deadly disease. Military doctors researched every avenue for recovery, which sent him to the NCI, and even gave him access to a cancer support group.

His command was very supportive and they always thought he would beat the cancer. They even ensured that the entire family could fly over to Germany with him, said his wife, Shawn.

The Army also helped him deal mentally with his bout with cancer. Training taught him to deal with tough situations that do not always seem to have positive outcomes, he said.

He now stresses the importance of sun protection, especially for Soldiers deployed in areas with ample amounts of sun exposure. One of his biggest pet peeves as an officer is seeing Soldiers not take this issue seriously, he said.

Living with the thought of possibly losing his battle with cancer, he came to the realization that he needed time to "feed the soul." He slowed his career progression down and began spending more time with his two sons, Christian, 10, Calder, 5, and his wife. This event has left a lasting footprint in his life, Steidinger said.

Steidinger said his sons inspired him to pick up skateboarding, but he realized trick riding was not for him. He, with the help of his sons, picked out a longboard instead. He has been riding for the past five months.

"People often stare at him while he rides around post, but they usually end up with a grin, said Steidinger. After facing down his cancer he said that he does not really care what people think about his boarding around because it helps him decompress.

"Riding a board to class, no matter what anybody thinks, is just good for the soul," said Steidinger.

He said that extra-curricular activities like boarding and cycling help Soldiers relieve stress and become more well-rounded individuals, and that everyone needs hobbies to help them deal with work and life stress.

When asked about the character of her husband, Shawn said that she was most impressed by his honesty and courage.

"I feel your integrity gets challenged everyday and he stands up for what he believes in," she said.

## Water safety tips keep summer fun

Mollie Miller  
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

The cool, blue water of oceans, pools, lakes and rivers, so inviting on a hot summer day, often harbors more than a simple respite from the heat.

The dangers lurking in the deep blue depths are many but every one of the risks can be mitigated with the right planning and preparation, according to U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Safety Specialist Richard Scott.

"Water safety is about using common sense," Scott said recently. "Understanding the risks associated with pools,

oceans, lakes and rivers can help you avoid many of the situations that put our Soldiers and their Family members in danger every

year." Last summer, the Army lost three Soldiers to water-related accidents. This year, officials are urging all Soldiers, civilians and their Family members to do their research so they can stay water safe.

"We have recorded deaths and injuries that have occurred in pools,

lakes, oceans and rivers," Scott said. "To be safe, you have to know the threats, know your limitations and know

how to keep yourself and your friends and family out of harm's way at all times when you are around water."

The American Red Crosses' "Too List" is a good place for people to start when educating themselves about things they can do to mitigate risks associated with water fun.

"The list reminds people to never get

"too tired, too cold, too far away from safety, too much sun or too much strenuous activity," Scott said.

Two activities associated with summer water fun are swimming and diving. Swimming and diving both offer opportunities to cool off in a fun, safe way on hot summer days as long as some simple safety procedures are followed first.

When swimming, it is important to always swim with a buddy and never try to swim farther than your ability or fitness level can take you.

"Remember, even good swimmers get tired," Scott said.

Like swimming, diving is a water

(continuing on page 6)

## Dix community bids farewell to chaplain

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

Chaplain (Col.) David Forden takes his knowledge, skills and smile to a new mission June 29.

"This Fort Dix community was a lot of fun," said Forden, as he prepares to transfer to Fort Monmouth. "It's been a marvelous three years here. I've met good people and we've carried out a very valuable mission of helping Soldiers prepare for war and getting back to their families as safe as possible."

His three-year mission to Fort Dix was a positive experience not only for those he helped, but for himself, he said. He worked closely with Maj. David Dean and Sgt. Brian Thomas to develop a program for wounded warriors that became a standard for other posts.

The Warrior Transition Action Plan (WTAP) helps warriors focus their lives and helps them deal with transitioning back into their units or civilian life, said Forden.

"That program became a Fort Dix plus," said Forden. "It became one of the models for Warrior Transition Units. I was invited to a WTU conference in

2008 to discuss this program. That was a project that became part of my doctoral ministry project."

In the WTAP, Soldiers returning from war work together in sessions. Forden said he and other therapists teach them to set specific goals for their military and family lives.

The Army has bought off on AR 600-2, Forden said, which says wellness is a physical, emotional and spiritual being. But, he said, although the rule states spiritual wellness, the Army seems afraid to really stress religion.

"The reason we have chaplains is we are the guardians of the Soldiers. The Soldiers really need to have this area of their life addressed," said Forden. When a Soldier comes back, the whole issue of meaning and purpose in life is this: Why do they join the service? To give their lives meaning. When they come back, they have seen moral failures and seen people less than stellar in behavior. They say, what is the purpose? We lose our sense of honor and that is one of the Army core values," Forden explained.

"In country, when people go and see their leaders more concerned with their careers than they are with taking care of

(continued on page 6)



Lisa Evans

**BON VOYAGE** -- Chap. (Col.) David Forden accepts a plaque commemorating his time at Fort Dix from Chap. (Col.) Thomas Brouillard during a farewell luncheon for Forden held June 23 at Club Dix.

# Dix bids farewell to chaplain

(continued from page 5)  
buddies or themselves. The WTAP helps Soldiers understand human failures in the whole concept of their military honor, loyalty and in their Soldiers, that not only breaks their hearts, it breaks their morale and it breaks their spirits," Forden said. Reintegration includes helping Soldiers to deal with the perceived failures or actual failures of their commanders, integrity.

"The ministry of the Chapel is to encourage the Soldiers," Forden said. "They care for the military and the spiritual. A first sergeant says to talk to a chaplain for behavioral problems, but underneath there may be spiritual issue, a moral issue, or a character issue. All have to do with the spiritual dimension."

With so many Soldiers Reserve or National Guard Soldiers, one important portion of the program, Forden said, was reintegrating back into the family.

A good thing that happens in group sessions, he said, is that Soldiers decide to be better parents. Moms are much better at this he stressed, more attuned to their children and find it easier to return to being a parent. The WTAP teaches Soldiers, espe-

cially fathers, to spend more time with their families.

Forden explained that parents do try, and they say that they have good intents, but what the program stresses is deciding what specific actions can Soldiers decide on to be comfortable at home again?

Forden gives Soldiers concrete examples. One example he likes is to set time aside with a spouse, get a sitter and go on a date. Another is for fathers to take their daughters on dates to teach them how they should be treated. Laughing, Forden said as a father of a daughter himself, he wanted her to expect the best from young men, and no one could set a higher standard than a father. These father/daughter dates also build trust between them and can close gaps in relationships caused by long absences.

"The cornerstone of the person is physical, emotional, social and spiritual. This idea became the cornerstone of the WTU comprehensive care plan and is something I will always use," said Forden.

Using his work with the Soldiers for his doctoral thesis, he

finished his doctoral studies and received a doctorate of ministry from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in May 2009. When he finished his doctorate, he planned to take a

**"When I first went to Katrina, it was a step of faith because I had been working to build my practice for 25 years. To stay in the Chaplaincy is another step of faith. I feel like the Lord has made it possible. I have received two extensions and I didn't expect to receive the first one."**  
- Chap. (Col.) David Forden

break, but is happy with the way things have turned out.

"I intended to retire and go on vacation but got an extension. I'm having so much fun; I really am, and now I'm going to Fort Monmouth," he said. "The people there are in transition and I will be able to help them."

A licensed therapist in private practice, he was called up following Hurricane Katrina. Because he said he couldn't leave his patients without care for months, he closed his practice in California before moving

to Louisiana.

"When I first went to Katrina, it was a step of faith because I had been working to build my practice for 25 years," said Forden. "To stay in the Chaplaincy is another step of faith. I feel like the Lord has made it possible. I have received two extensions and I didn't expect to receive the first one."

His experience at Fort Dix has been positive, but there were duties that were more difficult for him.

"The hardest part of my time here has been being a part of the casualty notification team," he said. "It is an amazing responsibility to minister to family members who have just been informed that their loved one has died. Fort Dix has done many death notifications. A chaplain always accompanies the Soldiers."

Through the difficulties and rewards of his career, Forden's positive attitude and generous nature played a large part in his success, said Harold Stewart, a licensed clinical social worker with Military Family Life Consultants stationed at the Joint Readiness Center.

"He always has the Soldier first and foremost in his thoughts and actions. I saw how the Soldiers responded to him. He has made a lasting impression," Stewart said.

During Forden's going away luncheon June 23, Col. (Ret.) George Waters, said, "Chap. Forden was a very positive influence in the Chapel family. He was always very upbeat, friendly and generous in sharing his spiritual knowledge."

Chap. (Maj.) Allen Raub agreed, saying, "Chap. Forden is extremely professional and approachable. He's always will-

ing to help out a fellow Chaplain. He can always be counted on."

As a member of the Chapel staff, Forden has brought a smile to everything he did for the past three years at Fort Dix, said one congregant. "He was the very best Jesus that I have ever seen," said Bonnie Barry, of when Forden played Jesus in the play "From the Crib to the Cross" at Christmas time in the Chapel.

Forden began his military career in 1981 and has served as Chaplain, Religious Affairs Officer, and Cultural Affairs Officer before serving as the Assistant Chaplain at Fort Dix.

He has earned multiple medals including six Army Reserve Overseas Service Ribbons.

The Fort Dix Main Chapel congregation said goodbye to the Fortens June 28 during a light Sunday brunch.

Au revoir, Chaplain Forden.

# Custody law change aids servicemembers

Jacqueline Kaplin  
Legal Office Intern

A significant issue for mobilized and deploying servicemembers is the fear of losing permanent custody of their children while they are deployed.

The typical scenario involves a divorced servicemember who retains primary physical custody of his or her children. The servicemember receives orders to deploy and arranges for a relative or guardian to take care of the children during the deployment.

While deployed, the other parent petitions the court for permanent physical custody, and based upon the preference for natural parents to care for their own children, the other parent is likely to prevail.

When the servicemember returns from deployment, he or she faces the difficult challenge of regaining custody, which can be a daunting task given that most states prohibit modification of child custody orders unless there is a "significant change in circumstances."

This issue has gained the attention of federal and state lawmakers and resulted in changes aimed at protecting custodial parents called upon to serve the nation.

Traditionally, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protected servicemembers from having to deal with lawsuits brought against them

during periods of military service by permitting them to ask for a 90-day delay or stay of proceedings.

The SCRA did not, however, specifically provide that it applied to child custody cases.

As a result, non-servicemember parents were able to file and proceed with petitions for custody while the servicemember

**Servicemembers are now able to obtain a 90-day delay of child custody proceedings if they demonstrate that their military service "materially affects" their ability to participate in the child custody proceedings.**

parent was deployed and unable to contest the action.

In an effort to correct this injustice, Congress amended the SCRA to specifically provide that the "stay of proceedings" and "default judgment" provisions apply to child custody proceedings.

Therefore, at a minimum, servicemembers are now able to obtain a 90-day delay of child custody proceedings if they demonstrate that their military service "materially affects" their ability to participate in the proceedings. While certainly a step in the right direction, the amended SCRA alone does not adequately protect servicemembers because it does not require the state court to delay the custody case for the entire period of deployment.

Many states have responded

by passing their own laws to protect servicemembers involved in child custody cases. The level of protection varies from state to state.

New Jersey has a pending bill which would prohibit a permanent change of custody during a period of active military duty. The pending bill would also disallow the modification of a custody order if based solely on the absence of a servicemember from a custody proceeding if the absence was due to deployment.

Pennsylvania passed legislation permitting only temporary custody orders while servicemembers are deployed. Upon the return of the servicemember, the temporary order automatically reverts back to the custody arrangement that immediately preceded the deployment. If a servicemember is absent from a child custody proceeding due to deployment, the absence cannot be considered, by itself, a determining factor in the modification of a custody order.

The push by states to provide more legal protection to military parents in child custody proceedings will most likely lead to more concrete federal protection for military parents in years to come, but until then, the outcome of custodial disputes for military parents depends on the laws of each individual state.

If you have any questions regarding child custody, you can contact the Installation Legal Office at 562-3043.



Pfc. Lisa A. Cope, 139th MPAD

## Joint Readiness Center receives goodies

Assemblyman John Connors, New Jersey State Legislator representing District 7, presents a variety of care package items gathered by members of the Cinnaminson Healthcare Center June 24. Henry Mellon, director Human Resources-Military, and Soldiers of the Joint Readiness Center (JRC) accepted the generous donation. Connors is the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Chair for the New Jersey Legislature, a former National Guardsman, he expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Soldiers at the JRC for their hard work and continued service.

# Water safety tips

(continued from page 5)  
activity that has been known to cause serious injuries and even death when divers fail to take proper safety precautions.

Scott said already this year, one Soldier has been permanently disabled because of a shallow water diving accident.

"Do not to dive anywhere that you don't know how deep the water is or what hazards might be hiding just below the surface," he said. "It might look fun on the surface but that fun will be very short-lived if someone gets hurt

or killed."

Before taking a big leap, Scott recommends checking the water depth and jumping feet first to avoid hitting your head on a shallow bottom. Never dive on top of someone else.

Scott reminds all water lovers that alcohol never mixes well with any swimming or diving activity. "The dangers are always there," he said. "Never underestimate the power of water."

For more information about water safety, visit the American Red Cross Web site at

https://www.prepare.org.

## Water-related injury prevention tips

● Designate a responsible adult to watch young children around water. Adults should not be involved in any other distracting activity such as reading or

talking on the phone while supervising children.

● Always swim with a buddy. Select swimming sites that have lifeguards.

● Avoid drinking alcohol before or during any water activity.

# Announcements

## Chapel Services

**Fort Dix**  
562-2020  
**Sunday Services**  
Traditional Protestant  
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
Catholic  
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
Gospel  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Sunday School  
10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
Jewish Prayer Room  
Room 27  
Chapel 5  
Bldg. 5950 Church Street  
If Chapel is closed  
call 562-3311  
to schedule a time for prayer  
Protestant, Catholic,  
Latter Day Saints  
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.  
Islamic Prayer Room  
Monday through Friday  
COL - Chaplain's tent  
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

## Religious Activities

**Protestant Men of the Chapel**  
Prayer Breakfast -  
Fourth Saturday of each month  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Protestant 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  
Buttontown Hospital.

## McGuire Chapel

754-4673

## Sunday Services

Contemporary  
9:45 a.m. Chapel 2  
Gospel  
11:15 a.m. Chapel 1

## 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**

**4th of July Celebration open to the public**

Friday, July 3-- Plain White T's,  
Army Entertainment band "USA  
Express" and others.

Saturday, July 4-- Musiq Soul-  
child, Christette Michele and  
Trey Songz Both days are free  
and open to the public. Visit us at  
www.dixmwr.com.

## 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.

**Closed Sunday**

## Administrative Hours

Tuesday through Friday  
Noon to 6 p.m.

## **Summer Schedule**

### **Monday through Friday**

Middle School Summer Camp  
6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Open Rec.**  
1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Monday, July 6**

Movie Monday  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Permission slip for bowling due

### **Tuesday, July 7**

Bowling  
3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Free for campers  
\$5 for Open Rec.

Permission slip for swimming due

### **Wednesday, July 8**

Swimming  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
\$1 fee for Open Rec.

Permission slip for swimming due

### **Thursday, July 9**

Self-directed activities  
Permission slip for swimming due

### **Friday, July 10**

Swimming  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
\$1 fee for Open Rec.

### **Saturday, July 11**

Basketball Game  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## ACS

562-2767

Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday, July 6**

Time Management  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
ACS

### **Tuesday, July 7**

Rear Detachment  
Commander (RDC) Training  
10 a.m.  
JRC

### **Wednesday, July 8**

Who's Got Your Number:  
Identity Theft Seminar  
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
SFAC

### **Teens & Money**

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

### **Thursday, July 9**

Building Trust in  
Your Relationship  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
ACS

## Fort Dix Thrift Shop

5105 Pennsylvania Ave.  
723-2683

Hours of operation  
Tuesday and Thursday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

## **Summer Schedule**

**July**  
Closed Saturday, July 4 and 18  
Open Saturday, July 11  
Closed Thursday, July 16

**August**  
Open Saturday, August 1 and 8  
Closed August 9 through 15

## Griffith Field House

Bldg. 6053 562-4888

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Combat Fitness Challenge

Military Only  
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

### **Monday**

Mind & Body Yoga  
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

**Total Toning**  
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

**Gut Buster!**  
6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Tuesday**

**Step and Sculpt**  
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

**Pilates Fusion**  
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

**Mind & Body Yoga**  
6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Wednesday**

**30/30**  
Noon to 1 p.m.

**Mind & Body Yoga**  
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

**Circuit Training**  
6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Thursday**

**Retirees in Motion**  
9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**Turbo Kick**  
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

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

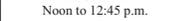
### **Friday**

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

**Step Fusion**  
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

**Saturday**

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



## United Communities

Self Help Office

Monday through Friday  
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday  
724-0550

For information on events, con-  
tact Amber Stadler at 723-4290

**The offices will be closed for**

**Independence Day. Offices will**

**be open for normal business**

**hours on Friday, July 3 and**

**Monday, July 6.**

## **McGuire Pool Events**

The McGuire Pool is open  
seven days a week from 11 a.m.  
to 8 p.m. for United Communi-  
ties residents.

## **Rock n' Raft Night at the Pool**

(Ages 12-18) Tuesday, July 7  
5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
"Night at the Museum" shown

## **3rd annual pool party**

Wednesday, July 8 from 4 p.m.  
to 8 p.m. DJ, games, big prizes,  
food, and fun for the whole fam-  
ily. Don't be the one to miss out  
on all the fun. In the event that it  
rains, the Pool Party will be  
rescheduled to Thursday, July 9.

## **Family Night at the Pool**

July 8, 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Serving: Pizza

## **July Yard of the Month**

Judges will be going around for  
from Wednesday, July 8 to  
Wednesday, July 15. Pictures of  
the winning yard will be taken  
Thursday, July 23.

## **Pest Control**

Mosquito spraying begins July  
15. The process should finish  
July 22 weather permitting. All  
common areas (i.e.: play-  
grounds, baseball fields) and  
wooded areas that back up to  
housing will be sprayed. Dump  
standing water to prevent breed-  
ing area for the mosquitoes.



# Family a priority for retiring commander

Spec. Brandy Oxford  
139th MPAD

The commander of the 2nd Battalion, 315th Field Artillery training support unit fired his last round at his retirement ceremony June 25 at Wurman Hall, the culmination of more than 20 years of service.

"If it goes boom at Fort Dix, I've got it," Lt. Col. Gerald N. Damron said. "Pulling the last round is very ceremonial. As artillery men, we call it pulling tail."

Damron, who has commanded the battalion since June 13, 2007, will pass the responsibility of training Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen for combat operations to Lt. Col. Troy J. Ramirez. Lt. Col. Will Clemons worked with Damron for more than a year, praising him as a terrific mentor for himself as well as junior officers.

"I've found him to be a very supportive, detail-oriented leader who knows what right looks like," Clemons said. "He does not take a task or an issue lightly. He weighs into it all as if it was his own to resolve and that's something I think is unique about him that I have not seen consistently in other command-

**"It's heart wrenching. I could stick around – the Army has been great to me – but I think it's time to get back to the family. I want to get my daughter around her grandparents."**

ers and other leaders." Damron said he has sponsored roughly 3,000 Soldiers since coming to Fort Dix. Damron spent his childhood in Huntington, W. Va., and said he wants his daughter Caroline, 6, to grow up as part of a community in the same way he did. Like many military families,

Caroline and her mother moved with Damron's military assignments. He said he plans to move closer to his hometown and teach Junior ROTC students at Spring Valley High School in West Virginia. Damron started his military career in junior ROTC and said

-Lt. Col. Gerald N. Damron

he and his wife look for ways to be part of a community.

"I always wanted to go back and give back to my community," Damron said. "The Army communities are great, but they're transient, so it's very tough. I stayed in the same school community all my life and I think I want to give that back to Caroline."

Diane Damron, Gerald Damron's wife of 10 years, said her husband's deployments and work at Fort Dix kept him away from home for a good portion of their marriage and Caroline's childhood.

"We've led parallel lives for essentially the last five or six years," Diane said. "He's lived his life and Caroline and I have lived ours. I think having that combined family life is the most

exciting piece of it."

Damron said he spent roughly two weekends a month with his family while serving at Fort Dix.

"It's heart wrenching," he said. "I could stick around – the Army has been great to me – but I think it's time to get back to the family. I want to get my daughter around her grandparents."

Although Damron said he looks forward to teaching potential Soldiers, building a model ship from the Civil War for his mantelpiece and finding a lacrosse team, his wife said the true rewards of his retirement will go to his daughter.

"She's always having to say goodbye," Diane said. "It's a little child's face pressed up against the window all the time saying, 'Goodbye, Daddy. We'll miss you.' Not having to say goodbye will be a treat for her."

Twenty years in the military did not leave Damron without rewards. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Damron also earned the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist's Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Damron holds a master's degree in Emergency Management from Command and General Staff College in Kansas and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Virginia Military Institute.



Spec. Brandy Oxford, 139th MPAD

**GOING OUT WITH A BANG -- Lt. Col. Gerald N. Damron fires off his last round at his retirement ceremony outside of Wurman Hall June 25.**

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

**WWW.DIX.ARMY.MIL**

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# Personnel grab awards, yellow banners



photos by Jennifer Chupko

For helping coordinate and executing successful missions during the Fort Dix Bosslift, the following Soldiers received Commanders Coins. Top row, Lt. Col. Stu Gillard right, Master Sgt. Sean Hartswick, Cpl. Patrick Jenkins, Maj. Lance Brown, Cpt. Joseph Corso, Jr., Master Sgt. Joseph Braswell, and Brandon Baker. Bottom row, Sgt. 1st Class Johnathan Sloan right, Sgt. Brohdny Ricketts, Capt. Stephen Messinger, Staff Sgt. Sarah Lewis, Capt. Gray and Sgt. 1st class Alejandro Arroyo.



For their participation during the Fort Dix Bosslift, Staff Sgt. James top row right, Maggie Plowman, Master Sgt. Harvey Taylor, Staff Sgt. Richard Ladner, Staff Sgt. Johnson, and Master Sgt. Beck accepting on behalf of Master Sgt. Anthony Correia and Sgt. 1st Class Collazo right bottom row, Staff Sgt. Stephen Stanley, and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Crockett were awarded Certificates of Appreciation during a ceremony at Club Dix June 23.



Ryan Morton

Staff Sgt. Arthur Franks and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patricia Simms, 444th Adjutant General, 2nd Platoon Postal, display their unit's welcome home plaque and yellow banner upon their return to Fort Dix from a nearly year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, June 29. The unit, out of Richmond, Va., mobilized out of the installation last summer, above. Maj. Scott Andrews and 1st Sgt. Johnson, 164th Quartermaster Group, Detachment Six, headquartered out of Oklahoma, hang the unit's yellow banner June 27.



Spe. Michael V. Camacho

Capt. Timothy L. Stanfield and 1st Sgt. Jesse Cordova of the 737 Transportation Battalion hang the unit's yellow banner in Infantry Park, June 27.



Ryan Morton

Master Sgt. Islyn Nieves and Col. Sylvia Morales, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 354th Civil Affairs, Detachment 17, acting first sergeant and company commander, fasten the unit's yellow banner in Infantry Park, June 29. The unit from Riverdale, Md., has trained at Fort Dix since May.



Sgt. Ryan L. Twist

**Read  
The Post!**



Jennifer Chupko

Maj. Victor De La Cancela is awarded an Army Commendation Medal by Col. Howard Felton, Watson Medical Support Element, for his dedicated service in the behavioral health department for demobilizing Soldiers throughout his tenure. The award ceremony took place at the Joint Readiness Center, June 26.

# SPORTS



Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd EA Bde.

## Thaxton finishes final run

Col. Ronald R. Thaxton, outgoing installation commander, renders a salute to installation Command Sgt. Maj. Bonita Davis as he finishes his final installation run, June 26. He addressed all in attendance, "It's been an honor and a privilege serving with you," said Thaxton. "I bet some of you are happy to see me go, but, I have news, I talked with the new commander, and he wants to have installation runs twice a month," he said with a smile. He went on to say, "Things are going to change around here soon. You will have to go somewhere else for support, but, I know you will continue to conduct yourselves as professionals, as Soldiers, and accomplish the mission. And if any of you are ever at Bragg, look me up," invited Thaxton.

Fort Dix

## Youth Sports/Fitness

### Summer 2009 Mini-Clinic Schedule

SPORTS CLINICS COST \$35.00 PER CHILD

**Week of 6 July**  
1030-1230 - Flag Football for 6 years old and up  
1500-1700 - Baseball/Softball for 6 years old and up

**Week of 13 July**  
1030-1230 - **Start Smart!** Baseball Program for 3-5 year olds  
1500-1700 - **Start Smart!** Soccer Program for 3-5 year olds

**Week of 20 July**  
1030-1230 - Volleyball for 8 years old and up  
1500-1700 - Basketball for 6 years old and up

**Week of 27 July**  
1030-1230 - **Start Smart!** Football Program for 3-5 year olds  
1500-1700 - **Start Smart!** Baseball Program for 3-5 year olds

**Week of 3 August**  
1030-1230 - Baseball/Softball for 6 years old and up  
1500-1700 - Soccer for 6 years old and up

**Week of 10 August**  
1030-1230 - **Start Smart!** Soccer Program for 3-5 year olds  
1500-1700 - **Start Smart!** Volleyball for 6 years old and up

**Week of 17 August**  
1030-1230 - Basketball for 6 years old and up  
1500-1700 - Volleyball for 8 years old and up

**Week of 24 August**  
1030-1230 - Soccer for 6 years old and up  
1500-1700 - Flag Football for 6 years old and up

\*Parents must be present and actively participate in all Start Smart Programs that are offered.

For Program Registration or Information, please contact:  
Central Enrollment: Bldg. 5203 Maryland Ave. Fort Dix  
Ph: (609) 582-4702/5231; Website: www.dixmwr.com