

the Post

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NEWSNOTES

Combined Federal Campaign ongoing

Have you made your pledge to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Make a difference and change lives today.

The CFC goal for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst this year is \$350,000. The CFC ends Nov. 30.

For more information, contact your unit CFC keyworker or visit www.cfsnj.org.



Holiday events scheduled

● Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst will celebrate the holiday season in December with holiday music, cookies, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa Claus at the following times and locations:
 -McGuire Annex -- Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. in the McGuire Chapel 1
 -Lakehurst Annex -- Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. in Community Bldg. 150
 -Dix Annex -- Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. at Wurman Hall, Bldg. 5417

● Come to the Joint Base MDL Holiday Tree Lighting Party Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. and enjoy Santa and holiday activities and bid on beautiful wreaths and baskets prepared and donated by supporters from the joint-base community. The Spouses and Civilian Club Holiday Wreath and Basket Silent Auction will be held during the holiday party directly following the tree lighting. Auction bidding closes at 6 p.m.
 The tree lighting will be held at the ASA headquarters. The holiday party and auction will be held at Club Dix.

● The religious schedule on Joint Base MDL is as follows:

Catholic Schedule

Dec. 24
Children's Christmas Mass
 4 p.m., McGuire Chapel 1
 5 p.m., Dix Main Chapel
Christmas Eve Mass
 10 p.m., McGuire Chapel 1

Dec. 25
Christmas Day Mass
 10 a.m., McGuire Chapel 1
 10:15 a.m., Dix Main Chapel
 10 a.m., Lakehurst Chapel

Dec. 31
New Year's Eve Mass
 6 p.m., McGuire Chapel 1

Jan. 1, 2010
New Year's Day Mass
 10 a.m., McGuire Chapel 1
 10:15 a.m., Dix Main Chapel

Protestant Schedule

Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
 7 p.m., McGuire Chapel 2
 7 p.m., Dix Main Chapel
 7 p.m., Lakehurst Chapel

Dec. 31
Watch Night Service
 10 p.m., McGuire Chapel 1

Jewish Schedule

Dec. 14
Chanukah Party
 6 p.m., McGuire Community Ctr.

Weather

WEDNESDAY -- Cloudy with highs in the upper 50s, lows in the upper 40s.

THURSDAY -- Cloudy with highs in the upper 50s, lows in the mid 40s.

FRIDAY -- Showers with highs in the upper 40s, lows in the upper 30s.

SATURDAY -- Mostly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s, lows in the mid 30s.

SUNDAY -- Sunny with highs in the upper 40s, lows in the upper 30s.

Soldiers test mental resiliency



C. Todd Lopez

RESOUNDING RESILIENCY -- Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Brundage, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Paula L. Lebow work together during the first official "master resiliency training" program Nov. 8 to 19 in Philadelphia. The training is part of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program and was developed from the University of Pennsylvania's resiliency program.

C. Todd Lopez
 Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Nov. 16, 2009 -- In Philadelphia, the Army is equipping Soldiers with a new tool designed to help them better deal with the psychological effects of combat that can lead to post traumatic stress disorder.

A total of 155 noncommissioned officers are attending the first official "master resiliency training" program Nov. 8-19. The training is part of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program and was developed from the University of Pennsylvania's resiliency program. Three past groups of Soldiers attended related training as the UPenn program was modified to meet Army needs.

"This is the first really full-scale MRT course; the culmination of a lot of work," said Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. "And we truly believe this is instrumental in improving ... the psychological fitness of the force."

The current 10-day course, still put on by professionals from UPenn in conjunction with the Army, is designed to equip Soldiers with the skills needed to teach other Soldiers how to better weather traumatic events -- be they money problems, relationship problems, or the horrors of combat.

'Life lessons'

"The title misleads you, but when you get it broken down, you see that all this is, is life lessons," said Staff Sgt. David Breedren, an MRT student and an Army drill sergeant who "makes infantrymen" through a One Station Unit Training program at Fort Benning, Ga. "If you can relate to the individual you can help the individual."

Breedren's been to both Iraq and Afghanistan and says that in combat, every Soldier needs to be on their game. A Soldier that has personal issues, or issues coping with the stress of combat, may be a liability to his unit, he said. The Soldier that can cope is the Soldier that is resilient.

"If you are in combat you have force."
 (continued on page 3)

MRAPS roll out

Pfc. Adrian J. Muehe
 135th MPAD

Thirteen mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles recently arrived at the Army Support Activity to be used in MRAP familiarization training for servicemembers mobilizing for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The MRAPs, which were reallocated from Iraq, are currently going through deprogramming at the Predeployment Training Equipment (PDTE) site, where they are getting pre-maintenance service checks and repairs to ensure they are ready for duty.

One of the mechanics working on these vehicles is Jay Hom, a prior-service civilian and contracted automotive repairman with PDTE.

"I treat these vehicles as if my sister
 (continued on page 3)



Lisa Evans

TIME FOR GIVING -- Vicky Lewis, a volunteer from the Dix protestant congregation, chooses groceries for Thanksgiving bags for military families Nov. 19 at the Dix Main Chapel. The bags will also contain a certificate for a turkey from the commissary.

Volunteers offer help

Spc. Cassandra Monroe
 135th MPAD

A team made of members from the Knights of Columbus Council 10994 and the Dix Main Chapel protestant and catholic congregations teamed up Nov. 19 at the Dix Main Chapel to make Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

"Approximately 50 baskets are going to be made," said Hilde Dreyer, the catholic pastoral and Thanksgiving food drive coordinator.

"We're numbering the bags and filling them with the goods," said Dreyer. "We go by how big the family is, so some get more than one bag. Bigger the family, the more goods they get. This year, we've added toys for the children."
 (continued on page 2)



Staff Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

TOMORROW'S LEADERS -- A Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet from St. John's University in New York trains on Land Navigation Area 3 at Army Support Activity (ASA), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst this past week. This ROTC program falls under the ASA's 2nd Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command.

'Freedom Brigade' leads way in ROTC programs

Shawn Morris
 ASA Public Affairs

Building 5212 on Maryland Avenue proves the old adage that appearances can be deceiving.

It's inside this unassuming structure that two-dozen Soldiers, federal workers and contractors with 2nd Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, oversee the largest Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC network in the Army.

"It's a very complicated, diversified and decentralized operation," said Col. Glenn H. Goldman, 2nd Brigade commander, who explained that his brigade is responsible for 41 ROTC "host" colleges and universities, which have fully funded and staffed ROTC programs, 87 "partner" schools, which are assigned ROTC staff from a nearby host school,
 (continued on page 3)

Final Post newspaper marks end of an era

David Moore
 Editor

This issue of the Post is the last and the end of a 67-year run reporting on the Soldiers, civilians and families who have populated the Home of the Ultimate Weapon.

The Post was first launched in 1942 after the installation's earlier publication, First Call, was put to rest that same year. Military newspapers of that era were either mimeographed by an Army service unit similar to today's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office, or printed off post in neighboring Wrightstown. The earliest of our newspapers were printed by the Trenton Times, and today's issue by the Burlington County Times, which ends its 40-year run of supporting an Army civilian enterprise publication.

No matter what the decade, putting a military newspaper on the street requires writers, editors and photographers putting together a command information product. As the staff does this for the last time, it's realized there isn't a great deal of information on the Internet or in regulations how to retire a historic award-winning newspaper.

The staff conversation for putting together this last paper was often a difficult and emotional one -- and one was hoped would never come. But, it did, so this issue began in earnest a month ago. The decision, in short, was to run the installation news of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst with a focus on the Army Support
 Activity, including the military training on the ranges, the deployments of all uniformed services for war zones, and robust community activities. The Post would go out faithfully serving its community as it had always set as its goal.
 But, the last four pages of this weekly publication focus on the history of local military installations since their beginnings. A project of this dimension has taken a lot of digging into stored boxes, memories of past staff members, and Internet searches. What was found and now reprinted starts in 1917 with a military post that was originally constructed in three months, and traces the events that have shaped the lives of those who lived and served here or spent time here before serving the nation around the world.
 As each newspaper's deadline approached for the staff, it's like the old silent movie of a car racing down railroad tracks against an oncoming locomotive. Doom is evident. The face of the driver shows fear in the wake of chaos, hoping that the car and occupants veer off for safety at the last possible moment.
 Before e-mail, Army and civilian writers would traverse the installation with pen and notebook in hand meticulously getting the words from the commander or the GI on the street, then bang out stories on a typewriter. Until the 1990s, photographers carried film cameras, and their canisters had to be opened in a chemical processing darkroom either at the post's
 (continued on page 2)

Dixan on the street

compiled by Ryan Morton

We asked employees from the Dix community the following question:
What event covered in the Post newspaper do you remember most during your tenure on Dix?



Janice Corbo
Arts and Crafts Center
87th FSS/Dix

"The article that stands out most in my mind is the one that affected me the most: the fire that destroyed the old Arts and Crafts Center on April 8, 1989."

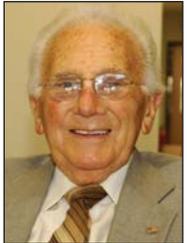
David Peckham
Directorate of Plans,
Training, Mobilization
and Security

"The issue which comes to mind is dated Sept. 12, 2003. The article is titled 'Contract Studies Split.' That was the culmination of a long and arduous process which ended badly and produced some significant emotional reactions."



Stephen Whitmore
87th Civil Engineer
Squadron

"I think the Kosovo refugee mission was the largest operation we've ever had that I know of. We built large camps in the 5900 and 5600 areas and set up fences, renovated the barracks, and put lights around the outside of the buildings."



Daniel Zimmerman
Army Reserve Mobilization
Museum

"The most memorable event in 'the Post' was the Desert Shield/Desert Storm period. The 24-hour-a-day pace that the installation and its people experienced in mobilizing and demobilizing soldiers, training Kuwaiti civilians in basic military skills, and supporting reserve-component training was hectic and exciting. The events reminded me of Fort Dix during the Vietnam period."



Bob Tucker
Directorate of Plans,
Training, Mobilization,
and Security

"There are two events I most remember; our support of the Kosovo Refugee Mission and our support of the FEMA teams and other military and federal agencies that staged here and deployed to and from New York City after 9/11."



Veverly Wakefield
Public Affairs Training
Center

"The most memorable article for me would have been the coverage on the Kosovo refugees. Fort Dix went into full speed to prepare for their arrivals and continued to provide support until the last refugee left."



Joe Logan
former director of
Human Resources -
Military

"When we hosted the 70th anniversary of Fort Dix. I think it was in 1987. We had about 14 World War I veterans attend the ceremony. It was great to see them rise from a walker to salute the flag."



End of an era

(continued from page 1)

Training Support Center or the Arts and Craft Center. Before computers, editors used lingo such as picas and points to measure a story and how it would fit into the product, and "pass me a new dummy" to ask for a blank page where he or she could scrawl in story slugs and mark off each empty column. Proportion or "whiz" wheels were used to scale the image to fit and combine story and photograph for the paper.

An office runner took the planned dummies, photographs, and stories to the printer where it would be typeset or half-toned and placed on grid paper on a paste-up board. As columns of print descended on a glossy paper from a Velox machine, it would be "waxed" and then pasted on to the grid paper by the printer's composing room paste-up person.

Back in those days, layout and design was not as technically exact as it is today with computers. With a deadline looming and the public affairs staff member in a panic, telephone calls were made back and forth between the printer and Fort Dix office about what to do when the last pasted column flowed beyond the grid page. Ultimately, the decision would be made by the editor. The runner grabbing his or her own exacto knife would cut away excess copy until the article fit for the newspaper and the article made sense.

Bringing a military newspaper to life is no different than a civilian weekly publication, with the exception that there is no advertising department; the contractor takes care of that. Many times throughout the history of the post, staff members said it felt more like a daily newspaper as they finished writing two and three stories in a day to meet a deadline.

At times, writers just covering the return of a unit from overseas raced to the PAO in the middle of the night thinking if they finish the story it will have their byline and photograph above the fold of the Post. The writers and photographers were as competitive as their civilian counterparts who all vie for the big page-one story.

The orchestra of drama and emotion by writers, photographers and editors has often been colorful. When the Fort Dix Public Affairs Office relocated from Texas Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue, the paper's then-editor and later public affairs officer, Carolee Nisbet, worked without furniture and was reported to be sitting on the floor with nothing but a computer and old school journalism tools. The deadline was made.

Similarly in 1996, when the federal government was furloughed due to a federal budget impasse and no civilian employees were supposed to be on post, the newspaper was built in the back room of the public affairs office and writers filed stories and images using e-mail.

While no one at the Fort Dix Public Affairs Office had the authority to say "Stop the Press," there were many times when our

civilian and military staff pushed their deadlines late into the night to make sure the latest news made it into the weekly paper.

The responsibility in providing news over the years went beyond simply giving all the news that fits. People living and working on the installation could always count on the newspaper being delivered to post buildings and housing areas each Friday, 50 times a year. If they didn't receive their copy, a call to the Public Affairs Office would ensure the newspaper racks were refilled. The staff always knew that as soon as readers turned the first page, work would be critiqued; the calls and e-mails would come in, the same way an avid sports fan critiques his or her team the day after the big game.

As this last issue is "put to bed," the words of the Greek general Pericles who said, "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others," come to mind. Hopefully, faithfully providing information to the community weekly can be measured in more than the thousands of past pages; instead, it is measured in the lives enriched.



JUST JOKING -- Robert Warner, a retired Army public affairs NCO who was the second DJ at Fort Dix in the 1970s and first Webmaster at the post in 1995, posed for this picture in 1996 as a joke when the government was furloughed for a week as a result of the failure of passing a federal budget. Shortly after the photo was taken, Warner worked in the back office of public affairs to help build the post newspaper. Building 5165 on Maryland Avenue was named after Warner and is now the Public Affairs Operations Training Center.



courtesy photo

MEETING MEDIA -- David Moore, a then staff sergeant with the N.J. Army National Guard, provides cold-weather training information to a television reporter from Philadelphia's Channel 10 during the mobilization of Soldiers for Bosnia. Moore came to the Public Affairs Office in 1997 and has led its transition to the Public Affairs Operations Training Center.

Volunteers offer help

(continued from page 1)

Vicky Lewis, a member of the protestant congregation, also helped sort the food items and added an extra touch to the baskets by placing Thanksgiving greeting cards for the families.

"I feel blessed to be able to help others," she said.

The team started to collect food donations and coupons from members of the church at the beginning of October, said Dreyer.

"The servicemembers and their families fill out an applica-

tion for assistance and hand them to me," said Ceretter Williamson, Dix Main Chapel secretary.

"I then forward the forms to Hilde and she goes through the selection process for the different families and goes through the donations," she added.

"Baskets will be available for pickup here after this Sunday's church service," Williamson explained.

"If the families miss the service, they can call the church Monday to schedule another pickup."

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line is an integral part of the base feedback network. Base personnel are urged to use the chain of command first to address their concerns.

If you are not satisfied with the response from your chain of command, or you are unable to resolve the problem or concern, call 754-3247. Action lines may be made anonymously, however it is recommended you leave your name and number in case more information is needed to address your concern.



Col. Gina Grosso
Joint Base Commander

Holiday safety key

LT. Gen. Rick Lynch
IMCOM Commander

Each November, Americans gather with family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings they enjoy as citizens of this great land. This Thanksgiving Day will be particularly poignant for the many thousands of Soldiers serving in harm's way and their families. As you celebrate in gratitude, let us recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of our war-fighters ensuring our security and freedom.

Although a time of joy and goodwill, this season brings particular hazards that can be unforgiving to the unprepared. Now is a good time to remind ourselves how to reduce the risks of driving in winter conditions, hunting, home fires, home decorations and electrical conditions, ice or snow-covered walkways, etc. Find information on these and other timely safety topics in the IMCOM Fall Winter Safety Brochure at www.imcom.mil/hof/officecom/stat/safety/. Please exercise caution, because winter weather and heavy traffic may complicate your plans.

Getting there is more important than getting there on time. Use the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPs) at <http://combatingaggressivedriving.com> to identify traveling risks and help reduce the chance of an accident while traveling over the holiday months.

Finally, be vigilant for signs of distress among those around you. Be mindful of those for whom this season can be stressful and offer assistance or referrals as appropriate. Chaplains, counselors and the chain of command all have resources to help the needy or overwhelmed. We are blessed to live in a nation that values freedom and the sanctity of life. This Thanksgiving Day regardless of your holiday plans, please be aware of the hazards, take action to guard against them, and execute good safety practices. You are too important to the IMCOM Family and to your own families to fall victim to a preventable accident. Support and Defend!

ASA COMMANDER INPUT

We value Customer Feedback and performance improvement.

It is important that we will continue to remain a cornerstone to the operations as the Army Support Activity (ASA). Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) is your direct link to Army service providers of the ASA. This is your opportunity to rate products and service providers.

It is a vital piece in evaluating feedback and provides service providers with a tool that allows them to directly and quickly affect the well-being of our customers. You may also offer suggestions for improving the quality of service.



Col. Patrick Slowey
ASA Commander

Log on to ICE and let us know how we are doing at <http://www.ice.disa.mil>. Click Army CONUS, then Fort Dix.

the Post

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Photojournalist, TLC	Ryan Morton
Photojournalist, TLC	Shawn Morris

Soldiers from the 314th Public Affairs Operations Center who are currently demobilizing through the Army Support Activity, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst helped produce this final edition of the Post. They are Sgt. Maj. Troy Filardone, Sgt. Emily Anderson, Sgt. Brad Richardson, Spc. James Clifton and Spc. Justin Wright.

Brigade leads the way in ROTC

(continued from page 1)
and nearly 250 "affiliate" schools, which have no staffing or funding but are able to make use of host- and partner-school facilities.

The schools that fall under 2nd Brigade, also known as the "Freedom Brigade," are located in nine northeastern states: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Approximately 700 second lieutenants and 50 military nurses are expected to be commissioned from these schools' ROTC programs this year.

"We're looking for the adaptive, agile, culturally-aware, problem-solving leaders for the future," said Goldman, "leaders of character who will internalize the Army Values."

"We have very high, rigorous standards," he added.

Those standards account for an 85-percent attrition rate in 2nd Brigade's ROTC program, with only one out of every seven cadets making it all the way through the program to receive his or her commission.

"We can mess up equipment, we can mess up training, and there are a lot of other things we can mess up," Goldman said, "but if we mess up the people piece, and specifically the leadership of people, we're doomed to failure."

Part of developing leaders through ROTC is mandatory field-training exercises, and Army Support Activity (ASA), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst provides a perfect place for cadets to receive that training, Goldman said.

"The ASA training areas are absolutely vital to our operations," he said, noting that schools located far from a major military base often utilize their own sports fields and parks, or Army National Guard armories and Reserve centers, as training areas. "Units come here to do land navigation, use the rifle ranges, and they coordinate that



Shawn Morris

LANE NAVIGATION -- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from St. John's University in New York train on Land Navigation Area 3 at Army Support Activity (ASA), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst this past week. St. John's ROTC program falls under 2nd Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, which is located on the ASA.

through Range Control.

"We're very fortunate here," he added.

The ASA also provides training areas for Junior ROTC (JROTC) cadets belonging to 2nd Brigade, which currently oversees programs in 102 high schools throughout the northeast.

"We're not teaching tactics and we're not there recruiting — the purpose of JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens, and we do that through a military model," Goldman said of 2nd Brigade's JROTC program, which includes nine schools in Germany and one in Italy. "JROTC is an opportunity to develop into a better

citizen, whereas the ROTC program is more geared toward becoming a military officer."

Despite this difference in purpose, ASA facilities such as the Confidence Course, Obstacle Course, Leadership Reaction Course, land navigation courses and rappelling tower are important training tools for the JROTC program. JROTC cadets are also taught civics, citizenship, values, character development, wellness, fitness and military history.

While proud of his JROTC and ROTC programs, Goldman acknowledges — and dismisses — the antiquated notion that ROTC graduates are not up to the same standard as their military-academy or Officer Candidate School counterparts. The biggest difference between military academies and ROTC is that graduates of the former become active-duty officers, while those commissioned through the latter have the option of going active-duty, Reserve or National Guard, he explained.

"We all become professional officers through different means. Ironic as it may seem, I am not a product of ROTC. I went to a local school called West Point," Goldman admitted with a smile.

"What makes our officer corps extremely strong is you have deep thinkers from liberal-arts colleges like Princeton, heavy science folks from schools like MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), plus those from that rigorous curriculum — very structured, very disciplined, high operational tempo — at West Point," Goldman explained. "By having that mix and being able to share those experiences, you end up with the best possible leaders for our Soldiers."

"American Soldiers deserve the best possible leadership this nation can provide," he added.

Goldman encourages anyone interested in ROTC or JROTC to call Frank Matreale, recruiting operations officer for 2nd Brigade, at 1-800-USA ROTC (872-7682), or visit www.goarmy.com/officer for more information.

Those interested in ROTC scholarships, which are readily available, should visit www.armyrotc.com for more information and an application.

Testing resiliency

(continued from page 1)
to be able to decompress," Breen said. "Some Soldiers just are brittle. They don't have that resiliency factor of being able to bounce back from a traumatic event — and it does cause issues. That Soldier can no longer help with being a team player, and the team has to turn around and help that individual and it takes away from team readiness."

Helping potentially brittle Soldiers become Soldiers more likely to "bounce back" from or cope with stressful events — such as witnessing the death of a friend or a child in combat, financial issues, or the potential disintegration of a relationship back home — is the goal of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.

Teaching those skills to Soldiers will be the job of NCOs who attend master resiliency training courses like the one in Philadelphia.

Moving bell curve to right

Dr. Martin E. P. Seligman, a psychologist, and director of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania, said the goal of CSF is to improve the resiliency of all Soldiers in the Army. He said graphing the human response to adversity produces a curve much like the plot for test scores in nearly any classroom.

"The response to high adversity, to trauma, in human beings, is bell shaped," Seligman said. "On the extreme left you have people who collapse. We call it

PTSD, depression, anxiety, divorce, substance abuse and suicide. The center of the curve is normal human resiliency — the normal response to human adversity is to come back to where you were. And over on the right-hand side of the curve, very important, is what's called post-traumatic growth."

Inside the Army, Seligman wants to adjust the shape of that curve by equipping Soldiers with the tools needed to be more resilient to psychological trauma.

"The question is, what should the Army be doing by way of helping our Soldiers who are probably in for a decade of persistent warfare," Seligman said. "To my mind, it is to move the whole curve to the right ... moving the whole distribution toward higher fitness."

Avoiding "thinking traps"

Course leaders, including Seligman and Dr. Karen Reivich, help to move that curve to the

right by "building mental toughness." That involves skills like avoiding thinking traps, detecting "icebergs," and learning to put things into perspective.

"We teach people to recognize the most catastrophic, unrealistic things they say to themselves when adversity strikes," Seligman said. "We teach them to argue against the most catastrophic thoughts; realistically, to put them into perspective. This is a well-defined technique that's been validated with tens-of-thousands of people in cognitive therapy procedures."

Part of MRT also involves helping Soldiers identify their strengths and how to use them to their advantage.

"We found that when people work from their highest strengths, as opposed to trying to remediate weaknesses, they do better," Seligman said.

For complete story, visit the World wide Web at www.defenselink.mil.

Industry Day attracts contractors, vendors

Steve Snyder
Joint Base MDL Public Affairs

More than 400 people attended the first Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Industry Day Nov. 19 at the McGuire Community Center.

The conference was held to aid small business proprietors in applying for and securing government contracts from JB MDL. The theme was "Doing Business with the Joint Base" and there was no cost for local contractors and vendors.

The 87th Contracting Squadron and the director of the New Jersey Procurement Technical Assistance Center provided information on the basic concepts of conducting business with the federal government.

They also addressed resources and assistance available to vendors, JB MDL business processes, and information on the supplies and services typically procured to support the installation.

Col. Michael Carrell, 87th Mission Support Group commander greeted the visitors and promised to walk them through the processes of conducting business with JB MDL. He emphasized that McGuire, Dix and Lakehurst will still retain their basic missions while maintaining excellent relations with local communities, including many small businesses in the area.

"We want to put a lot of military dollars back into the area," said Colonel Carrell.

Lt. Col. David Searle, 87th Contracting Squadron commander explained that the 87th Contracting Squadron could not perform their JB MDL mission without support in the communal market system.

"You are very important to us," he said. The remainder of the day was filled with speakers and instructional sessions.

Speakers emphasized how the process behind getting government contracts works, exploring in detail what individual applicants have to go through to land their share of government largess. Time was spent analyzing what kinds of supplies and services organizations like the joint base need.

Suzanne Edgar, Simplified Acquisition Flight chief, spoke about the process for acquiring supplies and services to meet government requirements in the most effective, economical and timely manner.

The audience was introduced to Web sites and other resources that helped navigate through the maze of regulations and restrictions regarding government relationships with civilian enterprises.

The remaining speakers covered various other topics of interest to the community. James Kelly spoke to the differences between government and commercial contracts; Mrs. Karen Thorngren discussed business processes; and Manuel Revilla presented a spend analysis and financial forecast.

Dolcey Chaplin from the Procurement Technical Assistance Center was the last speaker and discussed resources available to assist the community conduct business with the government.

Senja Jones, proprietor of a restaurant in Browns Mills, called the conference very interesting, noting that communication between JB MDL and businesses in the area cannot help but be beneficial to both parties.

MRAPS roll

(continued from page 1)

is going to be riding in it on patrol," said Hom, whose sister is a retired Army Soldier.

Hom said his job is to look over the vehicles, replace any needed parts and ensure these vehicles are perfectly capable of completing their mission, whether it is for training or for convoys.

Overseeing the deprocessing is Aida Coleman, the master supply technician at PDTE.

"As a retired soldier, I feel it's a necessity to know these vehicles before you have them in a combat situation," Coleman said.

After being deprocessed, these vehicles will go on to be used for familiarization training for mobilizing servicemembers. Sgt. 1st Class Jonathon Sloan, an assistant platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 309th Regiment, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, conducts this training for deploying servicemembers.

The new vehicles will be used to give servicemembers some driving time with the MRAPs to further familiarize them with the vehicles, Sloan said. This will not qualify servicemembers to drive these vehicles; they still need to take the 40 hour course.

Honors and Awards



Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie H. Ambrose III, 2nd Battalion, 309th Training Support Regiment, left, and Sgt. 1st Class John L. Bryant, 3rd Battalion, 315th Engineer Regiment, right, are awarded the Army Commendation Medal during the 2009 Sergeant Audie Murphy Board from Col. Timothy R. Williams, commander, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.



photos by Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA Brigade



Spc. Latoya Miller, 3rd Battalion, 315th Engineer Training Support Battalion, left, is awarded 72nd Field Artillery Brigade Soldier of the Quarter Nov. 10.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is looking for interested residents who would like to volunteer

“Volunteers improve the quality of life for all residents”

For those residents who want to make sure the JB MDL community is the best it can be

For more information or to volunteer, call the Warfighter & Family Readiness Center at 562-2767

The FORT DIX Post

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY AND FOR FORT DIX PERSONNEL

Timeline

Over the 92-year history of Fort Dix, newspapers have served a vital role in telling the Soldier's story. The name of the installation newspaper has changed over time, but the commitment to serve those who are assigned here has remained the same.

The inaugural newspaper was passed out to the contractors and doughboys in 1917 when the first shovels turned soil at a place called Camp Dix, which was named for Maj. Gen. John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War who was also a U.S. senator, secretary of the Treasury, minister to France and governor of New York.

The military newspaper was sporadically published during the 1920s and 1930s, but local activities were reported by outside civilian newspapers when limited military operations were maintained by a caretaker detachment.

At one point early in the camp's history, there were four news products — each with a different name. However, the name that stood the test of time was the Fort Dix Post, which lasted 67 years.

Over its history, the newspaper and staff have garnered many military journalism awards, and for a period was also used as a standard for Army journalism training.

As the Post ends its historic run, it serves as the first military print newspaper for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst with a circulation of 15,000 newspapers printed weekly by the Burlington County Times.

The following timeline traces many of the key events that shaped Fort Dix and the nation.

1917-1919



- Property near Wrightstown is selected as location of 78th National Army Division mobilization camp.
- Philadelphia firm of Irwin and Leighton begins construction of facilities for an Infantry division of three regiments, as part of a master plan to build 16 National Army Camps.

- More than 17,000 draftees report here to be processed.
- Camp Dix Hospital with 1,000 beds receives its first patients.
- The first contingent of the 15th New York Colored Infantry arrive at Camp Dix.
- The 78th Infantry Division moves personnel to France and the camp is selected as a staging area for follow-on Army divisions.
- The 87th Infantry Division stages at the camp for two months.
- Two infantry brigades of 34th Infantry Division stage at the post when a national influenza epidemic strikes.
- Camp Dix becomes a demobilization center.
- Seven infantry divisions and 231 other units inactivate over six months.
- More than 300,000 men discharge from the Army.
- Treasury Department begins filming a movie here in support of the "Fifth Liberty Loan Drive."

1920s

- General John J. Pershing, General of the Armies, who commanded World War I forces, is the guest at demonstrations here for World War I veterans and their families to mark the second anniversary of the armistice.



- A cadre of 10 Soldiers is used as caretakers during a cooling-off period here. First Infantry Division troops use facilities for annual summer training and range qualification.
- Soldiers from New Jersey National Guard and the 77th and 78th Infantry Divisions begin training. Officers of the Organized Reserve Corps also conduct training here.
- Much of the land constituting the military preservation in an executive order under President Calvin Coolidge is renamed Dix National Forest.
- Camp Dix reopens as the II Corps training area.
- Four-hundred Marines from Lakehurst Air Naval Station complete their small arms training.

Post Captures 67 Years of News

Ultimate Weapon Witnesses Half-Century of Army history

Charlie Germain
Former Fort Dix Public Affairs

Like thunder, he lunges into battle. He carries 185 pounds of combat equipment, for he is ready to fight and protect his country.

He has been a symbol of the infantryman, the Ultimate Weapon, for a half-century.

In 1957, the mission was assigned to build a statue. Now retired Command Sgt. Maj. Billy L. Wright, a Willingboro resident, was chosen to oversee the creation of the symbol of the Infantry. "It started out as a small project. We had no idea it would turn out so big and last so long," Wright said, reminiscing about the time spent creating the statue.

The project began, according to Wright, with Spec. 4 Steven Goodman, a clerk who worked under him. "He had a natural talent to create things with his hands," Wright said. At the time, the post was an infantry post — a place for foot Soldiers to receive basic and advanced training. Post Commander Bruce C. Clarke told Wright he wanted a statue for Fort Dix that would be a symbol of the infantryman.

"They said they were looking for something that was exciting. They told us that the infantryman was the ultimate weapon. They said the Army can create all kinds of bombs and weapons, but it takes the infantryman to go in and hold the ground," Goodman said.

Because the Army did not have a budget for artwork, supplies were scarce. "I built the original statue with an old railroad track and odds and ends," Goodman said. He was assisted in the construction by Pvt. Stuart Scherz, who had studied industrial arts with him in New York City.

After working 10 to 12 hours a day for 18 months, the job was finished, and so too was Goodman's enlistment. He returned to the civilian world, eventually founding his own importing company.

For years, he almost forgot about the statue. Then, in 1989, Goodman's son wanted to stop on the way to Philadelphia to see the statue his father had built. "We went there and I pointed out the area where it had been, but it was gone. I said they probably knocked it down and threw it into the garbage and that was that," Goodman said.

But his wife suggested they stop at post headquarters and see what happened to it. Goodman stopped a passing Soldier. "Hey fella, what ever happened to the Ultimate Weapon?" Goodman said the Soldier was startled: "It was Maj. General James W. Wurman, the post commander. I guess he wasn't used to people around there calling him fella," Goodman said.

"The general asked me why I wanted to know. I told him I had built it, and I wanted to show it to my kid.

"He said, 'Where have you been? We've been looking all over for you. The (continued on page 10)



Charlie Germain

ULTIMATE RESTORATION — Members of a restoration committee, including Steven Goodman, the Ultimate Weapon's creator, right, work in the late 1980s on returning the statue to its former glory.

Underground Newspapers Forced Change in Army News Publications

Father of Modern Army Newspapers Gives Post Kudos

Ed Mingin
ASA Public Affairs

Sixties' counterculture crossed into the mainstream by the end of that decade, forcing people to accept new ideas and re-evaluate everyday life. Army newspapers weren't able to escape the influence of the counterculture, as a slew of underground newspapers came to life during this time, causing the Army to take a closer look at its own publications.

The First Amendment protected their rights to free speech and freedom of the press, but the publications were still called "underground" because of their association with the counterculture of the times. The underground

newspapers started gaining more readers than Army newspapers, likely because they covered a wider range of topics and were considered more cutting-edge.

"In 1971, the public affairs people said, 'Soldiers aren't reading the Army newspapers.' They said we had to modernize the Army newspapers," said retired Army Sgt. Maj. Gary Beylickjian, who is often mentioned as the father of the modern Army newspaper. "The underground papers were being read; the Army papers weren't being read."

Many of the underground newspapers were being published to offer a voice of protest against the Vietnam War. They weren't restricted by the same rules that applied to Army newspapers, and they became popular with Soldiers and civilians alike.

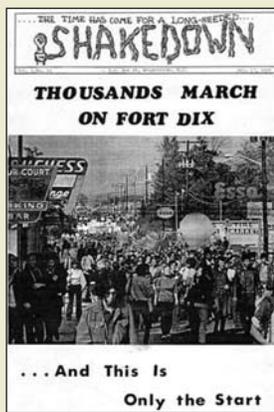
The papers sprung up around the globe, going head-to-head with Army publications. Even the Fort Dix Post had an underground

competitor, when the Shakedown started publishing in Wrightstown in 1969.

"The underground papers were mostly started because of the anti-war feeling at the time. The central theme was anti-war, and how to beat the Army — how to get out of going to war, that kind of thing. Many of the people who worked at the Army papers were draftees. They didn't want to be in the Army and go to war. They'd start writing for the underground papers. In Fort Belvoir, they had an underground paper that was quite popular. It was run by a second lieutenant," said Beylickjian.

It was clear that Army publications were going to have to change the way they do business if they wanted to retain readers and be relevant.

"They were catering to the brass. I wanted them to write about more controversial topics," said Beylickjian. "After the mod- (continued on page 10)



file photo

SEASON OF CHANGE — The Shakedown was one of many underground newspapers from the 1960s that forced changes in Army newspapers.

Former Editor Reflects Upon 20 Years of Telling the Army Story

Carolee Nisbet
Former Editor

The Post you are reading today marks the end of an era.

The first issue of the newspaper hit the busy streets of Fort Dix in 1942. Written and designed by Soldiers for Soldiers, the enormously popular paper touched on everything from local sports, to the train schedule to Trenton, to the progress of World War II on both fronts.

Many of the Soldiers who wrote the stories and took the pictures that appeared in the Post were assigned to the paper because of their experience in the civilian world.

Fort Dix was a boomtown in 1942. Buildings were put up, remodeled, expanded, torn down and rebuilt as the population doubled and doubled again, with more than 55,000 Soldiers calling the post (temporarily) home.



file photo

DYNAMIC DUO — Charlie Germain, left, and Carolee Nisbet, the Post editor and Fort Dix Public Affairs officer, look over a special insert to the installation newspaper commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II's invasion of Normandy. Germain during his uniformed military career worked for Fort Bragg's Paraglide before becoming the Post's sports editor. Nisbet produced about 1,000 Post newspapers in her 20-year career. She was also responsible for producing at least two special editions a year, in addition to the Post Express printed for Soldiers preparing for deployment to Bosnia in 1995 when the regular newspaper was closed for the holidays.

but readers had little chance to miss them. News, photos, opinion, cartoons, schedules, sports and interviews crammed the pages, all written in the flamboyant jargon of a nation gone to war. "My kid brother is a bad risk," wrote Sgt. Jimmy Cannon, who became a syndicated sports columnist after the war. "He needed two co-signers

before the draft board would take him."

Every issue of the Post recounted visits by famous and not-so-famous entertainers and athletes. Cab Calloway, Betty Grable, Kay Kyser, Nelson Eddy and Milton Berle were just a few who took the stage in crammed service clubs and outdoor arenas to the delight of GIs. Some did more than entertain. The New York Yankees, World Champions in 1942, not only visited, but played a team of Dix Soldiers. With a little help from Joe DiMaggio and some fine pitching by Lefty Gomez, the Yanks squeaked by 4-2.

Only war news was reported in somber fashion — and usually scant detail.

The arrival of every nurse and WAC unit, however, was covered with minute precision. Neither the staff nor apparently the readers would have made it

through Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment. The Post continued in the same format through the Korean War, then settled in as an installation newspaper for a basic training post. Policy changes brought a new approach: In exchange for the right (continued on page 10)

Timeline

1930s

- Local students participate in good citizenry-type training under the Citizens Military Training Program.
- Headquarters orderly room sells a book of 10 haircut coupons for \$1.50.
- Camp Dix is part of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). More than 16,000 selectees are processed here in the first month. Two companies are assigned to maintain firebreaks, plant trees, care for soil erosion, improve roads and build mess facilities.
- Four active duty Army units provide finance, medical, and quartermaster functions of a post headquarters.
- Army Private John F. Nolan's monthly salary is \$17.65.
- A small landing strip is built for light planes to support post activities. That dirt landing strip is later expanded to become Fort Dix Army Air Field.
- Camp Dix becomes Fort Dix.

1940s

- Fort Dix expands its property size to meet the needs of a nation entering World War II. The War Department sees the post as the largest installation in the northeast.
- More than 1,600 buildings are completed in a two-year timeframe, including 531 barracks, 178 dining facilities, 13 chapels, 10 fire stations, 12 gas stations, six theaters and two morgues.
- The new Fort Dix 1,000-bed hospital is built in a cantonment-type structure of 80 buildings.
- The New Jersey Army National Guard's 44th Division with 11,000 men is called to federal active service by executive order and live in a tent city.
- Members of the Second Battalion, 372nd Infantry, an all-black unit, arrive at Fort Dix.
- The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established. It was soon replaced with the Women's Army Corps. At Fort Dix WAACs served as administrative and clerical assistants, truck drivers, photographers and mechanics.
- The 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions, 8th Composite Air Force and thousands of Soldiers of larger divisional organizations stage and train on the post.
- In a one-year-period, 5,000 recruits become U.S. citizens.
- The 4th Mechanized "Ivy" Division arrives and is designated the 4th Infantry Division.
- The 80th Division, made up of men from the Blue Ridge states, arrives here. Soldiers from one of its regiments are dispatched to Philadelphia in the midst of a strike that hampered the transport of material for the war effort.
- The 85th Division arrives on post and shares space with 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions, 21st Field Artillery Battalion, and the 537th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion.
- The Prisoner of War Camp opens and houses thousands of Germans, Italians, and Russians forced into service for the Germans. During captivity, they serve in the laundry, hospital, quartermaster supply and camp maintenance.
- The 90th Division arrives in England after staging at Fort Dix.
- A small military separation center is opened to process and discharge personnel within 48 hours.



PHOTO FLASHBACK -- Sgt. Alfred D. Boehme

- The small separation center is expanded and becomes the largest in the United States.
- Cadet Nurses of the Army attend the Second Command Nurses Basic Training School at Tilton Hospital and complete their final six months of training.
- Fort Dix institutes the Army's six-week basic training program.
- Dix opened its first leadership school to prepare noncommissioned officers for promotion to the top three enlisted ranks of master sergeant, technical sergeant, and staff sergeant.
- Staff Sgt. Albert Cuchessi of Newark is the one-millionth Soldier to be discharged here. Cuchessi was a POW in Japanese camps for more than three years.
- Dix discharges a total of 1,182,118 World War II veterans in two years.
- Fort Dix Army Airfield becomes an Air Force installation.
- President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which abolished racial segregation in the armed services.
- The 9th Infantry Division is reactivated to take on the post's 14-week basic training mission.
- 17th Infantry Regiment is renamed as the 9th Infantry Division Specialist Training Regiment to provide training for Army mechanics, clerks and cooks.
- The airfield becomes McGuire AFB and is dedicated in honor of Maj. Thomas B. McGuire, a leading World War II fighter ace.



PHOTO FLASHBACK -- Sgt. Alfred D. Boehme

PHOTO FLASHBACK -- Sgt. Charles Kiley, left, points to the Fort Dix Post extra which came out on V-E Day and tells T/5 Charles Ruber and Pfc. Robert E. Ingraham, both being discharged under the point system, how the surrender took place. Kiley was the only GI present at the signing of the historic surrender of the German Army.

Ultimate Weapon

(continued from page 9)

Ultimate Weapon has become the symbol of the American fighting man. "The general asked for Goodman's help in restoring the statue. Goodman traveled about once a month to Fort Dix from his home in Cresskill in Bergen County to meet with the restoration committee, formed under the sponsorship of the Fort Dix Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Summer heat and winter cold had taken its toll on the original statue, and although some repairs were made, it was decided that the symbol of the Infantry needed recasting. The original was taken to a foundry near Princeton in 1988, where molds were made for recasting the statue in bronze.

The statue was then taken to a temporary home in the center of the then Fort Dix Reception Station (today the USAF's Air Expeditionary Warfare Center) and is now at Sharp Field.

Goodman said he put a lot of his own time and money into the project, but that was not what was important to him. "I take great pride in what I had done. I wanted to make sure it came out right." But Goodman is only one of many who contributed to the estimated \$86,833 project cost. Fort Dix worked on a major fund-raising campaign and raised more than \$80,000 for recasting of the statue.

News of the restoration also reached the private sector, and donors contributed more than \$25,000 to the fund.

According to Wright, the statue has been a success because it doesn't show a single race, creed or religion. "It's a symbol to be recognized," he said.

Located in Infantry Park, the newer statue, which stands 14-feet tall and weighs over 300 pounds, was unveiled in August 1989 and continues to be a symbol of excellence.

Former editor reflects

(continued from page 9)

to sell and run advertising, a commercial printer would take the paper to press.

The Burlington County Times first won the contract to print the weekly in 1959, and has held the contract since. As the War in Vietnam and the controversy that surrounded it grew, the Post -- like almost all Army newspapers -- printed a narrow, approved version of the news and nearly folded due to lack of readership and community support. Even high-visibility events like anti-war protests outside the gates were ignored.

The volunteer Army came to the rescue. Soldiers who willingly raised their right hands for Uncle Sam expected real news. Army newspapers were encouraged to deliver. Training news shared pages in the Post with articles on drugs, abortion, discrimination and an encyclopedia of current issues.

Soldiers were invited to voice their opinions. The installation became a community, and the community once again grabbed up all the news it could get.

"Sometimes I cringe a little bit about what appears in the Post," said Anthony Elders, command information officer for Fort Dix in a 1977 retirement interview. "But it would bother me more if no one read it, and that's what will happen if we don't keep up with the needs of the Soldiers."

Throughout the 1980s, the Post again reflected change -- more Soldiers married, and families became part of the focus. Basic Training, still the major mission of Fort Dix, evolved to integrate women, a change that did not take place quietly.

Late in 1988, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission set Fort Dix on a new path -- and the Post was challenged to keep its readers informed in the chaos that was realignment to a regional reserve training and mobilization center.

Realignment brought changes for those who produced the paper, too. In six years, the Public Affairs Office staff went from 14 to 4, and began to "demilitarize." From Desert Storm to peace-keeping to realignment and reductions in force to pay fraud to murder, the 1990s at Fort Dix never lacked for front-page material. Focus shifted as the workforce became primarily civilian, but the staff soon found that shift meant more to cover, not less.

More than 8,000 Soldiers deployed to Desert Storm through Fort Dix, and the Post captured mission, family members, war news and more.

Circulation was high during the 1990s, as the post went from Desert Storm to Operation Determined Effort to the massive mission to care for Kosovo refugees in 1999. The paper mushroomed to a high of 24 pages, and the quality was reflected in a string of Department of Army Keith L. Ware Awards for excellence in journalism.

One editor, Diane Felder, nabbed silver in the Department of Defense level of the competition, the Thomas Jefferson Awards. That accomplishment was repeated in 2000 by Kryn Westhoven, a staff member who now works for the New Jersey

Army journalist reports at Dix

FORT DIX, N.J., July 6, 1945 -- The only GI to attend the unconditional surrender of the German High Command to the Allies was discharged this week at the Fort Dix Separation Center under the Army point system.

He is Staff Sgt. Charles Kiley, a Stars and Stripes reporter, who was selected to represent a pool of GI newspapermen to attend the historic surrender of the Nazi war machine which took place at Supreme HQ, AAF, Reims, France on May 7.

As the only reporter to cover the preliminary negotiations, Sgt. Kiley together with two Army photographers, T/4 Thomas Meslin, Orange, N.J. and T/Sgt. Jack Howell, Kansas City, later were assigned to supply data of the meeting to 16 war correspondents who were flown in from Paris. The signing of the surrender was at 2:41 a.m.

After receiving the information the correspondents were flown back to Paris pledged to secrecy until the official simultaneous announcements were made from the capitals of the big three. This was scheduled for 9 a.m. EWT, May 9.

Following the signing, Sgt. Kiley together with all the high ranking Allied officers flew to Berlin for the official ratification of the surrender by the Russian representative, Marshal Zhukov at 11:30 p.m., May 8.

Sgt. Kiley, formerly a reporter for the Jersey Journal, went overseas in October, 1942 with the 64th Division and joined the staff of Stars and Stripes six months later.

Underground

(continued from page 9)

ernization of the Army papers, we started talking about more current, controversial themes. We covered abortion, suicide, child abuse. I pushed and pushed and critiqued the paper to get better writing, better grammar, and they had been following design layouts from years before."

Army newspapers started evolving, looking to meet the demands of their readers. New ideas were tried, layout designs were updated, and content was evaluated. Beylickjian started reviewing various Army papers, picking out what worked and looking to improve what didn't. He critiqued 20 newspapers a day, and offered suggestions.

The Fort Dix Post was one of the papers on Beylickjian's regular rotation. He received the paper every week, and he didn't hold back when he offered his advice.

"I used to get all over the folks at Fort Dix, but they had some great writers," he recalled.

The hard work paid off over the years. With the constant critiques and efforts of Army journalists, Army publications became relevant again. The Fort Dix Post newspaper benefited from Beylickjian's input and won many awards over the years, including the Keith L. Ware Award, the J Award for Print Journalism Excellence and the TRADOC Journalism Competition.

"The underground papers were a catalyst for change, but they faded away because we became modern," said Beylickjian.

Army publications continue to evolve, and during the mid-90s, Army news sources took to the World Wide Web. The Web has made it so that alternative views are once again causing the Army to reevaluate its journalistic approach.

Anyone can create a Facebook, MySpace or Twitter account and blog away about anything.

The Army has created a modern identity on the Web. It has a presence on the social networks (Facebook, MySpace, etc.) and encourages its Soldiers to blog. Instead of looking at these as being negative, the Army views it as a way to tell the Soldier's story.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and photos in The Post are now (almost) entirely digital. With pages, articles and photos all digital, the next step was obvious -- the Post is now online at www.dix.army.mil.

While the look, the staff and the production methods changed dramatically during the past 67 years, the mission did not -- tell the story, spread the word, recognize the best.

The first issue said: "Contributions, written, cartooned, or photographed are earnestly solicited."

This issue solicits only memories.



Following the paper trail ...

Above are five samples of the many different mastheads that have graced the front cover of the Fort Dix Post during its 67-year history. The newspaper began its modern existence in 1942 as the "First Call," and spent many years as "The Fort Dix Post" before finally becoming known as just "the Post."

Timeline

1950s

- The 364th Infantry Regiment is reactivated to assist the training load needed to support the Korean War.
- Thirteen military service members were killed after a jet plane, unable to gain altitude, plunged in flames into a scrub pine belt where an Army detail was winding up a day of communications training.
- The 60th Explosive Ordnance Squad is assigned to Fort Dix and takes on the additional support for Burlington County.
- The 86th Engineer Battalion is assigned to the post by First Army and handles maintenance and construction for the next 12 years before it is ordered to Vietnam.
- The 9th Infantry Division is transferred to U.S. Army Europe.
- The 69th Infantry Division is tasked to conduct basic and advanced individual training at the post.
- Fort Dix population includes 40,000 civilian and military personnel.
- The All-Soldier Chorus of the 69th Infantry Division Band appeared with Arlene Francis on ABC-TV's Soldier Parade, Gary Moore's Television Show and the Ed Sullivan Show.
- The 69th becomes the U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry.
- The post's NCO Advisory Council is established.
- Training at the 15-station "Proficiency Park" begins where basic trainees are tested in various austere environments on weapons training and other military subjects.
- An accelerated eight-week basic combat training program returns bayonet and hand-to-hand combat instruction to post trainees.



1960s

- Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker dedicates the 500-bed Walston Army Hospital named after Brig. Gen. Charles M. Walston. In its first year of operation, Walston treated 22,999 patients.
- Fort Dix receives its initial shipment of M-14 rifles that replace the M-1 and M-60 machine gun. By year's end 550 weapons are delivered.
- New congressional appropriations launches five years of post construction projects to remove World War II structures.
- The 86th Engineers complete work on Dogwood, Lake Willow Pond, Deer Lake and Meadow Lake. Dogwood Lake is one of the first man-made lakes on the post.
- The 14th Counsel International du Sport Militaire Boxing Championship kicks off at the post's Sports Arena with military boxers from 10 countries participating.
- Fourteen Army Reserve and National Guard units are called to active duty at Dix as a result of increased Cold War tensions and the construction of the Berlin Wall.

- In addition to its basic training operations, 14,000 Reserve and National Guard Soldiers train at the post.
- The 1st Advanced Individual Training Regiment introduces heavy weapons training. Instructors started teaching the 106-mm recoilless rifle, and the 81mm and 4.2 inch mortars.
- Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for a 600-seat Post Chapel and Religious Center.
- The Special Processing Detachment, with the mission of handling AWOLs, deserters, and persons apprehended by military and civilian police, was assigned to the 1387th Replacement Company.
- The post's chemical officer becomes responsible for the training of local civilian radiological defense monitors and the first class held later in the month was conducted in Margate.
- Seventy drill sergeants of the Fort Dix Drill Sergeant School graduate.
- A \$1.3-million construction program begins at Army Walston Hospital that adds a two-story addition and an Air Evacuation Center that will be shared by neighboring McGuire AFB personnel.
- As a result of the Vietnam War buildup and the war's demand for personnel, the post's Drill Sergeant Assistant Course becomes the Drill Corporal course.
- Second Army deactivates and the post falls in with First U.S. Army.
- The Fort Dix Personnel Center processes 200,000 personnel through its Reception Station, Overseas Replacement Station and Transfer station.
- On June 5, 1969, 250 men imprisoned in the military stockade there for being AWOL, rioted in an effort to expose the various unsanitary conditions.

U.S. Offers Albanians Safe Haven

Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

FORT DIX, N.J., June 15, 1999 — More than 4,000 Kosovar Albanian refugees have reached a temporary safe haven here at the invitation of the U.S. government.

Vice President Gore announced U.S. plans April 21 to relocate up to 20,000 Kosovar refugees. He said those with family ties in America and those in vulnerable circumstances, such as single mothers or people with medical conditions, would be given priority.

The first Kosovar refugees reached America in early May. Those with relatives in the United States arrived on commercial flights to meet family members at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. Those to be linked with sponsors arrived at McGuire Air Force Base on charter flights. From there, they boarded buses bound for a reception center at Fort Dix's Doughboy Gymnasium, where an interagency task force welcomed them.

The Department of Health and Human Services heads the effort, supported by the Defense Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, State Department, American Red Cross, New Jersey National Guard and nongovernment resettlement agencies. When each refugee family finished processing, soldiers and Immigration and Naturalization Service interpreters escorted them to assigned dormitories.

The Kosovars entered the United States with the legal status of "refugees," immigration officials said. As such, they can work in the United States and may also decide to stay. They can apply for permanent resi-

deny after one year and for citizenship after five. U.S. officials, however, said they expect most of the refugees will want to return to Kosovo, and the U.S. government is committed to help them return once it is safe to do so.

Only blood relatives can sponsor refugees in the United States, according to officials of the Immigration and Refugee Service of America, the agency coordinating resettlement processing at Fort Dix.

Blood relatives should call to find the closest resettlement agency where they can fill out an affidavit of relationship.

Church groups or others wishing to help sponsors should contact one of nine nongovernment organizations contracted by the State Department to resettle the refugees. The nine are: Church World Service, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Ethiopian Community Development Council, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, International Rescue Committee, Immigration and Refugee Services of America, Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services, U.S. Catholic Conference, and World Relief Refugee Services.

These agencies, through their networks of more than 400 affiliates, help the refugees attain sponsors, get their children in school, apply for work, receive language training and other assistance.

The flow of refugees to Fort Dix stopped at the end of May after the last of nine flights arrived. U.S. officials said refugees bound for the United States will instead complete processing overseas and then go directly to relatives or sponsors.

(Editor's Note: This article was chosen for inclusion due to several responses to an informal survey naming it the most memorable event on post.)



Capt. Ronald Kopp

STARS AND STRIPES — A Kosovar child rests on the shoulders of Spc. Brian Tiehen of the 612th Quartermaster Company, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. The Bragg Soldiers were at Fort Dix as part of Joint Task Force Provide Refuge and helped care for some 3,500 refugees.

Post Delivery Was Family Mission

Wayne Cook
ASA Public Affairs

A family affair of delivering the Post newspaper for more than four decades has come to an end this week.

What was started in 1964 when William DeGarmo of Mount Holly took over the Fort Dix-McGuire Air Force Base-Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst newspaper delivery route and has since been taken over by his daughter Patty McCoy, will change to the Joint Base Air-Land-Sea Times newspaper route as the contract for the Post expires and ceases printing.

DeGarmo, a retired sergeant first class, served all over the globe for 21 years, especially in Europe. His final years in the Army were spent as a medic at the Walston Army Hospital. During his final year in the service, he delivered the post newspaper and took the job full time when he retired.

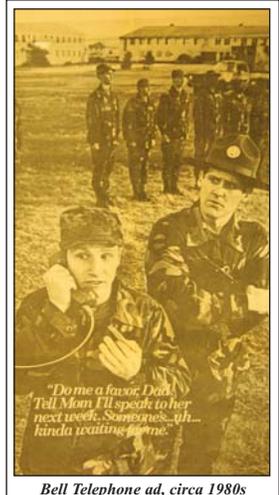
When DeGarmo retired, his wife told him he had one free move and he decided to sell the family home in Olympia, Wash., and buy a house in Mount Holly. The father of six would often take his children, wife or neighborhood children on the route with him.

Being from the old school of thinking, and having been raised on a farm, DeGarmo didn't believe in days off or vacations. He put in seven days a week, every week, unless it was just impossible to work. During one stretch, he went 33 months without a day off.

Five of his six children helped on a somewhat regular basis with the deliveries, and his youngest, Patty, recalled how he would drive the truck and the children would run the papers to the drop-off points.

"Dad was diligent about us delivering the paper quickly and correctly. He always said, 'Quickly, quickly,'" she said. "When we got older, if one of us delivered the paper without him, he always called to make sure we didn't have any problems."

McCoy was the only child who learned the complete delivery route. She did it to help him when he was getting on in years.



Bell Telephone ad, circa 1980s

"Dad delivered the paper for 42 years. Every year on the anniversary of when he started, he would tell the gate-guard as he drove through, 'It's been 32 years,' or however long it had been. They didn't really care, but dad was proud of his service to the community," said McCoy.

During the early 1990s, right after McCoy had learned the complete route, DeGarmo had a heart attack. It was early spring when he had the attack, and the summer was a very hot one, so McCoy took the route until her father could get back to work in the fall.

DeGarmo continued to deliver the papers for more than 10 years. In 2005, he was diagnosed with cancer. Patty went on the route with him as he drove the bus for the next year. In August 2006, DeGarmo took a bad turn with the cancer and McCoy went on the route by herself. While she was delivering the papers, she received a phone call that her father had passed away. She decided to complete the route because that is what her father would have wanted.

"Dad loved driving that white bus with the bold letters along the side spelling out 'Military Newspapers,'" McCoy reminisced. "I wanted the route for years, but when I got it I didn't like the way I received it."

"As a young child, I remember dad would have mom and me with him on the delivery route, and when we were finished we would stop at Herb's Seafood in Wrightstown. It was awesome. It's a great memory. I also recall when the Airtides had 19,000 papers delivered. I really enjoyed the time I spent with my father on the route," she said.

Over the past three years McCoy has kept up the family legacy and plans to continue supporting the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst newspaper until she is no longer needed.



Wayne Cook

LAST CALL — Patty McCoy delivers freshly-printed copies of the Post to the Public Affairs Training Center on Maryland Avenue Nov. 19. McCoy is continuing the family legacy of delivering the local military newspapers. Her father, William DeGarmo, inset photo, began the delivery route in 1964 when he retired from the Army.

People Leave Imprint on Post

Shawn Morris
ASA Public Affairs

The history of the Post newspaper is marked by many important events, including the end of World War II, the beginning of the current war in Iraq, and countless milestones in between.

But it's also marked by the coming and going of the people who have produced the newspaper during its 67-year run, each one leaving his or her personal imprint in the pages of Fort Dix history.

One such individual named Bill Libby came to Dix in 1976 as the theater director for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

His next job on post was at the Training and Support Center (TAS-C) making training videos, but this came to an end in 1983 when TAS-C contracted out its workforce.

husband first started working at PAO, its location on Texas Avenue left little to be desired.

"There were old metal desks, there were Sunday comics pasted up on the windows — nothing like the building today," Molly said, referencing the renovated facility on Maryland Avenue that currently houses the PAO. "Bill would say, 'I can't believe this — here we are, the mouthpiece to the command, and we have comics taped up on the windows!'"

Despite its lack of decor, the PAO kept up its usual high standards during Bill's five-year stint with the office. And, as is typical of most public affairs offices, the unexpected was to be expected.

"I remember once there was a program for D-Day, and the veterans came on post and had a big thing at Griffith Field House," she recalled. "Then Bill came racing out of Griffith and said, 'We lost a vet!'"

"We were scurrying all around post trying to find this little old guy," she said, laughing. "We finally found him."

In 1988, Bill and Molly found themselves on the road to Fort Drum, N.Y., where Bill headed up that post's public affairs office, running both the television and radio stations in addition to the newspaper. Molly started working

for the government, and various job assignments led the couple to Italy, Belgium and, finally, Alaska.

It was at this final stop that the couple would be forever separated.

"Bill died in Alaska," she said. "I wanted to come back here, because my home is here."

It took several years, but in 2004, Molly came home to Fort Dix.

Molly began working for the PAIO, which she would eventually direct, and began to become reacquainted with the post.

Things had changed since Bill and Molly left the Garden State 16 years prior. You now had to show ID to get through the post's guarded entry points, the PAO had moved from Texas Avenue, and Bill's former co-worker Carolee Nisbet had become the public affairs officer in 1989.

"At the first director's meeting, there was Carolee," Molly said. "I walked over to her and said, 'Oh my gosh, a friendly face.'"

Molly had come full circle, returning to the post where her husband began his public affairs career, and reuniting with people with whom he shared that career.

And Bill's imprint will always be preserved in past pages of the Post.

Timeline

1970s

- The Weather Underground plans to detonate a nail bomb at a noncommissioned officers dance at Fort Dix to protest the Vietnam War. The plot failed when a bomb under construction exploded at the group's hideout in New York townhouse, killing three members of the group.
- Chad Lewis, former Philadelphia Eagles tight end and member of the 1999 Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams, was born on Fort Dix.
- Fort Dix becomes part of TRADOC (Army Training and Doctrine Command).
- The Reception Station was completed, and New York Area Command became part of Fort Dix.
- A 19-year-old Fort Dix Soldier complaining of unusual fatigue dies abruptly. Several cases of a new disease, swine flu, emerged among more than 500 of his fellow Soldiers.
- Reports begin circulating that Fort Dix Military Police shot and killed an extra-terrestrial being on the installation. The U.S. government conducted an extensive study and announced that nothing strange happened on that day.
- Consolidated Army basic training for men and women is approved in 1977. The Women's Army Corps is disbanded and Fort Dix implements coed basic training a year later in Company D, 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade.



1980s

- The Commission on Base Realignment and Closure recommends that all initial entry at Fort Dix be moved to other TRADOC posts. The installation is slated to become a Regional Reserve Training Center.
- New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean visits Fort Dix during the opening of the New Jersey National Guard High Technology Training Center.
- Fort Dix begins to train Air Force Security Police in ground combat skills. Air Base Ground Defense Command trained enlisted, NCO and officer security police to better defend Air Force installations around the world.

1990s

- Fort Dix begins around-the-clock operations deploying troops for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.
- Fort Dix was chosen to train selected Kuwaiti civilians in basic military skills. After a brief course, they boarded planes to take part in the liberation of their country.
- Fort Dix transfers from Training and Doctrine Command to Forces Command, and is made a Reserve Training Base, serving as a Training, Mobilization and Deployment Center.
- The post sets a new training record by providing resources for 1.1-million man days of training.
- Dix transitions to U.S. Army Reserve Command and is recognized for its role as a Premier Power Projection Platform.

2000-Present

- While mobilizing 2,200 Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division for peacekeeping operations, terrorist attacks in New York City and the Pentagon result in the post being shutdown for the first time since World War II. One day after the attacks, Dix begins processing Soldiers for the Homeland Defense mission Operation Noble Eagle.
- Soldiers surge on the 90-year-old installation as the war in Iraq ramps up with a surge from 400 Soldiers to 4,000 Soldiers in one month.
- Congress announces that under the Base Realignment and Closure Act Fort Dix, Lakehurst and McGuire AFB will merge and become a Mega Base in the state of New Jersey.
- The first Operation Warrior Trainers report to the 5th Brigade, 78th Division. The new trainers are made up of recent veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who share experience and standards to follow-on forces.
- The New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, comprised of nearly 3,000 Garden State Soldiers, forms up on Doughboy Field before leaving for Fort Bliss and later Iraq. It is the largest mobilization for the Guard since World War II.
- Six men, described by the FBI as "home-grown terrorists" are accused of plotting to kill Soldiers on Fort Dix.
- More than 4,200 Soldiers of the Pennsylvania's 56th Stryker Brigade returns from Operation Iraqi Freedom and demobilize at the post.
- In summary at the deadline of the last issue of the Fort Dix Post, the installation will have mobilized, trained, deployed and demobilized 146,363 Soldiers in 3,160 units for contingency operations around the world.

The past in pictures



archive photo

A bugler wakes up troops by playing Reveille into a giant megaphone in 1940.



photo reproduced from Camp Dix Pictorial Review

Speck, a Mexican hairless chihuahua, graced the front cover of one of the first Dix papers, the 1917 Camp Dix Pictorial Review. Speck was the mascot of Motortruck Company 66.



Carolee Nisbet

Sgt. Maj. Mary Starmer, U. S. Army Reserve Command, talks with Kosovar refugees during Operation Provide Refuge. Four-thousand Albanian refugees were housed at Fort Dix during the 1999 mission.



Carolee Nisbet

Former Fort Dix Commander Maj. Gen. John Herling relives memories with Vietnam vets during a 1991 Veteran's Day ceremony on Fort Dix.



archive photo

Dix headquarters building namesake Maj. Gen. James Wurman talks to a Boy Scout following a parade in 1989.



Fort Dix was chosen to train selected Kuwaiti civilians in basic military skills. After a brief course, they boarded planes to take part in the liberation of their country.



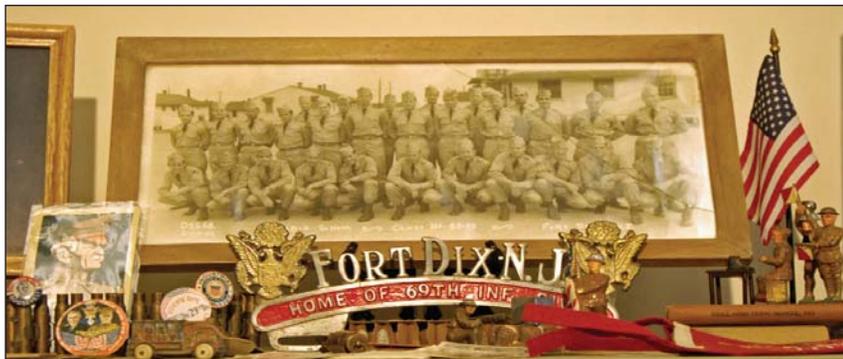
archive photo

A Soldier assigned to A Co., 372nd Infantry (Colored), fires his weapon from around the bushes in 1941. The unit trained at Fort Dix before deploying to the Pacific theater in World War II.



National Archives and Records Administration

A group of Doughboys bid a fond farewell to Camp Dix after being mustered out of the Army following the end of World War I.



Spc. James Clifton, 314th PAOC

A display of artifacts and images in the Army Support Activity Public Affairs Training Center tells the story of the history of Dix and Army journalism through the years.