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**News
UPDATE**

Sweetheart Ball

Fort Gordon Sergeants Major Association will hold its annual Valentine's Day Sweetheart Ball today, in the Gordon Club at 6:30 p.m.

Ticket cost for E-6 and below is \$20 per person, E-7 and above and civilians will be \$25 per person.

Dress is semi-formal and the general public is invited.

For more information or tickets, call Sgt. Maj. Donna Thames at thamesd@gordon.army.mil or 791-1574; Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons at simmons@gordon.army.mil or 791-7985; or Sgt. Maj. Bobbie Ramthal at ramtahab@gordon.army.mil or 791-3111.

IG visit

The U.S. Army Medical Command Inspector General Team will be in Eisenhower Army Medical Center on Feb. 18 from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The team will be available to accept IG complaints and requests for assistance from soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, family members and eligible retirees in room 12B36 located on the 12th floor of the medical center.

For more information, call 787-6949.

Town Hall meeting survey

Everyone is invited to log on to the Garrison's Homepage and take the town hall meeting survey. It takes just a few minutes to complete and will provide invaluable information in scheduling the next meeting in March 2003. Your suggestions and comments are needed. Go to <http://www.gordon.army.mil/garrfp/default.htm>.

AFAP conference planned

Fort Gordon will host an installation-wide Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 26 and 27 at the Reserve Center. The two day conference will provide delegates (active duty, national guard, reserve, retired, Department of the Army civilians, contract employees and family members) with an opportunity to address quality of life issues. For more information, call Lynn C. Harshman, Community Readiness director, 791-2820.

Black History Month

African-American Black History Month is through Feb. 28 and will recognize the accomplishments and achievements of African-Americans.

The command program will be held in Alexander Hall, Feb. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt 1st Class Gregory Pair at 791-2014/6657.

Soldiers help injured comrade

Find out CTT isn't a waste after all

Spc. Zoe Morris
News editor

On Feb. 1 the advanced individual training soldiers of Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, weren't out frolicking and having fun in the warm Saturday Georgia sun. They were, instead, sitting through a long session of common task training.

On Feb. 3 Pvt. Carmen Santo and Spc. Whitney Wills, Co. C soldiers, put those long hours of training into effect.

Santo and Wills were in the dry cleaners next to the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade Headquarters when a female soldier passed out and hit her head on the floor rendering her unconscious.

"For a split second I was looking around and everybody took a step back," Wills said. "Nobody did anything, everybody stood there in shock. Santo was the first one to get over that initial 'Oh my gosh, what happened?' He rushed to her side, and he was very calm."

Santo immediately checked for breathing and then bleeding, and Wills came to his side to help him.

"It was like looking at a white board with the eight steps for evaluating a casualty written on it," Wills said. "It just materialized."

"(During CTT) I'm thinking, 'Oh, I'll never be there when someone gets shot. I don't need this.' But obviously it's not just for people on the front lines," she said.

Soldiers are tested yearly on common tasks such as evaluating a casualty, functions check of a M-16, individual movement techniques and map reading. Though every soldier should know these tasks, many move through the training as zombies, just wanting the day to be over and feeling like the training isn't something they need to know for their every-

day life.

"(During CTT) you keep going over and over and over it again," Santo said. When a situation arises, it's just something you just respond to, he said.

"If the response is second nature it works, but if it's not you have to think about it a little bit," he said. It's the quick response that saves lives, and one of the points of CTT is to get the information ingrained into the soldier's mind.

"I was walking them

See CTT, Page 2



Pvt. Carmen Santo and Spc. Whitney Wills, Company C., 73rd Ordnance Battalion, went to the rescue of a soldier who passed out next to them.



Photo by Spc. Zoe Morris

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks talks with a group of Signal Officer Basic Course students learning about Small Extension Nodes.

Hicks visits SOBC class

Spc. Zoe Morris
News editor

Fort Gordon's commanding general visited Signal Officer Basic Course 06-02 during their field training exercise Feb. 5.

"Here at the Signal Center we're all about the future - future technology, future equipment," said Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general, USASC and Fort Gordon. "But it's the soldiers of the future who will make the Army what it is."

"I like to see what's on

their minds. Assess what kind of Signal lieutenants we are sending out into the world," she said.

2nd Lt. Siimoo Galoia, an SOBC student, said Hicks questioned her about the exercise.

"I told her it's good to have hands-on training. And the staff is very knowledgeable," Galoia said. "I think it's great that she's here. It shows me she's concerned about training and the information getting put out."

The class is in the 17th week of the 18 week course.

The FTX is the final phase of their training experience and is designed to provide hands-on familiarization of Mobile Subscriber Equipment in a tactical environment, Lt. Col. Robbie Mosley, commander, 442nd Signal Battalion, said.

During the FTX, officers experience hands-on application of operating the equipment and demonstrating their leadership principles.

"These are our leaders of the future," Hicks said. "The next chief of Signal could be

See Hicks, Page 3



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

A new Army encryption email system that allows Sgt. Adam Fenno, Headquarters and Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion, to send and receive encrypted emails in the field.

Encryption email system to be taught by SIT

Josh Pieczynski
Youth Challenge Academy

Soldiers in the 74B MOS are learning how to receive, send and encrypt email messages using a new system, which implements use of the Fortezza card. This card allows soldiers in the field to accept, send and read encrypted and encoded emails. The soldiers who use the card are using the Tactical Message Systems.

"This is a very secure system because when it comes to unclassified or classified emails they are both safe because of the Fortezza card's capabilities," Sgt. Adam Fenno, 442nd Headquarters and Company A, Signal Battalion, an instructor at Dixon Hall, said as he demonstrated how the card and system work. "It's 100 percent hacker free; no one can copy it or break into the system."

The system in which the soldiers send the emails is on a TMS system, which is only temporary as opposed to a Defense Message System, which is 10 to 15 complete servers in one room, making it extremely difficult to transfer.

"We can have this system unpacked in 30 minutes and online in an additional 15, tops," Fenno added.

If the soldier in the field lose the card, he would report it to his or her sergeant or instructor and the lost card would become void on the system. Because only the original owner of the card would possess a password to use the card to read encrypted messages, the card alone would be useless in undesirable hands anyway, Fenno said.

Twenty sets of the system are currently in existence, and the system is so new it has only been used in the field a little over a year. Fenno said the new email system will backup radio communication as an added precaution to deliver secure information.

"I think it's a well put together system," Fenno said.

Mannequins help Gordon unit train

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Real life scenarios are often used in training; however, training aids used by Fort Gordon's Center for Total Access provide an extra degree of reality.

"Looking at it, seeing that he's getting worse, actually seeing it, you know you have to react," said Sgt. Dorothy Gunder of the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital Reserve Unit headquartered at Fort Gordon, which recently trained on the devices.

The training aid is called "Stan" for standard man and is a lifelike mannequin, who can blink, breathe and exhale the same mix of elements that a human being does and even die.

The mannequins have a pulse and heartbeat and can receive intravenous fluids. Some of them can cry or vomit.

The simulators have been

used since August 2001 to train about 500 reservists. A few weeks ago, nursing students from the Medical College of Georgia also began training on them.

A scenario, such as a land mine explosion followed by a sniper attack, can be programmed into the computer. In the civilian setting, the scenario could involve several patients in an intensive care unit.

In the war situation, the medics have to respond quickly, but they must think through all of the factors. The members of the 3297th had to consider distances to a field hospital and a battalion aid station. There was limited transportation, and some procedures such as surgery couldn't be performed at the battalion aid station.

Also, the battalion aid station was in a heavily wooded area with no landing zone for a chopper.

See Stan, Page 2



12 Afghans surrender after firefight

U.S. Special Forces soldiers came under heavy weapons fire Feb. 10 as they patrolled an area north of Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The soldiers were on a mounted patrol when anti-coalition forces opened fire with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, U.S. officials said. The patrol drove through the fire and called for close-air support. Coalition aircraft dropped precision-guided munitions on targets and then strafed the area. There were no U.S. casualties.

The commander of the 2nd Battalion of the Afghan national army later arranged the surrender of 12 men loyal to a local warlord. The 12 had fled into the hills and hid in area caves; they turned over their weapons and ammunition to the 2nd Battalion.

The incident continues a string of isolated attacks on coalition forces. On Feb. 7, coalition forces came under fire southwest of Gardez.

There have been mortar and rocket attacks on coalition targets in the country. U.S. Central Command officials said it is sometimes difficult to tell whether an attack was directed at the coalition or was fighting among rival Afghan factions.

Operation Mongoose near Spin Boldak is winding down. Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division continued cave destruction in the Adi Ghar Mountains. The operation began Jan. 27. At least 18 Afghan fighters loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar were killed.

Hekmatyar, a former prime minister, had been generally thought to be an unaligned, renegade guerrilla leader. Flyers distributed last year in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, however, claimed Hekmatyar had joined forces with al Qaeda terrorists.

At Mongoose's height, 300 to 350 coalition troops were involved. Coalition forces cleared more than 75 caves.

National Guard and Reserve mobilized

This week the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps each announce an increase of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The net collective result is 38,649 more reservists than last week.

The total number of reserve personnel currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 113,751; Naval Reserve, 6,276; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 15,704; Marine Corps Reserve, 12,539; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 1,982. This brings the total Reserve and National Guard on active duty to 150,252 including both units and individual augmentees.

At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease.

The more the merrier *Family of 6 to add 3*

Denise Allen
Staff writer

The face and brief biography on the international adoption website called to Carla Jackson.

The wife of Staff Sgt. John Jackson had suffered a miscarriage in the fall of 2001, yet wanted another child to "enhance their family" of four children.

She began taking the necessary steps to adopt the little girl from Khazakstan named Bahit, who was born with a birth defect. Among those steps were to have a physical examination and home visits from counselors.

During her physical, doctors found a suspicious mass on Jackson's neck. After removing it, they discovered it likely would have become cancerous.

Jackson believed the little girl from across the globe had saved her life. She tried to save Bahit's life, but the cost to adopt would have been about \$20,000.

When Jackson discovered someone else was adopting Bahit, Jackson turned a little closer to home.

Within the next month, Jackson expects to add three boys to her household.

"They are 6, 3 and 1," she said. "They are siblings with a

history of neglect and abuse. Their parental rights have been terminated, and they've been put up for adoption in Texas."

The Jacksons recently flew out to see the boys. They've been in the adoption process since the fall, and the boys, especially the oldest one, knows they will soon have a new family.

"It's just a paperwork shuffle," she said until the boys are with them at Fort Gordon.

The whole family is excited about the possibility of bringing in new members, she said.

Her oldest son, Zach, 12, wants to teach them how to play video games. Her only daughter, Laney, 10, doesn't mind having more brothers as long as they are younger than she is, said Jackson.

Jacob is nine and involved with Boy Scouts. He wants to share what's he's learned in scouts with his new brothers, and Caleb, who will be three in May, will have two siblings extremely close to his age.

Despite their past history, Jackson feels she can help these children overcome any scars they may have.

Jackson is working on a masters degree in counseling



Graphic by Sgt. Dave McClain

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y: Kettle Creek battle cry

Georgia Refugees, a Revolutionary War reenactment milita unit, participate in the annual Revolutionary War Battle of Kettle Creek ceremony. The event marks the 224th anniversary of the battle fought on Valentine's Day 1779. Also participating were various chapters of Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution and the 434th Army Band and Ceremonial Detachment, Fort Gordon. The battlefield is located about 11 miles west of Washington, Ga., in Wilkes County, where substantial victory over British troops was achieved, and the British advance through Georgia was halted. Preservation of this ceremony and tours to the site, continue to teach students, both in public school and officer and enlisted students at Fort Gordon about the Revolutionary War.

and she has worked with adults with mental disabilities.

"Most of their issues stem from their abuse," she said. "Their prognosis is successful if their environment is changed."

Give your loved one a hug

CTT

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through (how to evaluate a casualty), all the steps and everything, before they were tested by their instructor," Drill Sgt. Christie Cross, 1st Platoon, Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn., said. "It feels really good to see them retain it and put it into effect and help out a fellow soldier."

Wills said she felt she wasn't completely prepared and confident, but having the training in the back of her mind helped.

"I think three or four months ago I would have been one of those standing back saying 'Oh, someone else handle that, I don't know what to do,'" she said.

But she and Santo knew exactly what to do, and did it until a drill sergeant and the paramed-

ics arrived.

"We kept on talking to her to help her stay awake, because every time she stopped talking her eyes would roll back," Santo said.

"She was (conscious and) getting up, but I went ahead and checked her hands and felt they were cold and clammy," he said. "That's when I started thinking she was in shock. I was going to have her lay down and elevate her legs, but she threw up and then a drill sergeant came in."

"I'm very proud of my soldiers," Capt. Connie Shanholts, Co. C commander, said. "The drill sergeants are trained to train the soldiers with what they need."

"Every quarter it makes (Saturday CTT) worth it," Cross said. "What soldier is going to go out there next and do a great wonderful thing for the Army?"

"That's what I try to instill in all my soldiers," she said. "To be that different soldier, to step up to the plate, to run, to ask questions and to do things."

"I'm very proud of them. They could have just stood up there and been one of the other people gawking instead of helping. I like that take charge initiative," she said.

Wills said one thing is for sure. Next time CTT rolls around, she's definitely going to pay more attention.

Stan

From Page 1

With all these variables in place, it was up to the reservists to save the six soldiers in their scenario.

If the training is going well and the medics are picking up on all the signals the simulators are giving, further skills may be tested, by causing one of them to have an allergic reaction to medication, adding a second wave of casualties or by having their supplies run low.

"For the most part, we are hands off, but if someone is about to die, we give them a heads up," she said.

On the first round, they did well, however, two of the pa-

tients still died.

"Even when you do everything right, somebody will die," said Jeanette Rasche, director of distance learning and multimedia at CTA.

The exercise would be repeated several times; each time with another facet added.

"It's a learning experience. We are going to do it again and again and again until you are rock solid," she said.

Reservists, said, using the mannequins greatly enhanced the training process.

"I like hands-on so much better," said Gunder.

NSC brings Jason Project to students live

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Just as Jason and his Argonauts went on a quest for the Golden Fleece in ancient Greek mythology, modern elementary and middle school students have embarked on a quest for knowledge through the Jason Project.

"I was a Jason teacher before Fort Discovery started it," said Mary Bowers, an Evans Middle School seventh grade teacher who brought her students to Fort Discovery on Jan. 31 for a live broadcast on Jason XIV from the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif.

"I looked it up and went online. I jumped on it," said Bowers, who has taught her students through the Jason Project for about 10 years. "It's a real hands-on experience."

Started by Bob Ballard, a scientist and oceanographer who discovered the sunken remains of the Titanic and the Lusitania, the Jason Project focuses on a location such as Hawaii, Belize, Iceland and Bermuda and explores the region through its animal and plant life, the culture of its people and other scientific subjects.

Previous expeditions have probed geo-thermal hot

spots, glaciology and plate tectonics and volcanoes.

This year's expedition headed to the Channel Islands to study its marine life.

The Jason Project encompasses all parts of a school's curriculum from science and math to literature and history, and teachers use it throughout the school year.

Area teachers learned how to use the Jason Project at training sessions at the National Science Center's Fort Discovery. From Jan. 27 to Feb. 7, about 45 schools from across Georgia and South Carolina traveled to Fort Discovery to participate in a live Jason broadcast.

The fur trading of the late 1800s and early 1900s decimated populations of seals and sea otters. Without its natural predator, the sea urchin population began to expand, furiously eating the kelp beds. Over the years, the kelp has dwindled, despite being able to grow up to two feet per day.

In the broadcast the children learned that kelp so far away can affect many other areas including the weather. It is also an important ingredient in products such as toothpaste and ice cream.

The children learned the reasons why national



Photo from www.jasonproject.org

Argonaut Sue Sewell snares a side-blotched lizard with a fishing pole and a loop of floss as part of the Jason Project. Fort Discovery hosted a live broadcast from the island where the project is taking place.

parks were important and how they played a role in protecting the environment and wildlife.

"I think it's cool they are trying to save one of the places," said Adrian Lawrence, an Evans Middle School seventh grader.

Other students were interested in the technologies that were presented.

"I like how they use technology on airplanes to photograph and take readings," said Jeffrey Stevens, another Evans Middle School seventh grader, about a segment on remote-controlled airplanes.

In addition to the live broadcasts and teacher training, there are other resources available for the teachers to use in presenting Jason in the classroom including a website.

Bowers got an added benefit last summer when she participated in a teacher training run by Ballard's team at the Channel Islands.

She couldn't wait to get back to her classroom to tell her students that so many of the people included in the Jan. 31 broadcast she had met the previous summer.

Jason XV will be in Panama.

Augusta celebrates GA heritage

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Emily Harvie Thomas Tubman was a woman before her time.

In 1836, she was a widow in her early 30s and over the next 50 years, she made a tremendous impact on the city of Augusta.

An astute businesswoman, she founded the John P. King Mill; a woman of wealth and faith, she gave money to establish seven area churches including First Christian Church in downtown Augusta; a woman concerned with the future of other women, she established a women's high school in 1874. The school is now known as Tubman Middle School.

Almost two decades before the Civil War, Tubman freed her slaves and gave them money to begin a new life.

From Feb. 5 - Feb. 9, Augustans honored this woman and her legacy through the Georgia Heritage Celebration.

"Everything (is) about the time Emily Tubman lived," said Elizabeth Donsbach, education director at the Augusta Museum of History and co-chairwoman of the event.

For several years, elementary school students in Richmond and Columbia Counties have had a day of field trips to historic sites in Augusta and an essay contest; this year, organizers wanted to expand the concept.

There were many different activities at museums and historic sites related to the Georgia Heritage Celebration.

"There (were) numerous opportunities for families to do something historical and fun," she said. "There (were) art classes and so many different projects appropriate for any age group."

Hicks

From Page 1

on this training exercise. That's very important."

"I think it's good to be able to see soldiers in action and see how we operate," 2nd Lt. Anita Nutter, the class platoon leader for Node Center 40 and Hick's guide, said. "It's good to see high-ranking officers out observing. Very important - it let's soldiers know she cares."

"It was a fantastic session," Hicks said. "The lieutenants were full of questions - not a quiet and timid class."

"I told her about how this training is like our training," said 2nd Lt. Frederick Choo, a Singapore soldier, who will attend his army's SOBC after his graduation here. "She asked about parallels between the United States' Signal equipment and Singapore's. There are a lot of differences, but also a lot of things I am learning from the course," he said.

"I think it's important for the general to come for exercises, even at this level," Choo said. "I think some forget what life at the lowest levels is like. It's good for them to hear complaints and likes."

Hicks listened to complaints and likes while visiting the soldiers, as well as giving some of her own advice. This class will have the opportunity to learn from the commanding general several times before they leave.

"I spoke to this class when they first got here, I am going to speak at their dining out and will attend the graduation, so I'm going to see this class from the cradle to the grave," Hicks said. She said she was very glad she was able to visit the class and see first-hand what was happening with her soldiers.

"It was very exciting," she said. "It gets me all fired up."

The FTX activities include predeployment checks, navigate with a compass and map, plan and execute a route, convoy operations, tactical MSE communications network installation, operation and maintenance, base defense operations, patrolling exercises, prepare platoon and company combat orders, defend a platoon position, and implement operation security.

The students worked with MSE-node center, small extension node, random access unit, line of sight radio vans and tactical vehicles.

Emily Tubman, abolitionist, helped free slaves and worked for women's rights.



Retiree Notes:

VA cuts off medical services for some vets

Richard T. Lechnir
Retirement Services Officer

Veterans Affairs is cutting off medical services for some vets. The situation may improve in eight months.

If you're a veteran with a non-service connected health problem and you need medical treatment at a VA hospital or clinic, you may be out of luck.

The 164,000 vets nationwide in this classification which also carries an income cap are in Priority Group 8. They're on the bottom of the eligibility ladder, as far as the VA is concerned.

As of Feb. 7, Secretary of the VA Anthony Principi decided to stop accepting applications from vets in this group because of a severe lack of

operating funds. Those already in the system in this classification will be "grandfathered" into the program, according to the secretary.

Rich Owens, director of Charlotte County's Veterans Services, said Feb. 5, after talking to VA officials in Washington, "Veterans with non-service connected disability who make more than \$24,644 a year or \$29,576 husband-and-wife in Group 8 will no longer be eligible for VA medical service."

"This is supposed to last through October when the 2004 federal budget is approved," he added. "At that time Principi will take another look at the VA's budget and see what he wants to do."

"There is a strong rumor he

will reject the idea of treating people in Group 8 again for another year. Obviously, the reason for all this is to relieve the pressure on the VA medical services that have been overwhelmed in the last several years by an influx of tens of thousands of additional veterans.

"VA is maintaining its focus on the health care needs of its core group of veterans — those with service-connected disabilities, the indigent and those with special health care needs," Principi said.

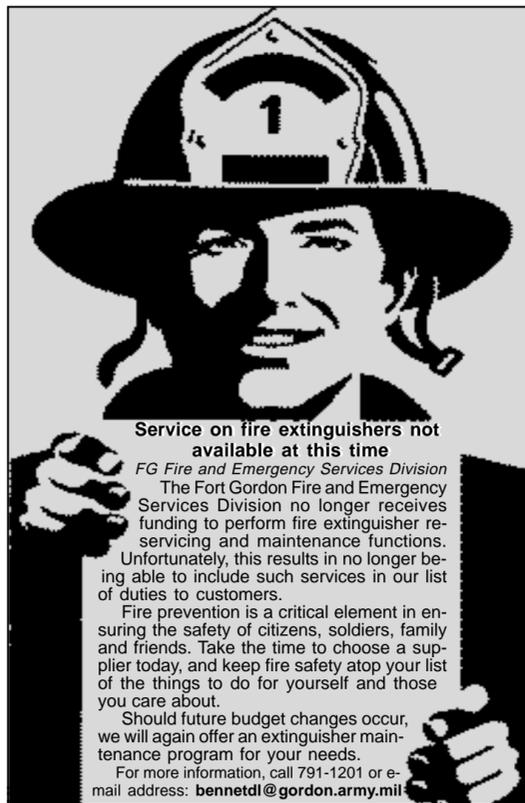
According to a VA spokesman in Washington, the VA has been swamped with additional veterans seeking medical services since Congress broadened its eligibility criteria in 1996. In the past six years VA enrollment has in-

creased from 2.9 million to 6.8 million, according to the agency's statistics.

Between October 2001 and September 2002 some 830,000 additional veterans were added to the VAs roll. Most of the increase, according to the VA, has come from non-service connected, higher-income veterans.

It's up to Congress to provide the funds for the VA, but Principi's job is to decide how this money will be spent within his department. It was the secretary's call to cut off medical assistance to Group 8 vets.

Looking at the brighter side of the picture, Principi said, "There will be a 7.7 percent increase in health care in the fiscal year 2004 budget. This would be the largest requested increase in VA history."



Service on fire extinguishers not available at this time

FG Fire and Emergency Services Division

The Fort Gordon Fire and Emergency Services Division no longer receives funding to perform fire extinguisher re-servicing and maintenance functions. Unfortunately, this results in no longer being able to include such services in our list of duties to customers.

Fire prevention is a critical element in ensuring the safety of citizens, soldiers, family and friends. Take the time to choose a supplier today, and keep fire safety atop your list of the things to do for yourself and those you care about.

Should future budget changes occur, we will again offer an extinguisher maintenance program for your needs.

For more information, call 791-1201 or e-mail address: bennetdl@gordon.army.mil

Tax tips assist in brutal annual chore

Capt. Raashid S. Williams
Tax center OIC

The following information is provided by the Internal Revenue Service. As you prepare to file your taxes, determine if there are any recent changes that might affect you. Keep in mind, the Fort Gordon Tax Center is open and located on 419 B Street. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please see your Unit Tax Advisor for further details.

Student loan interest deduction:

The student loan interest deduction is more valuable for tax-year 2002: taxpayers can deduct up to \$2,500. The Student Loan Interest Deduction is not an itemized deduction, and taxpayers do not have to itemize to qualify for this deduction. The benefit of the student loan interest deduction is that you may be able to reduce the amount of your income that is subject to tax by up to \$2,500 for 2002. For more information see IRS Publication 970, *Tax Benefits for Higher Education*.

The earned income credit:

The refundable EIC is available to certain low-income individuals who have earned income, meet adjusted gross income thresholds, and do not have more than a certain amount of investment income. Beginning in 2002, for EIC, the total of investment income (such as taxable interest and dividends, tax-exempt interest, and capital gain net income) must be less than \$2,550. The taxpayer's earned income and adjusted gross income must be less than: (This total income DOES NOT include BAH or BAS)

a) \$29,201 (\$30,201 if mar-

ried filing jointly) if he or she has one qualifying child.

b) \$33,178 (\$34,178 if married filing jointly) if he or she has more than one qualifying child.

For more information, see IRS Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*, or IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax Guide 2002*, chapter 37.

Personal exemptions:

The deduction for each personal exemption has increased

to \$3,000 for 2002.

Standard mileage rate:

The standard mileage rate for operating your car has increased to 36.5 cents per mile for all business miles driven. The standard mileage rate for operating your car to get medical care and moving increased to 13 cents a mile.

Lifetime learning credit:

You may be able to claim up to \$1,000 for all students for

qualified tuition and related expenses paid during the tax year. A lifetime learning credit can be claimed in the same year the beneficiary takes a tax-free distribution from a Coverdell ESA (formerly education IRAs), as long as the same expenses are not used for both benefits. For more information see IRS Publication 3, *Armed Forces' Tax Guide*

IRS Publications and further tax information can be found on line at <http://www.irs.gov>.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Healthy smiles begin early

National Children's Dental Health Month is a month-long nationwide program which promotes healthy smiles in children. The American Dental Association has sponsored this annual event every February, since 1981.

NCDHM originated in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio as a one-day dental health program. Since then, it has grown into a month-long observance, and every February it reaches millions of people. Local observances often include: school programs, dental society promotions, health fairs, and public service announcements. School lesson plans and activity sheets may be modified to observe National Children's Dental Health Month.

In spite of the current national emphasis on preventive dental health, however, many children are still affected by dental caries. Caries in the baby (primary) teeth is one of the most common health problems affecting young children. In 1996, a national oral health survey found that 38 percent of children, ages 2 through 9, had dental caries. Caries prevalence in children attending Head Start programs has reached 90 percent in some group samples. Early childhood caries is also a leading cause of operating room admissions for children requiring dental restorations and extractions. Obtaining treatment for caries can be difficult, since according to a 1997 study, almost 4.2 million children in the United States were unable to obtain dental care.

In the past, children went to the dentist only after a problem was severe enough to be noticed by a parent. Such an outdated, reactive, approach is no longer appropriate in the age of preventive health, however. The infant oral health visit is now the foundation upon which a lifetime of oral and dental health can be built.

The American Dental Association, the American Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry all recommend that a child's first oral health visit take place at 12 months of age, or shortly after the eruption of the first baby teeth. This is the ideal time for a dentist to evaluate a child's oral and dental health, as well as to diagnose any problems which may exist.

Oral health is a vital component of a child's overall health. A partnership between families, dental professionals, and other health professionals is necessary for achieving oral health in children.

Children's oral and dental health is achievable. By providing a healthy diet, minimizing the consumption of sweets, cleaning a child's teeth twice a day, and getting early dental examinations, a child can have a happy, healthy

smile.

An article in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* describes the concept of the dental home as a means of improving access to dental care for children. The dental home can provide anticipatory guidance to parents so that they become aware of their children's growth and development, as well as



CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

dental risk factors. The dental home can provide personalized preventive intervention, based on the needs of the child. Establishing a dental home early in a child's life provides early intervention and preventive services, reduces anxiety and facilitates referral to specialists.

The American Dental Association recommends that parents take action early to insure the health of their children's teeth because attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life.

Dental visits

The ADA recommends regular dental check-ups, including a visit to the dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth, and no later than the child's first birthday. Preventive care such as cleanings and fluoride treatment provide your child with "smile" insurance. Routine dental exams uncover problems that can be treated in the early stages, when damage is minimal and restorations may be small. When necessary, X-rays are taken to see how the teeth are developing and to spot hidden decay.

Benefits of fluoride

Fluoride is considered one of the most effective elements for preventing tooth decay. Water fluoridation has always been viewed as the most effective public health initiative ever to prevent tooth decay and improve overall dental health. Your dentist may recommend various ways for your child to get fluoride protection including:

- drinking fluoridated water;
- taking prescribed fluoride tablets or drops, only if you don't live in a fluoridated community;
- fluoride application in the dental office;
- brushing with a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste;
- using a fluoride mouth rinse

for children over age six.

Did you know . . .

- Research shows that fluoride reduces cavities by up to 50 percent in children.
- As a direct result of water fluoridation and over-the-counter fluoride products, half of children entering the first grade today have never had a single cavity, compared with 36 percent in 1980 and 28 percent in the early 1970s.
- Children who drink water containing fluoride from birth have up to 40 percent fewer cavities, and many of them remain cavity-free through their teens.

Baby bottle tooth decay

Baby bottle tooth decay can destroy your child's teeth. It occurs when a child is frequently exposed to sugary liquids such as milk, including breast milk, fruit juice and other sweet liquids. The ADA recommends the following steps to prevent your child from getting baby bottle tooth decay.

- Begin clearing your baby's mouth during the first few days after birth. After every feeding, wipe the baby's gums with a damp washcloth or gauze pad to remove plaque.
- Never allow your child to nurse or breast feed for prolonged periods and don't give him or her a bottle with milk, formula, sugar water or fruit juice during naps or at night in bed.
- Encourage children to drink from a cup by their first birthday.

- Discourage frequent use of a training cup.
- Help your child develop good eating habits early and choose sensible, nutritious snacks.

Sealants

Sealants are used to protect the chewing surfaces from tooth decay, the most widespread dental disease among children. However, your dentist can help prevent or reduce the incidence of decay by applying sealants to your child's teeth.

- A sealant is a clear or shaded plastic material that is painlessly applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth where decay occurs most often.
- Sealants protect normal depressions and grooves in the teeth called pits and fissures, which are particularly susceptible to tooth decay.

Thumbsucking

Does your child suck his or her thumb? In babies and young children, thumbsucking is a normal, soothing reflex. As the

permanent teeth come in, however, continued thumbsucking can cause improper growth of the mouth and tooth misalignment.

The ADA advises:

- Children should stop thumbsucking by the time the permanent teeth come in, usually around 6 or 7 years of age.
- You can try changing your child's habit by offering praise and rewards for not sucking the thumb. If this does not help, consult with your dentist.

Mouth protectors

Any child involved in a recreational activity, such as soccer, hockey, football, roller blading, riding a scooter and even bicycling should wear a mouth protector. There are "stock" mouth protectors available in stores and a better-fitting variety, which are custom fitted by your dentist. Ask your dentist about using a mouth protector.

Dental emergencies

Knowing how to handle your child's dental emergency can mean the difference between saving or losing a tooth. The ADA recommends the following tips on what to do for your child in case of:

Knocked-out tooth: If the tooth is dirty, rinse it gently in running water. Do not scrub it or remove any attached tissue fragments. Gently insert and hold



the tooth in its socket. If this is not possible, place the tooth in a cup of cool water. Go to your dentist with the knocked-out tooth immediately (within 30 minutes if possible). Consider using the ADA-accepted tooth preservation kit to keep knocked out teeth.

Toothache: Rinse the mouth with warm water to clean it and use dental floss to remove any food that might be trapped between the teeth. Do not place aspirin on the aching tooth or gum tissues and see your dentist as soon as possible.

Editor's note: Information was compiled from the following web sites:

- <http://www.ada.org>
- www.angelfire.com/nc/kidsdental

Feedback

Cadet Cassidy

Today is Valentine's Day - what is your definition of love?



"Love is a feeling about someone you really care about."

Pfc. Christina Kihn
Company C

73rd Ordnance Battalion



"I think love is when you really care about someone, strong feelings. It's really hard to describe love."

Pvt. Sharisse Rouse
Co. A, 73rd Ord. Bn.



"To me, love is something that cannot be explained, it's a feeling."

Pvt. Scott Burke
Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.



"My definition of love is being there for that person and respecting them for being true."

Spc. Lakeisha Bryant
Company A



"I'm confused with the whole definition of love."

Pvt. Irma Guzman
Co. A, 73rd Ord. Bn.

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212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of...a 95B (military police - police investigator)

Note: This is the 24th MOS featured in the series describing all of the 212 Army careers. This is part seven of seven featuring this MOS.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

For every crime committed on post, there is a member of the police force responsible for investigating that crime. Someone must gather evidence to find out the answers behind the crime, so that the perpetrator of the crime can be punished, and justice can be served.

Here at Fort Gordon, one of those people is Investigator Jamie Berry, 35th Military Police Detachment. Berry is part of the Military Police Investigation division on post, which means he investigates crimes of all sorts, at all times.

"I'll be called for pretty much any crime that happens and needs looking into," Berry said. "You can get called in the afternoon, you can get called at three in the morning."

Berry said that since investigators are called when crimes happen and that since more than one crime can need to be investigated at once, hours and workload can be a challenging part of the job.

"Weekends and late at night, that's pretty much the trend," Berry said. "Holidays are usually quiet, not as many people around."

He said he is often called to assaults and domestic violence issues. He added if a soldier was to be involved in an assault or other such crime outside of post, as in Augusta, he may be called by the police there to come and get the soldier.

"They have the opportunity to turn the jurisdiction over to us, and we can handle it from there," he said. "It really all depends on what's going on at the time, and the deputy on the scene's discretion. Usually if it involves straight military, they'll hand it over to us."

Berry said in instances where a soldier has been detained or

charged with a crime off post, the police send the post police a charge sheet with all the facts so the soldier involved can be accounted for.

The job of a military police investigator is one of the three additional skill identifiers a military policeman can attain, along with K-9 police officer and traffic officer.

He said he has been a military policeman for nine years and an investigator for four.

"I signed up as a military policeman because I had an interest in law enforcement," Berry said.

But Berry said he was unaware of all the different subsections the 95B MOS had to offer when he enlisted, such as the investigation division he works in now. He said he put in a packet to become an investigator, and because he met the criteria for the job, such as strong GT scores, he was afforded the opportunity to train for and attain the position.

"I got the opportunity to choose this ASI, and work in a tour in Europe when I re-enlisted," Berry said.

"It's actually a very diversified job," Berry said. "You've got investigators, K-9 police, desk sergeants, patrolmen, and even then we also have a different aspect. If you're in a combat support unit, you've got a different role. You do a lot of enemy prisoner of war missions, recon, things like that."

There are actually two different branches of military investigators, Berry said.

"As military investigators, we have two different sections," he explained. "First you have criminal investigation division agents (the 95D MOS) and then you have military police investigators."

He said the CID investigates thefts and robberies involving higher dollar amounts, as well as more serious crimes like rapes and murders. Sometimes the two departments will work together to solve a crime, Berry said.

"We work with CID if they need assistance in their investigations as in helping out at the crime scenes or with interviews, we'll work hand in hand," Berry said. "We all go to the same schoolhouse, so we

get the same instructors."

Both members of the CID and MPI now attend their training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Berry said, although he attended it when it was offered at Fort McClellan, Ala.

He said this training involved learning military law, what to do at crime scenes, and how to collect evidence there, interviews and interrogations, personal security for dignitaries, and an undercover section where training focused on drug interdiction.

In his ASI schooling, Berry also learned about the different categories of crime, such as child abuse, child neglect and economic crimes, he said.

"We're pretty much a jack of all trades, I guess you could say," he said. "In MPI we deal with your misdemeanors, your everyday assaults, juvenile problems. We're also at a lot of crime scenes, collecting evidence. You've got to be familiar with the law, since we do a lot of joint missions with Richmond County Police Department and a lot of off-post things that deal with soldiers. We work together with the county."

The training to be a military police investigator spans two months, with CID training being a bit more detailed and lasting longer, Berry said.

Berry described what it takes to be a good investigator.

"When we look for investigators, we're looking for someone who can work on their own and doesn't need guidance, someone who's able to go out on their own and do what they have to do," he said. "They have to be able to retain a lot of knowledge. There's a lot of law enforcement techniques you have to know and be able to draw upon."

He said that due to the nature of their job, investigators are more dependent on themselves than other sections of the military police department, and usually handle their duties themselves.

He added that the job can often be demanding and fast-paced.

"Sometimes you've got about five things going on, and you have to bounce between all five," he said. "I like that, though, because we get to see all dif-

ferent aspects of law enforcement, and interact with different agencies."

He offered an example of a busy day in the investigation division.

"One night here I went from one domestic violence call to another, and after I got done there, I walked down the road to another one, then to an assault in the barracks," he said. "You've just got to bounce between them all, because you've got to utilize the patrolmen to get what you need done."

There are currently five military police investigators working in the 35th Military Police Detachment here on post, Berry said.

Berry said that while his primary mission is to investigate crimes, even though he is an investigator, he is still an MP, so if the force is short in one area, such as at gate guard, he can get called to another.

"When that happens, it's a good reminder, so we don't forget where we came from," he said. "Those are all skills we learned and won't ever lose."

Berry said he also serves as the juvenile probation officer for the installation. This duty entails ensuring juvenile offenders complete their community service or whatever punishment has been imposed on them.

Though Berry said he plans to leave the Army following this enlistment, he said his time as an MP has left him with plenty of options for the future.

"With MPs, I know we can go to South Carolina, Florida or Missouri and go through a two-week local class and then become a certified police officer in that state," Berry said. "The transition is that easy, and there's a lot of hiring going on right now."

Berry said he thinks he will finish his college degree before pursuing further avenues in law enforcement, and has enjoyed his time as a military policeman.

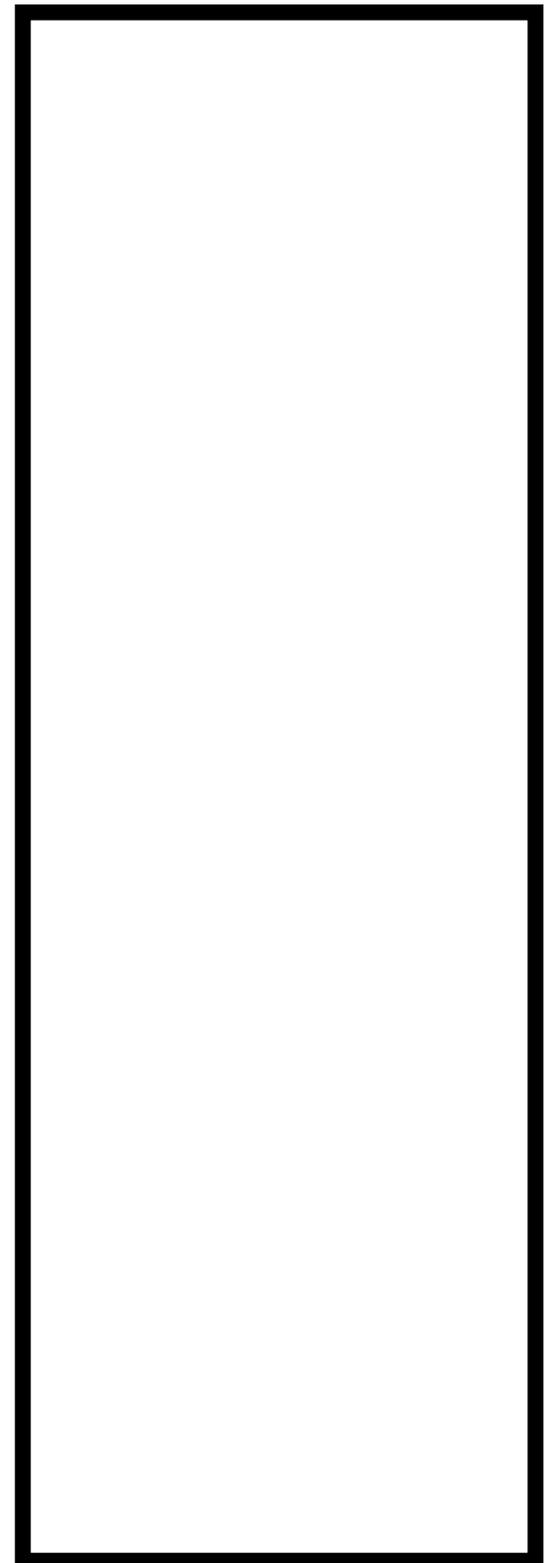
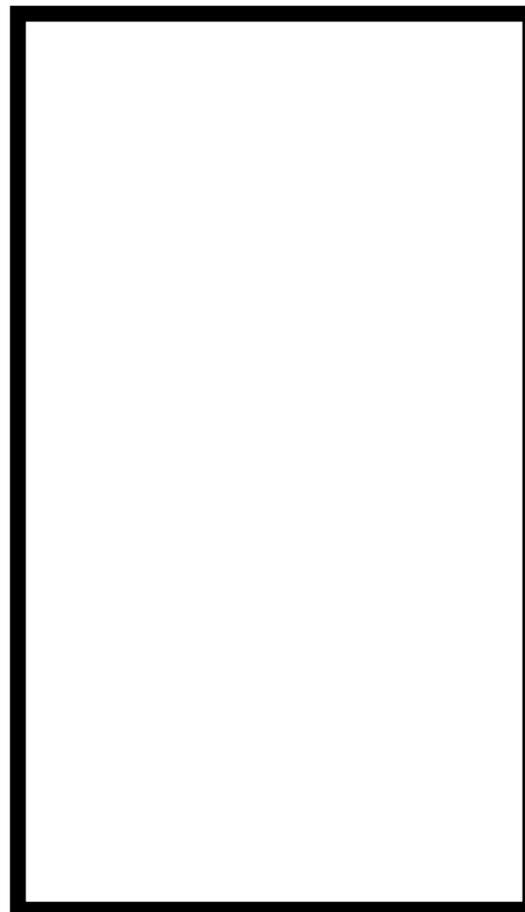
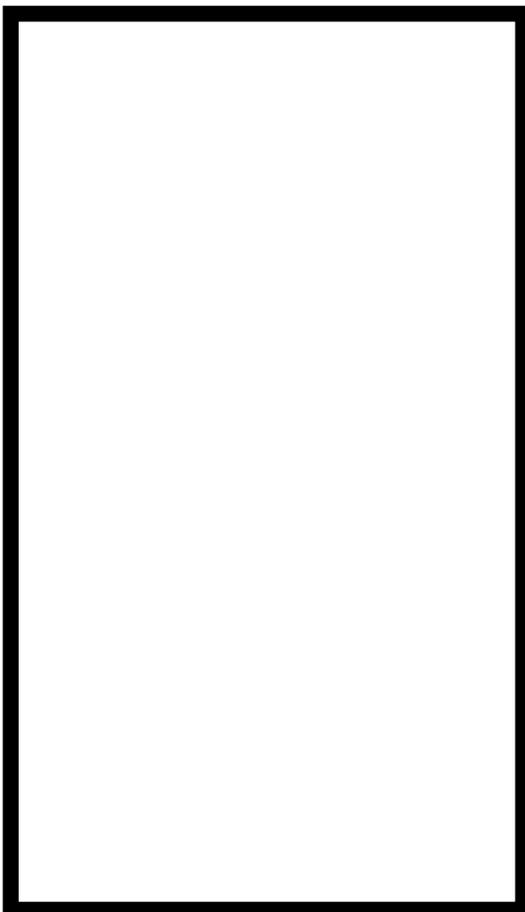
"It's an overall fulfilling job, reward-wise, when you do get to help someone," he said.

"We get to go out and interact with the community and the kids, and there are small things, too, like people coming in the gate just to say thank you. That's a nice thing."



Graphic by Spc. Zoe Morris

Though military police investigators may like to keep a low profile, they are always on the scene collecting evidence.



Spectrum

African-American/Black History Month

February is African-American/ Black History Month and this Spectrum takes a closer look at some African-American soldiers of all levels who are making an impact on Fort Gordon.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Senior officer

Lt. Col. Robbie L. Mosley, 442nd Signal Battalion

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

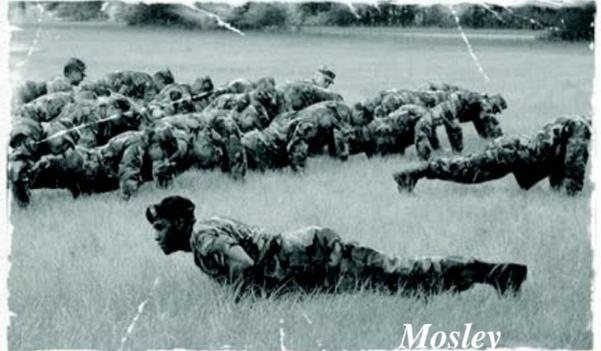
A: It was primarily based on financial reasons (I was already in college) and to have a job once I graduated.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: Right now I would probably say just raising my kids. Being in the Army, my children have been able to move around to different places and see different things as a military family.

Q: What advice would you give to young African - Americans today?

A: First of all, I would say you've got to know what you want, and based on that, you've got to know the right thing to do to get there. You must be committed, because what you want is not just going to be handed to you, you're going to have to work hard to get it.



Mosley

Command Sgt. Major
Command Sgt. Major Ruben Peppers,
15th Signal Brigade

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

A: Well, initially, I went in under a two-year enlistment and I came into the Army for an education. After my first week in the Army, however, I called home and said I wanted to stay. And twenty years later, I'm still hanging.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: I guess I would have to say every job in which I've had the opportunity to have a positive influence on soldiers.

Q: What advice would you give to young African-Americans today?

A: To seek out, recognize what you want to do in life and find people who can give you guidance to get there. And to always put God first.



Peppers

Noncommissioned officer

Drill Sgt. Christie Cross, Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

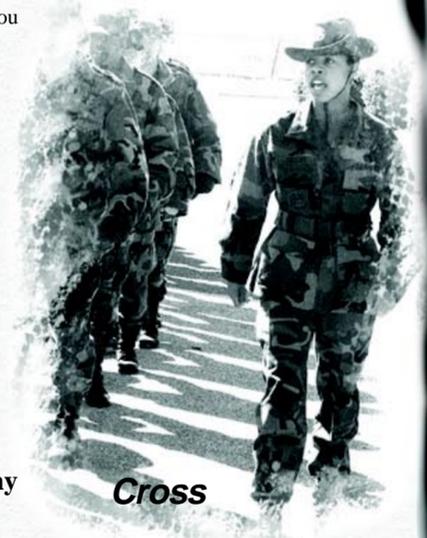
A: In order to get away from home – there was nothing but trouble there. So I wanted to get my life started and get a foundation. I didn't have the discipline to go to college yet.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: Making the rank I've attained in the time I've done it (I've only been in the Army for about six years.) Also, becoming a drill sergeant. I wanted to do that ever since I was in basic training. I've been able to make that dream come true, and I'm standing here doing what I want to do.

Q: What advice would you give to young African-Americans today?

A: No matter what trials and tribulations may hit you, always keep your head up, remember who you are, and always keep driving forward with your goals.



Cross

Company commander
Capt. Tim Cross, Company
B, 369th Signal Battalion

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

A: I guess the opportunities the Army offered at that time via education, security, and of course, to serve my country.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: Becoming a company commander, because I was enlisted first and was inspired by my company commander when I was a young soldier. I said to myself, "one day I want seat," and now I'm here. The really satisfying thing about it is making an influence on a soldier's behavior and see the result. It's nice to see the difference in how they are acting from when they got here to when they leave.

Q: What advice would you give to young African-Americans today?

A: Set high goals and be in relentless pursuit of those goals.



Cross

Junior officer

1st Lt. Terri N. Webb

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

A: For one, it's a tradition in my family to serve in the military. Also, all the opportunities the military has to offer (the travel, and the opportunity to meet other soldiers.) It gives me an opportunity to pay back all the people who came before me as far as earning our right to have all the freedoms we have.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: Probably earning a college degree, going green to gold and becoming an officer.

Q: What advice would you give to young African-Americans today?

A: To stay focused and never take for granted what our ancestors have done for us – the privileges they have earned us. They should also never let themselves be denied the right to succeed, because they should know the people before us did not let that happen.



Webb

Junior enlisted soldier
Spc. Glenyatte B. King, Company A,
551st Signal Battalion

Q: What made you decide to join the Army?

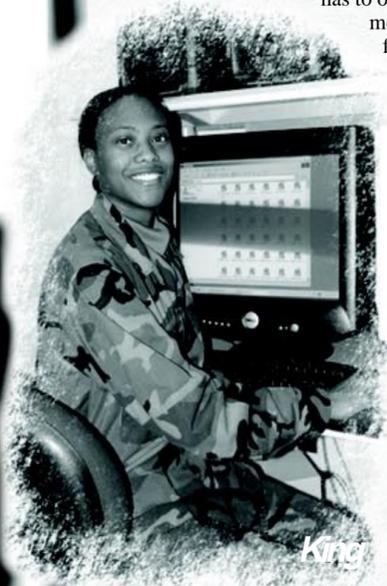
A: I joined the Army because I was a single parent of three and wanted to do two things at the same time: work a steady job with a steady come, and to be able to go to school to better myself as well.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in the Army?

A: My biggest tangible accomplishment was the work I did with the BOSS program. Fort Gordon was selected as the best overall BOSS program for a small installation. Overall, though, I think my biggest accomplishment was finally gaining the mentality of a soldier.

Q: What advice would you give to young African-Americans today?

A: My advice would be to get a closer relationship with God, because you'll get a better relationship with yourself. Also, to get out of the "We're black so we're held down" frame of mind. The doors are open if we chose to make it happen.



King

Relief act benefits those called up for duty

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, was passed by Congress to provide protection to persons entering or called to active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Reservists and members of the National Guard are also protected under the SSCRA (hereafter referred to as Act).

The protection begins with the date of entering active duty service and generally terminates within 30 to 90 days and in certain cases for up to six months after release from active duty.

Q. Can a service member get out of a lease or rental agreement?

A. Yes — a lease covering property used for dwelling, professional, business, agricultural or similar purposes may be terminated by a servicemember. Two conditions must be met:

1. The lease/rental agreement was signed before the service member entered active duty; and

2. The leased premises have been occupied for the above purposes by the service member or his or her dependents.

Q. How does the service member go about terminating the lease?

A. To terminate the lease, the service member must deliver written notice to the landlord after entry on active duty or receipt of orders for active duty. Oral notice is not sufficient. The effective date of termination is determined as follows:

a. For month-to-month rentals, termination becomes effective 30 days after the first date on which the next rental payment is due after the termination notice is delivered. For example: if rent is due on the first of the month and notice is mailed on Aug. 1, then the next rent payment is due on Sept. 1.

Thirty days after that date would be Oct. 1, the effective date of termination.

b. For all other leases, termination becomes effective on the last day of the month after the month in which proper notice is delivered. For example: if the lease calls for a yearly rental and notice of termination is given on July 20, the effective date of termination would be Aug. 31.

Q. Can I get a refund of security deposit or prepaid rent?

A. If rent has been paid in advance, the landlord must refund the unearned portion. If a security deposit was required, it must be refunded to the service member upon termination of the lease. The service member is required to pay rent only for those months before the lease is terminated.

Q. Can I stop an eviction action by my landlord?

A. If the property is rented for \$1,200 per month or less, you may ask the court to delay the eviction action for up to three months. The court must grant the stay if you request it and can prove that your ability to pay was materially affected by your military service.

Q. Does the act apply to time payments or installment contracts?

A. Service members who signed an installment contract for the purchase of real or personal property before active duty will be protected if their ability to make the payments is "materially affected" because of active duty service. Remember—

a. The service member must have paid, before entry into active duty, a deposit or installment payment under the contract.

b. If the service member

is not able to make payments because of his or her military duty, the Act applies.

c. The vendor (seller) is thereafter prohibited from exercising any right or option under the contract, such as to rescind or terminate the contract or to repossess the property, unless authorized by a court order.

d. The court may determine whether a service member's financial condition is "materially affected" by comparing the service member's financial condition before entry on active duty with his financial condition while on active.

Q. Can I stop paying on my credit cards?

A. No—you are still responsible for your debts after entry on active duty. Your obligation to pay your debts is unchanged by military service.

Q. Do the interest rates on my debts and mortgage payments decrease when I enter military service?



A. Yes—when an obligation was incurred before entry on active duty, the interest rate goes down to 6 percent, unless the creditor (bank, finance company, credit card issuer, etc.) can prove in court that the member's ability to pay was not materially affected by military service. The terms "interest" includes service

charges.

Q. Are there protections against mortgage foreclosures?

A. The Act protects service members against foreclosures of mortgages, deeds of trust, and similar security devices, provided the following conditions are met:

a. The relief is sought on an obligation secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, or similar security on either real or personal property;

b. The obligation originated prior to entry upon active duty;

c. The property was owned by the service member or dependent before entry on active duty status;

d. The property is still owned by the service member or dependent at the time relief is sought;

e. The ability to meet the financial obligation is "materially affected" by the service member's active duty obligation.

Q. Can judicial proceedings be delayed?

A. A service member who is involved in civil (not criminal) judicial proceedings as either a plaintiff or defendant is entitled to a stay of these proceedings if the court finds that his or her ability to prosecute or defend an action is "materially affected" by reason of his or her active duty service.

Courts are reluctant to grant long-term stays of proceedings and tend to require service members to act in good faith and be diligent in their efforts

to appear in court. A service member's ability to prosecute or defend a civil suit is shown to be "materially affected" when it can be satisfactorily demonstrated to the court that

his or her military duties prevent him or her from appearing in court at the designated time and place. An affidavit setting out all the facts and circumstances is usually required.



Q. If a service member is sued, can a default judgment be entered against him in his absence?

A. When a suit is filed, notice of it must be served on the defendant. There are deadlines for filing the service member's response. When no response is filed on time, a default is usually entered against the defendant.

The SSCRA requires the plaintiff to sign and file an affidavit with the court stating that the defendant is not in the military service before a default can be taken. When the affidavit shows that the defendant is in the military, no default can be taken until the court has appointed an attorney to represent the service member defendant.

The filing of a false affidavit subjects the filer to a misdemeanor prosecution; the maximum punishment is one year's imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000 or both. Any such matter should be brought to the attention of the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as the service member's civilian attorney.

Q. What if I cannot pay my income taxes because of a call to active duty?

A. The service member's ability to pay the tax must be "materially affected" (impaired) by reason of the active duty service. If this is the case, the Act defers (for up to six months after termination of military service) collection of any state or federal income tax on military or non-military income if the payment is due either before or during military service. No interest or penalty may be charged for the nonpayment of any tax on which collection was deferred.

Q. What if I cannot pay my life insurance premiums?

A. If you can no longer pay your premiums on commercial life insurance purchased prior to entry into the service, the government may guarantee the payment of the premiums, or require that the insurance carrier treat the unpaid premium as a loan against the policy. Upon separation, you would have up to two years to pay the premiums.

Q. If I have other questions, what should I do?

A. Consult a legal assistance attorney or private attorney of your choice as soon as possible. Your lawyer can answer many questions and help you to make a fair and intelligent decision about your choices, options and alternatives. Our legal assistance office stands ready, willing and able to help you in these matters.

Editor's note: The above information was received by Fort Gordon's Installation Operations Center. Additional information is available at the following web site:

[www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief Act Revision](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/ReliefActRevision).

Abraham's submission to God

Imam Marshall Musa Muslim Abuwi
Islamic Faith Group Leader

The story of the prophet Abraham and his unflinching submission to God is documented in the *Torah*, the *Bible* and the *Qur'an*. All of these three holy books, which represent Judaism, Christianity and Al-Islam, reveal the story of how the prophet Abraham was commanded by almighty God to sacrifice his first-born son.

We learn from these divinely-revealed books that Abraham had long prayed and wished for a son to help in his work of serving God by being a leader for his people, who were the blessed people of almighty God. They were blessed, not due to race or ethnicity, but because they, like prophet Abraham, had dedicated their lives to serving God.

Abraham sought to have his prophetic work of community leadership and guidance continued by one from his loins. Finally, when Abraham was a very old man, God blessed him with a son. In fact, he was eventually blessed with two sons, both of whom became his helpers and who were both prophets of God. Their names are Ishmael and Isaac.

After the first son reached maturity as a young man, God told Abraham to take him to a special place, where he was to be sacrificed. Abraham did not argue with God, although we expect that he had some very important questions.

Regardless of the natural inclination to question that which he did not understand concerning God's order, Abraham proceeded to the appointed place at the appointed time, and with his son's full cooperation, he proceeded to carry out God's order to sacrifice his beloved first-born son.

As Abraham was about to draw his son's blood, an angel of God appeared and withheld Abraham's hand.

He told Abraham that he need not draw his son's blood, for the sacrifice had already been carried out by Abraham's complete willingness to carry out God's orders, without any hesitation.

The Islamic world commemorates the unflinching submission of Abraham to obey

God by participating in the occasion of the Eid ul Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice. This universal observance is held annually, following the conclusion of the Hajj, or annual pilgrimage, in Mecca. Even though the majority of the one billion Muslims in the world cannot attend the Hajj in Mecca, Arabia each year, we do join the pilgrims in observing the feast of the Eid ul Adha in our respective locales throughout the earth.

The Eid ul Adha is one of the two major festive days in the Islamic world. The Arabic word "Eid" literally means "a recurring happiness."

Not only do we come together annually to pray to God on that day, but we collectively rejoice in our dedication to complete submission and obedience to God, as did Abraham. We take on a festive spirit on that day, because we rejoice that God spared Abraham's son from the shedding of his blood. We rejoice that God preserved Abraham's son so that the son and his offspring could help his father, Abraham, work to build and lead the community of God-conscious, believing people. This was a charity and a mercy from God, that God preserved the blood of Abraham's progeny, which metaphorically represents the perfected and preserved faith of prophet Abraham.

This unflinching submission to our creator, demonstrated by prophet Abraham, is a lesson for all humanity. It is in this spirit that the Muslims of the world will rejoice during the occasion of the Feast of Sacrifice, or as it is known in the Arabic language, the Eid ul Adha.

This year Eid ul Adha fell on Feb. 11. The holiday lasts through Feb. 14, during which time Muslims pray and make a sacrifice that is shared among their family, friends and the needy.

It is an important time for Muslims to practice forgiveness and reconciliation while spending time with family and friends.

For more information concerning local area events to commemorate the Eid ul Adha this year, call Imam Marshall M. M. Abuwi at 706-772-4303 and leave a number.

Jesus says, 'Just do it'

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry R. Lawrence

Deputy Installation Chaplain

The sales manager of a large real estate firm was interviewing an applicant for a sales job. "Why have you chosen this career?" he asked.

"I dream of making a million dollars in real estate, like my father," the young man replied.

"Your father made a million dollars in real estate?" asked the impressed sales manager.

"No," replied the young man. "But he always dreamed of it."

Have you ever noticed that the Bible never mentions the dreams of the apostles? It doesn't even mention the ideas of the apostles. However, it devotes an entire book to the "Acts of the Apostles."

Some of the most impressive commercials on television in recent years have been the Nike shoe commercials with the theme, "Just do it."

However, if Nike thinks they invented the phrase, "Just do it," they might be surprised to find that they are a few thousand years late.

In Ezra 10:4 we read, "Be of good courage and do it." (Or, we could translate it, "Just do it.")

This is, in effect, the answer Jesus gave his disciples when they asked him to increase their faith. He said, "Just do it," to paraphrase him in today's language. This is a

curious answer to a request for more faith. "Just do it." Did Jesus understand the question?

Yes, he understood it. Then why did He answer their plea for faith in this way? I believe there are two significant reasons.

First, he knew what their problem wasn't. The disciples' problem was not a lack of faith.

Jesus tells them that the size of their faith is not the issue. It only takes the size of a mustard seed to uproot a mulberry tree and plant it in the sea.

Jesus was saying to do great things, miraculous things, only takes a minute amount of faith. A mustard seed is about the smallest seed in the world. No one could miss Jesus' point.

The disciples' problem was not the size of their faith. No, this was not it at all. They would have to find another excuse for their lack of effectiveness.

We can sympathize with the disciples in their request for more faith. We always tend to think we need more faith.

If we just had more faith we would be better Christians, we say to ourselves. We would volunteer to serve in mission projects or be more committed to the everyday ministry of the church.

So, we pray as the disciples did, "Give us more faith." What we may not realize is

that we are not praying for faith at all. What we are really praying for is for God to make things easier for us. We are asking God to snap his fingers and make it happen for us.

The second reason Jesus answered the disciples' plea in the way he did was because of their lack of action. He knew what their problem wasn't. It wasn't lack of faith.

But he also knew what their problem was. They needed to get started living what they already believed.

Two-thirds of the world and 50 percent of all church members will not even roll out of bed on Sunday morning.

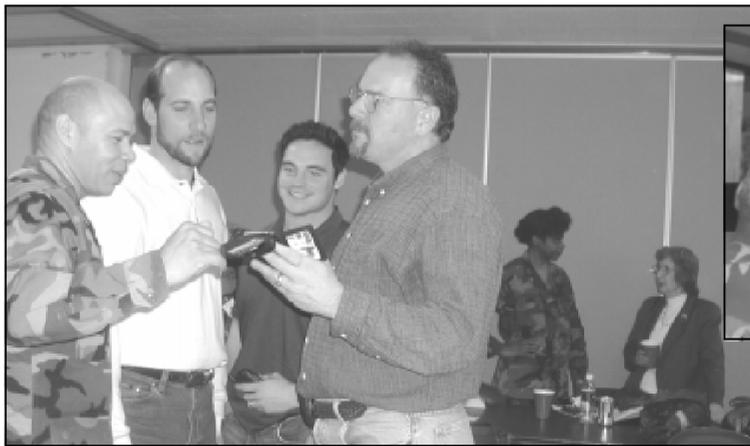
They don't need more faith; they just need to roll out of bed. It is amazing the creative solutions that people can bring to problems if we can just get them into action. We can pray until we are blue in the face for God to give us more faith, but God wants us to get into action using the faith we already have.

God wants us to just do it - to "do the best we can with what we've got, where we are, every chance we get."

Just do it!

Get into action.

As someone said, "The devil trembles when he hears God's weakest servant say, Yes, Lord, I'll do it!"



(Above) Cash leads the Bible study. (Left) Smoltz, Feely and Cash speak to a soldier after the lunch Bible study.

Photos by Janet A. McElmurray

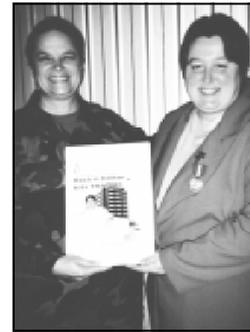


Smoltz, center, and Jay Feely, right, speak with a soldier at the lunch Bible study.

Sports stars share faith

Following the Prayer Breakfast Feb. 5, Atlanta Braves players: John Smoltz, pitcher; Darin Holmes, relief pitcher; Tim Cash, former Braves player and Jay Feely, Atlanta Falcons place kicker, were taken on a tour of post to meet and talk with soldiers. They accepted an invitation to the Bicentennial Chapel's Wednesday lunch Bible study where Tim Cash gave a lesson for the group on "If you were to define your purpose how would you do it?" Cash said God is most glorified when we know him and are satisfied in how well we know him. Cash and the other sports personalities are members of Unlimited Potential and have a special ministry reaching out to service members.

Onward and upward



Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general U.S. Army Signal Center, presented Lisa Alley, *Army Communicator* editor, with the Achievement Medal for Civilians and other mementos at her farewell luncheon Feb. 7. Hicks noted her dedication and service to the Signal Regiment's professional bulletin, *Army Communicator*.

Ask the vet



Kiesha, a loving cat, looks for a home with lots of love and attention.

Fort Gordon Veterinary Treatment Facility

The post veterinarian answers your pet questions:

Q: The military is sending us to Germany next month and I was told I needed a health certificate for my pet to fly. How do I get one?

A: Your pet's "passport" into a country is the health certificate. It lists vaccination history and states the

animal is free of communicable disease. Three important considerations soldiers need to know about health certificates are:

1) A rabies vaccination, which is older than one year, can make an animal ineligible to receive a health certificate. Most countries require that your pet's rabies vaccination be older than 30 days, but less than 365 days old. Therefore, if you had your pet vaccinated in 2000 with a 3-year vaccination, you are considered up-to-date by U.S. standards, but not by European standards since they require annual vaccinations.

2) Health certificates must be filled out by a veterinarian who is USDA certified. If not, it may be necessary to get the health certificate stamped by the gaining country's consulate prior to departing for that country.

All Army veterinarians are USDA certified, so having the post vet complete the health certificate (rather than a civilian vet) can save you a lot of time and trouble during a PCS move.

3) It is free at military veteri-

nerary clinics. A health certificate off-post can range between \$30 to \$60 and then you may still need to get it stamped by a consulate prior to leaving.

A sailor came in last year who had bought a health certificate off-post and brought it by to make sure it would get his dog into Spain. The dog had a 3-year rabies shot that was over a year old, the vet who filled out the certificate was not USDA certified, and he was flying in two days. That sailor paid \$60 for the certificate and in the end had to give a friend power of attorney to fly his dog to Spain 30 days after we revaccinated for rabies. He could have avoided a lot of anguish by checking with us first.

Moving is always a stressful event for service members and their families, but for pets the stress can be unimaginable.

However, with proper planning you can often minimize or eliminate quarantines, fees or having to place your pet with

family members who are staying in the continental United States. Contact the Fort Gordon Veterinary Treatment Facility at 787-3815/7375 if you may be PCSing overseas to find out what the specific requirements of the gaining country are for importing pets. It is never too early to start planning a smooth move.

If you have a question for Ask the Vet, write: Fort Gordon VTF, Building S-500, N. Range Road, Fort Gordon, GA 30905.

Editor's note: The questions above were answered by Capt. Thomas A. Kohler, DVM, written by Sarah K. Crisp, staff member.



Ginger is a mixed breed puppy available for adoption.

Community Events

Retention training

The Department of the Army Mobile Retention Training Team from Fort Jackson will conduct retention training for company and battalion level retention noncommissioned officers **Feb. 18 - 21**. The training will be conducted each day from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Gordon Club.

Attendance is mandatory for all company and battalion reenlistment noncommissioned officers. All brigade, battalion and group career counselors are points of contact for their units.

The post retention office is available for any units that do not have access to a career counselor and can be reached at 791-7387/4725.

Black History Month at EAMC

Eisenhower Army Medical Center celebrates Black History Month with a variety of events. "Celebrating Black Unity - 77 Years of Recognition."

Saturday - Fashion/Talent Show and Dinner at the Gordon Club. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Call Annie Wilson, 787-1281, or Frankie Henry, 787-5174, for tickets or more information. Tickets are \$10.

Feb. 20 - celebration luncheon at Ike's Cafe, third floor, EAMC, 11a.m. - 1p.m. There will be an art display, choir and historical skits. Luncheon is a la carte.

Feb. 27 - Command Program from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the EAMC Auditorium.

Opening comments by the Commanding General of Eisenhower Army Medical Center Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker and the guest speaker is Rev. Eric Taylor, pastor and founder of Emmanuel Faith Tabernacle International Ministries.

For more information about these events, call Kathleen Haskell at 787-3400.

OWC scholarship

The Officers' Wives' Club is offering scholarships for those eligible. Applications are available for all those holding a military I.D. card.

Applications have been sent to counselors at all high schools and colleges and may also be picked up at the Education

Center, Community Life Center and Thrift Shop.

Deadline for submission is **March 1**.

For more information, call Diana Plowman at 228-4271.

Warrant officer recruiting

The Army's warrant officer recruiting team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, will present briefings on opportunities to become warrant officers.

The briefings will be in Olmstead Hall on **Feb. 18** at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and **Feb. 19** at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

For more information visit www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/warrant.htm,

or call Chief Warrant Officer 5 Pete Hewitt at 791-5771.

Mass choir

The Celebration Mass Choir holds their first annual Black History concert.

The concert is **Sunday** at 6 p.m. at Thankful Baptist Church in Augusta.

For more information, call Connie Moore at 855-5791, Gene Beverly at 787-5170 or Beverly Muse at 833-6158.

Civilian of the quarter nominations

Nominations for the Fort Gordon Civilian of the Quarter for the quarter ending March 31 must be submitted by close of business **March 17**.

The narrative should not exceed two pages. Nominations will be for GS 5-8, NA 8-15, NL 8-13, NS 6-11, WG 5-7, WL 4-6, WS 1-2 and NF 2-3.

Send the nomination to DHR, via e-mail, reidm@gordon.army.mil.

For more information, call Mary Reid at 791-3840.

EWC monthly meetings

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 4th **Wednesday** of each month in Building 40705, 41st Street. Everyone is welcome, including civilian employees working at Fort Gordon.

The Annual Membership Drive will be held **March 26**, in honor

of Women's History Month.

For more information call Linda Holden, 854-9387 or Rosemary Marshall, 791-2675.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre will offer a Valentines' deal **tonight**. The special includes a rose, candy, dinner and the highly acclaimed comedy-thriller - "When The Reaper Calls" - all for general admission prices. The general public cost \$30, seniors 65 and over and civilian personnel \$28. Showtime is 8 p.m. (dinner served at 7 p.m.).

Additional show dates are **Feb. 15, 21, 22, 27, 28 and March 1**. Patrons may opt to see the show without dinner for \$10 with reservations through the box office. Active duty military E7 and below may enjoy performances and dinner for \$17.

However, \$10 and \$17 tickets will not be available on Valentines' Day.

For reservations or additional information, call the Box Office at 793-8552 or visit fortgordon.com.

Green to gold

Reserve Office Training Corps briefings will be presented by 2nd Lt. Eugene Irby, III in the Education and Career Development Division, Building 21606 at 1 p.m. **Feb. 19 and 26 and March 5, 12, 19 and 26**. Limited seating available.

For more information, call 791-2000 to reserve your seat.

Women's History Month

The command program for "Women's History Month" is **March 13**, at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The guest speaker for the program is Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones.

For more information, call the Equal Opportunity Office at 791-2014/6455.

DSOY dinner

The First Annual Drill Sergeant of the Year Recognition Dinner will be **March 5**, in the Gordon Club at 6 p.m. Attending the dinner will be, the Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks and Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Terry,

U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.

Ticket cost is \$20 per person. Dress is semi-formal and the general public is invited.

For more information or tickets call: Drill Sgt. Harry Ferguson at fergusoh@gordon.army.mil or 791-9095; Drill Sgt. Mariano Alvarez at alvarezm@gordon.army.mil or 791-6493; Drill Sgt. Anthony Ray at raya@gordon.army.mil or 791-1250; Drill Sgt. Shannon McDonald at mcdonald@gordon.army.mil or 791-3962.

Town survey

Log on to the Garrison's Homepage and take the town hall meeting survey.

It takes just a few minutes to complete and will provide invaluable information in scheduling the next meeting in March. Your suggestions and comments are needed.

Go to

<http://www.gordon.army.mil/garrfp/default.htm>.

"Women's Heritage Month"

ANCOC class 31W 003-03 sponsors a women's luncheon and door prize drawing, **March 7**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gordon Club.

The luncheon will include poetry reading, fashion show, door prizes and guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Brenda McCall.

For more information, call 790-3676 ext. 4207.

EWC scholarships

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club Scholarship Applications will be in the counselor's office at all area high schools by **Feb. 25** and available to all ID card holders. Deadline for submission is **April 30**. The EWC extends sincere thanks to the Sergeants Major Association for the monetary donation to the scholarship fund.

For more information concerning scholarships, call Shirley Johnson at 791-7656 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

Pay office closed

The Defense Military Pay Office will be closed on **Feb. 14 - 17** in observance of the training holiday and Presidents' Day holiday. For emergencies, page 241-1486.

For more information, call 791-4826.

Education opportunity

The University of Maryland University College will provide resident graduate courses at Fort Gordon. Completion of the program results in six graduate credits toward several Information Technology masters' degree programs offered by UMUC. The next iteration of the Information Technology Graduate Seminar is **March 15 - May 17** with registration on going until **March 7**.

This program is open to all Fort Gordon personnel (military permanent party and students, civilians, and family members) and is supported by tuition assistance for military members. DoD Civilians in CP34 may request funding to pay for the seminars.

For more information or to register, call Maj. Alan Makowsky at 791-2267 or alan.makowsky@us.army.mil. Those civilians in CP34 should contact their Career Program Manager for information about funding.

AER

The Army Emergency Relief Campaign Kick Off and training for 2003 is scheduled for **March 3** in Olmstead Hall from 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. All unit project officers should plan to attend. AER Campaign brochures and allotment forms will be distributed to brigade and battalion level project officers at the training.

The points of contact for the AER Fund Campaign 2003 are Diane Sarber at 791-4544, or Joann Brassell 791-7878.

Fort Discovery Home School Day

Home School educators and their students are invited to Fort Discovery's first Home School Day on **Feb. 24**, from 1p.m. - 5 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of activities while learning more

about what's available for you as a home schooler. Discover how to use the science center as an effective learning resource and get the details about the many programming options that are available.

For more information about Fort Discovery's Home School Day, call Dr. Chip Schuster at 706-821-0206 or schuster@nscdiscovery.org.

AER scholarships

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund, administered by Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief, helps Army families with the costs of post secondary, undergraduate level education, vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for their dependent children. Funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, supplies and room/board. Applicants must be dependent children, stepchildren, or legally adopted children of Army soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or retirement. Applicants must also be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, unmarried for the entire academic year, and under the age of 22 years on June 11, 2003.

Applications are available online by accessing the Army Community Service website www.gordon.army.mil/acs and clicking on the link to AER Education Program. Completed applications with all supporting documentation must be mailed to AER Headquarters and postmarked not later than the deadline of **March 3**.

For more information, call ACS at 791-3579.

Volunteers needed

The Special Olympics are held here on the installation annually and normally supported primarily by the 93rd Signal Brigade. This year the Garrison Commander is asking for volunteers to step forward and support this event, because of the 93rd's deployment. The number of volunteers needed is three hundred but all that volunteer will be afforded the opportunity to help.

For more information or to volunteer, call Master Sgt. John Boutte at 791-9841.

School Yard

School and Program Closings

Richmond County Schools are closed **Feb. 17** for student holiday and staff development day

Child and Youth Services are closed **Feb. 17** in recognition of President's Day.

Club Meeting

Academy of Richmond County Booster Club Meeting will be **Feb. 24** in the ARC Media Center at 7 p.m.

"Read Across America Day"

Happy 99th Birthday Dr. Seuss!

On **March 3** The students at Wheeless Road Elementary School would like to invite you to volunteer 30 minutes of your time to read your favorite Dr. Seuss' book.

For more information or to volunteer, call your School Liaison Officer, Staci Hill-Good at 791-7270 or email: hilgooo@gordon.army.mil by **Feb. 27**.

Fort Gordon Report



C The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **Feb. 18** and includes the following stories:

- 3rd Infantry Division in Kuwait
- Clean Dirt
- Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Launch

O The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The next "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **Feb. 24** on both Comcast 66 and Charter 13.

U You can catch the latest "Fort Gordon Report" on *Comcast Cable Channel 66* on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training and Support Center.

Watch the "Fort Gordon Report" for the stories that matter in your community and throughout your Army!

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

AER Golf Tournament

The 15th Signal Brigade is sponsoring a four-person scramble golf tournament **March 14** to benefit AER. The tournament includes a lunch buffet.

The cost of entry is \$20 for all Gordon Lakes Golf Course members and \$30 for all others.

Check-in starts at 10:30 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. lunch. The shotgun start will be at 12:30 p.m.

Golfers can sign up for the tournament by calling Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Millward at 791-5913, or reaching him via e-mail at millward@gordon.army.mil. Sign-ups run through noon on **March 11**.

Gordon Lanes hosting customer appreciation day

The Gordon Lanes bowling center will be hosting a customer appreciation day on **Feb. 21** from noon to 5 p.m. at the lanes on post.

The event, which is open to the public, will feature free bowling and free food, and will celebrate the opening of the new bowling store, meeting and party rooms next door to the lanes.

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

GNC Fun Run

GNC will hold a 5K Fun Run on **March 29**, starting at Gym 1 at 8 a.m.

Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the top three race finishers, with first, second and third place medals also awarded in eight age groups.

Participants will also receive a free Fun Run T-shirt and nutritional snacks following the race.

There is a \$5 entry fee to enter the race. To pre-register for the race, stop by Gym 6 and contact manager Millie Brown between 6 a.m. and 12 p.m. beginning **March 10**.

For more information, call 791-6872 or 791-6099.

New company sports season beginning

The Sports and Recreation Division announced that the new leagues are about to begin.

The Greybeard basketball league will be the next league to start. Registration will run through **Feb. 24**. Players wishing to participate in this league must be 34 years old by **March 4**. They may be active duty, retired military or a civilian employee. To register, athletes should come to Gym 1 with their ID for proof of age.

For more information, contact Bill Browning at browninW@gordon.army.mil, or sports coordinator Staff Sgt. Billy R. Ashment at 791-6099 or fax 791-9098.

Smoltz pitches inspirational message to soldiers, youth

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Cassidy Brown
Youth Challenge Academy

Though Atlanta Braves ace pitcher John Smoltz may have what many people view as a dream job, he said he views soldiers as the real heroes.

"I don't like to be called a hero when I'm in a room full of the nation's heroes," Smoltz said as he addressed a full house of soldiers and civilians in the ballroom of the Gordon Club during his visit to Fort Gordon Feb. 5.

Smoltz, who said he was visiting a military installation for the first time, was the featured speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast. The day also included talks from fellow Braves pitcher Darren Holmes, Atlanta Falcons placekicker Jay Feely, former Giants hurler Brian Hickerson and former major leaguer Tim Cash.

Tickets for the event were claimed days before it took place. There was no set admission charge to the breakfast, although donations of \$3 for E-5 and below and \$5 for all others were recommended and accepted.

The quintet of professional athletes appeared on post in connection with Unlimited Potential Incorporated, a ministry group founded and run by professional baseball players.

"In my career, I am paid to keep my body in shape," Smoltz said, going on about his admiration for soldiers, "but I couldn't get up at 4:30 a.m. every morning and run at 5 a.m."

Though Smoltz said he did not believe he could live the life of a soldier, he said he believed there were many parallels between the life of a soldier and a major league athlete.

He said both soldiers and major leaguers have jobs filled with high pressure and uncertainty, which could land them in various locations, such as a soldier being deployed or a baseball player being traded to a new team in another city. He added that both major leaguers and soldiers rely on discipline, team unity and their training to excel.

Smoltz also drew comparison between the services of the Lord and those of modern-day soldiers.

"He (Christ) fought the war for us (humankind), just like you - you fight the wars for us (the United States)," Smoltz said as he addressed the soldiers.

But perhaps the main point of Smoltz's speech was a message of inspiration.

"I think his message was that through hard work and faith in Christ you can do all things," Chaplain (Col.) Wilfred Brewster, installation chaplain, said.

When he was a child, Smoltz said he set out to be a baseball player. He said that he believes God gave him the talent to play the game, and he is therefore using that talent to glorify God.

He said that he has learned to put faith in a higher power.

"Man will fail, and if you rely on man, unfortunately he will fail," Smoltz said.

After his speech, which lasted about an hour, Smoltz and the other athletes signed numerous autographs and mingled with those in attendance before departing for the Reserve Center where they spoke to Youth Challenge Academy cadets.

Smoltz started the discussion by sharing how faith can help the youngsters achieve their dreams. Holmes followed with a message about how he was able to relate to the youngsters because when he was their age, he too, faced many problems including a serious drug problem.

He said he overcame these problems when he learned to put faith in God. Finally, Feely told the cadets about his older brother, Michael, who died at age 26 after being bedridden since infancy. He said God used his brother, who was not supposed to live past the age of one, to inspire others on what they can accomplish, and how God can make them stronger.

The athletes answered questions from the cadets for about 15 minutes before moving on to their next stop, the 67th Signal Battalion, where they shared their message there. They wound up their tour of post with a visit to soldiers in training from the 15th Signal Brigade at the Signal Theatre.

At the Wednesday Bible Study Luncheon, Tim Cash spoke to soldiers and civilians who gathered at Bicentennial Chapel.

Brewster said he was pleased with the athlete's visit, and would love to see more such events in the future.

"It is my vision as installation chaplain to bring as many people to Fort Gordon with renown who also have an inspirational message to share," he said.



Photo by Youth Challenge Cadet Cassidy Brown

Atlanta Braves ace hurler John Smoltz, featured speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 5.



Photo by Pfc. Sheldon Hansen

Smoltz (center) visits with soldiers on post with fellow professional athletes Darren Holmes (second row, fourth from left), Jay Feely (to the right of Smoltz), Tim Cash (second row, third from left) and Brian Hickerson (second row, second from left.) The five athletes shared inspirational messages with soldiers and youth on post.

Ninth annual AUSA Bowl-a-thon coming to Gordon Lanes

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The Augusta/Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army is hosting their annual Bowl-a-thon to raise money for the organization. The tournament will take place Feb. 28, 29 and March 1 at Gordon Lanes on post.

"I have never had a dissatisfied bowler who attended this event," Bob Snead, one of the event's main organizers, said. "It's a really good event for young advanced individual training soldiers. It gives them something to do."

Last year, about 150 bowlers participated in the tournament to raise a total of \$3,500, Snead said. He said the money goes to AUSA, which in turn donates the money to soldiers' causes and concerns.

The tournament will be made up of teams of five bowlers, Snead said. The cost of a team to enter is a minimum of \$25, which covers the cost of shoes, lane use, three games of bowling, a free game of bowling at the lanes in the future, a tournament T-shirt, a "goodie-bag" and eligibility for door prizes. Teams are encouraged to raise as much money as possible for the cause, Snead said, since the \$25 minimum only covers the cost of these items, but does not raise any money for the tournament. He said that in the past individual bowlers have raised as much as \$500 for their team.

Teams can be made up of any groups - families, friends, coworkers etc. Snead said each team will have a captain who will complete the team's registration forms.

There will be five times in which teams can bowl their three games - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 28, noon and 2:30 p.m. March 1, and 1 p.m. on March 2. Grand prizes will be awarded to the bowler scoring the highest score over the three rounds, and to the individual who raises the most money.

Additionally, runner-up prizes will be awarded to the bowlers with the second highest score, and team member with the second highest total amount of money raised. AUSA will also present a variety of prizes to registered bowlers, Snead said.

"Everyone will get a prize," Snead said.

For more information on the tournament and registration, call Snead at 791-6444.

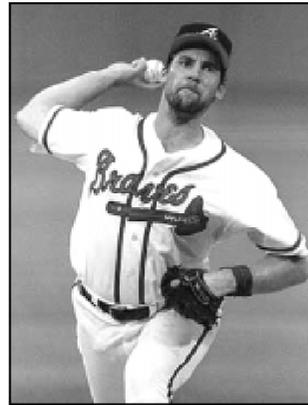


Photo courtesy of Sportsline USA Photo

Smoltz has been a National League All Star four times, and has also won the Cy Young award, given to the top pitcher in the league. He has pitched in the majors for 13 seasons, all with Atlanta.

2003 Soccer Statistics

A-67	0-0
B-369	0-0
DDEAMC	0-0
518	1-0
B-447	1-0
B-73	1-0
C-551	1-0
CO D MARINES	1-0
HQ/A-551	1-0
235	0-1
338	0-1
31IS	0-1
35MP	0-1
B-442	0-1
D-369	0-1

2003 Basketball Statistics

RED DIVISION		GREEN DIVISION	
1st - 235	14-0	1st - B-551	17-1
2nd - HHC-447	13-0	2nd - B-73	14-4
3rd - HHC-67	9-3	3rd - D-447	10-4
4th - 518	9-4	4th - C-369	12-5
5th - HHC-93	9-6	5th - E-369	10-6
6th - B-67	6-6	6th - C-447	6-11
7th - A-67	5-9	7th - E-447	5-12
8th - C-67	3-10		

WHITE DIVISION		WOMEN'S DIVISION	
1st - HQ/A-551	14-2	1st - USAG	13-0
2nd - B-EAMC	12-3	2nd - HQ/A-442	13-2
3rd - DENTAC	12-4	3rd - GRSOC	11-3
4th - 252	10-6	4th - D447	12-4
5th - NMCRC	9-7	5th - DDEAMC	11-5
6th - ANCOC	8-7	6th - E-369	7-9
7th - HHD-116	7-9		
8th - 31IS (2)	4-12		

BLUE DIVISION		MORNING DIVISION	
1st - BNCOC	15-0	1st - D-447	9-1
2nd - 249	12-2	2nd - C-369	7-3
3rd - USAG	13-4	3rd - C-447	9-4
4th - NSGA	11-4	4th - E-447	6-3
5th - HQ-A-442	8-7	5th - B-447	6-5
6th - 338	5-8	6th - E-369	5-6
7th - 31IS	5-9	7th - B-551	4-7
8th - A-447	3-11	8th - D-551	2-8
9th - HHC-206	3-12		

At the Movies

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free.
For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

Feb. 14-16

Friday - Two Weeks Notice (PG-13)
Saturday - Lord of the Rings (PG-13)
Late show - Antwone Fisher (PG-13)
Sunday - Wild Thornberries (PG)