



## 7217th helps boost Army blood collection

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## Signal soldier wins Armed Forces Championship

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# The Signal



## News UPDATE

### Women's History Month programs

**Tuesday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a "Resumix" class. Carmen Davis, CPAC explains the procedure on how to use the Resumix for developing a resume.

**Wednesday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Death and Dying." Elliott Funeral Home explains legal and financial issues involved in funeral preparations.

**Thursday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Starting Your Own Business." Heather Woods, business consultant, Small Business Development Center, University of Georgia at Augusta, helps potential entrepreneurs with information on the various types of businesses that could be started at home, writing a business plan, financing options and tips on managing a business at home.

**March 25** from 1 - 3 p.m. is a class on "Women and Social Security." Judy T. Hardy, Social Security Administration, answers issues regarding Social Security.

**March 26** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Breast Health Care." Stella Lerer, Doctors Hospital, explains health care for the breast.

**March 27** from 9 - 11 a.m. is "Roll With It." The class explains techniques on how to relieve stress.

The above events will be held at the Gordon Club.

**March 31** at 2 p.m. will be closing ceremony in Alexander Hall.

For more information call the Equal Employment Opportunity office at 791-4551.

### AFCEA scholarships

The Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, is taking applications for college scholarships to be awarded in May. Graduating high school seniors who have been accepted to a university and current college students can get an application on the website, [www.afcea-augusta.org](http://www.afcea-augusta.org). Deadline is April 1. The application should be mailed to: AFCEA Scholarships, Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, P.O. Box 8054, Fort Gordon, GA 30905.

Eligible students must be full-time, majoring in computer science, electronics, engineering or a related science field. ROTC students are eligible regardless of major. The top applicant is to receive the \$2000 Mallette Scholarship. For information, call Mary Jones at 791-2014.

### Correction:

The March 7 issue of **The Signal** identified the 249th General Hospital as heading to the Persian Gulf region. The headline should have read "a part of the 249th General Hospital....." We apologize for any misunderstanding this may have caused.



Photos by Henry Holmes

## Members of the 3297th activated for deployment

1st Lt. Derek Morton enjoys refreshments after a deployment ceremony for members of the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital. The unit is an Army Reserve unit from Fort Gordon. Twenty-seven members were activated March 3 as part of the partial mobilization authorized by President George Bush. The mission of the mobilized soldiers is to provide support for an Army medical facility, and is to be split into seven detachments. They report to various mobilization stations for training to transition to active duty.

## Joint training 'links' services

Denise Allen  
Staff writer

It wasn't long ago that interoperable communication meant giving a Marine an Army radio.

Now "they have a link, and we have a link" and communication flows between the branches, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Heredia, course manager and primary instructor for two joint courses, designed to ease the flow of communications, offered at Fort Gordon.

The need for interoperability of modern day joint communications systems became evident in Grenada in 1983, during Operation Urgent Fury, Heredia said.

"This was the first mission in the joint environment, that showed a lack of communications and training between the branches of service" he said.

The inability to communicate with each other resulted in casualties that might have been otherwise prevented.

And joint missions aren't going away.

In the current situations in Iraq and Afghanistan, joint forces have needed to communicate with one another and

understand each other's communication networks.

"I didn't have a clue as to what the Army had and how it worked," said Staff Sgt. Arthur Lee, a Marine from Camp LeJeune, N.C., who is at Fort Gordon taking the Joint Tactical Automated Switching Network Supervisor course, aimed at senior noncommissioned officers and junior officers.

There are eight Marines currently taking the nine-week course. The course is taught two or three times a year and has a capacity of 16.

"We'd like to see these classes filled," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Peter Gustin, division chief of the

Warrant Officer Division.

A major difference between the services switching systems is that the Army uses a digital switch while other services use a mixture of digital and analog switches.

There is another class for senior officers and NCOs offered once a year called the Joint Task Force Systems course.

About 40 people went through both of the classes last year.

The Joint Task Force Systems course is currently under revision. "We are revamping it to make it more accessible to all the service and Department of Defense civilians," Heredia said. "It will be a

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## Sunday brunch: 'The best part of waking up'

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

Where can you find made-to-order omelets and huge Belgium waffles, pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, carved roast beef and ham, chicken, fish vegetables, a salad bar, drinks and desert, all for one meal?

Well, there's no need to travel to a huge buffet house downtown. All of these delicious items are offered at Sunday Brunch, each and every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gordon Club Victoria Room.

The brunch has 15-20 entree items, including well-stocked breakfast and lunch steam tables with multiple choices of meats for lunch. Separate stations for freshly-carved roast beef and ham are available, as well as a station where omelets and waffles are prepared with your choice of virtually any imaginable topping. The desert bar includes a

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Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Phyllis Bryant serves fresh carved roast beef for patrons at the Fort Gordon Club Sunday brunch.

## DSOY:

### His soldiers' motivation - driving force behind Drill Sergeant of the Year 2003

Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey  
Public Affairs Office

Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Ulysses S. Rayford was named the 2003 Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year 2003 in an awards ceremony held in Alexander Hall on Fort Gordon March 6.

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, made the announcement, which received a resounding ovation from the trainees of Drill Sgt. Rayford's unit.

"Words can't express it," Rayford said about the announcement. "My soldiers influenced my ability to win. I did well with the hands on portion, the PT test and the board."

"The motivation from the soldiers alone pushed me to win. Everything they become is because of what I do for them now," he said.

Rayford, of Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, was presented with a plaque which was re-named the Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel P. Watkins award. That announcement was also made during the ceremony, much to Watkins' surprise. He was on hand to help present the award, but the new name was kept a secret from him.

Watkins was the first Signal soldier to be named TRADOC's DSOY in 1988, and now serves as the command sergeant major for White House Communications.

Rayford, a multi-channel transmissions systems maintainer, was one of five drill sergeants competing for the title. He has served 10 years in the Army and one year as a drill sergeant. The competition was managed by the outgoing DSOY, Drill Sgt. (Staff Sgt.) Harry Ferguson.

Rayford will become the advisor for drill sergeant issues for 15th Regimental Signal Brigade CSM Reuben Peppers. Rayford will work in Peppers' office for one year, when a new DSOY will be selected.

"Not everyone can be a drill sergeant," Peppers said. "Drill sergeants and instructors are two separate entities. This competition is not as easy as they may have thought, but it was designed that way."

Peppers and Ferguson enlisted the help of former drill sergeants from other units on Fort Gordon outside of 15th Signal Brigade to serve as evaluators.

The competition began with a weigh-in and Army physical fitness test the morning of March 3, followed by a written examination in the 15th Sig. Bde. Conference room.

That afternoon the drill sergeants met at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Fort Gordon to show their proficiency in instructing hands-on events which included the formal instruction for Rear March, the Manual of Arms for the M16 rifle, and an informal class on administering first aid to a nerve agent casualty. Actual advanced individual training students were used as demonstrators for each of the tasks.

The formal board was conducted March 4 in first floor conference room of Signal Towers. The board members included sergeants major from other organizations on post, and U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Terry served as board president. The board members also included Peppers; Command Sergeant Major McKinley Curtis III, commandant, Noncommissioned Officer Academy; Directorate of Public Works Sgt. Maj. Steven G. Goulet; and Directorate of Community Activities Sgt. Maj. Bobbie L. Ramtahal.

Peppers and Ferguson prepared the

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## Armed Services

## News

From American Forces Press Service

**Media coverage of military: the good, the bad and the ugly**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is the best-trained, best-led and best-equipped force in the world, a senior defense official said today, and the American taxpayers deserve to see "just how professional that force is."

Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said in a C-SPAN interview this morning that he believes reporters should be allowed extensive access to military operations because they'll cover what he likes to call "the good, the bad and the ugly."

"They'll see the goodness with which our troops carry out their missions. Our troops are human though, too, and they'll make mistakes, and I believe that reporters will cover the bad as it occurs," Whitman said. "And I think reporters will also cover the ugly because war is ugly, and the world should see that war is ugly (and know) we don't make these decisions to go to war lightly."

Defense Department officials estimate hundreds, perhaps thousands, of journalists will cover various aspects of any conflict in Iraq. More than 500 of those reporters will accompany U.S. military units in a process the Defense Department calls "embedding."

Reporters are given the opportunity to embed in specific military units before conflict begins. They'll then travel with those units, maneuver with them, accompany them during operations and be under their protection.

In return for such access, cooperation and protection, the news organizations agree to follow certain "ground rules." Whitman said those rules are designed to facilitate cooperation between the media representatives and the military commander on the ground. The ground rules cover such things as coverage of injuries and deaths, electronic submissions on the battlefield and other issues that could compromise security and endanger lives.

"We have to ensure that our embedded reporters know and understand what is sensitive or sensitive at the time it is being reported," Whitman explained.

He noted journalists are by and large professional and said he's not concerned that their presence in units will violate security or endanger the military forces.

"I have not met a journalist that has willingly wanted to compromise a mission. Furthermore, I find it kind of inconceivable that a journalist wanted to compromise a mission that he or she was part of," Whitman said. "I just don't see that they are going to do something like that that would endanger themselves as well as the unit they're with."

Eighty percent of the journalists embedded with U.S. military units are from American news outlets, but Whitman added, the remaining 20 percent are from Arab, Asian and European outlets.

Whitman said the Defense Department has made facilitating the media such a priority because, "truth should matter if there's a conflict."

"We know that our potential adversary Saddam Hussein is a practiced liar," he added. "He uses disinformation all the time. What better way for us to counter some of that disinformation than to have objective reporters out there in the field reporting what's going on in near-real time so that Saddam Hussein cannot lie about what's actually occurring."

Whitman, a former soldier himself, was full of praise for reporters in general. He said he believes it's a courageous decision to put oneself in harm's way to report what is happening. He noted many news organizations have sent their potential war correspondents through training, some with the Defense Department, to try to prepare them for the hazards associated with military operations.

He said he's particularly concerned about reporters who aren't embedded with military units but still want to cover battles from "between the lines," or between Iraqi forces and coalition forces.

"It's even more dangerous ... if you're out there working independently, heading to the sounds of the guns and perhaps traveling with your own personal protection or security that can often be misconstrued as potential enemy contact out there," he explained.

Whitman also recommended a way for the public to stay abreast of news from and about the U.S. military.

# Brunch

From Page 1

variety of pies and cakes, and besides the standard lunch and breakfast beverages, margaritas and other tasty mixed drinks are offered to diners.

Chef Derek Morton, of Fort Gordon Community Clubs, said the brunch just became a weekly event on Jan. 26, after it had been offered every third Sunday previously.

"It just grew to a weekly event based on customer's feedback," Morton said.

He said the brunch serves between 75 and 150 people on a typical Sunday.

"We get the after-church crowd, and a lot of repeat customers," Morton said. "We try to keep these customers satisfied. They make suggestions and we accommodate them in every way possible."

Morton is part of a ten-person staff, including five cooks, three waitresses and a maitre de, who prepare the feast each week. Though it may seem like preparing all this food must take hours for such a small crew, Morton said the crew comes in at 7 a.m., and by opening time at 10:30 a.m., everything is ready, laid out and waiting.

The cost of the all-you-can-eat affair is \$12. Morton said no one will go home unhappy, or on an empty stomach.

"We can compete with any restaurant in town," Morton said. "Once you get through the gates, you know you will have great food and service every time. It's one of the best brunches in town."



**Sunday brunch at the Gordon Club is enjoyed by the after church crowd who always look for good food and a good place to gather for fellowship. Many patrons take the opportunity to use the facility as a gathering place for family and friends with the added pleasure of no clean up.**

# Joint Training

From Page 1

more compact version." Instead of nine weeks, it will only take four weeks, making it easier for senior officers, NCOs and DOD civilians to attend.

The Joint Tactical Automated Switching Network Supervisor class is being reorganized into the Joint Network Management Systems class that will integrate the new network management system software with the emphasis on joint network architectural theory.

Course content will be specialized with one class targeting users and the other targeting systems administrators.

The new course will be transitioned in beginning in fiscal year 2004.

Air Force  
Army  
Navy  
Marines

# DSOY

From Page 1

competition as a Drill Sergeant Recognition Week for all of the drill sergeants on Fort Gordon. Activities included a 5 a.m.-DSOY run, March 5, open to all drill sergeants on Fort Gordon, past and present, and the DSOY dinner that evening in the Gordon Club. The DSOY winner's name was a closely held secret until the announcement was made during the ceremony the following day.

Besides Rayford, the other competitors included: Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Kenric T. Brooks, 73rd Ordnance Bn., a special electronics devices repairer with eight years in the Army and one year as a drill sergeant;

Drill Sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Phillip C. Brennan, 369th Sig. Bn., a signal support specialist with 13 years of Army service and one year as a drill sergeant;

Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Willis W. Stollings, 447th Signal Bn, a network switching system maintainer with six years in the Army and one year as a drill sergeant; and

Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Heatherann S. Bozeman, U.S. Army Signal School Detachment, Fort Meade, Md., a broadcast journalist with 10 years of Army service and one year as a drill sergeant.

Rayford will represent Fort Gordon in the Training and Doctrine Command's DSOY competition later this year.

**Safety is NO accident!**

## Fort Gordon Fire and Emergency Services offers community more than fire protection

Joseph Hamm  
Fire Inspector

Attention to the soldiers, civilian employees, fellow services, family members and all who use the facilities and services on Fort Gordon! Most everyone has a general idea what services are available, such as the Main Post Exchange, bowling alley, Chaplains Office, etc.

A lot of people know about the fantastic new fire station we now have here at Fort Gordon. But are you familiar with what services are available from our station?

We at the Fort Gordon Fire Department would like to introduce ourselves to the public we serve.

Fire Station One,  
Fire Headquarters/Fire Operations

Building 32420  
Telephone: 706-791-2445

Fire operations, are the firefighters we are all familiar with.

These professionals are the firefighters you commonly see rolling down the street in the fire engines, responding to emergency calls varying from full-fledged fires, medical responses, and a variety of unknowns that are important to public safety. Listed here are some of the services fire operations can

provide to you:

- Fire Station tours.
- Fire Safety briefings and demonstrations.
- Special event static displays with Fire Engines and Equipment.
- Organized training with other emergency agencies that are on or off-post.

Fire operations welcomes you to our station. Although the station is manned 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, we recommend giving us a call before arriving. This assures we're at the station, in the event the firefighters are out on a fire call, and also to ensure we can prepare to best serve your needs. For example if you are a child care provider, and would like to bring 10 children to the station, we can best serve the children.

Fire Prevention Office  
Building 29717  
Phone: 706-791-1207/1205/1235/1199

Fire prevention, are the inspectors that you see inspecting facilities for fire regulations and fire prevention issues. There are four dedicated Inspectors, available to the Fort Gordon public. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Listed are some of the services the Fire Prevention Of-

fice can provide:

- Scheduled/unscheduled fire inspections of base facilities.
- Fire drills.
- Fire safety education/briefings.
- Portable fire extinguisher training.
- Review of all construction/re-modeling projects.
- Family housing briefings for new occupants.
- Family day care provider training, and fire inspections.
- Unit evacuation coordinator training.
- Special events, such as Fire Prevention Week demonstrations.

The events listed are typical services available to the Fort Gordon public. Once a year we celebrate a Fire Safety Week nationwide, during the month of October. Fort Gordon Fire and Emergency Services celebrates Fire Safety year round. The success of fire prevention begins with you. If there are any fire safety issues you have questions about, give us a call. Come by for a visit, be fire safe and always remember: **In case of fire and emergency CALL: 9-1-1** (Note: if calling 9-1-1 from a cellular phone for an on post emergency, ask for the **Fort Gordon 9-1-1**).

## 7217th Med Support Unit busy with blood collection mission at Gordon and beyond

Denise Allen  
Staff writer

Since arriving at Fort Gordon's Kendrick Memorial Blood Center on Jan. 21 to augment the staff, members of the 7217th Medical Support Unit out of Miami have been very busy.

"Our mission has increased since we got here," said First Sgt. Richard Laxson, task force NCOIC.

Last year, the center had a goal of 600 units per month with a weekly goal of 40 contingency units, according to Erin Hamblin, blood donor recruiter.

Contingency units are sent for processing to the Armed Services Blood Program's whole blood processing labs and can be used for service members wherever they may be in the world.

As troops have been building up in the Middle East, so have blood reserves.

Hamblin said that Fort Gordon's contingency goal is now 200 units per week.

To meet those demands, more blood drives and extended hours for the blood center have been established.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, AIT students have been donating blood with other drives scheduled on Mondays and Fridays. Members of the 7217th have been traveling to Parris Island, S.C., about once a week to draw blood from Marines there.

With around 4,000 students on post at any given time, they provide a good donor base.

"So many people can't give blood because they've been in Europe," Hamblin said.

Service members, stationed in Europe for more than six months from 1980 to 1996, cannot donate blood because of concerns of exposure to new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD), also known as the human form of "mad cow disease."

Blood products are only



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

(Above) Pfc. Catherina Garavito-Salini, 7217th Medical Support Unit, matches test tubes with forms to ensure they are in the correct order. (Left) Spc. Brad Thrasher, 7217th Medical Support Unit, checks the tourniquet on Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Wehr, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course student.

good for 42 days; donors can only give every eight weeks.

Donald Handley is a regular donor.

His daughter, Peggy Morales, is stationed at Fort Gordon, he has two sons, Jacob and Donald, who are in the military and are currently overseas.

"I'm donating blood in case one of their friends needs it," he said.

Active duty military, Army Reservists, National Guard members, contract and civilian post employees, retirees and family members are eligible to

donate blood on post.

"The post has really supported us on blood drives" said Laxson. "To have to keep that quota up, we need the support."

The center's walk-in hours for blood donations are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; however, the center has been opening at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to accommodate AIT students.

"We may start scheduling after hours," Hamblin said.

a major portion of its blood to the Armed Services Whole Blood Processing Laboratory, a storage and processing facility. The blood products are then shipped to the Middle East or where needed. KMBC also supplies blood products to Eisenhower Army Medical Center and other military hospitals in the region.

Donations are vital to making sure those needs are met. Because of increased deployments and travel-related donor restrictions, many are unable to donate; KMBC wants to encourage all members of the Fort Gordon family to give blood. Active duty and retired military, National Guard and Reserve members, family members, and civilians who work on post are all asked to help by donating blood on post. "It's a team effort," said Capt. Richards.

## 7217th earn title of 'traveling vampires' 7217th collect blood to meet requirement to support troops

Erin Hamblin  
Fort Gordon

For members of the 7217th Medical Support Company, a reserve group activated out of Perrine, Fla., the nickname "traveling vampires" is well earned. The team, led by Capt. Jeff Richards, has been activated in support of the global war on terrorism to fulfill a critical role: collecting blood needed to support our troops.

As part of the collection team already in place at Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, these 22 soldiers trained in blood donor center operation

will be vital in meeting the increased need for blood within the Armed Services Blood Program. They are traveling to various military installations in the region to conduct blood drives (Fort Benning, Fort Jackson, and Parris Island).

Military blood centers are steadily working to ensure contingency requirements for blood are met. System-wide, the 7217th are among several reserve teams called to active duty to augment blood collection, including another group operating in conjunction with Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, the 7226th that is positioned at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The goal of Kendrick Memorial Blood Center is to collect enough blood to provide contingency blood to the troops who are deployed, and to provide care to patients in military hospitals. KMBC sends



Members of the 7217th medical Support Company earned the title of traveling vampires. Their mission is to support the troops standing ready to fight the war on global terrorism.

# Support our troops - Become a blood donor

For more information on becoming a blood donor and supporting our troops, call 787-3234.

## GSFA scholarships, student loan information offered to troops, their families

Georgia Student Finance Commission

Many of our U.S. troops are being deployed to the Middle East, and some of the soldiers and their families may be concerned about repayment of student loans.

The Georgia Student Loan Authority, the state's official student loan agency and a division of the Georgia Student Financial Commission, is offering access to a new step-by-step guide for troops and their families.

The need for this type of guide was recognized as more troops were deployed and more people began sending email messages to GSFA, requesting information on how to manage student cars during deployment.

Access the guide by going to GSFC homepage at [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org). On the left side of the homepage there is a scrolling link labeled "Military Regulations for Troops for HOPE Scholarship Recipients."

More information about the Georgia Student Finance Commission can be found on the Web site or by calling 770-724-9000 or 800-776-6878.

## Retiree Notes: Retiree issues

Richard T. Lechnir  
Retirement Services Officer

### Concurrent receipt Update 10:

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., has introduced a bill to provide full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. His bill, S-392, has 38 co-sponsors. The House counterpart, HR-303, sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla., has 120 co-sponsors.

Similar bills died in the last Congress in the face of threats of a veto by President Bush, although a bill for concurrent receipt for the most severely disabled retirees was passed.

Military retirees are the only class of retirees who must forfeit their retired pay to accept disability compensation from the VA.

### SS benefits for a divorced spouse:

Federal law overrides any legal paperwork from the lawyers. A divorced spouse can get benefits on a former husband or wife's Social Security record if the marriage lasted at least 10 years.

The divorced spouse must be 62 or older and unmarried.

She gets the same amount she would get if she were still married to him — up to half of his benefit amount while he's still alive and possibly all of it when he dies.

If the spouse has been divorced at least two years, he or she can get benefits, even if the worker is not retired. However, the worker must have enough credits to qualify for benefits and be age 62 or older. The amount of benefits a divorced spouse gets has no effect on the amount a current spouse can get. For more information, see Social Security Administration's online publication, *What Every Woman*

Should Know at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html>.

### Survivor benefit plan bill introduced in Senate:

Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced S. 451, the Survivor Benefit Plan Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has joined Sen. Snowe as a co-sponsor.

S. 451 is a companion bill to Rep. Jeff Miller's H.R. 548, introduced in the House in early February. It would increase the age-62 SBP annuity over a period of five years. As of Oct. 1, 2004, the minimum annuity for survivors age 62 and older would rise to 40 percent of SBP-covered retired pay (vs. 35 percent currently). It would then increase to 45 percent on Oct. 1, 2005; 50 percent on Oct. 1, 2006.

Then, as of Oct. 1, 2007, all annuitants would draw the full 55 percent SBP benefit. In addition, these two bills would authorize an open season to allow military retirees who declined SBP to enroll and cover their spouses. Late entrants under this provision would pay an increased premium, depending on the number of years since retirement. Retirees who are currently paying extra for Supplemental SBP coverage would see their premiums reduced.

The Military Officers Association of America strongly endorses this legislation for several reasons. First, many retirees who signed up for SBP in the 1970s and early '80s weren't adequately informed about the age-62 benefit reduction. Second, the Pentagon admits that the 40 percent subsidy Congress intended for SBP has now dropped below 17 percent, so retiree premiums are paying a far higher share of program costs than Congress intended.

Finally, military SBP compares poorly with the Survivor Benefit Plan for federal retirees, who enjoy a much higher subsidy (33 percent to 48 percent) and receive 50 percent or 55

percent of retired pay for life, with no reduction at age 62.

MOAA believes this is the year to fix SBP, and the key is to win budget authority in the FY2004 Budget Resolution, which the House and Senate Budget Committees will take up later in March. To get the education process kick-started, MOAA staff held a group briefing today for more than 60 House staffers on the case for enactment of H.R. 548/S. 451.

Visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/> to urge your legislators to co-sponsor S. 451 and H.R. 548. Scroll down 'Survivor Issues' and click on the applicable bill link, then enter your ZIP code and click "GO" to send the MOAA-suggested message.

To specifically urge legislators to include this provision in the Budget Resolution, we have a special action alert on our Web site at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>

You may also call your legislators using MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill hotline 877-762-8762. Just ask to be connected to your legislator's office, then urge representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 548 and senators to co-sponsor S. 451.

Finally, the March issue of *Military Officer* will have a paper cover wrap with four postcards that you can mail to your legislators urging co-sponsorship and inclusion in the Budget Resolution. We hope that you will sign, stamp, and send these postcards, and ask your spouses, neighbors, and friends to do the same.

The more e-mails, letters, postcards and phone calls we can generate to Congress in the next month, the better our chances of success. Don't be shy about using every one of the options listed above. Volume definitely counts.

# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## “While I am waiting...”

“While I am waiting” is a new series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.



While I am waiting, ...you see, my husband, my spouse, my military sponsor, my soldier is going. I am a military spouse. My family is together, but in a few minutes it won't be. Lots of things are going on outside where the bus is waiting. Families are milling about, some are hugging and clinging, some are crying. My children and I stand together. Our guy is too busy right now, seeing to this and to that. Now he has a moment, he comes over. We all hug tightly. He kisses each of us, and shares a few last words: to my daughter, he loves her, to my son, his love, and words to remember to be a good boy. To me he says more words of affection, the fab three, “I love you.” The other important words, I will miss you.

The rest of the words are a blur, I am trying so hard not to blubber in public. Now he gets on the bus, and suddenly I am a bit different.

My children have a father, but now as the door is closing, he is secured on the bus. As the bus pulls away, I am here, standing. As I stand, my best friend, my companion, half of me, drives down the street.

Now the bus goes around the corner, and behind some buildings and he is gone. And it is weird standing here.

I am not sure what to do. My children are hanging on to me, and we are all shedding tears. There are people around us, offering hugs, it is just well, right now, it is not the right thing. I say things that probably do not make sense in this state of numbness I am in.

I manage to get to the car, ok. I bundle the kids in their seat belts and car seats, kissing them both. And I climb in.

We manage to get home. Thankfully it is a space we are alone. Home to mourn our loss, to grieve his leaving, and after a few hours we start feeling again. There is emptiness but we start to deal with it.

The unit had pre-deployment briefings, and as a couple we had moments to plan for this separation, sort of. But all the planning does not take into account the emptiness.

Now as reality creeps back in, I have to figure out how I am going to deal with life as it comes. Over the coming weeks, I will miss my husband.

But I am willing share with you some of the emotions, events, and moments, as we travel together, while I am waiting.

## Commentary: Would war be historic turning point?

by Dennis Ryan

“Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it,” philosopher George Santayana told the world in 1905.

Today we find ourselves at a possible turning point in history. Opponents of military action against Iraq have uttered statements to the effect that a war against Iraq will start another world war.

So let us go to history and see what happened or, better yet, what didn't happen before World War II. Hitler had taken over Germany in 1933 and proceeded to re-arm, violating the Versailles Treaty that ended World War I.

France and Great Britain did nothing. Germany in March of 1936 re-occupied the Rhineland with 20,000 troops.

This was the German territory on the West Bank of the Rhine River serving as a buffer zone between France and Germany. Once again France and Great Britain did nothing and allowed German troops to move in unopposed. This was another violation of the Versailles Treaty and a direct threat to the security of France.

The masses in Europe wanted peace at any cost and thought any provocation of Hitler would lead to war, but in hindsight, looking the other way led to war.

France was much stronger than Germany at the time, and joined by Great Britain's might, could have eas-

ily called Hitler's bluff and squashed his military adventure.

The union with Austria and the occupation of the Sudetenland and the rest of Czechoslovakia would only be two years away.

Germany was much stronger militarily by then and even more powerful after digesting the Czech industrial and arms industry.

Hitler then signed a non-aggression pact with another ruthless dictator, Stalin in 1939. This allowed the former corporal to invade Poland without fear of the Soviets. This was the final straw for the appeasers in the west.

France and Great Britain declared war on Germany, but hesitated for six months and refused to attack in the west.

Hitler thanked the French and British for being so considerate by defeating them in a six-week campaign in 1940.

Hitler then rewarded Stalin the following year by invading the Soviet Union and adding tens of millions more to the butcher's bill for the war.

Now we are faced with another dictator or two, Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Kim Jung II, in North Korea.

Saddam has invaded two of his neighbors, broken treaties and continues to evade sanctions against weapons of mass destruction. Yet peace demonstrators fear a war will bring greater conflict, while forgetting the lessons of the appeasement of Hitler.

Yes, there are differences between

Saddam and Hitler. Saddam is bigger and has a better mustache.

Does any rational person really believe Saddam Hussein would not use a nuclear bomb if he had one, or that he would not continue to cause havoc with his neighbors and brutalize his own people?

But it is America that's chastised as being a warmonger, only hungry for oil.

We must continue to be strong and do what is right in Iraq, no matter how unpopular it may be in the court of European public opinion.

It is time the tyrant is disposed. That brings us to the other megalomaniac making news today in North Korea.

Kim presides over an even more repressive regime than Saddam.

The younger generation that grew up healthy and prosperous in South Korea blames the United States for the rise in tensions, forgetting the sacrifice made by their elders, and so many Americans to repel the communists and keep them at bay for over half a century.

Some forget or ignore the bloody past. That is why we as Americans must never forget.

We must never forget the lessons history provides about how to deal with such dictators. And we must never forget to do the right thing.

**Editor's note:** Dennis Ryan is a staff writer for The Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer, Va.

## Feedback

Why do you think Drill Sgt. Ulysses Rayford was selected as Fort Gordon's Drill Sergeant of the Year?



“He's a stellar performer in everything he does. He's the kind of NCO a first sergeant can count on.”

**1st Sgt. Stephon Watson**  
Company B, 551st Signal Battalion



“(Because of) his knowledge, dedication and compassion for the military and his soldiers.”

**Pvt. Patti Troutman**  
Company B, 551st Sig. Bn.



“He's pretty squared away and he keeps his soldiers squared away also.”

**Pvt. 1st Class Latisha Ellis**  
Company B, 551st Sig. Bn.



“He's dedicated to his job and he loves to train soldiers.”

**Pvt. Kendrick Miller**  
Company B, 551st Sig. Bn.



“He's the most motivated and dedicated drill sergeant in 551st Signal Battalion, and he takes a personal interest in his soldiers.”

**Pvt. 1st Class Greg Robinson**  
Company B, 551st Sig. Bn.

## Baseball, apple pie and post exchange

**John Barry**  
Commentary to The Signal

No matter where a soldier is stationed in this world, there's sure to be a post exchange nearby.

G.I.s rely on the Post Exchange to find nearly everything they could back home, whether it's beef jerky, AA batteries or collapsible lawn chairs.

I saw all of those items last year during a weeklong assignment to Kuwait. Like everybody else who stays or passes through Camp Doha, I felt compelled to “check out the PX” to see what I could find.

I bought what I needed, namely a compact alarm clock to help me overcome the jet lag a flight across nine time zones could cause. I also saw flashy “Operation Enduring Freedom” T-shirts, featuring eagles in flight, tanks on the move and American flags in the wind (the XL size I needed was out of stock, but a friend still stationed on Camp Doha sent me one a few months later).

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service operates more than 1,600 stores in 30 countries. Its mission is to offer the American military community the goods they want and need.

The PX on Camp Doha fills a converted warehouse. The store, seen recently in American news-casts, is not much bigger than a small store in a strip mall. The adjoining food court features a Taco

Bell and a Baskin Robbins in addition to video games and a machine selling calling cards.

I took advantage of a mom-and-pop shop in the PX selling gold to buy a loud, 24-karat necklace with a heart-shape pendant for \$325 (my wife claims to love it). This PX, as do many overseas, have stores so G.I.s and vendors can get together and haggle over local goods.

I knew from a 2000 trip to Kuwait that I could have found the same necklace a few dollars cheaper in the famed gold markets of Kuwait City; but my work schedule and overall restrictions to post precluded an excursion this trip.

The PX on Camp Doha is one of many in the areas of Kuwait where American soldiers and Marines train. Recent stories in the *Dallas Morning News* described how these exchanges took on the shapes of rapidly assembled tents or two trailers wedged together.

Stateside PXs look, feel and sound like civilian department stores such a Kmart or a Target. The Base Exchange on March Air Reserve Base is no different. When civilians ask me about prices at military stores, I describe them as “a few pennies cheaper than a Wal-Mart.”

The real bargain to a stateside PX is that goods are tax-free. I once saved \$90 on a computer and printer set I bought at the sprawling PX on MacDill Air Force Base near

Tampa, Fla.

The primary advantage of a PX overseas is finding American goods at American prices. That includes gas, which during my tour of Germany in the mid-1980s, cost a \$1 per gallon on post and roughly the same amount per liter off post.

When I was in Kuwait, the rage among G.I.s on Camp Doha was DVDs. It seems nearly everybody had a laptop computer with a DVD player. Word spread faster than a rising thermometer in the Middle East about the latest shipment of DVDs to reach the shelves.

A PX stateside offers pretty much the same things a soldier can find off post, whether it's a brand of jeans or a slice of pizza.

But overseas, soldiers have more of an appreciation and attachment to the PX because they can't necessarily find the same items off post. A PX is more of a bustling hang out overseas than stateside because they represent what soldiers want a miss - a slice of Americana.

**Editor's note:** John F. Berry is an Army chief warrant officer in the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade. In civilian life, he is a newspaper reporter and columnist with the *Press-Enterprise* in Riverside, Calif. Berry is writing columns for his paper and *The Signal* while stationed on Fort Gordon. His columns are reviewed before publication.

## The Signal

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# 212 ways to be a Soldier

## A day in the life of a... ...02B (cornet or trumpet player)

**Note:** This is the 26th MOS featured in a series describing all of the 212 Army careers.

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

Maybe it was in his blood. Staff Sgt. Tim Ledoux, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, plays trumpet for the United States Army Signal Corps Band here on post, a job that seems to fit him like a glove.

Ledoux said he always knew he wanted to be a musician, although he said he didn't originally plan to play for the Army.

Ledoux is actually the second generation of horn players to play in the military. His father was an Air Force bugler, and Ledoux said when he was two or three years old, he used to pretend he was playing his father's bugle. When he was in fourth grade, and the band program started in elementary school, Ledoux said he started actively playing the instrument.

"Even as a kid, when people asked me what I wanted to be, I said, 'I want to be a professional trumpet player,'" Ledoux said. "I never thought I would be in the Army band. I knew I would serve in the military, since it's in our family's tradition, but I didn't think I'd end up in the band."

Ledoux said he was in his third year of college, when he ran out of money and started working at a gas station when a recruiter came in and sold him on the idea of trying out for the Army band.

Fourteen years later, Ledoux is still using his talents as a musician in the United States Army.

"When I joined, I looked at it as a job," Ledoux said. "The Army had the best education plan, opportunity for travel and promotion."

So how does one go about playing for the Army band?

The first step is to arrange an audition with an area Army band detachment in which the auditioning musician must play scales, a prepared piece and must also sight-read and play music. If the prospective

Army musician passes this audition, he/she has completed only the first step of the process and earned the right to attend advanced individual training to study music for the Army following basic training.

The AIT for members of the band is a tri-service school (Army, Navy and Marines) and spans six months and is conducted at the Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk, Va. Roughly a quarter of the class will be dismissed from the course due to failure to meet the course standards. If someone is dismissed, they have the option of reclassifying into a second MOS.

There will be an additional three auditions/tests for the students on their instruments, which are issued to them through the Army.

Roughly a quarter of the class will be dismissed during AIT due to failure to meet the course standards. If someone is dismissed, they have the option of reclassifying into a second MOS.

"I never had a back-up plan for myself," Ledoux said. "I knew I was going to make it."

Still, Ledoux admitted it was a very competitive environment.

"The audition process can weed out all the so-so college music graduates," he said. "We lost a guy from my class who had his masters in music."

Once a musician is in the Army band, Ledoux said they are in for one of the most remarkable experiences of their lives.

Ledoux said he has traveled the world as a musician in the Army band, and played for dignitaries on all sorts of memorable occasions.

"I got to play the 50th Anniversary of D-Day in Korea and then again here in the U.S.," he said. "No matter where we play, music is the universal language. It's neat to play a song and see the people singing along in

their language."

One of the best parts of playing for the Army band, Ledoux said, is the stability it provides him as a musician. He said it is nice not to have to worry about being a starving artist.

"When my wife and I first got married, I worried about eating if I didn't play and make enough money," he said. "A lot of musicians playing out there on their own don't have health insurance, and if they get sick for two or three weeks and don't play, they're really hurting."

Ledoux said a musician in the Army band still has the ability to be creative and play different styles of music.

"Just the other day the band director (Warrant Officer Scott MacDonald) was asking if anybody wanted to write some original music to perform," Ledoux said. "We do that all the time."

Additionally, Ledoux said there are numerous bands within the Signal Corps band, including the ceremonial band, the marching band, the concert band, the jazz ensemble, the jazz combo, the rock band, the Dixie band, the brass quintet, woodwind quintet and subgroups of all of these.

As summer approaches, the band at Fort Gordon is about to enter its busy season, in which they'll be performing many ceremonies, including many changes of command. Sometimes the band may have several performances in a day, Ledoux said.

Besides all these performances, Ledoux said the band members practice about 20 hours a week together plus individual practice at night. He compared it to a football player who practices with the team, but also lifts weights and runs on his own.

Band members also must perform all other soldierly



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

(left and above) Staff Sgt. Tim Ledoux, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, practices his trumpet. As a member of the Signal Corps band, Ledoux is a 02B, the MOS for cornet or trumpet player. Ledoux, who has been in the Army band for 14 years, estimated he practices about 20 hours a week with the band, not including his personal rehearsal time. He has played with the Army band all around the world during his military career, for soldiers of all ranks.

"I never had a backup plan for myself," Ledoux said. "I knew I was going to make it."

duties such as PT and weapons qualifications. In addition, the band is also its own unit and must handle all its own administrative and supply issues.

Even after more than 20 years of playing the trumpet, Ledoux said the trum-

pet is still his love. He said band members can have two MOSs by passing audition tests on two separate instruments. But even though he was a percussion minor in college, and can play some drums, Ledoux said he's sticking with the

trumpet.

"It can be heard for miles away," he said. "And the trumpet always gets to play the melody of a song. We always play the part everybody walks away singing."

## Enlisted to officer back to enlisted

Staff Sergeant Eugene Blair has been associated with the Army for 17 years and has gone from green to gold back to green and is now considering becoming a warrant officer.

Back in 1985 he enlisted in the army, completed his Signal Corps advance individual training here and went to Fort Stewart for two years. There his company commander convinced him he should become an officer. Assigned to Bremerhaven, Germany, he thought about applying for Officer Candidate School, but his wife wanted him to return home. He applied after he left the active service.

Blair attended Kentucky Military Academy, graduated with honors and was commissioned a reserve officer in the Armor Corps.

He was taking the Armor officer basic course when Desert Storm came along. He did not get to go to the war despite the fact he volunteered to lead a platoon into Iraq. The war did not last long enough.

After duty at Fort Knox, he went to Boise, Idaho, to help establish the new reserve National Training Center.

While there he decided to finish college so he transferred to the inactive ready reserve in 1992.

He went to school in Cincinnati studying broadcast technology. He worked at two radio stations and a TV station in the area. He tried sales, but decided it was not for him.

Blair then decided to re-associate himself with the active Army. A recruiter tried to enlist him. He was later told by a woman at the Department of the Army that he could not enlist since he still had a commission, but should find a unit as soon as possible. He began calling active units but could not find an active slot for an armor officer and his branch would not detail him to active service.

He did find a reserve unit that needed him as an executive officer and later in the month became the commander of the 558th Signal Detachment at King Mills, Ohio.

His soldiers were very surprised after all he was an armor officer and not a signal officer. Both sides quickly adjusted and built a great unit, according to Blair.

He describes commanding as the most rewarding and demanding thing he has

ever done. He thought the reserves only worked one weekend a month and two weeks a year. He learned to respect the reservist noting they are required to cram 30 days of soldiering into two days. As a leader he had to spend seven days-a-week planning training for his unit. He had great NCO leadership. He learned a lot but missed active duty.

Blair took a job as a construction worker in Jackson, Tenn., where his father was the project manager. He left the 558th Signal Detachment. He did not work long in construction, but got a job with a local TV station as chief photographer. After covering eight murders in one month he had enough of bad news.

He called the recruiting office in Jackson asking them to help him get back in the Army. They agreed if he would talk to soldiers about military service.

Blair tried to get back in the Army as an officer but could not. He felt God was calling him to the ministry.

He resigned his commission and returned to the active Army to work toward the chaplaincy.

In 1998 he was assigned as a specialist to the 108th Airborne Brigade, Air De-

fense Artillery. He was sent to Saudi Arabia and had to adjust to not only the military life again but to a new culture.

After service at Bliss he was sent to Korea and then here.

Blair says he would be a wealthy man if he had a dollar for every time someone asked him which job he liked best.

He points out that officers have different but equally important missions from enlisted soldiers and he enjoyed both positions.

He notes life is not always about how much money you make or how much power you have. It's about how happy you are doing whatever you're doing.

He adds that life is too short not to be happy and he is happiest being a soldier.

Blair plans to call it a career once he has completed 30 years in the Army and is now looking at the Signal warrant officer program.

He's also looking to get his second bachelor of arts in Asian studies and a masters in international relations.

After the military Blair wants to be an ambassador to Korea and host a children's show teaching Koreans English.

He is 35 years old, married with six children and another one on the way.

He is assigned to Company D, 447th Signal Battalion.

**Editor's note:** The above information was based on Blair's biography, and edited by Henry Holmes, Public Affairs Office.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

Staff Sgt. Eugene Blair, Company D 447th Signal Battalion, checks Pvt. Wesley Son's dog tags before Blair outprocesses him. His military career has taken him from an enlisted soldier, to an officer, back to enlisted.

# Community Events

## 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](mailto:reidm@gordon.army.mil).

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

## Dinner theatre

Comedy Night at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre with "The Disgruntled Clown" and comedian Dave Ugly is open to the public, ages 18 and above **Sunday**.

The two shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Also available is a cash bar and snacks.

For tickets or more information, call the Box Office at 793-8552.

## Operation Ready

"Rear Detachment Commander Training" is scheduled for **Wednesday**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gordon Club, Ground Zero on the bottom floor.

To register and for additional information, call 791-3579.

## EWC monthly meetings

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club's monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth **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.

## Green to gold

Reserve Officer 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. **March 19 and 26**.

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

## EWC scholarships

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club scholarship applications are in the counselor's office at all area high schools and available to all ID card holders. Deadline for submission is **April 30**.

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

## Volunteers needed

The Special Olympics are held on the installation annually and normally supported 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 who volunteer will be afforded the opportunity to help.

nity to help.

The games will be held on lower Barton Field (vicinity of the quarter mile track) on **March 26**, beginning at 10 a.m. The rain date will be **March 27**.

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

## Women's history month programs

**Tuesday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a "Resumix" class. Carmen Davis, CPAC explains the procedure on how to use the resumix for developing a resume.

**Wednesday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Death and Dying." Elliott Funeral Home explains legal and financial issues involved in funeral preparations.

**Thursday** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Starting Your Own Business." Heather Woods, business consultant, Small Business Development Center, University of Georgia at Augusta, helps potential entrepreneurs with information on the various types of businesses that could be started at home, writing a business plan, financing options and tips on managing a business at home.

**March 25** from 1 - 3 p.m. is a class on "Women and Social Security." Judy T. Hardy, Social Security Administration, answers issues regarding Social Security.

**March 26** from 9 - 11 a.m. is a class on "Breast Health Care." Stella Lerer, Doctors Hospital, explains health care for the breast.

**March 27** from 9 - 11 a.m. with "Roll With It." The class explains techniques on how to relieve stress.

The above events will be held at the Gordon Club.

**March 31** at 2 p.m. will be Closing Ceremony in Alexander Hall.

For more information call the Equal Employment Opportunity office at 791-4551.

## Volunteers needed

Fort Gordon volunteers are needed for the Garden City Music Festival on **March 22**, noon to 11 p.m., at Riverwalk, Augusta.

Service members, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, and family members are welcome.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Julius Weston, Equal Opportunity Office, 791-6648.

## FCC training

The Family Child Care Program will have a training class **April 14** in Building 45400. The registration dates to sign up will be **March 17-21** from 9:30 a.m. - noon in Building 45400 on 45th Street.

For more information, call 791-3993/4440.

## Yard sale

The "Great American" yard sale takes place **March 22**, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sales will take place in the following housing areas: Gordon Terrace, Maglin Terrace, Olive Terrace and McNair Terrace.

World-wide merchandise will be available for purchase without leaving the country.

The Central Savannah River Area community is welcome and may enter through Gates

1, 2 and 5.

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

## DVDs at Woodworth

DVDs are now available for check-out at the Woodworth Library. This new collection, featuring both old favorites and classics, is located in the CD area of the library. DVDs may be checked out for a period of two weeks, with no renewals. There is a limit of two DVDs.

For more information, call 791-7323.

## Warrant officer meeting

Fort Gordon will host the semi-annual Warrant Officer Leader Development Council meeting, **March 25 - 27**.

The meeting will review and address potential issues and develop courses of action from the Army's systems, policies and programs that affect warrant officer leader development.

Representatives from all warrant officer proponent offices, National Guard and Reserve components are expected to attend.

For more information, call Chief Warrant Officer Frank Pizzi at 791-8183.

## AFCEA scholarships

The Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, is taking applications for college scholarships to be awarded in May.

Graduating high school seniors who have been accepted to a university and current college students can get an application on the website, [www.afcea-augusta.org](http://www.afcea-augusta.org).

Deadline is **April 1**. The application should be mailed to:

AFCEA Scholarships, Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, P.O. Box 8054, Fort Gordon, GA 30905.

Eligible students must be full-time, majoring in computer science, electronics, engineering or a related science field. ROTC students are eligible regardless of major.

The selected applicants will be awarded \$1000 scholarships. The top applicant is to receive the \$2000 Mallette Scholarship.

For information, call Mary Jones at 791-2014.

## Safety office moves

The Signal Branch Safety Office has moved out of the Military Police Station and relocated to Building 33720, Darling Hall, Room 155.

Telephone numbers and duty hours remain the same.

## OWC

The Officers' Wives' Club thrift shop picks up and takes in donations.

Drop off your donations at thrift shop or contact Monnie Castro at 481-8065 for pick ups.

## Vehicle registration

To better serve our soldiers, civilians, family members and retirees, the Vehicle Registration Office in Darling Hall is extending its hours. Personnel are reminded to bring their state vehicle registration (registered in the name of person registering vehicle or

notarized letter authorizing someone else to register the vehicle), proof of insurance, ID card, and valid driver's license.

New hours of operation are as followed: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

A reminder to all service members and authorized personnel possessing a valid DoD decal. You are required to notify the vehicle registration office when changing vehicle license plates on your vehicle.

Failure to do so could result in delays while attempting entry onto Fort Gordon or having your vehicle towed during heightened Force Protection Condition measures.

The vehicle registration office is located in Darling Hall, Room 151.

## New MILPO hours

Effective **Thursday**, the Fort Gordon Personnel Service Branch and Strength Management Branch will close at 1 p.m. every Thursday for administrative maintenance.

The normal operating hours Monday - Wednesday and on Friday will remain 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.. Thursday hours will be from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

These hours do not apply to the ID card section which will be open 7:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Monday - Wednesday and on Friday.

The ID card section will expand their Thursday hours effective **Thursday** and will be open from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Emergencies will be handled at any time by calling Robert Wolfram, Personnel Service Branch, 791-1958, or Richard Madden, Strength Management Branch, 791-4449.

Student MILPO, In /Out Processing and ID card section hours will not change.

## Career fair

SmartStart for New Vets Hosts Military/Civilian Career Fair on **April 25**.

SmartStart for New Vets is hosting a Military/Civilian Career Fair at Clayton College & State University's Center for Continuing Education in Morrow, Ga.

SmartStart is a national online employment assistance program for recruiting and training service members and spouses who are leaving the military, and moving them into well-paying civilian careers.

The Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will have recruiters from local and national companies seeking qualified applicants. While the primary focus of this event is on military veterans, those interested from the civilian community are also welcome.

Clayton College and State University's Center for Continuing Education is located approximately 20 miles south of Atlanta.

Visit the SmartStart website at [www.smartstartvets.org](http://www.smartstartvets.org) for more information and directions.

## Diabetes support group

Support group for living healthy will meet in Darling Hall, Room 229, **March 31** at 6 p.m.

The topic will be psychological aspect of diabetes, with guest speaker Maj. Paulette

Matthie-Brown.

The cost is free and open to the public. The group meets on the last Monday of every month.

For more information, call Maj. Tonya Dickerson at 787-1126 or Vera Larry at 787-8469.

## National Library Week

Woodworth Library will sponsor several activities **April 6-12**. The theme is "@ your library".

Storytelling activities occur **April 7 - 10** at 11 a.m.

For more information contact Liz Knight at 791-7323.

## Life learning center

Life Learning Center classes are offered to veterans and the general public at no cost.

**March 27** at 2:30 p.m. is a class entitled, "I Deserve Respect: Finding and Healing Shame in Personal Relationships."

Shame eats away at a person's dignity, pride and self-respect. Each of us deserves to be treated with respect. We are entitled to a life free from shame, no matter what. Come learn how to find and heal shaming relationships.

Call 731-7275, Ext. 7989 for location and to register.

## EFMP happenings

Exceptional Family Member Program Monthly Parent Information Exchange meeting

will be **March 27**, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the ACS conference room, Room 367, Darling Hall. The topic will be "Tender HealthCare, a Center for Medically Fragile Children."

Parent Resource Organization for the Community, Inc. presents...IDEA and Inclusion Workshop. Navigating the Special Education Maze: IDEA, ADA, IEP FAPE, LRE. Find out what it all means. The class is **Saturday**, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Children's Medical Center conference room, 1446 Harper Street, Augusta.

There is no charge for this workshop, but registration is strongly recommended. To register contact: Shelia Landry at 706-869-1545, [sheiland@aol.com](mailto:sheiland@aol.com) or Regina Mertz, 706-860-8350, [gemertz@bellsouth.net](mailto:gemertz@bellsouth.net)

If childcare is needed, inquire when you register. Childcare cannot not be provided without prior registration.

There will also be an Autism Workshop **Saturday**, from 7 - 9 p.m. at USC-Aiken.

Registration required, call 803-649-5425

The CSRA Area Agency on Aging presents... "Find and Paying for Eldercare Options," **March 29** from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at W.T. Johnson Center, 1610 Hunter Street, Augusta.

For more information, call 706-210-2018.

## The School Yard



### Richmond County Testing Schedule

March 24-27: Georgia High School Graduation Test

### Columbia County Testing Schedule

March 11-21: Standardized testing for grades 3, 5 and 8.

March 24-28: Georgia High School Graduation Test

### Freedom Park Elementary School and Army Community Service presents...

"Protecting our Children"

April 3, 2003

6:30 p.m.

All parents are encouraged to attend and bring their children.

## Fort Gordon Report



The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **March 17** and includes the following stories:

- Bridging Team in Kuwait
- American/ Italian Joint Training
- Army NASCAR Debut

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.

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

The Signal • **March 14, 2003** • 9ACaptain Raashid S. Williams

Fort Gordon Tax Center

### I. Extension of Tax Deadlines<sup>1</sup>.

Armed forces members who served in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty area are allowed additional time to take care of tax matters (called a "deadline extension" below). The deadline for taking actions with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after the later of:

1. The last day the taxpayer is in a combat zone (or the last day the area qualifies as a combat zone), or
2. The last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the combat zone. (Qualified hospitalization is hospitalization which resulted from an injury received while serving in the combat zone.)

Beyond the 180 days, the deadline is also extended by the number of days that were left for the member to take action with the IRS when he entered the combat zone. If the member entered the

# Combat zone tax information

Captain Raashid S. Williams  
Fort Gordon Tax Center

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Beyond the 180 days, the deadline is also extended by the number of days that were left for the member to take action with the IRS when he entered the combat zone. If the member entered the combat zone before the time to take the action began, the deadline is extended by the entire time he has to take the action.

**II. Actions Extended.** The deadline extension provision applies to these tax actions:

1. Filing any return of income, estate, or gift tax (except employment and withholding taxes).

2. Paying any income, estate, or gift tax (except employment and withholding taxes).

3. Filing a petition with the Tax Court for redetermination

of a deficiency or for review of a Tax Court decision.

4. Filing a claim for credit or refund of any tax.

5. Bringing a suit for any claim for credit or refund.

6. Purchasing a replacement

notice of examination before learning that the taxpayer qualifies for a deadline extension, the taxpayer should return the notice with "COMBAT ZONE EXTENSION" written across the top. No penalties or interest will be imposed for failure to file a return or pay taxes during the



residence to postpone paying tax on the gain on the sale of the old residence.

7. Making a qualified IRA contribution.

8. Allowing a credit or refund of any tax by IRS.

9. Assessment of any tax by the IRS.

10. Giving or making any notice or demand by the IRS for the payment of any tax or for any liability for any tax.

11. Collection by the IRS of any tax due.

12. Bringing suit by the United States for any tax due.

**Note:** If the IRS takes any actions listed or sends a

extension period. The IRS, however, will pay interest on a refund from the due date of the return if the return is timely filed after applying the deadline extension.

**III. Spouses.** Spouses of individuals who served in a combat zone are entitled to the same deadline extension with two exceptions:

1. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any tax year beginning more than two years after the date that combat activities end.

2. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any period the qualifying individual is hospitalized in the United States for injuries incurred in a combat zone.

**IV. Combat Zone Exclusion.** Armed forces members who serve in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous area (or in direct support thereof) may exclude certain pay from their income. They do not have to receive the pay while in a combat zone, but it must be paid for service there or for a period during which they were hospitalized as a result of their service there. The following military pay can be excluded from income:

1. Active duty pay earned in any month they served in a combat zone. Military members (enlisted or commissioned warrant officers), who serve in a combat zone during any part of a month, can exclude all of their basic pay for that month from income. For 2001, commissioned officers may exclude up to \$5,043 of their pay each month during any part of which they served in a combat zone.

2. A dislocation allowance if the move begins or ends in a month they served in a combat zone.

3. A reenlistment bonus if the voluntary extension or reenlistment occurs in a month they served in a combat zone.

4. Pay for accrued leave earned in any month they served in a combat zone.

5. Pay received for duties as a member of the armed forces in clubs, messes, post and station theaters, and other nonappropriated fund activities. The pay must be earned in a month the member served in a combat zone.

6. Awards for suggestions, inventions, or scientific

achievements members are entitled to because of a submission they made in a month they served in a combat zone.

Taxpayers who serve in a combat zone should write "COMBAT ZONE" on their tax return.

**V. Combat Zone.** Presently there are three combat zones.

—Afghanistan and air space above it: The President, by Executive Order 13239, dated Dec. 14, 2001, designated Afghanistan and the air space above it a combat zone beginning Sept. 19, 2001. Read Defense News Release or American Forces Press Services' Service members supporting Enduring Freedom get tax break (December 2001).

— **Desert Storm:** The President, by Executive Order 12744, designated the following locations (including airspace) as a combat zone beginning Jan. 17, 1991:

- The Persian Gulf,
- The Red Sea,
- The Gulf of Oman,
- The part of the Arabian Sea that is north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude,
- The Gulf of Aden, and
- The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

— **Allied Force:** The President, by Executive Order 13119, designated the following locations (including airspace) as a combat zone beginning March 24, 1999:

- The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro);

- Albania;
- the Adriatic Sea;
- the Ionian Sea north of the 39th parallel.

**VI. Qualified Hazardous Duty Area:** Service in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia after Nov. 21, 1995. Also, the area designated as Operation Allied Force after March 24, 1999.

**VII. Form W-2.** The wages shown on the 2000 Form W-2 should not include military pay excluded from an individual's income under the combat zone exclusion provisions.

Contact your local finance office if you have questions about the exclusion.

**VIII. Civilian Employees:** The deadline extension provisions also apply to certain civilians serving in a qualified hazardous duty area in support of the U.S. Armed Forces, such as Red Cross personnel, accredited correspondents, and civilian personnel acting under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces in support of those forces.<sup>2</sup>

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Consult IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, on the IRS Forms and Publications web site, [http://www.irs.gov/forms\\_pubs/pubs.html](http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/pubs.html), for more information.

<sup>2</sup> This information adapted from The Judge Advocate General's School, US Army, Publication JA 269, Tax Information Series (December 2000).

## Homeland Security money goes to state, local communities

Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

With the Department of Homeland Security now a reality, resources are being provided to the state and local partners that assist the organization in safeguarding America, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said here today.

More than 170,000 military and civilian government employees from 22 formerly separate agencies were officially merged March 1 to form the new agency, Ridge noted.

"We've got the right structure in place. Now, we must provide the resources and the right kind of leadership," he told members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary at a downtown conference.

President Bush and Congress "have nearly doubled spending on homeland security in the past year," he said. "That's money that will go to states and cities and counties out in the field this year." Those governments are important partners in the mission of safeguarding the homeland, he said, because "you cannot secure the country from the nation's capital."

Ridge said the Homeland Security Department and its state and local partners work together to prevent terrorist attacks, to reduce U.S. vulnerability to attack, and to be prepared to respond as quickly and as effectively as possible in the event an attack should occur.

Preventing terror attacks on America begins at the country's borders, he said, noting that millions of people

enter and leave the United States each year. Therefore, Ridge continued, money is earmarked to hire more than 1,700 new inspectors to work at the nation's air, land and sea ports-of-entry, and 600 more U.S. Border Patrol agents.

He said all border and immigration enforcement duties will be merged into two bureaus to enhance effectiveness. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection deals with people seeking to enter the United States, he explained, while the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement concentrates on people already in the United States.

"I think this change, in time, makes us much stronger across the board," he said. He noted that \$400 million is earmarked to bolster

border security and immigration.

It's important to be on the lookout for suspicious cargo, without negatively impacting on commerce, Ridge said.

"We must distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate people and goods at our borders," he said, noting that Canada and Mexico are good partners in border security operations. He added that about 2,000 private companies have agreed to Homeland Security Department checks and guidelines to facilitate the movement of goods across borders.

The Homeland Security Department's budget includes \$50 million to be spent on nonintrusive inspection systems, like portable radiation detectors, he noted. Also, customs agents are being deployed to the 20 largest ports around

the world — 65 percent of water-borne cargo shipped to America embarks from these ports. The intent, Ridge explained, is to have cargo containers inspected before they even get on the ship.

The Coast Guard, he added, does "a darn good job" providing maritime security along the nation's 95,000 miles of coastline, and navigable rivers, lakes, ports, and waterways. The Coast Guard, he noted, will be funded to provide 2,200 more active duty members, 44 port security response boats, and six new maritime SWAT teams.

Ridge said the new department is being provided \$200 million to analyze threats to America's infrastructure and to propose and implement safeguards. Some of his intelligence personnel would

also work with the national Terrorist Threat Integration Center being set up, he added.

State and local governments will get nearly \$1 billion for anti-terrorism equipment training and exercises, Ridge said. Tens of millions of dollars, he added, will be invested in urban search and rescue teams, interoperable communications equipment, and community emergency response teams.

More than \$500 million is earmarked for research and development, Ridge said. "We built an arsenal of democracy to win World War II," he remarked, and America "will build a shield of science to deter and defeat terrorists today."

Terrorism gives Americans a choice to be afraid or ready, Ridge said. "We're not afraid of anybody, so we will be ready," he concluded.

# Men making a difference

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo  
93rd Signal Brigade

For youths, growing up in America has been changing dramatically over the years.

In some situations, children are raising themselves because they live in a single-parent household with a parent who is too busy working or exhausted by the end of the workday.

And when some parents end up overlooking the basic emotional needs of their children, then problems may begin to arise as their children develop into adults.

Volunteer Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Price said he can relate to the young men he mentors.

"I work with lots of young men that don't have a male role model in their lives who they can talk to and get advice from," said Price, 93rd Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, brigade training NCOIC.

"But most young men today only need someone who can take the time to listen to them."

And that's why he became interested in the Men Making a Difference program in 1998.

MMAD is a non-profit organization intended to help improve the quality of life—spiritually, mentally, and physically—of the youth and parents of the Central Savannah River Area.

"Sergeant Price has been fantastic," said Rita Bradley, Freedom Park Elementary School principal.

"He helps the students in so many ways; but mainly, he's been a great mentor, tutor, and positive role model," she said. "Recently, he was one of the speakers at our Red Ribbon Drug Prevention Week; and the kids really took him seriously when he said 'stay away from drugs' because the kids knew who he was."

The significance of a positive role model was something he learned at an early age.

"My uncle, Willie McGee, was my mentor when I was growing up in Alabama," Price said. "He instilled in me that you should always do your best and be willing to accept your responsibility as a man."

The time his uncle spent



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

**Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Price takes a few minutes out of his lunch break to ask Freedom Park Elementary School students Rashad Stewart (left) and Tony Price, who has been misbehaving? "He is," they both said.**

with him was enough to make a positive, lasting impression.

"We went hunting and fishing on Saturday mornings, and he taught me to value and respect others," he said.

His brigade commander, Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., understand the importance of working with the young people in our community.

"I visit the schools at least once a week from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and my chain of command fully supports my role and the cause," Price said.

"The young men that we work with today are our future doctors, lawyers, teachers, administrators, soldiers, policeman, etc. And they are the ones who are going to make our community a better place to work and raise a family in," he said.

What does he get out of the program?

"I really enjoy giving back to the community by working with young men who need some guidance, like what my uncle provided me," Price said.

"There is so much work to be done in the community, but there are very few individuals who will give up about two hours a week to help."

"It fills my heart with joy when I visit the Youth Detention Center, in Augusta, to talk to the young men about where they went wrong, and they admit to what they should have done differently to change the outcome of their situations," said Price.

For more information, contact the Men Making a Difference office, retired Chief Warrant Officer Willie Battle at 706-592-2280.

And remember, they don't need your money—just your time.

Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Mead  
63rd Signal Battalion

*"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan."*

-- Luke 17:15-16

A newly arrived soul in Heaven was met by St. Peter. The saint toured the soul around Heaven. Both of them walked side by side inside a large workroom filled with angels.

St. Peter stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all the petitions to God said in prayer are received." The soul looked at the section, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets from all the people of the world.

They walked again until they reached the second section, and St. Peter told the soul, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are packed and delivered to the persons who asked for them down on earth."

The soul saw how busy it was. There were so many angels working in that room, since so many blessings were being packed and delivered to earth.

Finally at the farthest corner of the room, the soul stopped at the last section. To the surprise of the soul, only one angel stayed there idly, doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledging Section," St. Peter told the soul.

"How is it that, there is no work here?"

"That's the sad thing," St. Peter answered. "After the people received the blessings they asked for, very few send their acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessing?"



"Simple," St. Peter answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord'."

How incredibly hard it is for any of us to say those two words: "Thank You." It seems as if we are always running around wanting things from others, but when we finally get what we want, there is never time for the gratitude.

Oh, but let us not get what we want, and there is plenty of time to degrade, disrespect, and even humiliate the other.

I had an incident that really hit home to me this week that made me really stop and think about how I deal with others. I received an e-mail from the chaplain (lieutenant colonel) located in another state.

This senior chaplain was asking me for a program that I had developed while I was in Korea for my married soldiers to help strengthen their long distance relationships. Seems this chaplain was contacted by a wife of one of my soldiers and apparently it blessed their marriage so much that she thought it should be utilized at their current duty assignment to help others.

His e-mail to me succinctly said, "send me all the info you can on your Coin and Covenant program." Well, I pulled up the information from my continuity files and e-mailed them to him.

You know, to this day, I have yet to even receive a quick e-mail back saying

"Thanks" for the information.

OK, so maybe I have issues to deal with, but I got to thinking; how many times do I do this each and every day? Have I said to my chaplain assistant, "Thanks" for the many things she does to help me out each day? You might say it is her job, but wouldn't Christ want us to thank the worker! I think so!

And what about the many others who contribute to our enhanced life.

How much does a "Thank You" cost us? Maybe 5 seconds of our time.

Maybe a minute if we have to walk down the hall to say it. Wow, it might even cost us a postage stamp if we send a thank you card! Or, if we are really cheap, we could send an "E-Card" and bless their day electronically, but that would require us to take time to sit down, pick a card, fill out all the information and then send it! But just consider the multitude of rewards we may reap!

Better self-esteem for our workers? More appreciated workers? A working environment that builds a team together? Geez, we might even enjoy coming to work for a change—wouldn't that be a novel idea!

Following the above scripture Christ asks, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

What a shame that we are not very thankful. What a pity that we miss so many blessings.

I challenge you to look at those around you this week and say, "Thank You" as much as possible and really mean it! You will be impressed by the changes God will give you—I guarantee it! Oh, and by the way, "Thank you" for reading this and all you do each day—may God richly bless you!

## Dialogue vital to reducing children's fears

Chris Walz  
Army News Service

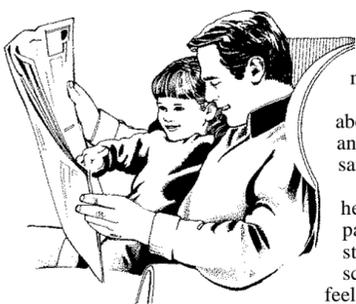
Chris Walz is a staff writer for the Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer, Va.

When reading this article, keep in mind this article was written for the Washington, D.C. area. Fort Gordon's concerns may vary some from what is mentioned, but many concerns are shared.

WASHINGTON — The threat of more terrorist attacks and the heightened Homeland Security alert level can contribute to children's stress, according to Army Community Service officials.

Parents should monitor their children's behavior and talk frequently with their school, officials from ACS said, to help them through stressful times.

"Terrorism is a conscientious effort to coerce through fear," said Fort Myer's Army Community Service Chief Colleen Tuddenham. "This is a battlefield of the mind. There have been many more psychological casualties than the



physical casualties because of the Sept. 11 attacks."

Tuddenham said dialogue is always important in a family, and parents should remember actions often times speak louder than words.

"Toddlers don't understand a lot, so it's important to give them a lot of love and cuddling," Tuddenham said. "At that age, they are extremely receptive to what parents do and they need to be a model of calm behavior. They can't run around saying the sky is falling."

Jean LaFauci, a mental health therapist for Arlington County's Project Resilience,

said parents should also monitor their own behavior and maintain their routine.

"Parents should go about their day like it's any other normal day," said LaFauci.

"If the threat level is heightened again and parents freak out and start rearranging their schedule, the child will feel the stress as well."

Tuddenham said when it comes to dialogue, one size doesn't fit all, and parents need to gear their conversations to children accordingly.

"The greatest fear for kids, Tuddenham said, at any age, is the thought of being separated from their parents. The world we live in now forces children to have anxious feelings more frequently.

"Tell them there are people out there trying to do bad things, but mostly everyone does good things."

Older children have a better understanding of world news and are more able to process complex thoughts, LaFauci

said. It's a delicate situation for parents because it's difficult to decipher between teenagers who are fearful of more terrorist attacks and the rebellious nature associated with most teenagers, she said.

"Teenagers need to be asked about what they know, what they think and what they feel," said Sandi Hanish, a clinical nurse at the Pentagon's Operation Solace. "Parents can't wait for them to bring it up because they probably won't," Hanish said.

"Older kids may act like they're 'too cool' to be affected by what's going on around them because many of them will wait to see how their peers react," Tuddenham said. "They may have angry outbursts and take more risks as a way of acting out, but what teenager doesn't? Parents know their children ... and what's best for [them]."

News reports last week said military children are being harassed at school and by some teachers who are anti-war on Iraq.

Maine National Guard mem-

bers complained to state officials their children are "coming home upset, depressed, crying," Maine National Guard spokesman Maj. Peter Rogers told reporters.

"I really hope that's not going on around here," said LaFauci. "But, then again, you can't be naïve enough to think Maine is the only place this is happening. It's not the child's fault and teachers need to re-assert the child's position."

"Children don't need to fight battles for their parents," Hanish said. "Military parents are doing the job they elected to dedicate their lives to. Not everyone agrees with what the military is doing."

"Those parents are defending freedom of speech and defending the Constitution," she added. "It's rather ironic."

Tuddenham said usually if parents feel at ease than most likely their child will as well.

She said there is an overwhelming amount of information available on the Web, especially on the Web Sites for the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management

Agency.

**Editor's Note:** Operation Solace and Project Resolve are programs specific to the Pentagon and Arlington, VA communities. Anyone needing information along these lines at Fort Gordon can call, 791-3579 to reach Fort Gordon's Army Community Service. Here ACS offers a variety of classes and briefings on deployment and parenting as well as referrals to other resources in the community. A support group for spouses experiencing deployment or an unaccompanied tour is offered the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. in Darling Hall, Suite 367. The group is called "Surviving Military Separation."

Finally, some good websites for parents include:

<http://mfrc.calib.com/healthyparenting>  
[www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)  
[www.military.com/deployment](http://www.military.com/deployment)

[www.aacap.org/publications](http://www.aacap.org/publications)

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/issuesadvice/war>

# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### Masters badge lottery

A limited number of badges for this year's Masters golf tournament in Augusta will be awarded through a lottery on post. Only active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Gordon may enter the lottery.

To enter the lottery register through **March 21** between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in Room 260 of Darling Hall, Monday through Friday. An active duty military ID card must be presented to enter the lottery.

### Gordon Lanes happenings

On **March 15**, Gordon Lanes will host Glow Bowling. The cost is \$3.25 per game, plus \$1.50 shoe rental.

Gordon Lanes will host a Pizza Bowl night **March 20**. The night will include a \$3 pizza buffet and free game playing from 5:30 - 7 p.m. There will also be free bowling from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information on either event, call 791-3446.

### Hunting and fishing permits

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will accept letters of application until **March 15** for a random drawing of 250 permits for hunting and fishing on post. The permits are designed for people not associated with Fort Gordon.

The letter should request entry into the public access drawing for Fort Gordon and include the applicant's full name, address, social security number, date of birth and phone number.

Applicants must be 16 years of age or older to apply. All applicants must possess a valid Georgia Hunter Safety card or its equivalent.

The letter of application should be sent to:

Georgia Dept of Natural Resources, Attn: Fort Gordon Hunt, 142 Bob Kirk Road, Thomson, GA 30824.

For more information, call Ken Boyd at 706-791-2397.

### Ladies golf schedule

**Thursdays** are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 9 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.

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

## Signal soldier wins first Armed Forces champion-



Photo by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Al Robinson

**Sgt. Torrence Daniels, of the Army World Class Athlete Program, shown in action during the Police Athletic League Championships in Augusta earlier this year, won his first Armed Forces Boxing Championship Feb. 17 to 22 in Port Hueneme, Calif.**

**Shilpa Bakre**  
*Former media relations director, Boxing USA*

There are many ways that a soldier can serve the country these days. Sometimes it seems that the armed forces branches are being pulled in various directions. When in reality the purpose behind each is one and the same—to defend and honor

the freedom of choice that this country provides its individuals. At the Armed Forces Boxing Championships, in Port Hueneme, Calif. Feb. 17 to 22, the four branches of the service were able to unify themselves in a different way...in the infamous squared circle.

One of the stars of the tournament was 28-year-old U.S. Army signal soldier Sgt.

Torrence Daniels, who is currently ranked #1 in the U.S. The bantamweight (119 pound) was able to amass the outstanding record of 26-6 in 2002 and an overall record of 188-28.

Daniels' opponent last week was one that he was very familiar with...his U.S. Marine counterpart Sgt. Joseph DeValle. This would in fact be the second time that they would face each other in four months and their third meeting overall. Their record going into this bout was 1-1 and Daniels was looking to take the edge.

"After defeating him at the PAL (2002 National Police Athletic League Championships), I knew what I needed to do to beat him," said Daniels. "I just wanted to use my height and reach advantage to outbox him."

In the first round, Daniels came out a bit tentative and started out by establishing his jab and counter punching. He picked it up a bit in the second and third using movement, and keeping his distance. He was able to walk him down and capitalize on DeValle's mistakes.

"I felt like I was ahead going into the fourth round, so I

knew that he (DeValle) was going to come out strong in the final round," predicted Daniels.

His prediction proved to be right, as the Marine came out hard, looking to brawl. The first part of the round, Daniels was able to ward off the attack with a tight defense until DeValle tired out a bit, after which he began to release his own offensive assault. The fourth round the two soldiers went blow for blow in what turned out to be a close victory for the Army sergeant 15-11.

"I give him a lot of credit for coming back in the last round," said Daniels. "I felt like I got away from my game plan and drawn into his. This is something that I plan on working on in preparation for the U.S. National Championships...continuing to focus all the way through four rounds."

Overall the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program was able to come away with seven of the 10 victories.

"Our goal as a team was to be very impressive and try to gain as much momentum heading into the U.S. Nationals," said Head All-Army Coach Basheer Abdullah. "Sgt. Daniel's individual performance wasn't his

best but good enough to earn him the gold medal. He has the experience now to find a way to win even if he's not boxing at his best."

As for Daniels, he has plans to continue down this road to success. "The biggest difference between me this year and last year has to be focus and confidence in my abilities," said Daniels. "Last year I would set myself up for failure by doubting myself before I even entered the ring. Now I am able to focus on my talents and calm down by following a game plan and visualizing prior to each fight."

As this potential Olympian makes his way into perhaps the toughest year of his amateur competition to date, he keeps only one goal in mind. "Making the U.S. Olympic Team will be the pinnacle of a long, hard amateur career and it would be an honor, but that is definitely not my ultimate goal," said the poised Daniels. "I want to represent my country in yet another way...on the medal stand in Athens with a medal hanging around my neck proudly saluting the flag."

## At the Movies

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.

**March 14-16**  
**Friday - Narc (R)**  
**Saturday - Douglas Falls (PG-13)**  
**Late show - Final Destination II (R)**  
**Sunday - Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (R)**

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

# Spectrum

## Drill Sergeant of the Year, 2003



**Photos by**  
Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey

Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Ulysses S. Rayford was named the 2003 Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year and presented the Command Sergeant Major Samuel P. Watkins award in a ceremony held in Alexander Hall on Fort Gordon, March 6.

Rayford, of Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, will represent Fort Gordon in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's DSOY competition later this year.

Rayford, a multichannel transmissions systems maintainer, was one of five drill sergeants competing for the title, including four from Fort Gordon and one from the Signal Student Detachment at Fort Meade, Md.. Rayford has served 10 years in the Army and one year as a drill sergeant.

(Left) Drill Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Ulysses S. Rayford analyzes the questions on the examination portion of the contest. (Below) Sgt. 1st Class Phillip C. Brennan, a signal support specialist assigned as a drill sergeant to 369th Signal Battalion, gives an informal class on the proper use of atropine injectors, one of four hands-on tasks each contestant had to complete.



Staff Sgt. Willis W. Stollings shows Pvt. Tyrone Bell, Company C, 369th Sig. Bn., how to place a protective mask onto a nerve agent casualty.



Left, the 2002 Drill Sergeant of the Year, Staff Sgt. Harry Ferguson (standing) and board members review notes and procedures during a break. The board members included, (left to right): Directorate of Public Works Sgt. Maj. Steven G. Goulet; 15th Regimental Signal Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Reuben Peppers; U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Terry, the board president; Command Sgt. Maj. McKinley Curtis III, commandant, Noncommissioned Officer Academy; and Directorate of Community Activities Sgt. Maj. Bobbie Ramtahal.



DSOY competitors included Staff Sgt. Heatherann S. Bozeman, Signal School Detachment, Fort Meade, Md., Sgt. 1st Class Phillip C. Brennan, 369th Sig. Bn., Staff Sgt. Kenric B. Brooks, 73rd Ordnance Bn., Staff Sgt. Ulysses D. Rayford, 551st Sig. Bn., and Staff Sgt. Willis W. Stollings, 447th Sig. Bn.



White House Communications Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel P. Watkins stands with the award renamed in his honor and the 2003 Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year, Staff Sgt. Ulysses S. Rayford.