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The Signal



Friday, March 28, 2003

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 23, No. 12

News UPDATE

Fort Gordon Tax Center to close April 15

Fort Gordon Tax Center closes April 15. See your Unit Tax Advisor or call 791-7812/7813 for further assistance.

Women's History Month event cancelled

The event scheduled for March 31 at Alexander Hall featuring Mary Wilson of the Supremes is cancelled.

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.

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.

Supporting our troops in Iraq

Participate in Fort Gordon's Operation Comfort, which will collect money to purchase items needed by units overseas or family support groups and to mail the packages. Call Army Community Service at 791-7878 for more information, or mail donations to Operation Comfort, Army Community Service, Building 33720, Darling Hall, Fort Gordon, GA 30905-5020.

- Volunteer at a veterans hospital to honor past soldiers. For more information about volunteering at an Augusta Veterans Administration facility, call 731-7208.

- Donate a calling card to help keep soldiers in touch with their families at Operation Uplink, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation at www.operationuplink.org, 800-479-5228.

- Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals through a donation to the Fisher House www.fisherhouse.org

- Reach out to local military families.

- Fly the American flag and show messages of support for the troops on church and business marquees.

See Story on Page 7A.

Byrnes views Signal training, talks with soldiers on visit to post



Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, commander, Training and Doctrine Command, visited the Signal Center information and technology facilities and classrooms and spoke to trainees.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, com-

mander, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, visited Fort Gordon March 24 to 25.

Byrnes, who replaced Gen. John Abrams as the new TRADOC commander Nov. 7, 2002, was making his very first

trip to the post in more than 35 years in the military. A former 13E (cannon fire direction specialist), Byrnes background is mostly in the area of field artillery.

"I've just never been associated with a unit associated with the training center here," he said. "This is my first time in the Training and Doctrine Command, and now that Fort Gordon comes under my oversight, I wanted to get down here and check it out."

He said that as the newest commanding general of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command he wanted to see, firsthand, the operations taking place at the Signal Center here at Fort Gordon. He said he had heard a lot about the more than a hundred courses of study in communications and information technology, and Fort Gordon was high on his list as a training center he wanted to visit as soon as possible.

See Byrnes, Page 2

Automated calling system can save lives

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

"It's an outstanding tool for providing people with information when they really need it," Sgt. Maj. Floyd A. Thomas, the Force Protection sergeant major here at Fort Gordon, said.

No, Thomas wasn't talking about this newspaper, although we'd like to believe that. Instead, he was describing an automated calling system used by the Installation Operations Center.

As Thomas explained, the system's primary function is to notify the installation's community residents about events that could "directly impact their safety." Though the system is intended for emergency use, Thomas said these situations can range from a rabid dog running loose, congested traffic in a certain area, a lost child or even severe weather on post.

The system, which has been

available for about three years now, has two parts, Thomas said. The first part is called "the communicator."

The communicator provides the tools needed to quickly contact and assemble a group of people possessing specific skills or knowledge. You can locate each person when an occasion arises requiring those abilities and determine whether that person is available to handle the situation.

Thomas said the communicator is capable of calling several individuals via telephone, at one time. This capability improves notification time and reduces the manpower required to make such important notification, which is why he said it is such a valuable tool, should it ever be needed.

The second part of the Emergency Notification System, Thomas said, is known as the GEO-Notify System. This system is also important, Thomas said,

because of its mapping system used for notifying specific residents on post who could be affected by a situation involving their safety and well-being. For example, if a rabid raccoon was reported in Olive Terrace on post (this is a hypothetical situation), the GEO-Notify System could be used to notify all of the residents of Olive Terrace. The system will provide a recorded message to the residents such as "This is the Emergency Notification System at Fort Gordon. The Installation Operation Center has received information that a rabid raccoon has been observed in the Olive Terrace housing area. This announcement serves as a reminder of the associated danger of any type of contact with rabid animals. Please stay away from this animal and notify the military police if the rabid raccoon is observed. Thank you."

Like the communicator, Thomas said the GEO Notify Sys-

tem is a precious commodity in times of emergency.

The automated calling system has only been used a couple times since it has been available, Thomas said. One such occasion was during a reported chemical leak at a local plant a few years ago in Augusta. Thomas said the system was used to inform residents of the possible hazard, and the preventive measures they needed to take to ensure their safety.

If someone on post were to be contacted by the system, and was unaware of what to do based on the instructions given by the system, Thomas said they could contact IOC at 791-9747 with any questions. Should someone witness a potentially dangerous situation on post, Thomas said that person should still contact military police at 791-4380, or, in the case of emergencies, dial 911.

"Basically we want to inform the Fort Gordon community that this system is for their safety, should it be needed," Thomas said.

Heroes of the past unite at Fort Gordon

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Just days before the war against Iraq kicked off, Fort Gordon honored some of the heroes of World War II, members of the Headquarters Company and Company C of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

About 52 members of the 508th attended their annual reunion in Augusta this year, although not all were able to attend the ceremony at Fort Gordon. Those that were able to attend gathered under the pavilion area at Freedom Park at

See 508th, Page 2



Photo by Master Sgt. Pleasant L. Lindsey III

Putting on the MOPP for media

Sgt. 1st Class Gordon May, 67th Signal Battalion nuclear, biological, chemical noncommissioned officer-in-charge (in suit), and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Pagan, 93rd Signal Brigade NBC NCO, demonstrate the proper wear of the military oriented protective posture suit for Channel 12 reporter Mark Crump.

Homeland Security

PRISM Program usage receives recommendation

Denise Allen
Staff writer

A homeland security program developed at Fort Gordon may go Army wide.

Maj. Shawn Hollingsworth, assistant deputy director of Fort Gordon's Battle Command Battle Lab, has been working on PRISM, which stands for Protect, Respond, Inform, Secure, Monitor, a force protection and homeland defense computer system for more than a year.

It has gotten a lot of attention from those in higher authority who "have come on board to recommend it as the standard Army wide for all installations," he said.

It was used in the fall by officials at Fort Gordon and in Richmond County during the Consequence Management disaster exercise. Watching the exercise and the software in action from Suffolk, Va. were members of the Joint Battle Lab, who liked what they saw.

The system provides emergency management agencies and military installation operations centers with critical emergency data, which users across the network receive simultaneously.

It has four major components - messaging capabilities, alerts, incident reporting and maps. It also has a failsafe with backup satellite technology access available in the event of loss of landline phones.

In the event of a chemical attack, sensors could detect the chemical and send alerts to all of those on the network. Along with the alerts would be meteorological data including wind speed and directions.

A predicted path of the chemical in the air could be determined, and within one minute, the system could make 3,000 phone calls to the people in the affected areas. The calls would direct people on a plan of action such evacuation and give details on the evacuation route.

"When people panic, they don't think," he said.

It's not just the Army that has expressed an interest in PRISM; other military branches are looking at its possibilities.

"We've had inquiries from the Air Force. The Department of the Navy has requested we submit this to have it assigned to a sponsor" who could advocate it to others in the Navy, he said.

In addition, civilian sectors are looking at the possibilities of PRISM as well.

Richmond County Emergency Management tested the program in the fall. Officials with the Savannah River Site have also made inquiries.

The system has the capabilities to work well in a natural disaster or an industrial accident.

"The whole idea is to provide the ability to reach out and touch emergency management agencies," he said.

The system is cost effective for municipalities as well. He said it would cost about \$30,000 to install a local node; for a larger region, the cost would only be about \$50,000 to connect to the system.

"It's really low cost. It has a lot of bang for the buck," he said.

Armed Services News

From American Forces Press Service

Bush calls wartime supplemental budget request 'urgent'

WASHINGTON — The president said today his \$74.7 billion wartime supplemental budget request is urgent and "directly related to winning this war and to securing the peace that will follow this war."

President Bush visited the Pentagon and told a roomful of senior defense officials that the money, once appropriated by Congress, would pay for "needs directly arising from the Iraqi conflict and our global war against terror."

Those needs include the costs of transporting troops and equipment to the Persian Gulf region; fueling ships, aircraft and tanks; and replenishing the country's stocks of "high-tech munitions we are now directing against Saddam Hussein's regime."

It also covers "relief and reconstruction in a free Iraq," Bush said. "This nation and our coalition partners are committed to making sure that the Iraqi citizens who have suffered under a brutal tyrant have got the food and medicine needed as soon as possible."

The president said U.S. humanitarian efforts would lead to the Iraqi people seeing "the great compassion of not only the United States but other nations around the world who care deeply about the human condition inside that country."

In remarks broadcast live to military bases around the world, Bush said, "Military members and their families are showing great courage, and some have suffered great loss." He expressed America's gratitude to "those who have sacrificed in our cause."

He noted the Iraqi forces are not following accepted rules of warfare by wearing civilian clothes to attack coalition forces. "But we're fighting them with bravery and courage," he added.

"We cannot know the duration of this war, yet we know its outcome," Bush said. "We will prevail. The Iraqi regime will be ended. The Iraqi people will be free, and our world will be more secure and peaceful."

In his visit to the Pentagon, Bush met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other senior leaders regarding the supplemental budget request and operational issues.

After his meetings and brief remarks, Bush and Rumsfeld took several minutes to visit with 100 or more military members who had assembled outside the secretary's office. The president shook hands and posed for pictures, some taken by Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers. Myers had jumped in front of the president to collect service members' cameras so he could snap their pictures when the president got to them.

508th

From Page 1

10:30 a.m. March 18 to be honored by the post. The regiment was holding its 28th annual reunion in Augusta, and visited the post as part of the event.

The regiment, which was activated more than 60 years ago and nicknamed the "Red Devils," saw some fierce action during World War II, beginning with their jump into Normandy during the pre-dawn hours of "D-Day," June 6, 1944. The regiment was dropped over Normandy from 120 C-47s. More than half of the unit's personnel were casualties of the invasion.

The Red Devils continued their march across Europe, fighting for as long as 67 days and nights with no relief and no replacements at a time. The regiment also saw action in the Battle of the Bulge prior to the end of the war. Following the war, members of the 508th served as President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Honor Guard.

Col. William H. Maglin, director of Resource Management, took some time to talk personally with the veterans and their families and guests prior to the commencement of the ceremony.

"I am in awe standing here before so many heroes of our past," Maglin said as he addressed the 508th.

During his speech to introduce the honored guests of the 508th, Maglin said, "At this time, as America once again is

on the brink of conflict in defense of freedom, we naturally look to our past heroes for guidance and inspiration, heroes such as you members of the 508th."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, took the podium on behalf of the veterans.

"Many of our troops here today are related to military and we understand what you are going through right now," he said.

Merritt started his speech by marveling at the advancements that have come in battlefield communications since his time as a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

"You're doing a great job here, and we support you 100-percent, all the way," he said.

The first 508th reunion was held July 4, 1975, Merritt said. He said 72 people attended the first reunion, and it has been held annually at locations throughout the United States ever since. This was the second time the reunion has been held in Augusta, Merritt said.

"I want to thank Fort Gordon for inviting us out here," he said. "Our time at Fort Gordon will be the highlight of our trip."

The youngest member of this year's reunion was 77, and the oldest 87, he said.

Merritt was overcome by



(Above) Fort Gordon honored heroes of World War II, members of the Headquarters Company and Company C of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in a ceremony March 18. Not all 52 members who were attending the reunion could be present for the ceremony on post.

(Right) Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth J. "Rock" Merritt, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, spoke for the veterans. He marveled at the advancements in battlefield communications since his time. "The people in this group know that freedom does not come cheap," Merritt said.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

emotion when reflecting on his unit's accomplishments.

"Five hundred and twenty thousand Americans gave their

lives so you and I could be here at Freedom Park today," he said as he fought back tears in remembrance of his

fallen friends. "The people in this group know that freedom does not come cheap."

Byrnes

From Page 1

Byrnes said his impression of the post as a whole was "extremely positive." For the majority of the afternoon, Byrnes spent his day visiting young soldiers in training in their classroom environments. Byrnes said it was meeting these soldiers that left the biggest impression on him during his visit to the post.

"The soldiers I have seen here are remarkably talented," Byrnes said. "They are bright, they are committed, they are hungry to get the education they need so they can go to their units and contribute from day one. I had the opportunity to speak to four or five groups of soldiers today, and they are very much in touch with what's going on, not just the situation in Iraq, but all world affairs and the Army of the future."

He said Signal soldiers have long held his admiration.

"This is highly technical stuff, and I've watched these soldiers in the field and marveled at what they've accomplished," Byrnes said. "As a matter of fact, when I was

servicing in Bosnia, and Gen. Shelton, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, came to visit, I took him to see my Signal soldiers, the 13th Signal Battalion, because of all they accomplished in the time they were there. I've always been impressed by the talent of the 31 and 74 series soldiers."

Byrnes visited 74B (information systems operator/analyst) classes in Dixon Hall, 31S (satellite communications systems operator/analyst) classes in Vincent Hall, and finally, 31U Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, Tactical Internet Management Systems classes in Saltzman Hall. During his visits with the young soldiers, Byrnes welcomed any questions the soldiers had on any topic, including the war in the Middle East.

He told the soldiers to keep in mind that when they're watching stories from report-



Byrnes

ers embedded with the troops, what they are seeing is actually only one piece of a much bigger picture. He told them to have confidence in their leaders, and that the future of the Army depends on information more than anything else, and that they are an important part of that formula.

Byrnes met with the local media following his trip to the schools and told them why Fort Gordon and the Signal Corps are important elements of the Army and current ongoing operation in the Middle East.

"We hope our force will be able to see first, understand first, so it can act first and we can finish decisively," Byrnes said. "In order to do that, the network that we hope to establish that will provide the interconnectivities, all the elements of that force. That network will be manned and operated by Signal soldiers from here at Fort Gordon."

He stressed the importance of

free information flow from wherever it is needed, including in between branches, as a key to the future strength of the U.S. military.

"What's critical to us, and particularly critical to (Brig.) Gen. Hicks and her soldiers is, how this information capabilities network plugs into the joint grid, so that in the future, information in Washington, D.C., that's applicable to a young commander on the ground or in a cockpit, gets there with no barriers in between," he said. "We should have immediate access to information so that we can see first, act first and finish decisively."

When Byrnes was asked about the possibility of Fort Gordon being eliminated as an Army installation, Byrnes responded, "Let me say this: The Department of Defense, in a recent study, determined that we have some excessive capacity, infrastructure-wise, in all services. So the Department of Defense has asked Congress to approve a round of base re-

alignments and closures by 2005. The Department of Defense is very busy drafting the criteria that it's going to use, and it's coordinating with the services to gather information on the infrastructure that each service maintains - acreage, training areas, contributions, etc."

Byrnes said this will be a long process, and the criteria for realignment and closures has not been announced yet, but added, on an optimistic note.

"But I can tell you this. The mission that is being accomplished here at Fort Gordon today is of tremendous contribution, not only to the Army, but to all the services."

Perhaps Byrnes, who will next be visiting Fort Huachuca in Arizona, summed up Fort Gordon's importance as an Army installation when he said, "Fort Gordon trains our Signal soldiers, and information is their business."

"The training that we conduct here at Fort Gordon now is not just training of the Army, it's training of the Joint Forces. It's absolutely essential."

EAMC doctors take critical care support course to Kuwait

Jennifer M. Chipman
EAMC Public Affairs

In January a team from Eisenhower Army Medical Center traveled to Kuwait to teach a Fundamentals of Critical Care Support Course in the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital. The team, led by Col. Wayne Honeycutt, chief, Department of Medicine, taught the course to U.S. doctors, nurses, and physician assistants as well as Kuwaiti doctors.

Dr. Honeycutt's team consisted of Lt. Col. William Browne, an intensivist; Maj. Daniel Lee, a pulmonary critical care specialist; Capt. John Kramer, internist, Staff Sgt. Voitek Novakovski, respiratory therapist; and Staff Sgt. Sylvester Federick, course administrator. The team spent 17 days in Kuwait preparing for and teaching the three 3-day course.

"The combined courses were made up of about one-third Kuwaiti staff and two-thirds U.S. medical personnel, said Honeycutt. With all of the activity in the Gulf Region, it was a perfect opportunity to have a combined course with our Kuwaiti colleagues and our physicians and support staff who are deployed over there now."



Eisenhower Army Medical Center took its fundamentals of critical care course to the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital. The group spent 17 days preparing for and teaching the 3-day course.

The Society of Critical Care Medicine developed the critical care course taught by the team and EAMC purchased a site license to teach the course and designated Honeycutt as the director. According to SCCM, they are the only professional society dedicated to "ensuring excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care."

"One of the reasons the SCCM developed the Fundamentals of Critical Care Support course is because our

community hospitals located throughout the United States have more intensive care units than critical care specialists," Honeycutt said.

According to Honeycutt the care of a critically ill patient is complex and this course is designed to augment the skills of the medical staff who are not critical care specialists to better take care of the critically ill.

"In a similar way in our setting for people who are not critical care specialists, this

gave them more knowledge to manage a critical patient until the patient can receive the appropriate consultations," said Honeycutt.

Approximately 70 medical personnel attended the three Fundamental of Critical Care Support courses with one physician traveling all the way from Qatar to participate.

The first two days of the course are spent in a series of lectures in critical care. In addition to the core curriculum

lectures, two state-of-the-art lectures that went beyond the syllabus were added to the course. Honeycutt presented a lecture dealing with acute respiratory distress syndrome and Brown presented on sepsis (a type of blood or tissue poisoning in the body).

The third day of the course was spent in skill labs, which included hands on learning about managing mechanical ventilation machines, vascular access, airway management, trauma and arrhythmias (irregular heartbeat).

The course culminated with a test, presentation of the certificates, and educational credits where appropriate. According to Honeycutt the course was very well received and successful to not only the students but also to the physician-teachers. He said that anytime he and his physicians can share knowledge that saves a life or improves care to a patient it is the same as being involved with treating those patients.

"Even though we don't treat them directly, if there was some small piece that we gave that has the potential to save somebody's life then we are all very satisfied, said Honeycutt. Even though we may never know that."

Influences of past generations

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

"How many people sitting here today have asked or are asking, why do we need a Women's History Month?" Command Sgt. Major Michele S. Jones, Command Sgt. Major of the U.S. Army Reserves, asked a packed Alexander Hall during the post's ceremony commemorating Women's History Month March 13.

"Ok," she continued, "I'm going to tell you why."

"The bottom line," Jones said, "is as long as there's a 'his' in 'history', and not a 'her' in 'history', Women's History Month will always be needed to tell her story!"

A smiling crowd sprang to their feet to applaud Jones following the statement, which concluded a lively speech that dealt with the importance of women (and men, too) in her life and history, but also about the importance of being a soldier, period.

"A bullet knows no gender," she said to reinforce her point.

Jones introduced Women's History Month by saying, "It is a time to celebrate the achievements, remember the hardships and motivate for the future. It is a time to reflect on the contributions made by women, a time to reinforce that women are an integral part of history and most importantly, a time to rededicate ourselves to continue to achieve the things that are necessary to hold our country, our nation, our lives, the lives that touch us and the lives that we touch."

After issuing this remark, Jones challenged the audience by asking, "Who here has NOT had a woman touch their lives in a special, positive way?"

When the room fell silent, Jones smiled and said, "I didn't think so."

"Every person has a woman who has helped shape their lives in a positive way, Jones said, "and as a woman I have an obligation to continue that."

She reflected about the

women from her life who she said helped her achieve her dreams. She spoke about her mother and grandmother's influence.

"People ask me, often, what does it mean to be the first female command sergeant major of the Army Reserves, and my answer is always the same," she said. "I am a command sergeant major who just happens to be female. I had no choice in my gender. I do love being a woman. I just carry my camouflage in my left cargo pocket in my left cargo pocket and my Mary Kay make-up in my right. There is nothing wrong with that, with being anything other than a soldier!"

At this point, Jones rushed down from the podium to let the soldiers know her message face to face.

"Let me tell you something, being a soldier has nothing to do with being a woman, what it has to do with is being a woman, what it has to do with is being an American citizen, what it has to do with is protecting the things that are near and dear to my heart!" Jones shouted. "It has everything to do with the things that I believe in. I believe in God, I believe in my country and I believe in serving my family as a soldier."

"You chose to join the military, am I not right? Is there any other country, other than a few, where you can make that choice to join? No! You can live where you want to live! Your

children can go to any school they want to go, they have a right to the best education system. You have a right, ladies, to marry who you want to, when you want to, or if you don't want to and men have the same. Every other country does not afford that right. You have a right to vote, and do a lot of things. If you get in trouble, you have a right to remain silent! Very few other countries afford you that opportunity. That's what it is to serve! That's what it means! Can anybody think of any other job that let's you protect God, your country and your family? I'm waiting!"

To say Jones is a fiery orator may be something of an understatement. During her speech, which lasted approximately a half hour, she commanded the listener's attention. She would calmly state her points behind the podium, then reinforce and support them by walking up and down the aisles, addressing the soldiers head-on.

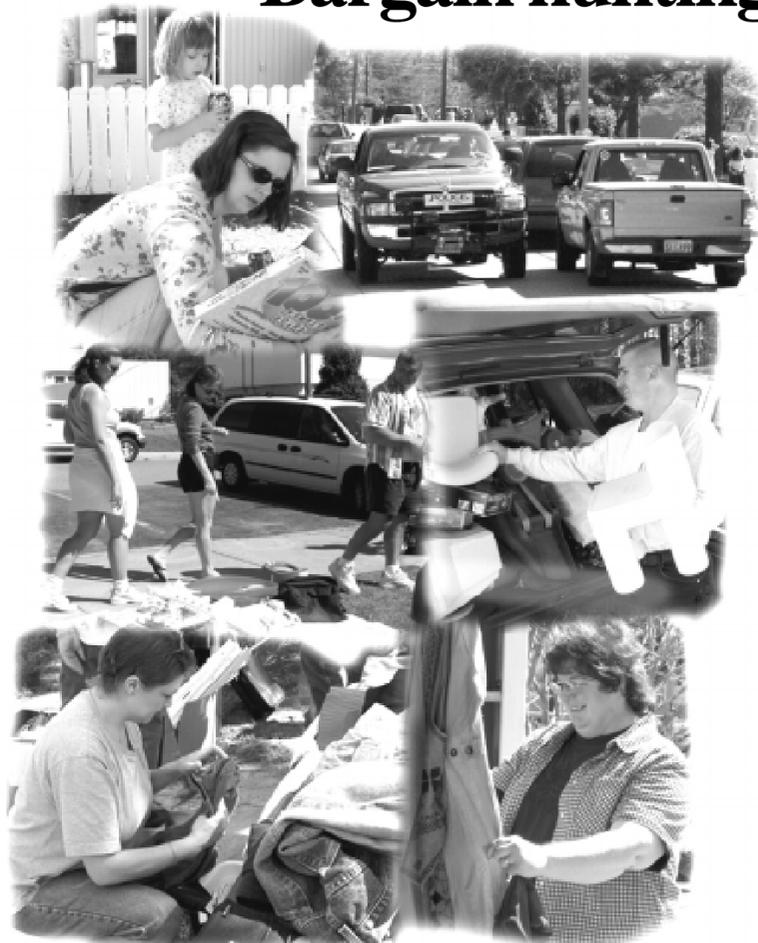
"Let me give you a warning," Jones said in her opening remarks. "I use a microphone because this is a very large room. However, the warning is that I am a command sergeant major, and I am not used to talking into microphones, so there will be time soon when I will remove myself from behind this podium because I am not a minister and I feel as though I am in a pulpit. I will come up and down the aisles, so stay awake! Hoahh!"



Command Sgt. Maj. Michele Jones, walks among those at the Women's History Month Command Program explaining one of her passions, Army values.

Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Bargain hunting



Photos and graphic by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

Shopping for hidden treasures

On March 22, Fort Gordon opened its gates for The Great American Yard Sale. Bargain hunters off post, as well as those who live in the Fort Gordon community, were invited into Maglin Terrace, Olive Terrace, Gordon Terrace and McNair Terrace. (Clockwise, beginning with upper left) Gidget and Cassie Holcombe look through a stack of board games; military police monitor crowds and increased traffic flow through the housing areas; Sgt. Robert Payne, an instructor at the Signal school, tries to squeeze in a few more items he purchased for his children; Clydette Maitland looks through some potential purchases; Michelle Dedman tries to find just the right size jeans for her daughter; sidewalk shoppers glance at baby clothes, toys and laid out on one resident's front lawn.

Retiree Notes: Military retiree issues

Richard T. Lechnir
Retirement Services Officer

Veterans Co-pay [Low Income Vet]: As a result of a recent change in the laws governing the Department of Veterans Affairs, beginning Oct. 1, 2002 lower income veterans may qualify for a reduction in the VA inpatient medical care co-payments.

Generally, a non-service connected veteran or a non-compensable zero percent service connected veteran with income qualifying for Department of Housing and Urban Development low-

income housing benefits will now be charged only 20 percent of the current inpatient co-payment. This equates to \$2 per day plus \$168 for the first 90 days of hospital care and \$84 for each subsequent 90-day period up to one year.

This law did not change outpatient care and medication co-payments.

The current per visit co-payment for outpatient basic primary care is \$15 and \$50 for outpatient specialty care. The medication co-payment is currently \$7 for each 30-day or less supply of medica-

tions.

For questions or concerns regarding your inpatient co-payments, call the VA Health Benefits Service Center at 877-222-VETS (8387). To read VHA Directive 2003-005 in its entirety, visit www.va.gov/publ/direct/health/direct/12003005.pdf on the VA web site.

Editor's note: Source is MOAA Benefits Update March 3

DFAS phone calls: If you're calling somebody to ask questions, get a phone number or complain, the only

thing more essential than having a pencil and paper is getting the name and phone number of the person you have reached.

The DFAS customer service representatives always give their name when answering the phone, but chances are this comes before you really start listening so don't ever be too embarrassed to ask for the name again. That way, you'll be able to ask for the same person should you need to call back or, if you don't get satisfactory results the first time around, you'll will be

prepared to report that if necessary.

With the number of people working for DFAS, it's impossible to track down who responded to your call without a name and if what was said was accurate or not.

Regardless of how upset you may be in regards to your situation bear in mind the person you are talking to is most likely not responsible for it but is there to help you.

Telephone courtesy and patience is always most effective when dealing with any agency.

Always ensure you understand what is being told to you before you hang up.

When retirees or annuitants call DFAS at 800 321-1080 and feel additional assistance is required, don't hesitate to ask the person (whose name you've previously jotted down) to forward your call to their lead technician or supervisor.

DFAS employees are required to forward customers to their supervisor or lead technician if so requested.

Fire and Emergency Services

FG Fire Department hosts instructors course

Joseph Hamm
Fire Inspector

With professional instruction from John Johnston, Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, Va., and coordination effort from Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention and Training Mark Shippee, the Fort Gordon Fire Department trained Fire Department and Department of the Army Police personnel on an Emergency Vehicle Operators Instructor Course, commonly known in the emergency services as EVOC.

Having our own personnel trained as instructors, gives this department flexibility to continue to serve the post.

What does EVOC do for you?

In any emergency, for responders such as police officers, ambulance crews, and fire truck operators, the adrenaline levels become elevated. This training gives all emergency operators an edge. It also promotes the need to maintain professional driving habits. Ensuring safety for public and emergency crews riding emergency vehicles.

Driving emergency vehicles goes beyond just driving "lights and sirens," from

point A to point B. There are many skills operators need to train to develop. Such as operating large, equipment laden vehicles into tight areas; developing awareness of situations which happen in the blink of an eye, such as children in housing areas darting into the streets in front of emergency vehicles. And, deteriorating weather conditions provide challenges to any driver.

Put yourself behind the wheel of a 20-ton vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed, during rain or ice, and the requirement for safety levels in-

creases dramatically. Public traffic, in any condition can pose a special hazard to emergency crews; traffic jams, rush hours and drivers not paying attention to oncoming emergency vehicles.

These are some of the tactics and techniques, learned during EVOC training. Reassurance is given to the Fort Gordon public that the Fire and Emergency Services Department continues to strive to provide the best and safest emergency service to Fort Gordon.



Training instructors for first responders through FG Fire Department was held.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

“While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting... the world changed last night for me. Knowing that things might be different when I woke up this morning, I tucked my children in with bedtime stories and kisses. I read a bit of a dumb book to keep my mind from wandering and then drifted off to sleep.

I was dreaming of my husband, and then the thunderstorms rolled into Augusta. The booms from the thunder made windows rattle, and in that waking moment, it was a bit disconcerting, dreaming of him and loud explosions going off around me.

Once my head cleared and I was awake, I realized it was mother nature, and not some horrible nightmare of battlefields and war.

It was 4:44 in the morning. The kids were sleeping through the storm, as only children can do sometimes. The big debate was do I get up and watch what has happened during the day over in the sands of war, or do I read the dumb book.

I pondered this choice for a few minutes and then curiosity got the better of me. I turned on a news channel, and was somewhat surprised. I expected to hear about all out attacks, and fast movements, and it seemed just a few things had gone on. I wondered where my husband was, what he was doing, and as the cameras changed from one reporter to the other, I kept hoping I would see him. No such luck, and maybe that is just as well.

I turned the TV off before the children woke up because I didn't want them to see anything that would upset them. My older child is well aware that something is going on.

There are tensions in school, other children saying things that can be hurtful, but then I remind her that they are just saying words. My youngest, he feels the tension, but doesn't know what causes it.

My 2 year old's friends are having the hardest time. They cannot say what is upsetting them, and so they act it out. This deployment, now war, is hard on so many levels.

Relations have been calling, I don't exactly know what to say, cause I do not know any more than they do, and they have been watching TV nonstop since this started.

My kids wanted to stay home from school, and I had to think about that, I decided that no, we needed to keep to our schedule, and keep doing things that are what is left of normal existence, go to school, go to after school activities, and keep our abnormal activities in place, our family minus one dinners, our new nightly rituals, our letter writing to dad, and our missing him notes for when he returns. And just before we left the house on our day, we got an email, one that said it all. "I am OK. I love you and can't wait to come home." Words that carry great power of love and hope, while I am waiting.

Editor's note: "While I am waiting" is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.

Women's History Month, 2003 Accomplished women buried at Arlington

Commander Beatrice V. Ball, 1902 - 1963. U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. She was a senior officer in SPARS (Women's Coast Guard unit) founded in World War II.

Lt. Ollie Josephine B. Bennett, 1874 - 1953. Pioneer woman doctor in World War I.

Lt. Kara Spears Hultgreen, U.S. Navy — The first female pilot killed after the Department of Defense Risk rule was rescinded. Hultgreen was one of the first U.S. Navy female combat pilots.

Commodore (Rear Adm.) Grace Murray Hopper - 1906 - 1992 U.S. Navy —

A mathematician, and a pioneer in data processing and computer science. Hopper invented common business oriented language and coined the term "bug" in computers. When she retired from the Navy in 1986, at the age of 80, she was the oldest officer on active duty.

Capt. Winifred Love, USN, of Newport, R.I., 1914 - 1999. In 1967, Love, who was among the first group of Navy women officers selected to the permanent rank of captain, reported to her last command as director of training publications for the operating fleet.

Maj. Marie Therese Rossi - During Desert Storm the first woman pilot gave her life while flying in a combat zone. Maj. Marie T. Rossi died at age 32 on March 1, 1991, when the Chinook helicopter she was piloting crashed near her base in northern Saudi Arabia. Rossi is buried in Arlington Cemetery where her simple epitaph there reads "First Female Combat Commander to Fly into Battle."

Constance Bennett — Acted in more than 50 films, including 1937 "Topper" married Brig. Gen. Theron "Jack" Coulter.

Jane Delano — Second superintendent of Army Nurse Corps 1909-12, active with the Red Cross during World War I.

Ruth M. Gardiner, 1914 - 1943. One of the first Army Nurses killed in WWII.

Lillian Harris, 1913 - 1998. She was a member of the original Women's Army Corps and graduated in its first class. She served as an executive officer

during World War II in North Africa. She retired in 1968, she was the recipient of the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit award.

Marguerite "Maggie" Higgins - 1920 - 1966 — Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, only woman correspondent during the Korean Conflict. She also reported from the battlefields of WWII - where she witnessed the liberation of Dachau and covered the Nuremberg Trials.

Juanita Hipps — Wrote *I Served on Bataan*, best seller in 1943 and basis for movie "So Proudly We Hail," World War II Army Nurse.

Juliet O. Hopkins — "Florence Nightingale of South" during the Civil War.

Dr. Anita Newcomb Magee - 1864 - 1940 — First woman Army surgeon in 1898, assigned to secure and train nurses for the Spanish American War. When the

war ended she organized the Army Nurse Corps under the U.S. Surgeon General and served as its first director and the first woman assistant surgeon general.

Katherine Marshall — Wrote *Together*, an autobiography about her life with Gen. George C. Marshall.

Barbara Allen Rainey - 1948 - 1982 — First woman pilot in the history of the U.S. Navy, earning her gold wings in 1974. She was killed while training another pilot, in an air accident in Florida.

Mary Randolph — First person buried on grounds that became Arlington Cemetery, cousin of Mary Custis, wife of Gen. Robert E. Lee, wrote *The Virginia Housewife*, a best seller in late 1700s.

Vinnie Ream - 1847 - 1914 — Sculpted Lincoln statue in Capitol at age 18. First woman artist to be commissioned by the government and last artist whom Lincoln sat for before his death.

Mary Roberts Rinehart - 1876 - 1958 — America's first woman war correspondent during World War I for the *Saturday Evening Post*; wrote mystery novels, including *The Circular Staircase* and *The Bat*; in 1921 was referred to as "America's

Mistress of Mystery."

Lt. Commander Catherine Dodson "Cay" Callahan, U.S. Navy World War II veteran whose duties included service as a legislative liaison officer to the U.S. Congress. She began her naval career as a member of a graduating class of women accepted for voluntary emergency service Midshipmen from Smith College in 1943. As a young communications officer, she served on the staff of Fleet Adm. Ernest J. King throughout World War II.

Fay Bainter — Actress during silent films (wife of Lt. Cmdr. Reginald Venable).

Capt. Winifred Quick Collins, USN, 1912 - 1999 Collins served 20 years in the Navy, beginning in the early period of World War II. Most of her career was in personnel positions, related to the integration of women into the Navy. Her decorations included a Bronze Star and the Navy Commendation Medal. After retiring from active duty, Collins served as vice president and director of the National Navy League. She was the first woman to hold that position.

Col. Geraldine Pratt May, WAF director, USAF, 1895 - 1997. May joined the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in July 1942 to attend officer candidate school at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. May received her commission in August 1942 and the following March was among the first women officers assigned to the Army Air Forces where she served as WAC staff director of Air Transport Command. With the enactment of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in June 1948, May received a reserve commission in the newly created Air Force. She was appointed director of Women in the Air Force with the rank of full colonel, the first woman in the Air Force to hold that rank and the first to hold this post.

Col. Ret. Bettie J. Morden died of breast cancer on Oct. 12, 2001, at her home in Arlington, Va. She was a pioneer Army woman, acclaimed historian/writer and tireless supporter of the Women's Army Corps Museum (now the Army Women's Museum). Morden has been described by Army senior leaders past and present as the "best of the best." She was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Editor's note: The above information was compiled from: <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/womenhistory03/>

Feedback

How much coverage of the troops in Iraq have you tuned into?



"I've been watching everyday. I catch as much as I can."
2nd Lt. Janice Sierra
Signal Officer Basic Course



"I haven't watched too much, but I do listen to updates on the radio."
Spc. Jason Falkowski
Company A, 55st Signal Battalion



"At first I watched a lot, but now I just get updates. I cannot watch the nonstop coverage."
Capt. Anthony Fields
Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion



"I've been getting more updates from the Internet since I have easier access to that, but I watch about an hour a night."
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly O'Donnell
Advance Noncommissioned Officer Course



"I've been watching a lot. I want to know what is going on, so I'm constantly watching."
Harold Ingersoll
Instructor for government contractors

The Signal

News Office
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Signal Towers Room 134, Fax 791-5463
www.gordon.army.mil/pao

P.O. Box 948, Waynesboro, Ga. 30830
Ads may be faxed to 706-554-2437

Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Janet A. Hicks
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Military Editor: Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons
News Editor: Spc. Zoe Morris
Staff Writer: Spc. Ryan Matson, and Denise Allen

Editorial Office: Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29808, Room 134, Signal Towers, Cham-

berlain Avenue, Fort Gordon, GA 30905
Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers
Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens

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212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of a... ...91K (medical laboratory specialist)

Note: This is the 27th MOS featured in a series describing all of the 212 Army careers.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

If you are a "math or science" type-person, Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Lopez, Company A, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, may have a military occupational specialty for you.

Lopez has been in the United States Army for 15 years, mostly as a 91K, or medical laboratory specialist. He said he enlisted as a 91B, now the 91W MOS, and served as a line medic until his first re-enlistment. He had always liked math and science and working in a lab proved to be a great fit for him.

As Lopez explained, math and science skills are helpful when it comes to being a 91K.

"They have to work well with numbers and be analytical," he said. "That translates into using

algebra. Any chemistry background is helpful, and you need to have an open mind and dedication. It's really an intense school."

The advanced individual training to become a 91K is a lengthy one, Lopez said, but it has very rewarding benefits. Lopez said that anyone who completes AIT can receive their associate's degree free through the Army, and also test to be a nationally certified lab tech.

The AIT has two phases, each lasting six months, Lopez said. The first six months are spent at Fort Sam Houston, in Texas, and the second phase is conducted at any of 20 sights throughout the Army.

"The total training is a year," Lopez said. "It's equivalent to two years of civilian schooling and students are eligible to receive an associate's degree from George Washington University. For any kid coming in, male or female, you go through one year of training, which the Army pays for, so you get an educa-

tion in something that translates very well into the civilian sector. It's a win-win situation."

Lopez said the AIT is worth 60 credit hours, meaning a student must only take five more classes through George Washington University to complete their associate's degree. He said many 91Ks then decide to get their bachelor's following this step.

"You're also eligible upon completion or graduation to test for a national certification to work on the outside," he said.

The training won't be easy, however, Lopez warned.

"In the chemistry section, we lose about 35-percent of our class," he said.

Lopez described some of the duties and responsibilities of a 91K.

"A 91K's basic responsibilities include working in the lab under the supervision of a medical technologist," Lopez said. "They're capable of running high complexity testing from running blood samples in chemistry down through following work-ups in microbiology. There's a number of jobs in a laboratory that a 91K can be assigned to."

According to goarmy.com, some of these duties may include:

- performing elementary clinical laboratory and blood-banking procedures,
- using lab equipment to analyze specimens (samples) of tissue, blood and body fluids,
- examining blood and bone marrow under microscopes,
- testing specimens for bacteria

or viruses,

- drawing blood from patients,
- assisting in the collection of specimens at autopsies (medical examinations of the dead.)
- recording and filing results of laboratory tests.

Lopez explained that the medical laboratory has many sections within it.

He said a 91K is usually trained to work in any of the areas, although, if the 91K works in a big enough lab, such as the one here at EAMC, he/she may specialize in one specific area, such as blood-banking.

Even if they are not assigned to a specific area of the lab, Lopez said 91Ks have duties they all must know how to perform.

"There's a number of tasks that they have to do each and every day, and these deal with blood and blood products," Lopez said. He said 91Ks ensure patients who are about to undergo surgery receive the correct type of blood for the operation.

If a 91K were to work in the chemistry section of the lab, Lopez said that soldier could test the levels metabol functions naturally found in a patients body through chemical reactions.

"Some of their duties would include testing on analyzers and analytes in the body such as glucose and calling in the critical values to a doctor," Lopez said.

Just analyzing these levels in a patient's body can reveal to a doctor a great deal as to what is wrong with that individual, Lopez said.

"Our job is pretty important because a doctor can look at the lab results and really assess what is wrong with the patient," he said. "They can look at someone's blood-sugar level and say, look you have diabetes or, we think you do. We do a lot of diagnostic tests that can help the doctor determine what course of action to take."

If the soldier were part of the microbiology section, Lopez said that soldier would study microorganisms such as fungi, protozoa, bacteria and viruses in a lab.

"That's important now because of bio-terrorism, and things like that that are in the forefront now," he said.

Additionally, Lopez said 91Ks are capable of doing therapeutic drug monitoring, where different drugs that have been administered to patients from a doctor for toxicity. He said potency of the drug administered can be assessed through these tests.

A 91K can also acquire additional skill identifiers (extra training to become proficient at a skill) within their MOS, Lopez said. He broke down the ASIs, and what they do.

The M4 ASI, is in blood donor operations. These soldiers specialize in lab work at facilities where blood is donated, such as Kendrick Memorial Blood Center here on post. Lopez said they also frequently work in a field environment.

The other two ASIs, Lopez said, are the P9 ASI, which is a biological research assistant and the M2 ASI, which is a cyto technician, or a study of the

identification of cells and cellular abnormalities. These 91Ks perform duties such as reading and analyzing the slides for pap smears. This can be an important job, as cytol research is a part of anatomic pathology, which includes blood tests and other types of tests to determine disease and abnormalities.

91Ks may also be called upon to assist in autopsies and biopsies, Lopez said.

Lopez said that each 91K works in varies from location to location, and upon arriving at a new place the 91K must become familiar with that location's equipment.

"For example, if I were to PCS to William Beaumont, I would have to go through a training rotation there to see what type of setup is there," he said. "You also go through a competency check-list to ensure you are able to perform the tests you are assigned to. We take that very seriously as lab techs, the quality control and assurance process is pretty much the most important part of our field."

Should someone decide to leave the Army after having served as a 91K, Lopez said that person can look forward to a lot of exciting job opportunities as a civilian.

"Some of the other things you could do besides being a lab technician, are a lab inspector or a lab surveyor," Lopez said. "With the number of companies that we have out there providing us instruments, you could go into the sales or technical part of it. There's also plenty of jobs in the research field, so there's a number of jobs available. I think this is one of the MOSs that translates very well."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Lopez, Company A, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, a 91K, examines blood cells in the lab with students in advanced individual training here.



Compiled from releases

The Department of Defense has received queries from thousands of Americans who are asking what they can do to show their support for service members, especially those deployed overseas.

Fort Gordon has received hundreds of those same types of calls from individuals in the Central Savannah River Area who are concerned about their

service members and who want them to know that they care.

The following are Websites for several organizations sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While it would be inappropriate for Department of Defense to endorse any specifically, service members do value and appreciate expressions of support.

Donate a calling card to help keep service members in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at the following web site:
www.operationuplink.org

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at
anyservicemember.navy.mil or
www.OperationDearAbby.net

Sign a virtual thank you card at Defend America
www.defendamerica.mil or
www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies at
www.aerhq.org/links.htm

Army Emergency Relief at
www.aerhq.org

Navy/Marine Relief Society at
www.nmcrs.org

Air Force Aid Society at
www.afas.org

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at
www.cgmahq.org

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at
www.usometrodc.org/care.html

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at
www.redcross.org/services/afes

Volunteer at a VA Hospital
www.va.gov/vetsday to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts

Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals through a donation to the Fisher House at
www.fisherhouse.org

Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas.

Department of Defense officials ask citizens not to flood the military mail system with letters, cards and gifts.

Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, the Defense Department cannot accept items to be mailed to "Any Service

Member."

Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual service member's overseas address, which however well intentioned, clogs the mail and causes unnecessary delays.

Fort Gordon suggests citizens show their support and patriotism by flying the American flag and displaying their messages of support on church and business mar-quees.

Fort Gordon has established a special program ("Operation Comfort") to support deployed service members and their family members.

The money collected in this account will be used to purchase items needed by the entire unit or family support group. The money will also be used to mail the packages overseas. Individuals who would like to donate to this program should send their checks to:

Operation Comfort, Army Community Service, Building 33720, Darling Hall, Fort Gordon, GA 30905-5020.

If merchants would like to donate items for use by the family support groups for their events, they should contact Army Community Service.

Individuals with questions pertaining to Operation Comfort should contact Army Community Service at 791-7878.

'Gifts From the Homefront' certificates available at PX

DALLAS — Americans can now boost the morale and well-being of deployed soldiers with "Gifts From the Homefront" CertifiChecks for post exchanges.

These new PX gift certificates are the result of a partnership between the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and CertifiChecks, America's hometown gift certificate resource center.

Sending CertifiChecks is a way for people to show their support of service members, according to AAFES officials. CertifiChecks are redeemable for merchandise at all AAFES PX and base exchanges throughout the world. Details are available to anyone via the AAFES Web site, www.aafes.com, and by phone at 1-877-770-GIFT (4438).

Sold by CertifiChecks, these gift certificates can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, and they come in denominations of \$10 and \$20. Each order includes a festive envelope.

Anyone may purchase these "Gifts From the Homefront" with a U.S. credit card or check, but only authorized AAFES customers

can redeem them at any PX or BX.

At this time military authorities have advised that CertifiChecks can only be sent to a specific service member at his or her APO or US mailing address. AAFES officials said they are currently working to find a solution to allow CertifiChecks to be sent to units or non-specific troops.

AAFES currently has 34 stores located throughout Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. CertifiChecks can be redeemed at these facilities to purchase such items as health and beauty items, soft drinks, candy, snack items, pre-paid calling cards and much more.

By clicking on the link "Gifts from the Homefront" at www.aafes.com, anyone can find out how to access an order form and complete the transaction online or via a toll-free number at 800-770-GIFT (4438).

The standard cost for the certificates is \$4.95 per order, which covers the costs for printing, mailing and handling of up to 20 certificates per order, providing they're going to the same address. Delivery of the certificates normally takes between 4-10 days, pos-

sibly longer if going overseas. Shipping and handling charges are slightly more for bulk orders of \$300.00 or more.

Sending CertifiChecks will help reduce the number of parcels being sent via the Military Postal Service Agency, AAFES officials said.

"This program should very much help relieve the critical mail transportation situation," said Ed Pardini, deputy director of the Military Postal Service Agency.

"Different from previous contingencies, like Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Any Service member Mail and Donation campaigns are not the helpful idea they were then. Unfortunately, Any Service member and web-sponsored donation programs are counterproductive to the safety of our troops. The sheer volume also easily causes delays to the more important mail from families and loved ones due to transportation issues."

Editor's note: The above information was taken by an AAFES news release.

Saving 'em in the sand

Pfc. David Kurns is baptized by Task Force Chaplain Capt. Ron Cooper, left, and 1st Lt. Brian Case, right, in the desert north of Kuwait City, March 12. Eight members of the 3rd Infantry Division were baptized in the desert.



Photo by Brandt Sanderlin

Army activates Family Assistance Hotline

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The U.S. Army has established a toll-free Family Assistance Hotline for Operation Iraqi Freedom at 800-833-6622.

The hotline was established by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, in conjunction with the Army Family Liaison Office staff to provide referrals and information to the families of deployed or activated soldiers.

The hotline is toll free when called from the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The hotline staff will answer calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Eastern Standard Time to answer family support-related questions. Emergency assistance will be provided between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. EST, officials said.

"Our staff will assist all callers by listening, explaining, and directing them to the most helpful resources we can," said Gail Lovisone, manager of CFSC's Family Assistance Hotline call center.

Lovisone emphasized that the first place families of active-duty soldiers should contact is Army Community Service or the unit rear detachment at the installation from

which the soldiers deployed.

"The mission of our Family Assistance Hotline is to provide Army families caring support in the form of accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to family issues," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, commander of the USACFSC, the Army agency responsible for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

"This Family Assistance Hotline is a 'safety net' for those who have exhausted all other resources," said Decker. "We will do everything we can to help each and every caller."

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

After hearing a short, recorded message, callers will be able to speak to hotline staff members who have access to extensive reference materials. Staff will be unable to answer questions about casualties or soldiers wounded or missing in action.

Because of the sensitivity of this information, the Army's Casualty Assistance Office will first contact the soldier's immediate family. Once the Army is certain that the soldier's next of kin have been notified, information

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

about soldiers' deaths will then be released to the public through news releases and other means such as the media and Department of Defense Web sites.

Due to operational security and force protection concerns, CFSC hotline staff cannot provide locator services (addresses) for soldiers or units, or information about

operational matters.

The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve state and regional support commands also operate assistance lines, though they may not always be toll free. Information is also available at www.guardfamily.org and www.army.mil/usar.

"We may often refer callers to the installation because installation ACS staff have local resource telephone numbers, and more detailed information," explained Lovisone.

In addition to local and Army-level assistance via telephone, family members can find answers to many routine questions about family readiness, Army Community Service, and deployment support resources online at the ACS Web site, www.goacs.org, and at the Army Family Liaison Office website, www.aflo.org.

"We anticipate a high volume of calls, so we strongly urge people to use those Web sites as a first stop," noted Lovisone. Recognizing that not all households have Internet connectivity, Lovisone suggested families use computers at installation ACS centers or at on-post or local civilian libraries.

Sow what?

Chaplain (Maj.) Ken Bellinger,
116th Military Intelligence Group

Spring is the time for sowing seeds; a new plant breaking the soil, new leaves bursting out for their time in the sun.

None of this can happen without the sowing of seeds. So it is with our lives. We cannot reap if we do not sow. Just as surely we will reap what we sow.

What do you want out of life? If you know what you want to reap you know what you need to sow.

If you want love you have to sow love in others. If you want happiness you have to sow happiness in the lives of people around you. If you want respect you have to respect for others. If you want forgiveness you have to sow forgiveness for others.

Good words not shared are like good seed left in the bag. They will not bear good fruit.

You are the active agent in determining what you will receive out of life. How much do you want? You can determine how much you reap by how much you sow. You

have heard it said, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Cor. 9:6 NIV)

You will be amazed at how much more good is in your world when you give more good to the people around you. You can answer the question of

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

(2 Cor. 9:6 NIV)

how good your relationships can be with how much you are willing to give.

As we all know not all seed will grow. A lot has to do with where it is planted, when, and

how it is cared for. You do not know what will happen.

You can sow the best seed, in the best places, at the best time, and provide the best consistent care. That is all you can do. The rest is up to God. This is true in plants.

This is true in people's lives. You can use all the knowledge, wisdom, skill, and dedication God has given you. Then you must trust God and have faith in His goodness.

Every day is the spring of your life. You are sowing the seeds that will determine what, how much, and where you will reap. Now you have to answer the question, "Sow what?"

God bless our troops!

Spotlight on:



Ferguson

Name: Drill Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Harry Ferguson

Unit: Headquarters, 15th Signal Brigade

Hometown: Greenville, Miss.

What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?

The feeling of accomplishment that you can get from transforming a young man or a woman into a soldier is incomparable. The values, standards of training and conduct you instill in a soldier are the building blocks of their future success in the Army.

How long at Fort Gordon? 2 years

What do you want to accomplish in the military?

My main goal is to just maximize my potential and be as successful as I possibly can. At the end of my career I just want to be able to look back and say that I contributed to the defense of my country, and I did the absolute very best I could.

Prepare ahead each year: Taxes and records keeping

Capt. Raashid S. Williams
Fort Gordon Tax Center

You can avoid headaches at tax time by keeping track of your receipts and other records throughout the year. Good record keeping will help you remember the various transactions you made during the year, which may help you out on your taxes. Records help you document the deductions you've claimed on your return.

You'll need this documentation should the IRS select your return for examination.

Normally, tax records should be kept for three years, but some documents — records relating to a home purchase or sale, stock transactions, IRA and business or rental property — should be kept longer.

In most cases, the IRS does not require you to keep records in any special manner. Generally speaking, however, you should keep any and all documents that may have

an impact on your federal tax return. Such items would include bills, receipts, invoices, mileage logs, canceled checks, or any other proof of payment, and any other records to support any deductions or credits you claim on your return.

Good record keeping throughout the year saves you time and effort at tax time when organizing and completing your return. If you seek professional

assistance to complete your return, the records you have kept will assist the preparer in quickly and accurately completing your return.

For more information on what kinds of records to keep, see Publication 552, "Recordkeeping for Individuals," and Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax For Individuals." Both are available on the IRS Web site (<http://www.irs.gov>), at any local IRS office, or by calling toll-free 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).



Easter and Passover 2003

Christian

Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service: April 20, 6:30 a.m., Freedom Park

Catholic Activities/Masses:
Good Shepherd Chapel, Building 29608, Barnes Avenue

Stations of the Cross April 2, 9, 16, 6:30 p.m.
Penance Service, April 14, 1830
Holy Thursday, April 17, 1900
Good Friday, April 18, 1900
Easter Vigil Mass, 19 April, 1900
Easter Sunday Masses, April 20, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

(No CCD or Sacramental Preparation on April

20)

Protestant Easter Events/ Services:

Triumphal Entry March, April 13, 9:30 a.m., IG Office (Rice Road) to Chapel
"Living Last Supper" April 16 and 17, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel
Good Friday Service, April 18, noon, Bicentennial Chapel
Easter Egg Hunt, April 19, 1300, Religious Education Center, Bldg. 39713

Protestant Sunday School Program,

Royal Signal Hall, April 20, 9 a.m.
Easter Sunday Services April 20, regular times/locations, 9 and 11 a.m.

Jewish

Jewish Passover begins April 17. Contact the local Synagogues for services times.
Conservative: Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, 935 Johns Road, Augusta, 733-9491. Reformed: Walton Way Temple Congregation Children of Israel, 3005 Walton Way Extension, Augusta, 738-8579.

Community Events

Choir rehearsal

The date for the Celebration Mass choir rehearsal will be **Saturday**, from 2 - 4 p.m. at Signal Theater.

For more information, email Conniestene Moore at cmoore1114@msn.com.

Career fair

SmartStart for New Vets is hosting a Military/Civilian Career Fair, **April 25** at Clayton College and State University's Center for Continuing Education in Morrow, Ga.

The Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will have recruiters from local and national companies seeking qualified applicants.

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 for more information and directions.

Diabetes support group

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

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".

April 7 is National Library Week kickoff at 11 a.m. There will be refreshments, a special guest reader, announcement of essay winners and recognition for volunteers.

April 8 will be a visit from the an MP crime dog as well as another guest reader.

April 9 will have Mr. Capbo, the clown and a display from Army Community Services.

April 10 will have a guest reader from Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

April 12 soldiers from Company D, 551st Signal Battalion will come in as guest readers.

All events are held at Woodworth Library and begin at 11 a.m.

For more information, call Liz Knight at 791-7323.

Care options

The CSRA Area Agency on Aging presents... "Find and Paying for Eldercare Op-

tions," **Saturday** 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.

Change of command

Capt. Cutie J. Jackson will relinquish command of Charlie Company, 369th Signal Battalion to Capt. Marlon McBride on **Thursday** at 8 a.m. The ceremony will take place at 369th Signal Battalion's Warrior Field. Inclement weather location is Gym 4.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Patrick Hairston at 791-6242/489.

Yard recognition

The Fort Gordon Family Housing Beautification program kicks off in April. The program intends to promote continual beautification of Fort Gordon housing areas and recognize excellence in the maintenance of individual quarters areas, and will run through September.

One Yard of the Month will be selected from Maglin, McNair and Olive Terrace. There will be two selections for Yard of the Month from Gordon Terrace (one in the 1600 and 1700 area and one in the 1800 and 1900 area).

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483.

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.

New MILPO hours

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 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.

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.

April 24 at 2:30 p.m. - "Change! Who's in Control" - Class will discuss changes in feelings, thoughts, emotions, behaviors and personality.

Learn about things that can change and about those that are hard to change. Find out what must exist to make change happen in yourself and/or a family member. Call 731-7275, Ext. 7989 for location and to register.

Women's program cancelled

The closing ceremony at 2 p.m. in Alexander Hall on **March 31** has been cancelled.

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.

Deadline is **Tuesday**. 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 \$1,000 scholarships. The top applicant is to receive the \$2,000 Mallette Scholarship.

For information, call Mary

Jones at 791-2014.

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.

They now have a wide variety of spring selections including clothing and Easter decorations.

The thrift shop now accepts Visa and Mastercard as well as debit cards.

The thrift shop is open **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Flea market

The Officers' Wives' Club and the Directorate of Community Activities host the Spring Flea Market, **May 3**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Engineer Field.

Spaces to sell items are available and cost \$25, \$35 and \$45. Single spaces for E-4 and below and/or residents of on-post housing are \$15 with a limit of 2 per family.

For more information, call 796-481-8065 and leave a message.

Military Child Month

The Directorate of Community Activities will sponsor a celebration for "Month of the Military Child." Activities will take place on the Youth Services Football Field **April 26**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will have clowns, games, displays, pony rides and free popcorn.

For more information, call Michelle Linder at 791-6500/7575.

VFW

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6445 wants you to join our ranks. You are eligible if you served overseas and received a campaign medal or served in Korea anytime.

Your membership counts. The VFW has been at the forefront of every major veterans issue for over 104 years. Some of these are the GI Bill, GI Home Loans, Veterans Employment Preference, adequate accessible VA Healthcare and compensation benefits for our disabled veterans.

In addition the VFW offers many membership benefits. VFW Post 6445 is located a quarter of a mile west of Pumpkin Center on Wrightsboro Road, Highway 223.

For more information, call Commander Tip Usry, VFW Post 6445, Harlem, Ga., 706-556-9194/706-595-5800 or Senior Vice Commander Ralph Romines at 706-210-

0926.

BIG scholarships

Tuition assistance scholarships are being awarded by Blacks In Government to graduating high school seniors in Richmond and Columbia counties.

Applicants will be judged based on scholastic standing or grade aptitude, as well as citizenship, character, participation in school and community activities, the applicant's stated desire and sincerity for furtherance of his/her education and letters of recommendations.

Applications are available in the guidance office of all area high schools. Deadline for applications is **April 11**.

For more information call the Greater Augusta Area Chapter Blacks in Government Scholarship Chairperson, Thomas A. Brown Jr. at 706-

736-0778.

Fort Discovery

Visitors to Fort Discovery can discover the fascinating world of illusions through awesome illusionary effects, graphics and hands-on activities. Find out if what you think you see is really what you are seeing!

Back by popular demand, "Optical Illusions 2" is now showing in the Knox Gallery through **May 11**.

Admission to the Knox Gallery is included with paid general admission to Fort Discovery — \$8/adults; \$6/children, seniors and active military. Members are FREE and group rates are available. Fort Discovery operating hours are Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m.

For more information call 706-821-0200 or 800-325-5445.

The School Yard



Special student recognition:

Congratulations to Miss Alesha Nicole James, daughter of Sgt. Maj. Sammy and Tracy James, who was crowned Miss Hephzibah High on March 15. Miss James is also the president of the Honor's Society, president of the drama committee, and ranked in the top 5% of her class. Next year Miss James will continue her educational career by pursuing a degree in veterinary studies at the University of Georgia.

PTA meeting:

On **April 3**, at 6:30 p.m., Freedom Park Elementary School and Army Community Services presents, "Protecting Our Children," a night of informative and fun activities for the entire family. Please come and learn a few simple steps for keeping our kids safe. For more information, call 791-7557.

Spring break schedule:

Richmond and Columbia County schools will be closed **April 7-11** for spring break.

School Age Services will host a Spring Break Camp from 5:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. for students 5 to 7 years of age.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services to participate in the following activities during this week of fun: bowling, skating, movies, Boys and Girls Club activities, and so much more. For more information, call 791-6500.

Fort Gordon Report



C The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **March 31**, and includes the following stories:

- Military Police Mission in Djibouti
- AUSA Winter Exhibition
- Armed Forces Boxing Championships

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 April 7 on both Comcast 66 and Charter 13.

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

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



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

'Blood, blood, blood makes the grass grow'

Company B, 447th Signal Battalion Company Commander, 1st Lt. Tania L. Iwaskiw, shows her soldiers the trophy presented by Kendrick Blood Center. These soldiers earned the February blood trophy by donating 40 pints of blood and 38 units of platelets.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Eisenhower to host golf tournament

The seventh annual Eisenhower Golf Tournament to benefit Fisher House will take place **April 4** with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

The cost of entering the tournament is \$50 per person, or \$200 per team, which includes a bag lunch and buffet following the tournament. The format of the tournament will be four person scramble in men's, women's and mixed teams (select shot.)

Mulligans are available for \$5, and a Hole in One prize will be offered by Bobby Jones Ford, as well as prizes for the longest and most accurate drives.

To enter, make checks payable to Health Services Auxiliary, 3979 Hammonds Ferry, Evans, Ga., 30809 or drop off checks at the Fisher House on post.

For more information, call 854-9153 or 787-7100.

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 **Saturday**, starting at Gym 1 at 8 a.m. For more information, call 791-6872 or 791-6099.

Youth soccer registration

Youth soccer registration is open to boys and girls, ages 5 - 15 (must be 5 prior to April 1 may not be 15 before June 1).

All participants must be members of Children Youth Services, Central Registration, Building 40200, 42nd Street.

Current members may register at Youth Services, Building 45410. Sports fee is \$30. Yearly CYS fee is \$15 per child, \$35 for two or more children. For more information, call 791-3551/4455.

Meal deals

The Gordon Club offers 'Masters' Week' dinner specials.

April 8 is steak and shrimp or chicken and shrimp.

April 9 is a southern buffet.

April 10 is beef and burgundy.

April 11 is a seafood buffet.

The Gordon Club offers extended hours **April 8 - 11** from 5 - 9 p.m. and is open to the public.

For more information, call 791-6780.

Easter Brunch

The Gordon Club offers an Easter brunch April 20 in the North Ballroom.

There are two seatings available from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The brunch is open to the public. Tickets are required and cost \$14/adults, \$8/children 5-8 and \$4/children 4 and under.

For more information, call 791-6780.

Ugly and Disgruntled



(Above and left) The clown in action during the show.

The Disgruntled Clown, shown above shooting toilet paper at audience members in the front row, performed a show with comedian Dave Ugly (also on stage) March 15 at the Dinner Theatre.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff Writer

Fort Gordon soldiers and area residents were treated to two comedians March 15 at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

Dave Ugly opened for The Disgruntled Clown, a 300-pound clown with an attitude. The pair have been touring together for eight months, and stopped by Fort Gordon to put on two shows, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., each about two hours.

Ugly took the stage dressed in a T-shirt, jeans and a backwards hat.

"Are you guys ready to have some fun tonight?" he asked the audience of approximately 50 people at the second show.

Responding to their cheers, he added, "Then let's get outta here!"

He warmed up the audience with about a half-hour of material on subjects such as relationships, politics and cloning.

"Why don't they clone something cool, like beer?" he mused.

After his performance,

Ugly introduced the Disgruntled Clown by saying, "This guy's been kicked out of every circus in America!"

The rest of the show belonged to the headliner, The Disgruntled Clown. The clown took the stage dressed in a shiny black and white-diamond patterned clown suit, big shoes, one white glove and one black and a top-hat. He was a large man, about 6-foot-2, and had a round stomach that made one wonder whether or not it was padded or natural.

The Disgruntled Clown came out casually puffing on a cigarette right as "Taps" was sounding on post in the distance.

"Wow," he marveled. "That's kind of cool. Where else can you go and someone plays a song before you go to bed? The last time that happened to me, it was my mom doing it!"

He went on to introduce himself as a former clown who became irritated with working the circus and decided to do stand-up and tell people the truth about things.

The clown did sketches on a variety of material, includ-

ing why he thought smokers were smarter than non-smokers, stupid commercials, why he hates cats and even some good-natured jokes about the Army's marketing schemes.

"Your marketing people are idiots," the clown said. "What's this Army of One stuff? If there's going to be a war, I don't want to be alone!"

"I want thousands of my redneck friends out there with shotguns and Colin Powell calling the shots!"

At one point, the clown simply sat down on a stool and didn't say anything.

"What?" he asked the audience. "I'm taking a break! Don't you guys get breaks where you work?"

He then added, "Just remember, you guys do more before 8 a.m. than most people do in a day, so do my share, too!"

When he spoke about stupid commercials, the clown said that stupid people should not be allowed to sue major corporations. He went on to tell about a woman who had broken her TV trying to kill a roach in a commercial and

was suing the pesticide company for a new set.

"They should just put her on Judge Judy and let her tell her how dumb she is," the clown quipped.

The clown was also quick to poke fun at the audience. Some of the material the audience applauded to the most was quick, improvisational humor.

"Let me educate you all," the clown warned, "I can see everyone out there just fine!"

He proved this to several people. When a group of three people tried to sneak into the show about a half-hour into his performance, the clown ripped them apart.

One of the people at the table had the misfortune of wearing a black and yellow striped shirt, and was referred to as "bumblebee" for the remainder of the night.

When one lady in the front row got up to use the restroom, the clown asked, "Great, now where do you think you're going?"

The lady said she was going to use the restroom.

"Fine, we'll just have to wait for you, then," the clown said, leaning on the micro-

phone.

The clown had a set consisting of a three big letter blocks which he pulled his props out of, a teddy bear, a bean bag and a colorful poster.

Opener Dave Ugly described the set as looking like "Sesame Street threw up."

The clown pulled props out of the boxes such as a gun that shot a string of toilet paper off a row at audience members, and a bucket with a huge rubber band attached that sent blasts of air at people throughout the audience.

"You know what this thing is good for?" the clown asked, referring to the air blasting bucket. "Only one thing - messing with cats."

When it was time to go, the clown offered the audience a bit of poetry:

"I may be disgruntled,
I may be a clown,
I want to thank you for letting
Me come to your town.
We had some laughs,
I showed you my big gun,
Thanks Fort Gordon,
I hope you had fun."



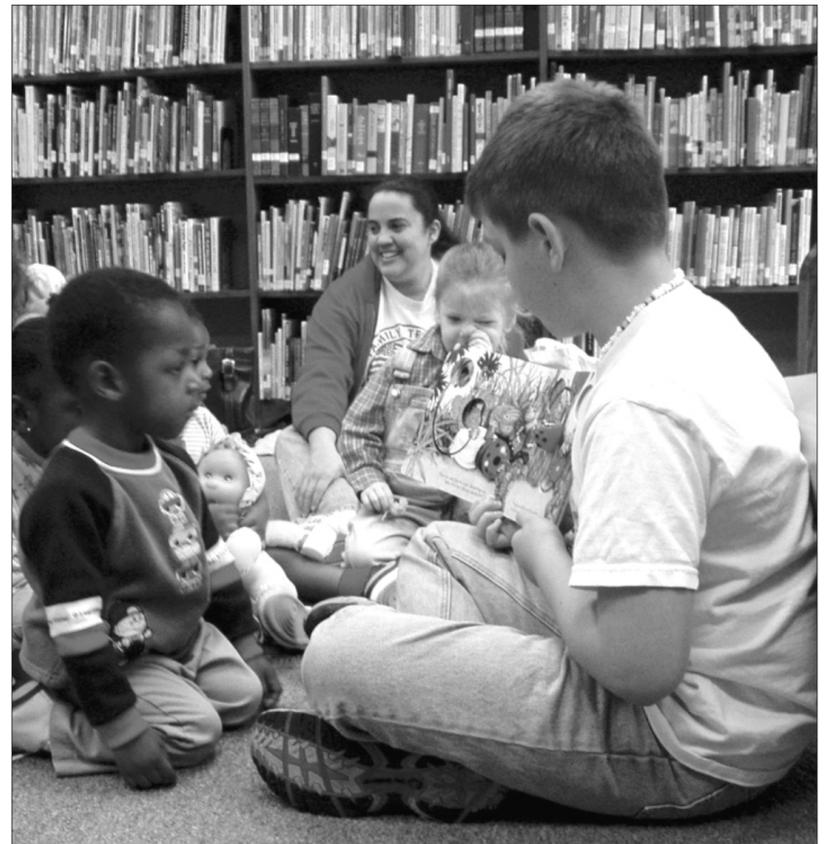
At the Movies

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 28 - 30
Friday -
Saturday -
Late show -
Sunday -

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



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

'Oh The Places You Will Go'

In honor of Dr. Suess' month, kids who come to story hour were allowed to wear their pajamas. (Upper left) Zach Hulsey, in the tiger p.j.'s, and Aaleyah Obleton were both participants. (Above) Volunteer, Nick Jones, reads while Jordan Brown and Ariannna Houston listen intently. The story hour program began in 2000.

Spectrum

TRADOC commander visits post



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, adjusts his beret as he and Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, rush to another appointment during Byrnes' visit to post March 24 to 25.



Byrnes enjoys lunch with a group of selected noncommissioned officers at the Gordon Club.



(Above) Byrnes takes time to chat with some young 74B advanced individual training students in Dixon Hall. He discussed their training, and spoke on a variety of topics including the war in the Middle East.



Pvt. Miguel Curbelo (below) and Pvt. Josef Miller (above), both 74Bs, explain to Byrnes some projects they have been working on as information systems operators/analysts.



(Above) Byrnes chuckles as he makes his way through some camouflage netting in Dixon Hall.



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Howard A. Moore, Headquarters and Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion briefs the general about router training being conducted in Room 116 of Dixon Hall.

(Below) Byrnes answers questions from the local media outside Signal Towers after visiting the schoolhouses on post. The general spoke about some of the impressive things he saw during his time on post, the foremost of which he said was the young soldiers with whom he visited.



(left) Byrnes talks to a class of 31 S (satellite communications systems operator/maintainer) at Vincent Hall. He gave them a pep talk, saying he knew how long and challenging their advanced individual training is.



(left) Byrnes speaks with the 31U Advanced Noncommissioned Officer's Course, Tactical Internet Management Systems class at Saltzman Hall. Byrnes answered several questions for the noncommissioned officers.

