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# The Signal



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Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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## News UPDATE

### Road closure notification:

Closes: 9 a.m., **April 28** - Chamberlain Avenue at 27th Street, including parking lot north of Building 25717 and parking lot east of Brant Hall, Building 25811. Reopens: 9 a.m., **May 5**

### Operation Comfort

Operation Comfort is managed by Army Community Service. It will serve as a clearinghouse of information and resources for service members and their families.

Staff collect monetary donations as well as information on discounts and support services for military families.

A weekly update of local merchant support will be sent to all family readiness group leaders via e-mail.

Monetary donations will be deposited into the Non-appropriated Fund for later disbursement coordinated by an installation "Review Board." Commanders, Rear Detachment Commanders, and Family Readiness Group leaders can apply for funding through Operation Comfort.

Examples of how funds may be used include respite child care, funding or partial funding for outings that boost morale, payment for shipping items to deployed troops, and special contracts for services, i.e., lawn care and self defense classes. Calls are received daily with donations and services promised.

A "Focus Group" meeting for all units deployed, including activated National Guard and Reserve units has been scheduled for **Thursday** at 6 p.m. at Army Community Service.

For more information, call ACS at 791-3579.

### Quarterly awards

The quarterly installation awards ceremony will be held **April 24**, 8:30 a.m. in Conrad Hall.

The following individuals will be recognized: Service member of the 2nd Qtr: Spc. Pamela R. Burke (HQS and Co. A, 551st Sig Bn); Noncommissioned Officer of the 2nd Qtr: Sgt. Cornelius D. Boyd (Co. B, EAMC); Instructor of the 2nd Qtr: Staff Sgt. Kimbriel L. Odell (Co. A, 369th Sig Bn); Civilian of the 2nd Qtr: Princella Washington (Inspector General); Volunteer of the Month of January: Carrie Little (Enlisted Wives' Club); Volunteer of the Month of February: Kari E. Abbott (Officers' Wives' Club, 202nd MI Bn Family Readiness Group); and Volunteer of the Month of March: Rosemary A. Marshall (Enlisted Wives' Club, Blacks in Government).

Everyone is encouraged to attend and congratulate these deserving individuals

## A general overview

# BG Hirai visits post, announces training class

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

Brig. Gen. James T. Hirai, deputy commandant, United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., visited Fort Gordon April 7 with news about a new training course being tested here.

The new course, Hirai explained, will provide 90 days of core training for both captains promotable and majors in what is called Intermediate Level Education.

So what is ILE, and why is it being taught here on post?

"Our flagship course is the Command General Staff Officer's Course which is transitioning as part of the Army's Officer Education System to an Intermediate Level Education, and that's why I'm here at Fort Gordon," Hirai said. "One of our pilots for ILE is a distance education site here at Fort Gordon."

"Intermediate Level Education is part of our officer education system," Hirai explained. "If you start from the beginning, an officer goes through pre-commissioning training, post-commissioning training, captains level training and the part that we're focusing on, for majors, the intermediate level of education."

Under the old system of training, Hirai said captains promotable and majors underwent ILE



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

**Majors and captains promotable listen as Brig. Gen. James T. Hirai, deputy commandant, United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (standing), outlines the plans for a pilot class to be conducted on post in a distance learning for officers called Intermediate Level Education.**

training at Fort Leavenworth. Hirai said roughly 50-percent of the eligible captains promotable and majors were being selected to attend ILE at Fort Leavenworth, meaning the other half learned ILE through through what he called "a course in a box," meaning through correspondence courses or on-line. Those officers attending the resident CGSOC course at Fort Leavenworth made a PCS move for the course.

Now, with the course being offered at Fort Gordon, Hirai

said students can experience the hands-on, interaction elements of OGSOC and correspondence courses do not offer. And as Maj. Alan J. Makowsky, the OCOS Senior Career Program Manager, and one of the people responsible for bringing the pilot program to the post pointed out, "it will eventually allow 100 percent of captain promotables and majors to get resident experience," rather than the former 50 percent selected.

Hirai said the CGSOC portion taught at Fort Gordon will pro-

vide majors with the general skills to do all the things the Army will call upon them to perform. Officers will receive their career field credentialing from courses designed and administered by their career field proponents. Officers will attend these courses either before or after receiving their common core education. There are 18 areas of functional training in which officers are trained at various Army schools or civilian institutions. Functional are training for career fields 24 (Automation Sys-

tems Engineer) and 53 (Information Systems Management) is conducted at Fort Gordon, which means these officers could receive all of their field grade education wil PCS'd here.

Career field education courses, the second phase of ILE, vary in length from two weeks to two years, Hirai said. He said some career field courses entail earning a masters degree in that area of study. He said officers in the operations career field attend a 10-month course at Fort Leavenworth. They will receive CGSOC instruction and the 7-month Advanced Operations and Warfighting Course.

"The majority of the other-than-operations career field officers will be given an opportunity to take a TDY course at various locations," Hirai said. "We selected several for piloting. Fort Gordon is one of those."

Fort Gordon is the first post to teach ILE version of CGSOC outside of Fort Leavenworth, Hirai said, although later Fort Lee is planned to join as another pilot course site later and others will follow.

Hirai said Fort Gordon was selected for various reasons. One of these, Hirai said, is the fact that logistically Fort Gordon is able to accommodate a class of 64 majors with 10 instructors.

See *Hirai*, Page 2

## Tuskegee Airmen, WWII heroes, participate in post graduation

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

At most Army ceremonies, the narrator of the ceremony announces that ceremony's distinguished guests. For the Advanced Noncommissioned and Basic Noncommissioned Officer Classes who graduated April 1, the guests were not only distinguished, but authentic American war heroes as well.

Several members of the Tuskegee Airmen, from the Atlanta chapter, attended the graduation, where retired Master Sgt. Val Archer was the guest speaker. Archer said he joined the airmen in 1944, when he was just 15 years old, and a high school drop-out fresh off the mean streets of Chicago.

The articulate speaker said some of his fellow airmen, whom he described as "professional people," took him under their wing and stressed the importance of getting a good education. Archer said he took their words to heart, eventually earning his GED, and subsequently furthering his education to the master's level.

Archer said many of his fellow airmen achieved fame through other pursuits in life outside aviation. He said his roommate, Mal Whitfield, went on to star on the Olympic track and field stage, winning two gold medals (one in the 1948 and one in the 1952 Summer Games) in the 800-meter run, and also racking up six running world records and eight National Amateur Ath-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

**Members of the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen visited the Signal Museum while attending the Advanced Noncommissioned and Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course graduations April 1.**

letic Union titles.

"My hope now is to get young people to focus on their lives by sharing our experiences with younger people," Archer said in an interview following his speech. "Speaking at the graduation today, I remember the inspiration I got from my NCO leadership, and it looks like the graduates today are getting that same type of inspiration."

The Tuskegee Airmen were immortalized in an HBO film, "The Tuskegee Airmen," starring Augusta's own, Laurence Fishburne, in 1997. The Airmen were called the Tuskegee Airmen because they were trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Ala. About 1,000 African-American soldiers were trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield.

It all started in Jan. 1941 when 429 African American enlisted men and 47 officers, who called themselves the "Lonely

Eagles" underwent training to become the first of the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen fought throughout the Mediterranean and European Theaters and are today recognized as among the premier fighter pilots to serve in World War II. As escorts to bomber planes during World War II, the Airmen never lost a bomber to enemy fighters. Charles B. Hall of Brazil, Ind., was the first member of the Airmen to down an enemy fighter plane on July 21, 1943. The Airmen went on to fly over 1,500 missions during the war.

After sharing their experiences with some of the Army's up-and-coming noncommissioned officers, one can't help wonder if some of the Tuskegee Airmen's inspirational messages will affect these soldiers, and that some of these graduates might join the ranks of today's heroes.

Henry Holmes  
Public Affairs Office

"It's a new ball field for me for me now," says Sgt. 1st Class Cecil Tucker of Fort Gordon. He's referring to what he learned in 11 months in Kuwait as the only regular Army soldier in a Reserve unit.

Tucker and 49 other soldiers were honored April 6 with an appreciation luncheon by the 359th Signal Brigade, a Reserve unit on post, for their duty in Kuwait. The luncheon was held at the Reserve Center on post.

The sergeant first class, who has been in the Army 21 years and served in Desert Storm, says Reservists are now vital to the Army. He said this is based upon his experience with them in Southwest Asia. He pointed out that Reservists now have the knowledge and training of active duty soldiers and consequently, "You could not tell the difference between an active duty soldier and a Reservist." He adds that this is something the Army has been working hard to achieve.

Tucker served as the non-commissioned officer in charge of Theater Network Operations

monitoring communications in the Theater. He has a wife and two children.

Capt. Tim Beltz of Augusta says he spent a lot of time in the chemical protective suits and found the new ones to be "much better than the old ones," adding that they are "much more comfortable."

He experienced several scud alerts.

The one he remembers most was the day the war kicked off.

"We had an alert that there was an incoming missile. We had the responsibility of notifying some down trace units and at the same time to get our stuff (protective suits) on. During that time the Patriot Battery by Camp Doha started firing and we did not know what that was and it sounded like they were about to come through the ceiling. So, it was a little hair raising at the time. Finally, some soldiers started hollering 'those are ours, those are ours.' We heard the Patriot Battery two more times after that," Beltz said.

He arrived in Kuwait last May and worked in the communications office as a trans-missions officer. He adds that

See *359th*, Page 3



Photo by Henry Holmes

**Staff Sgt. Jacob Hafer enjoys the luncheon with his family Madelyn and April. Hafer said he is due to return to Iraq as a civilian contractor.**

## Armed Services News

From American Forces Press Service

### 3ID roots out 'hornet's nest' of 3,000 Iraqis

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) engaged in heavy fighting April 2 with the Republican Guard's Medina Division near Karbala, Iraq, and some U.S. elements reportedly advanced to within 25 miles of Baghdad. V Corps and 3rd Division Main used a site near An Najaf as a staging area for today's battle. Securing that staging area a few days ago was tougher than expected, reports Spc. Mason Lowery from the 50th PAD out of Fort Stewart, Ga.

KHAIIRAT, Iraq - "Objective Rams," near the town of An Najaf, turned out to be a hornet's nest of Iraqi irregulars for 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers to root out from March 24 to 29.

Resistance was supposed to be light, but what U.S. soldiers found instead were Saddam Hussein's Al Qut, who were "curiously committed and tenaciously willing to go to their deaths for the regime," according to Lt. Col. Eric Wesley, 2nd Brigade Combat Team executive officer.

Rams was intended to be a staging area for the V Corps tactical operations center and 3rd Division Main to pause and plan operations for the battle with the Iraqi Medina Division, Wesley said. Approximately 3,000 enemy soldiers, armed with rocket-propelled guns and AK-47s, were waiting in An Najaf. There were two types of soldiers: Al Qut — those that came from Baghdad to reinforce commitment to the regime, and those living in the area, who were threatened by the first group into fighting. They were told to fight or their families would be killed, explained Wesley.

Enemy soldiers used the town of Al Najaf as headquarters. From there, they headed out in small trucks to attack American soldiers.

"They came out at night and were not deterred by dying in hundreds. They just kept coming but we suffered no deaths," Wesley said.

1st Battalion, 64th Armor and 2nd Brigade headquarters relieved 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, which lost two

tanks and Bradleys, but no soldiers. 1-64 soldiers moved across the Euphrates River to block enemy supply and communication lines, Wesley explained. They captured Iraqi troops and got information on enemy locations from the enemy prisoners of war.

The U.S. soldiers, aided by Air Force bombs and 2nd Bde. multiple-launch rocket systems, dismantled a city block containing a Baath Party headquarters building and troop barracks.

After a day and a half of destroying buildings and cutting lines of communication, Wesley said U.S. forces killed approximately 1,000 enemy soldiers and captured as many as 800.

A captured Fedayeen general said that out of his original 1,200 troops, only 20 remained. 2nd Bde. soldiers suffered three return-to-duty casualties, Wesley said.

"That area is secured; we'll continue operations as planned," Wesley said. "It took a committed and strong arm to stop behavior that would be counter-intuitive to most soldiers - they just ran in waves into the fire. ... They're committed to going to their deaths for a questionable regime."

Wesley attempted to explain the strange behavior of the Iraqi soldiers: "Saddam has ruled with absolute terror for about 24 years. As a result, he's got a pretty solid grip on power. I think a lot of these loyalist soldiers have sold out - they get their legitimacy from (Saddam). As long as he's alive, they'll continue. The Iraqi people will turn on them once (Saddam's) out of power, so they want to keep him in power. Who knows, maybe they were levered into fighting for him years ago."

"I'm a loader; I was on top of the tank. By the time you see the flash, the round is already down range. It's just memories I don't want."

Spc. Jeffrey Smith, a tank driver for A Co., 1-64 from Salinas, Ca., said: "When you're in it, you just reflexively go back to your training. I don't know how it will affect me. If we don't change things over here, I'll be really mad."

## Hirai

From Page 1

"They've done a tremendous job in preparing classroom spaces to accommodate this type of education," he said.

He said the other factor is that there is a credentialing system that Fort Gordon offers for members in technical fields.

"We see that as a big plus," Hirai said. "We may see a situation where an officer in one of these technical career fields can attend a resident course here at Fort Gordon, and get their specific functional area accreditation here, but can also take their ILE core curriculum which will be provided by Fort Leavenworth instructors."

Makowsky said this change has been brought about over a two-year time period. He said when students of ILE complete their 90-day core training here, they will also be Military Education Level Four qualified. Earning a MEL 4 qualification is important, Makowsky said, because it is one of the key factors for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"You could be promoted to

lieutenant colonel without being MEL 4 qualified, but it doesn't happen too often," he said.

"Part of our initiative in ILE is that we want a universal MEL 4 education," Hirai said.

The transformation of ILE is part of a much bigger picture, Hirai said. In fact he said the whole officer education system is undergoing changes.

"We are changing the way we do our officer education system as we know it today," Hirai said. "There are three major parts to that change. The first part is to our precommissioning and post commissioning parts of our program. We will implement a Basic Officer Leadership Course which will be conducted in three phases."

"Phase One will be conducted during the pre-commissioning stage in the four ways in which we commission officers - that's Officer Candidate School, direct commissioning, Reserve Officer Training Course and the U.S. Army Military Academy (West Point.)"

"Phase Two of the Basic Officer Leadership Course will be conducted at branch schools to

be selected. This is where we will conduct a multi-branch training to make our commissionees, our lieutenants, competent and confident small unit leaders."

"We will follow that training with Phase Three which will be conducted as current officer Branch Basic Officer Training and will send those lieutenants on to be successful small unit leaders."

"The second part that we're changing is the Captains Officer Education System. Today we have a program of a six month PCS where captains and lieutenant promotables are sent to their branch schools to participate in a resident program followed by a TDY to Fort Leavenworth. What we are finding is that 70-percent of the captains who go to that school have already served as staff officers, and we're finding we're training those soldiers too late for those staff jobs."

Hirai called this type of training "shooting behind the target" because captains are being used as staff officers before they have had a

chance to properly train for the position. He said the average time a captain spends at his/her assignment is 18 months before assuming roles as a company, troop or battery commander. In that case, we are shooting ahead of the target. The intent is to provide the right education at the right time in a captain's career.

Two new courses are currently planned: The Combined Arms Staff Course for staff officers and the Combined Arms Battle Command Course for company, battery and troop commanders.

These courses will provide assignment-oriented training just in time for the duty position.

With all the transformation in the officer education system, Fort Gordon is once again on the forefront of new training developments, already contributing as a pilot site for the new ILE system. The first class of majors and captains promotable, along with a team of instructors brought here from Fort Leavenworth, began their 90-day course following Hirai's briefing.

## Retiree Notes:

Carefully support service members deployed

Richard T. Lechnir  
Retirement Services Officer

**Send Your Thanks** to our service members who find themselves in harms way defending our freedom and way of life. From your home computer, click on the following address to add your name to the growing list of names thanking the U.S. military - [www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html).

**Troop Support DoD Mail Policy:** To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend. On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service member" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones. [Source: DoD News Release No. 139-03 dtd March 22].

**Stateside Space-A Travel:** Available to Military Families As of April 1, the U.S. Air Mobility Command is offering space-available travels to families who travel with their sponsors within the continental United States. *Space-A flights will be available to dependents of active-duty members and retirees* — and those members will have the same eligibility category as their sponsors, said Lt. Col. Darcy Lilley, chief of passenger policy for AMC. Up to now, Space-A travels have been available to those who want to travel from the States overseas and to those overseas, but not within the United States. Space-A works like this:

Travelers hitch a ride on an aircraft already on a military mission. If there are unused seats, travelers can fly virtually for free. Typically, Space-A users pay a "head tax" of \$12.80 and, if leaving from or returning to the United States, an \$11 federal inspection fee. For overseas travel, the most popular contracted flights fly out of Atlanta and Baltimore into Europe, and Los Angeles and Seattle to Korea and Japan. Stateside, planes will fly wherever AMC missions take them, Lilley said.

For more on Space-A Travel rules and eligibility see the Space-A Travel section at <http://www.military.com/Travel/SpaceATravel/0,11886,57,00.htm>

## 'Digital bridge' brings technology to Stryker Brigade at NTC

by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez  
Army News Service

FORT IRWIN, Calif., — The first-ever Stryker Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Lewis, Wash., is not only demonstrating how rapidly it can deploy, it's showing the value of speedy digital information.

The "digital bridge," which was designed last year, provides SBCT units with information via satellites instead of the usual line-of-sight radios. With this system, vital information and pictures can be transmitted to units on the ground from anywhere in the world.

The SBCT is now participating in an exercise at the National Training Center, April 1-11, as the first phase of its Operational Evaluation, designed to certify the unit as

combat ready. The OE will culminate with an exercise at Fort Polk, La., May 17-27.

"The digital bridge allows the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division to see a real-time picture of the battlefield, and it's evolving still because the SBCT is still in a testing phase," said Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Carrasquillo, 29th Signal Battalion network manager.

The system is made up of several central nodes, that transmit information into the main hub. The hub, in turn, transmits information digitally to the commanders on the battlefield and the tactical operation center.

"It's interesting because we're trying to use the old equipment with newer technology," said Sgt. Luis Robles, Node center chief, 29th Signal Battalion.

**A Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle squad follows their vehicle, after it landed at Bicycle Lake Army Airfield, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.**



Photo by Capt. Timothy Beninato.

## Tax deadline Tuesday ... are you ready?

Tax tips for last minute filers

Capt. Raashid S. Williams  
Fort Gordon Tax Center

As the April 15 federal tax filing deadline approaches, consider these helpful tips:

- Put your Social Security number on the return — it's no longer on the label.
- Double-check your figures.
- Sign your form.
- Attach all required schedules and send your return or extension request to the IRS by April 15.

Most people do not need last-minute advice, because they have already filed. However, if you have not yet filed, you should check the identification numbers — usually Social Security numbers — for each person listed on your return. This includes the taxpayer, spouse,

dependents, and persons listed in relation to claims for the child care or earned income tax credits. Missing or incorrect social security numbers can delay or reduce a tax refund.

Taxpayers must sign and date their returns. Both spouses must sign a joint return, even if only one had income. Anyone who is paid to prepare a return must also sign it.

The only attachments that should be at the front of the tax return are Form W-2 wage statements, Form W-2G reports of gambling winnings,



Form 1099-R pension or annuity statements showing tax withheld, or Form 9465, requesting an installment payment plan. All other required forms and schedules should be behind the Form 1040 or 1040A, in the attachment sequence order listed in the upper right corner of each page.

People sending payments

should make the checks out to "United States Treasury" and should not attach the check to the tax return or to the Form 1040-V payment voucher, if used. The check should include the taxpayer's social security number, daytime phone number, the tax year and the type of form filed.

Taxpayers should file a return or a Form 4868, to request a four-month extension, by April 15. Those who don't e-file may use the U.S. Postal Service or one of the designated private delivery services.

The IRS tax help number — 800-829-1040 — is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit the IRS web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), for more information.

**Editor's note:** This information adapted from *The Judge Advocate General's School, US Army, Publication JA 269, Tax Information Series (Dec 00)*.

# Fisher House celebrates 10th anniversary



## 359th

From Page 1

**Kathleen Haskell**  
*Special to the Signal*

Rays of sunlight warmly lit the front of the Fisher House as many gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the "home away from home" on April 3. The U.S. Army Signal Band played music in the background prior to the official ceremony.

Col. Dan McFerran, chief of Eisenhower Army Medical Center Social Work Services welcomed everyone to the event and introduced a string of speakers to include David Coker, Fisher House Foundation, Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, retired Lt. Gen. Robert Gray, former commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, and Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, commander, Southeast Regional Medical Command and EAMC.

With the band playing a drum roll in the background, Brig.

Gen. Hicks, Col. McFerran, and a representative from J and J Maintenance pulled up the time capsule from the ground. Inside the time capsule were:

A piece of metal removed from the Intrepid (aircraft carrier that the Fisher's saved from the scrap heap and now a museum piece in the harbor of New York)

Baseball cap - Intrepid CF5-11

Baseball cap - USS Growler SSG 557

Baseball cap - USS Edison DD 946

Invitation from the original dedication of the Fisher House - 1993

Program from the dedication ceremony - 1993

Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor - 1993

News Release from PAO on the dedication of Fisher House - 1993

An invitation for the dinner at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion -



Photo by Kathleen Haskell

**Brig. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, commander, Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center, David Coker, Fisher House Foundation, Daniel Hersrud, Fisher House Foundation, and Col. Daniel McFerran, chief of Social Work Services look over articles from the time capsule.**

After the ceremonial cake cutting and a blessing by Chaplain Mark Fritch, attendees enjoyed refreshments under a covered pavilion.

The items for the next decade's time capsule are currently being consolidated for return to the ground until 2013.

he worked with two units from Fort Gordon in the area, the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade and the 63rd Signal Battalion. He is married with two children. In civilian life he works for Emergency Services Integrators as a network engineer.

A Reservist from Hepzibah, Staff Sgt. Jacob Hafer says

the separation from his wife April and two year old daughter, Madelyn, was "a family adventure." He served in Kuwait nine months before coming home in February.

"They sign a contract to do what they have to do for the country and you have to adjust. You have to work with them," adds Mrs. Hafer.

## Birds of prey set free in post environment

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
*Staff writer*

"Oh won't you fly high free bird?" go the lyrics to a famous Southern Rock song.

Now, thanks to the efforts of local veterinarian Lamar Walker and Fort Gordon biologist Ken Boyd, three birds of prey will have the opportunity to fly high here on post at Fort Gordon.

On April 3, Boyd said he released a barred owl, red-tailed hawk and sharp-shinned hawk into the training areas on post, after first giving a group of people who work in Signal Towers a look at the creatures.

Boyd said he maintains federal permits to handle the birds and other birds which are brought to post such as the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, the Southeastern American kestrel and other birds released on post from various programs.

"These birds are protected by a variety of different laws to include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which protects songbird, birds of prey and other migratory birds," Boyd said.

Boyd said the three birds are probably indigenous to wet-land and stream-bottom areas which can be found on post and feed primarily on small mice and mammals, occasionally snakes and other small birds.

"They're a useful species to have around, a natural part of

the eco-system," Boyd said. He said none of the three species are endangered.

Walker has had a partnership with Boyd and the post for about eight years. He rehabilitates birds which are found injured to be released into the training areas on post. Boyd, in return, sends injured birds which have been found on post to be rehabilitated at Walker's clinic, the Highland Animal Hospital.

Fort Gordon is an ideal place for the birds Walker treats to be released at, Boyd said.

"We're a big land base with a lot of property, and it's somewhat protected and somewhat secluded so they've got a good chance of not encountering a similar injury in the future," he said. "They have time then to become adjusted to being in the wild again."

One to 10 birds a year are brought from the clinic and released on post in a given year, Boyd said. He said he tries to release the birds the same day they are brought on post.

These three birds, which came to Walker from off post, were rehabilitated at his clinic, he said.

Boyd said Walker has a federal license to rehabilitate native species including birds, in addition to his role of handling domestic pets.

Boyd said the birds are sent

to Walker for several reasons, including flying into buildings in pursuit of prey, being shot illegally, or, the most common reason, from colliding with a vehicle. "Sometimes the injuries will include broken bones, head trauma or some other type of trauma," Boyd said.

Besides Walker's clinic, Boyd said the post also has a similar partnership with Georgia Southern University where raptors are rehabilitated.

"They take permanently disabled birds, which will never fully recover, and care for them and use them for educational purposes," Boyd said. "If we find a bird that we know can't be released back into the wild but can serve an educational purpose to teach people about birds of prey or to educate the public about the roles they play, we will contact them."

Releasing three birds on post may seem like a small endeavor, but over time it adds up, Boyd said.

"Obviously we want to help protect any species that is native to the landscape in the Fort Gordon area," he said. "If we can do a small part to make that happen we're more than happy to try and do it and help the community in preserving those species. A lot of them only live three or four years, and to allow them to live another year or so and reproduce and keep that species going is a big contribution."



Photos by Janet A. McElmurray

(Above) Ken Boyd, biologist, holds a red-tailed hawk for the group to see.



(Left) Boyd holds a barred owl as Jeanne Stewart, post employee, pets the owl.



# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## “While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting... he has been gone about a month now, and it still seems like it is not real. Though it seemed to take forever, the post office managed to deliver a letter from him in only 14 days. He sent letters to the children also.

My daughter read hers and ran and put it next to her bed, so she could read it every night before she went to sleep, to give her good thoughts about her daddy. My son, he copied his sister, cause he isn't quite old enough to understand all of facets of this deployment. He put his letter under his pillow, and a day later had to move it, cause he did not liked he had crumpled the note.

Me, I got a letter. I read it once, then twice. I love looking at the handwriting, and knowing he wrote me. The words are there to look at again and again.

Now I am stumped. I wish there was a class for writing love letters. Not the squishy isshy ones that are all gushy and don't really say anything. How do I tell him how much I miss him, how do I let him know what it means to me he is gone.

I think about it, cause I know mail is important. It is the basic method of communication we will have, and I want to support him.

I have already sent emails daily that chronicle details of what we are doing and how we are doing, but receiving his letter I want to say more. You can't put the lovely stuff in emails, just in case someone else sees it.

In a letter I can say more of how I feel. More of how I feel to let him know I am dealing so far with this separation better than I thought I would.

I have had mishaps, like when my daughter used the kitchen drawer as a ladder, when our son was sick to his stomach in the middle of the night, in his bed, those all are happenings, and I have dealt with them.

I wanted to tell him, I have found strength in our marriage, strength in the fact that he loves me, and together we are team. I wanted to tell him that that strength has given me the stamina to face each day, and make something of it. I wanted to tell him I thought of him as a hero, my hero, cause he is defending his country right now, in a just way.

So I sat down while the kids were at school, and I didn't use fancy words, cause they escaped me. I tried to say the words that were in my heart. You are my hero. I love you. I kept it simple. The other thing I told him, I would always love him 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.

## ‘Danger’ spring yard work

### Safety Tips for Spring Cleaning Projects

It's the time of year when many of us venture outside to take on spring-cleaning projects. While many folks look forward to working in the garden, around the house and office, more than 400,000 injuries occur each year as a result of mishaps related to lawn mowers, electric tools and ladders.

While spring-cleaning projects can be enjoyable for the whole family, there are certain simple precautions that should be taken before using lawn and garden equipment, power tools, and ladders. Make safety a priority this season to avoid mishaps that could result in a trip to the emergency room.

Be familiar with the tools you are using; read carefully all assembly, use, and care instructions that accompany the products. Other important tips include looking for the familiar UL Listing Mark before purchasing a power tool, garden appliance or electrical product, and carefully inspecting tools and equipment for damage prior to use. Please follow these additional safety tips when working with ladders, lawn mowers, and lawn and garden tools:

#### Ladders

- Always use a ladder that is long enough for the job at hand. A great number of ladder mishaps are the result of using a ladder that is too short.
- Don't carry equipment while climbing a ladder. Invest in a tool belt, or have someone hand the equipment to you.
- Face the ladder when climbing up and down; keep your body centered between both side rails.
- While up on the ladder; don't over-extend your reach. Make sure you keep your weight evenly distributed.

#### Lawn and garden tools

- When using garden appliances and power tools, always wear proper attire.
- Keep your clothing, hands, and feet away from cutting blades at all time.
- Never wear jewelry when working with tools. Always wear safety glasses.
- Pay attention to warning markings.
- Don't allow tools to get wet unless they're labeled "immersible."
- When using tools or extension cords outside, make sure they are appropriate for outdoor use.

- Never alter a product or remove safety features, such as blade guards or electric grounding pins.
- Check the switch on a power tool or garden appliance to make sure it's in the "OFF" position before you plug it in.

#### Lawn mowers

Lawn mowers enable homeowners and groundskeepers to keep neat, appealing grass simply by mowing. Many youngsters earn extra money by mowing lawns. However, a lawn mower can be extremely dangerous if it is not handled properly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that each year lawn mowers injure over 110,000 people seriously enough to require treatment in hospital emergency rooms.

The following practices will prevent most accidents:

- Read the operator's manual. Read the instructions and then follow these instructions carefully. The manual explains safe procedures that should be followed.
- Train operator. Be sure anyone operating the mower understands how the mower operates. Then demonstrate how it should be used. Observe the operator until satisfied that he/she can handle the mower safely.
- Check your lawn before mowing. Objects picked up and hurled by the blade cause many injuries, even deaths. Clear the lawn of sticks, stones, toys, bones and other objects.
- Check guards and shields. Be sure all protective devices are in place before starting the mower. Shields and guards are for your protection and will prevent numerous injuries if used. If you do hit a foreign object or have a mower malfunction, remember to turn off the mower and disconnect the power cord before inspecting for damage.
- Dress properly to do the job safely. No bare feet! No sandals! No sneakers! Always wear sturdy shoes; steel-toed safety shoes are preferred.
- Always start the mower outdoors. Never operate the mower where carbon monoxide can collect, such as in a closed garage, storage shed, or basement.
- Handle gasoline with care. Do not fill the gasoline tank while the engine is running. Let it cool first. Fuel up outdoors, then wipe up all spills.

- Keep all persons and pets away from mowing area. Remember, a mower blade can pick up and throw objects with force sufficient to seriously injure or kill.

• No riders on riding mowers. Always say "no" to small children asking to ride the mower with you. Extra riders can be thrown from the mower and run over. Extra riders also distract an operator, contributing to careless mistakes.

• Electrically powered mowers should not be used on wet grass. Use an extension cord designed for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your mower.

• No horseplay around a lawn mower. Playing with a mower is asking for serious trouble. This has caused many serious injuries. Use a mower only for the purpose it was designed - to mow lawns.

• Do not use riding mowers on steep slopes. Mower overturns cause serious injury. Drive up and down slopes when operating a riding mower. Mow across the slope when using a walk-behind mower.

• Take care of your mower. The operator-presence switch should stop the mower immediately when you release the control. Clean and safety-check your mower during the mowing season. If you have any doubt about how to adjust or repair your mower or sharpen your mower blade, see an expert. An annual inspection by an experienced service person is a good idea anyway.

• Store fuel safely. Store gasoline outside the house and away from any heat source. Frequently remind yourself and everyone in the family that gasoline is a volatile flammable liquid.

• Use earplugs to preserve your hearing. Inability to hear high-pitched sounds is the first indication of damage. Hearing loss from loud noise is permanent.

Since 1982, manufacturers have made operator-presence safety stops that stop the blades within 3 seconds after controls are released. Brakes may have to be adjusted, but this safety feature should never be bypassed. The trailing toe shield and the discharge chute protection should be operational.

**Editor's note:** The above information was compiled for the Fort Gordon Signal Branch Safety Officer and the following website: [www.uaex.edu/Other\\_Areas/publications/HTML/FSA-1005.asp](http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/HTML/FSA-1005.asp)

## Special thanks to the Fort Gordon Fire Dept

Special to The Signal

On March 31, four members of your organization, Captain Williams, Lieutenant Steerman, Firefighter Bush, and Firefighter Edmiston, responded to a call concerning a cat believed to be trapped within a storm drain of Building 21722. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that it was in fact a kitten, trapped within the attic crawl space of our building. After several attempts to gain access to the precise location of the kitten, it was discovered that the only way to recover the kitten was from within the building. The members of your organization removed portions of the drop ceiling, climbed across a support beam; and using a ladder, balanced precariously over the insulation where the kitten was located.

Immediately upon recovery of the

kitten, it was revealed that the apparent mother of the kitten was also trapped; however, on the other side of the building. The eventual recovery required the removal of a small portion of the wall, several hours of effort, and the eventual extrication of the cat. During this time, the members of your organization displayed the utmost professionalism, persistence, and the all important - good sense of humor.

We realize the primary mission of the Fort Gordon Fire Department is not the rescue of animals. As such, we sincerely appreciate the dedication and sensitivity of our public service professionals, especially during these challenging times. If not for the efforts of all four members of your organization, both cats would have surely perished. All four members conducted their business in the utmost

professional manner, and at no time was the focus of their efforts minimized by the fact they were saving a couple of cats. All four members embody the very essence of what it is to be a firefighter. Although not a burning building, the risk of injury to all four members was nonetheless prevalent, proving that all life is worthy of the risk of saving. We would like to extend our personal gratitude and recognition for each of their efforts. There is a reason why firefighters continue to be heroes and capture our imagination, and we thank you once again for reminding us.

**Editor's note:** The letter of appreciation was addressed to Assistant Chief, Mathew Williams, Fort Gordon Fire Department, and signed by Chief Warrant Officer George E. Comeaux III.

## Feedback

April is Month of the Military Child; what makes military children so special?



"They are special, because they move so much and have to deal with parents that might deploy."

Tiffany Harris

Family member, with Saniah



"They've got to put up with a whole lot of stuff, like a constant change of schools and friends."

Staff Sgt. James Southern  
206th Military Intelligence Battalion; with Nicholas



"Discipline and exposure to military life. They are part of the military family, in fact, they complete it."

Capt. Cedric Felton  
67th Signal Battalion; with Kiarna and Cedrena



"They are our future."

Melissa Doubet  
Family member; with Bronwin and Breydon



"The support they give me makes them special. They provide as much support as my wife."

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wolfe  
Headquarters and Company A,  
442nd Signal Battalion, with Ronald and Kara

## The Signal

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# 212 ways to be a Soldier

## A day in the life of a... ...02L (saxophone/piano player)

**Note:** This is the 28th MOS featured in the series describing all of the 212 Army careers.

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

"I'm doing something I love as a job," Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Flythe, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, said. "There's not many people I know who can say that."

Flythe is an 02L, saxophone/piano player in the United States Army Signal Corps band.

Flythe's musical journey began when he was only 6 years old, when he said he began taking piano lessons. From there he said he continued performing, but also taught music as well. Flythe, who has been in the Army for over 17 and a half years now, said he was a junior high school band director prior to enlisting in the Army.

"I never thought I'd be in the Army," the burly soldier said. "I figured I'd be a college band director or musical director by now. I'm glad I joined the Army for all the opportunities I've been able to have as a musician here. I recently was in Italy as a member of the band, and have traveled throughout Finland, Africa and France with the band. In Greece, I was the noncommissioned officer in charge of a jazz band, and was able to travel extensively with the band. It was the best time of my life."

Flythe said he became interested in the Army band when he saw military bands in the Norfolk,

Va., area where he grew up, perform. He said he was impressed with their sound and professionalism and now can say he exhibits these traits as a performer in their ranks.

Besides his work as NCOIC with the jazz band, Flythe said he has had a host of other incredible experiences as a musician made possible by playing with the Army band.

"I got to play for the ambassador of Tunisia," he said. "She would personally request us, and we would fly from Naples to Tunisia to play for her."

He said that just like any other soldier in the Army, members of the band deploy. "I got to play for refugee camps in Kosovo. Seeing them appreciate the music gives you an unbelievable sense of fulfillment for your job."

Flythe said that though the band is currently busy playing a lot of change-of-commands and other ceremonies, he is afforded the opportunity to play a wide variety of musical styles.

"For example, I've played in a rock band that a recruiter will usually call to play at high schools and things like that," he said. "We'd play two to three performances in one day. There's no MOS for 'roadie,' so we'd also load up our five-ton truck with equipment before and after each performance. We may have come home dragging some days, but the band would be tight. It doesn't seem like work when you're performing for

an audience."

At different ceremonies, such as during Hispanic American Appreciation Month, Flythe said the band will also get to play different styles of music, such as salsa, and that members are also allowed the freedom to play different instruments.

Additionally, Flythe, who's favorite musical group is Earth, Wind and Fire, said there are numerous bands within the Signal Corps Band, such as the ceremonial band, the marching band, the concert band, the jazz ensemble, the jazz combo, the rock band, the Dixie band, the brass quintet, the woodwind quintet and subgroups of all of these bands. He said since there is no MOS for vocalist, he also gets the chance to sing.

Besides playing and singing music, Flythe also serves as one of the Signal Corps Band's backup drum majors. He said he has a signature toss of the mace that he performs as part of his routine. Proving proficiency as a drum major is one of the requirements a band member must complete in order to pass Basic Noncommissioned Officer Candidate School, he said.

He also added that musicians in the band are free to play downtown.

"When I was overseas, I gigged so much downtown, I never had to touch my military paycheck," he said.

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 where 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 the completion of basic training.

The AIT for members of the band is a tri-service school (Army, Navy and Marines attend the school) 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 re-classing 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.

In AIT, students learn musical theory, ear training and a bit of arranging and writing music, as well as other topics.

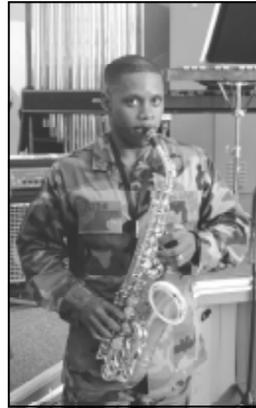
While soldiers in the band are performers, they are, of course, first and foremost, soldiers. Band members must also fulfill all other duties required of soldiers such as PT and weapons qualifications. In addition, the band is also its own unit and must handle all its own administrative and supply issues. In the event of an emergency, the band is also responsible for force protection of the post in the absence of military police, and trains with the military police in such matters.

If a young musician aspires to play with the Army band, Flythe said his advice is simple.

"Practice, practice, practice," he said. He estimates the band members practice about 20 hours a week together in addition to indi-



Photo by Spc. Ryan C. Matson



(Above and left) Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Flythe, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, has traveled around the world playing the saxophone and piano as a member of the Army band. "I'm doing something I love as a job," he said.

vidual practice at night.

When he concludes his time as a musician with the Army, Flythe, who is considering possibly teaching music at a college later in life, said a wide variety of opportunities are open to him to continue his work as a musician in the civil-

ian sector. He said he can teach, give private lessons or continue to perform.

"The Norfolk Symphony gets a lot of retired musicians as performers, or I could teach music if I chose," he said. "The sky's the limit."

## How to prepare children and stay involved in their education during deployment...

Deployment can be a difficult time, for both the adults being deployed and the families they are leaving behind. Children face a host of special issues when one or both of their parents are deployed.

There are ways that parents and educators can work together to ensure that the education process stays on track during a deployment.

Parents know their children better than anyone and can often predict how they may react to particular situations. Schools can provide stability and predictability to children during a period of great change. By working together, children get the benefits of both!

When parents and educators keep each other informed and discuss concerns as they arise, children are *always* better for it. Remember that you both want the same thing — happy, well adjusted, well-educated children.

### I. Predeployment

The predeployment period can last several weeks to just a few hours.

No matter how much time you have to work with, make sure that some of it is reserved solely for your children. Children need to be told where their parent is going (even if only general locations are available), when the parent anticipates returning, and why their parent is leaving.

By discussing the deployment, you are helping your children understand you are not leaving because of something they did and that you will be coming home.

### Parents

Details about the deployment should be shared (in person, if possible) with children. Do not think you are doing

your child a favor by sparing them the details — they want to know where their Mommy and Daddy will be.

If time permits, talk with your child's school administrators and teachers and let them know about the deployment. Details such as the anticipated length of deployment and the anticipated location during deployment can be very helpful pieces of information for your child's teacher. Make sure you have contact information and details about the teacher's schedule.

If a guardian will care for your child during your absence, introduce your child's teacher and guardian to each other before your departure. This will enable them to establish communication and to avoid confusion in the future. Leave remembrances for your children. Photographs, especially those of the family together, can be very powerful.

### Educators

While it is impossible for educators to know about parent deployments without being informed by parents, teachers and administrators can do a great deal to encourage the sharing of such news.

When schools work with military families to ensure continuity in education from the enrollment day, a powerful message is communicated. People are more willing to share when they know that someone will listen.

Constantly communicate the need for information to parents. When they receive new orders, they may be so overwhelmed by the day-to-day details that they may overlook the importance of talking with the school.

Create easy ways for parents to communicate with teachers. An established rela-

tionship will make things much easier when a deployment occurs.

### II. Deployment

There are many things parents and educators can do to keep parents connected to their children's education while away on deployment.

### Parents

The most important thing the deployed parent can do is stay in touch! Ask about homework, tests, and special school activities. This will help you feel connected to family life and help your child stay focused on education.

The caregiver should talk about the deployed parent every day. Questions like, "What do you think Mommy/Daddy is doing right now?," or "Do you think Daddy/Mommy would like this book?" can help ensure that your child continues to feel connected to the deployed parent.

Posting a map of the parent's location can also be helpful.

When known, create a way to illustrate the length of time the deployed parent will be away. While older children can understand the anticipated return date on its own, younger children and children with special needs may need more concrete ways to measure time.

One way to represent time is to create a paper chain, with each day represented by an individual link.

Another idea is to fill a basket with the appropriate number of Hershey's Kisses and Hugs so your child can get a "Hug from Daddy/Mommy" before bed.

Deployed parents should stay as involved in daily education routines as possible.

Phone calls can include help on a math problem or discus-

sion about a school play.

Caregivers should remind children of the deployed parent's involvement. While helping with homework, you may say, "Daddy's good at history, let's ask him next time we talk."

### Educators

Educators play a special role in the lives of children during a parent's deployment.

When everything else is unsettled, school can serve as an oasis of stability for children. Due to the amount of time spent in school, teachers are often the first to notice behavioral or performance changes. Educators can serve as extra eyes and ears for the parent staying at home or the child's guardian. Given the number of additional burdens placed upon caregivers, this backup can be extremely useful.

If your school has a website, suggest that a special section be devoted to parents who have been deployed.

This is the perfect place to post a school calendar, pictures and descriptions of special activities, and homework assignments.

Watch for any changes in a child's behavior or school performance. This can be a scary time for children. Their feelings and concerns may be expressed in a number of ways. Encourage the courage of children.

Use deployments as a teaching opportunity. Geography (showing and discussing locations where people have been deployed), math (discussing the miles to various locations and the time it would take to travel there using different modes of transportation) and social studies (talking about the cultures of countries to which people have been deployed) can be brought to life through dis-

cussion of deployments. Talking about these issues will also help other children in the classroom better understand the situation.

### III. Reunion

The reunion phase actually begins a couple of weeks before the parent's return as the child begins to anticipate the reunion. Children feel a mixture of excitement and fear during this time.

They will be wondering what the reunion itself will be like and questioning: "How has Mommy/Daddy changed?," "Will he recognize me?," "Will she know who I am?"

This phase can actually be the most difficult for children, so support from parents and teachers is especially crucial as the deployment nears its end.

### Parents

Parents should thoroughly discuss the homecoming with their children. Both the deployed parent and the caregiver should raise the subject with children in advance of the reunion so children will have a chance to prepare for the return.

Caregivers, talk with your children about their excitement and concerns. Let them know it's normal to be nervous.

Talk about all the updates children can share with the returning parent and guess what she/he may have to share with you.

Plan special events and activities for the deployed parent's return.

Deployed parents should express their excitement to be with their children again. Tell them what has changed about you. Let them know you can't wait to see and hear about their changes — a new haircut, new friends, their new favorite book

or subject in school.

Reunions, though happy, are stressful for the whole family.

Children might assume that everything will be exactly as it was before. Let them know that it will take time for everyone to adjust and that this is part of the process. Anticipate that it may take several weeks for things to settle into a new routine.

When things have settled down, set aside a special time to talk about school. Look over old homework and tests. Talk about ways to be involved in ongoing and future school projects.

Children will have established a pattern of going to the parent that stayed home for educational support.

### Educators

Teachers should note the date of parents' returns and pay special attention to the affected students during the time surrounding the reunion.

Create a special project that allows students to express their feelings.

Discuss new behavior during this period with the student's caregiver. If possible, talk or write to the deployed parent about concerns you have so they have the information before they return home.

If a student seems especially apprehensive, consider planning a counseling session for the student to talk about his or her concerns or invite the counselor to talk to the class.

**Editor's note:** The above information was retrieved from the following website: [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org) and can also be found at [www.gordon.army.mil/liasvc](http://www.gordon.army.mil/liasvc). Included in the website is more detailed information, drawings and thoughts from military children.

# Spectrum

## Swapping suits and ties for BDUs and MREs



(Front row, from far end) Pat Goodwin, Medical College of Georgia, Scott Dean, Mayor of Harlem, Ga. (behind rifle), Ron Thigpen, Georgia Bank and Trust and chairman, Augusta Chamber of Commerce, and (back row) Nan Shaefer, Sacred Heart Cultural Center, Ann Winter, Dispute Resolution Services, Andy Grosson, director of CSRA Regional Development Center and Charles "Chris" Smith, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation (with M203) receive a safety briefing for their weapons.

**Master Sgt. Pleasant L. Lindsey**  
Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office

A dozen prominent members of the local civilian community fought off sporadic guerilla attacks during a 24-hour period on Fort Gordon.

The attacks, although fake, appeared to be eye openers to the guests of the 93rd Signal Brigade's "Augusta in Army Boots" program, April 2 and 3. The participants included bankers, doctors and the Mayor of Harlem, who got a small taste of life as Signal soldiers.

The guests included: Larry DeMeyers, Central Savannah River Area Alliance; Ron Thigpen, Georgia Bank and Trust and chairman, Augusta Chamber of Commerce; Harlem Mayor Scott Dean; R. Lee Smith, Jr., CSRA Community Foundation, Inc.; Andy Crosson, Director, CSRA Regional Development Center; Dr. Constance J. Pritchard, The Pritchard Group, Inc.; Ann Winter, Dispute Resolution Services; Pat Goodwin, Medical College of Georgia; Nan Shaefer, Sacred Heart Cultural Center; Jan Wiggins, Chairperson, Leadership Augusta; Jay Forrester, vice president, Georgia Bank and Trust; and, Charles "Chris" Smith, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation.

Leadership Augusta routinely asks for members of the local community to participate in the program whenever offered.

"This allows local community leaders to understand what soldiers go through," Col. Daniel M.

Gerstein, commander, 93rd Sig. Bde. (Lightning Warriors), said. "Less than one percent of the community will serve in the military, so it's important to educate our community about what we do."

Gerstein said the Augusta in Army Boots program helps build cooperation between the local community and the military, and maintains a two-way dialog between the two communities.

"Soldiers love to talk about what they do and how they train," Gerstein said. The AIAB participants had plenty of opportunities to learn about the Lightning Warriors.

The AIAB participants were treated to breakfast in the Lightning Warriors Dining Facility where they also received command and safety briefings. Afterward, they were escorted next door to the brigade's central issuing facility where they received a battle dress uniform, a pair of boots, a helmet, load bearing equipment, a sleeping bag and an M16 rifle, much to their surprise.

"No one told us we would be carrying M16s," Thigpen said. "I came to learn about what's going on here. It's exceeded my expectations."

Most of the participants had no prior military experience and had to learn everything from proper uniform wear and how to tie and blouse boots to the proper methods for setting load bearing vests and packing rucksacks.

"I've never done this and I'll never get another opportunity," Shaefer said. "You guys make it look so easy."

The participants were dropped off approximately 200 meters from the entrance to the training area where they received final instructions from Gerstein prior to road marching the rest of the way into the encampment.

Gerstein showed the participants how to perform a tactical road march, distributed blank ammunition to them and explained the proper way to react to an ambush. They got the chance to test what they learned halfway through the march.

A simulation grenade exploded and the Lightning Warriors' Opposing Force, the "McQueen Fedayeen," led by Staff Sgt. Kent M. McQueen III, attacked the AIAB participants. The AIAB's hit the dirt-literally-and fired their weapons for the first time. Afterward, Gerstein explained to them what to look for when ambushed and how to determine where the attack is coming from.

Once in camp, each participant was paired with a first or second lieutenant from the brigade to learn what the junior officers do in the field. Col. Gerstein left all of the brigade's operations on the field open to them, allowing them to see all of the Lightning Warriors' operations up close and explaining how all of the communications systems function.

They also learned how situational training exercises are run, how various support elements function and how tasks are evaluated.

The AIAB participants learned how the Lightning Warriors provide worldwide signal support to the Army through voice (phone), data and videoteleconferencing (VTC) links. They also learned about the brigade's sub units, including Kuwait deployments by the 63rd Signal Battalion, 235th Signal Company, and 67th Sig. Bn.'s support to Homeland Defense.

"The technology is overwhelming," Thigpen said. "The average person doesn't think about dropping into an area, setting up within three hours to communicate anywhere in the world. It makes you feel proud about what our services are doing."

"I'm impressed with the quality of our troops. They routinely perform very well."

The Meals Ready to Eat were a huge hit. The lieutenants showed the AIAB guests how to find the best meals, a matter of opinion to be sure, and how to use the heat tabs to warm the food.

"This is not bad, I'm surprised," Wiggins said. "I'm surprised you can cook it and how much is in there," she added.

The AIAB participants saw other aspects of Army field life as well.

Some received training in hand-to-hand combat, while others learned first-hand the difficulties of performing the low crawl and the high crawl. They also fought off the OPFOR a second time during a late night ambush, but were later surprised with a water balloon skirmish.

Overall, the Lightning Warriors made a profound impression on these major civic leaders. Lee Smith said the experience reinforced how valuable an asset the soldiers of Fort Gordon are to the Army and the United States.

"This was a real eye opener," Smith said. "I wasn't aware of this type of training. This opened a whole new awareness of what's going on. That appreciation needs to be learned and shared."



Photos by Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey

Dr. Constance J. Pritchard, The Pritchard Group, Inc., adjusts the load bearing vest for Nan Shaefer, Sacred Heart Cultural Center, in the 93rd Signal Brigade's Central Issuing Facility April 2. Both Pritchard and Shaefer said they'd never been in the military before and this would be a unique experience for the both of them. Both women were recruited by the Leadership Augusta organization.



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Marvin A. Martin, Company C, 67th Signal Battalion, teaches the Mayor of Harlem, Scott Dean, how to low crawl, a favorite maneuver of soldiers everywhere. (Right) Jan Wiggins, chairperson, Leadership Augusta, tries to convince the net controller on the other end of that phone that she's supposed to be occupying that foxhole with Jay Forrester, vice president, Georgia Bank and Trust, and Dean. They didn't realize that was a live phone line when they jumped in, and the net controller had no idea who they were.



# 73rd winners at the board

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

The 73rd Ordnance Battalion has been red-hot at the boards lately.

In January, three soldiers from the 73rd went to the boards at the 73rd's home regiment, the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and three soldiers came back winners.

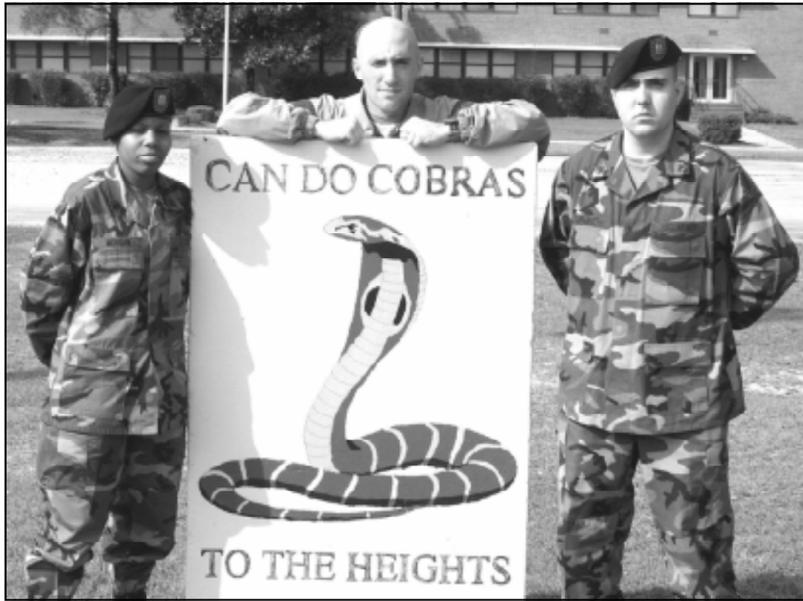
Spc. Yolanda Morgan, Headquarters and Company A, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, won the Soldier of the Quarter board at Redstone, Sgt. Chris W. Langseth, Headquarters and Company A, won the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board at Redstone, and Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Espey took home the Drill Sergeant of the Year honor.

It was a clean sweep by the 73rd Ordnance, and the first time the 73rd has had three winners at the 59th Ordnance Brigade boards, where all the judges are also from.

"It's saying that we can go into a different environment and still do what we need to do," Morgan said of the triple victory.

Now all three winners are studying for the next challenge. Morgan and Langseth will be returning to Redstone in April for the 59th Ordnance Brigade Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year boards.

Meanwhile, since there are fewer drill sergeants than soldiers and NCOs, Espey is already done at Redstone by winning Drill Sergeant of the Year there. His next challenge will be going for the Army Training and Doctrine Command Drill Sergeant of the Year board at Fort Monroe June 16, which has gone to a Fort Leonard Wood drill sergeant the last six years. This is the first year Fort



(Left to right) Spc. Yolanda Morgan won the Soldier of the Quarter board at Red Stone, Drill Sergeant Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Espey took home the Drill Sergeant of the Year honor and Sgt. Chris W. Langseth won the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board at Redstone

Gordon has had two representatives - Espey, and Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year, Drill Sgt. (Staff Sgt.) Ulysses S. Rayford. Espey was not eligible to participate in the Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year competition since he already won the 59th title.

Drill Sergeant Espey was *The Signal's* "Spotlight" soldier of the week for the March 21 issue of *The Signal*, so here's some more information on 73rd's other two board winners:

**Spc. Yolanda Morgan**  
Headquarters and Company A  
**Hometown:** Bay Shore, New York.  
**How long have you been in the Army?** Two years.

**Why did you join the Army?**  
Mostly for help with college money.

**What do you like about the boards, or why do you feel it's important to go to them?**

It's helpful because it prepares me for going to the promotion board, which is coming up soon for me. By going to them and experiencing them myself, I can also help other soldiers with theirs down the road.

**How often do you study for the boards?** I probably average an hour a night of study time.

**Sgt. Chris W. Langseth**  
Headquarters and Company A  
**Hometown:** Tucson, Ariz.  
**How long have you been in**

**the Army?** Just under six years.

**Why did you join the Army?**  
To go out and do some new things, see a different area of the world.

**What do you like about the boards, or why do you feel it's important to go to them?** It's good for self development, it's good for Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report, good for promotions and it shows you're going above and beyond your peers to do a little extra.

**How often do you study for the boards?** It's a case of constant review, every night. After you have the material down, you need to constantly review it, so you won't have to cram all the information in over a few nights.

# Comfort in the midst of chaos

**Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Lyons**  
442nd Signal Battalion

In the course of being a person of faith, it is always essential that we remember where we stand. But in this difficult time in our American society, properly attributed to "war," it now becomes crucial and compelling.

As I was thinking about what to write for *The Signal* (knowing there is about a three week lag between the time I actually pound keys and then see those words printed) I made a decision - I would not talk about the war. Or about violence. Or about POWs. Or even about how people of faith disagree on such weighty concerns.

But I couldn't. There is, I decided, too much crisis and too much chaos in the world already, and I can't seem to keep it from sneaking into my life.

I zap the TV off in disgust, only to zap it back on three minutes later. I check my email on the computer, but find myself looking for the latest on Fox news. I wanted to enjoy the Masters and the NCAA tournament, but even these enjoyable events are obscured by current events.

I want to be a person of faith, I want to be at peace, but where can I find it?

As I write these words, people of the Christian faith are preparing to celebrate the resurrection. God, in promising life through his son, offered peace, goodness, and even new life, in the context of a world characterized by evil.

Likewise, our Jewish brothers and sisters prepare to celebrate Passover, remembering another mighty act of God, in freeing his people from slavery and bondage. People of faith look to God to find comfort, assurance, and peace, when

the world, and its chaos and evil, do not make sense.

Thus, the prophet Isaiah could boldly proclaim: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1-3, KJV)

Being comforted, then, by the word of the Lord, I can now know where I stand.

I stand with a mighty God. Wars and rumors of wars will come to pass, but God abides forever.

There may indeed be chaos in the world or in my life, but my God is larger than whatever I face.

I understand that God has already brought comfort and peace. As surely as my Lord was raised, I now understand that even death cannot stand between myself and my God. My faith, then, is stronger than death. If God promises comfort, or life, or resurrection, or deliverance, this is all I need. Chaos, evil, war, atrocities cannot stand before God, and God's word can be trusted.

I can stand firm, because I know that good will ultimately triumph. Jesus' death on the cross was a day where evil reigned. The Israelite captivity in Babylon (the context of Isaiah's words) and their slavery in Egypt (the origin of Passover) also represented evil in its fullest. Yet God brought and delivered good. With God, evil may prosper for a season, but it will be soundly defeated.

"Comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

## Soar like an Eagle

Special to The Signal

Daniel Riley, a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 15, Martinez, has completed his Eagle Project of improving the Parcours Fitness Trail on post. Riley, the son of retired Sgt. 1st Class Patrick and Tressa Riley of Martinez, began his scouting experience while his father was stationed in Germany where young Riley said he "really got into it." He has been with Troop 15 for 4 of his 11 years as a scout.

Being awarded the distinction of Eagle Scout requires having reached the level of Life Scout plus earning 21 specific merit badges. Riley has pursued his Eagle Scout award for five years.

The par course project designed by Riley was completed with the help scouts from Troop 15 and Girl Scout Troop 80, Martinez, and soldiers like 1st Sgt. Paul Santos, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Signal Brigade, who came out to run a chain saw.



Courtesy photos

(Above) Patrick Riley, leader of Troop 15, and Travis Arnett, Life Scout, help put together replacement exercise equipment for the Parcours Fitness Trail.

(Left) Daniel Riley, Life Scout, refurbished the Parcours Fitness Trail for his Eagle Scout project.



## Easter and Passover

### Christian

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

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

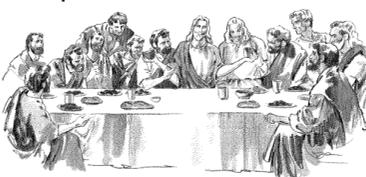
Stations of the Cross **April 16, 6:30 p.m.**  
Penance Service, **April 14, 6:30 p.m.**  
Holy Thursday, **April 17, 7 p.m.**  
Good Friday, **April 18, 7 p.m.**  
Easter Vigil



Mass, **April 19, 7 p.m.**

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, 1 p.m.**, 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**. Call 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

## Battalion town hall

The 442nd Signal Battalion's Family Readiness Group is sponsoring a town hall meeting, **Tuesday** at 5 p.m. in the Signal Theatre.

The event is for all assigned and attached personnel (military and civilian) and their families.

For more information, call 791-2516/2727.

## PWOC productions

"The Living Last Supper" is a production by the Protestant Women of the Chapel **Wednesday and Thursday** in Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414 at 7 p.m.

Come see this live, exciting portrayal of the Last Supper. Experience the immortal words of the twelve apostles as they break bread with Jesus.

"Triumphant Entry March" is an Easter portrayal hosted by The Protestant Women of the Chapel **Sunday** in the Inspector General's Office Bldg. 32503, across from the library at 9:45 a.m. and marching to Bicentennial Chapel.

Join the reenactment of "The Triumphant Entry" of Jesus and his disciples.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Dale Lopez at 791-5182.

## AER car wash

Donations are being accepted for the Army Emergency Relief Fund Raiser Car Wash sponsored by Fort Gordon's chaplains.

The car wash is **Tuesday** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. across the street from Burger King.

In addition Headquarter and Headquarters Detachment 116th Military Intelligence Group will also sponsor an

AER Fund Raiser Car Wash **April 18** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. again across the street from Burger King.

All proceeds are going to Army Emergency Relief Fund.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Derrion Johnson 791-0969.

## 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](http://www.smartstartvets.org) for more information and directions.

## National Library Week

The theme for National Library Week is "@ your library". On **Saturday** soldiers from Company D, 551st Signal Battalion, will come in as guest readers, at Woodworth Library at 11 a.m.

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

## 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.

## Life learning center

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

**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.

## OWC

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

Drop off your donations at the 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 for \$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 706-481-8065 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.

## Teaching opportunities

Wanda Oldfield of the CSRA Regional Education Service Agency and Heather Eakin from Augusta State University will conduct a briefing on the Teacher Alternative Preparation Program, **Thursday**, from 1 - 3 p.m. in Olmstead Hall.

TAPP is designed for individuals who already hold a baccalaureate degree in a field other than Education. The program consists of two phases:

**Phase I:** Introduction to teaching - Offered as an intensive course in the summer and Saturdays in the fall.

**Phase II:** Training period - Includes coursework at Augusta State University, CSRA RESA, and the local school system.

Candidates can fulfill requirements for certification in early childhood, special education, middle grades and secondary. Middle grades and secondary candidates'

content areas include science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, music, art, Spanish and business education.

For more information, call Wanda Oldfield at 706-556-

6225 or e-mail: [wanda@csraresa.org](mailto:wanda@csraresa.org).

For reservations, call the Education Center at 791-2000.

This program is eligible for Troops to Teachers funding.

## Fort Gordon Report

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **April 14** and includes the following stories:

- President Bush Announces the Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom
- IRS Deferments for Deployed Troops
- Air Defense AIT

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 21** 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.

## The School Yard



Dr. Daryl Scurry, director of Exceptional Family Member Program, Southeast Regional Medical Command, will present a workshop on "Children, Terrorism and Crisis" on **April 17** at noon in the Army Community Service Conference Room in Darling Hall.

This program is sponsored by the Family Advocacy EFMP Program. For more information, call Mavis Crowell at 791-3579.

# Community Events

## Employment opportunities

Army Career and Alumni Program and JANUS Research Group, Inc. has a job vacancy for a separating military person for immediate employment as a Senior Systems Architect. The closing date for this position is **April 15**.

The primary requirements are: a bachelor's degree in information systems management, operations research, computer science or a related field of study; excellent analytical, interpersonal, oral and writing communication skills; knowledge of military information and communications systems; knowledge of Army planning, deployment, or combat operations; expert with TRI-TAC and MSE switches required; joint experience a plus; candidate must be able to obtain and maintain a secret clearance and some business travel

For more information contact Lynda Lamarre (JRG) [lynda.lamarre@janusresearch.com](mailto:lynda.lamarre@janusresearch.com).

## CMU

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration.

Registration for classes starting in May (Term IV) will be held through **April 25**. Classes being offered are: BIS 634 - information resources management; MSA 640 - quantitative applications in administrative decision-making; and IPC 665 - communication and negotiation in employee relations.

For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Bldg. 21606, Barnes Avenue.

## National Volunteer Week

The annual observance of National Volunteer Week is scheduled for **April 27 - May 3**.

While all volunteer program managers on the installation have been encouraged to sponsor an event to express their appreciation to their volunteer corps during this week, the Command Group is hosting its Top 100 Volunteer Luncheon on **April 29**. The luncheon will be held in the North Grand Ballroom of the Gordon Club from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Each program will receive complimentary luncheon tickets based on the number of volunteers registered with their program.

Additional tickets are available for \$12. Reservations may be made by calling 791-3579.

## Small business help

If you are one of our soldiers being deployed and have a small business that might need additional help and support while you are away, get in touch with the Small Business Development Center to get assistance with your concerns.

The University of Georgia Small Business Development Center is a resource for small business owners. The SBDC will work with small businesses on issues related to finance, marketing, and management.

Specialized classes offered for April-June are 'Starting Your Own Business', 'Smart Marketing', 'Writing a Business Plan', 'Quickbooks', 'Bookkeeping', 'Franchising' and 'Planning for Retirement.'

The UGA Small Business Development Center is located at 1054 Claussen Road, Suite 301 in Augusta, or call 737-1790 for an appointment or to register for continuing education classes.

## Vehicle registration new hours

To better serve our soldiers, civilians, family members and retirees, the Vehicle Registration Office in Darling Hall, Room 151, 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 follows: 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.

For more information, call 791-3132.

## Spring cleanup month

April has been declared the Fort Gordon's Environmental Cleanup Month. This is the time designated for all area and facility supervisors to ensure a concerted effort is made to cleanup, fix up and beautify their areas of responsibility that are not normally done on a daily basis.

The day dedicated for cleanup of housing areas will be **April 25** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

## Army Community Service

Surviving Military Separation, Support Group, meets the **first Wednesday** of each month, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Darling Hall, Suite 367.

Surviving Military Separation is a support group for spouses awaiting spouses during a deployment or unaccompanied tour. This is an opportu-



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Brock

## Commanding re-enlistment

The Commanding General Fort Gordon and the Army Signal Center, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks takes a moment to re-enlist Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Aikens on March 31. Aikens, who is Hicks' enlisted aide, signed on indefinitely and said she was glad to have the opportunity for the general to administer the "Oath of Re-enlistment."

nity for spouses to share ideas and strategies on how to cope with stress and anxiety associated with the service member's absence. The goal is to encourage networking and the identification of common needs and resources.

For more information, call 791-3579.

## Family Readiness Group bowling

Gordon Lanes Bowling Center is offering monthly "Bowling for deployed families" at an incredible price of \$1.25 per game and free shoes.

The first event will take place on **April 24**, at 7 p.m. and thereafter on the fourth Thursday of every month. For additional information, call 791-3579.

## Technology expo

Fort Gordon will host a Technology Expo for local Central Savannah River Area high school students **April 24-25**.

Fort Gordon's 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, 93d Signal Brigade, and Leader College of Information Technology will work with the Augusta Recruiting Company to highlight the Army's high tech career opportunities.

Any JROTC military science instructor or others interested in participating, should contact Capt. Gina Mitcham, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, at 791-1003.

## Graduation exercises

Military personnel who completed college during the

last 8 months and did not have the opportunity to participate in college graduation exercises should contact the Education and Career Development Division, Directorate of Human Resources. There will be graduation exercises on **June 11** in Alexander Hall at 2 p.m.

This action is directed at military students who had a permanent change of station and missed, or will miss, graduation exercises at other installations (i.e., Central Texas College, University of Maryland, University of Oklahoma, etc).

Requests must be received at the ECDD no later than **April 25**.

For more information, call Gloria McIntyre, 791-0178.

# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

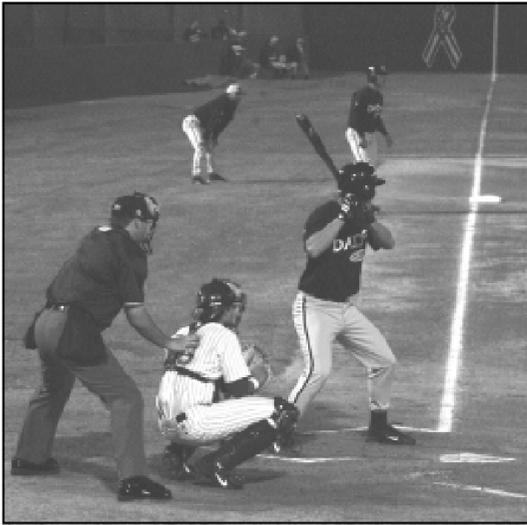
For more information, call 791-6780.

### Send some love

The following quality of life items are needed on a continuing basis to help bring a touch of home to deployed U.S. Forces:

- 1) Individually wrapped hard candy and gum,
- 2) Microwave popcorn,
- 3) Peanuts, pretzels and crackers,
- 4) Toiletry items (shaving cream, razors, individually wrapped tooth brushes, toothpaste, shower soap and travel size shampoo/conditioner)
- 5) Hand sanitizer, hand lotion,
- 6) Wet wipes,
- 7) Ziploc storage bags,
- 8) Sunscreen,
- 9) Wrap-around sunglasses (protects eyes from sun and blowing sand),
- 10) Batteries (assorted sizes),
- 11) Blank greeting cards (birthday, anniversary, get well, miss you, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.)
- 12) Note pads and phone cards,
- 13) Videos, DVDs, music CD's and cassettes (pack separately),
- 14) Small board games such as chess, checkers, dominoes, parcheesi, Yahtzee!, Uno, cribbage, jigsaw puzzle and playing cards.
- 15) Recent paperback books, puzzle books and comic books.

As a reminder, American Red Cross offices are responsible for helping to ensure the safety and security of deployed military personnel. This can be done by sending items from Red Cross office to Red Cross office.



Action from the first inning of the Augusta Greenjackets home opener April 3 against the Hickory (S.C.) Crawdads.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks celebrates after hurling a perfect strike as the commemorative first pitch of the Augusta Greenjackets 2003 Single A-level baseball season.



Members of the Augusta Greenjackets watch as the Fort Gordon Color Guard march past with the colors before the start of the season opener April 3.



A panoramic view of the field from the stands in Lake Olmstead Stadium. The Greenjackets, a minor league affiliate of the Red Sox, lost the game 5-4.



A skydiver parachutes onto the field during pre-game festivities.

# A perfect stee-rike!

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Sports editor

Spring, and pollen, for that matter, are in the air. And so, now, is baseball.

On April 3, at approximately 6:55 p.m. at Lake Olmstead Stadium, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, threw out the first pitch to commemorate the beginning of the 2003 Augusta Greenjackets' season. It was a perfect strike.

"It was a little nerve-racking," Hicks admitted. "I didn't want to blow it.

They'd think, she's a girl, she can't throw it. But I can throw 60-feet, three inches! The last thing they said to me before I threw it was, just don't bounce it in!"

And bounce it she did not. Hicks delivered a knee-high pitch with a little bit of pop, which Augusta Greenjackets starting catcher framed for the crowd without moving his mitt.

"I'd been practicing," Hicks admitted.

Following Hicks' pitch, Staff Sgt. David Eelman, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, took the mike

and sang a crowd-pleasing rendition of the national anthem behind home plate.

"Staff Sgt. Eelman sang probably the prettiest accapella rendition of the national anthem I've heard," Hicks said.

With calm, warm temperatures and a packed house with 4,322 fans on hand to see the action, it was the perfect night for baseball. Augusta, a minor-league affiliate of the Red Sox organization competing in the South Atlantic (or "Sally") League, lost a hard-fought game to the division-rival Hickory Crawdads, 5-4.

The team, which is managed by last year's Midwestern League (Single A) Manager of the Year Russ Morman, has produced such major league stars as Moises Alou, Jose Guillen, Jason Kendall, Orlando Merced, Aramis Ramirez and Tim Wakefield, and this year features the Red Sox top prospect, 19-year-old short stop Hanley Ramirez.

Throwing out the first pitch was symbolic in many ways, Hicks said. She said it showed the post's fellowship with the community.

"One of our top three priorities is to make sure the community knows that we want to be a good neighbor,

and that we want to be a part of the community," she said. "It's very important to get out to the local venues and show our support for the community, because they support us very, very well."

It also displayed another avenue of recreation open to the post's soldiers, Hicks said.

"We want soldiers to feel they're a part of the town, and all the things going on in Augusta," she said. "If some of them become enamored with the local baseball team, I think that'd be great."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

(Above left) U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks sinks a putt during the Seventh Annual Fisher House golf tournament April 4. The tournament raised about \$2,500 for the Fisher House charity. (Above right) Hicks is congratulated with a "high five" by Col. Jack Hook, Training and Doctrine Command System manager for Tactical Radios. Hicks' team had a duel on the links with Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Eisenhower Army Medical Center commander and his team.

## Taking it to the house

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

The Seventh Annual Fisher House golf tournament was held April 4 at Gordon Lakes Golf Course, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

A total of 93 participants, making up 24 teams, took advantage of a beautiful spring day in Georgia to hit the links.

Tournament chairperson Rosemary Baunchalk said approximately \$2,500, including \$600 in mulligans, was raised for the Fisher House charity, which provides a comfortable temporary living environment to military families and retirees in need.

An added highlight of the tournament was the duel between the golf teams of the two generals on post, in which the loser received the much-maligned "CG vs CG Second Place Trophy," a custom-made trophy of a deformed golf club. Golfing for the team of U.S. Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks was Col. Jeffrey Foley, chief of staff, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Col. Michael Guthrie, deputy commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon and Col. Jack Hook, Training and Doctrine Command System Manager for Tactical Radios.

Squaring off against Hicks' team was the team of Eisenhower Army Medical Center Commander, Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, featuring his aide, Lt. Jake Bustos, EAMC, Col. Jim Baunchalk, EAMC, former All-Navy golfer Mara Bushee.

Hicks' team prevailed in the contest, forcing Schoomaker's squad to bring home the broken club.

Foley, who designed the Heisman of defeat, said it will be presented to the loser of every tournament the two generals compete in.

The course was a treasure chest of prizes. A "Hole in One" prize on Hole Eight offered a Ford Explorer to any contestant who scored a hole-in-one for the hole (no one was able to do it in this tournament), as well as prizes for the longest drive of the day, shots closest to the pin on three holes, and prizes for the top three finishing teams.

A consolation prize of two buckets of balls and a free team golf lesson was given to the last place team by the Gordon Lakes Pro Shop.

But, as participants in the tournament said, the biggest reward was helping a worthwhile cause.

## 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.

**April 11 - 13**  
**Friday - Deliverance from evil (R)**  
**Saturday - Gods and generals (PG-13)**  
**Late show - No movie offered**  
**Sunday - Jungle Book II (G)**

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