



Earth Day

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The Signal



Friday, May 2, 2003

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News UPDATE

May Day Picnic

The May Day Picnic will be held **today** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Freedom Park and Barton Field.

The picnic is open to all military, civilians, contractors and family members of the Fort Gordon community. There will be musical entertainment by the band "Heavy Dose" and a DJ.

Food can be obtained from the Directorate of Community Activities-sponsored vendors. Sports equipment will be available for "pick-up" games in soccer, flag football, volleyball and frisbee.

DCA will establish an equipment sign-out tent. The Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization points of contact for the May Day Picnic are Master Sgt. John Boutte, 791-9841 and Staff Sgt. Gary McKnight, 791-9533.

Flea market

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

For more information, call 706-481-8065 and leave a message.

Days of Remembrance

Days of Remembrance command program is **Monday** at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The guest speaker is Charlene Schiff. The United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon will recognize and honor the fallen and surviving members of the Jewish Holocaust.

There will also be a Days of Remembrance workshop **Tuesday**, from noon until 1 p.m. also in Alexander Hall. Schiff will be telling her story and answering questions. The workshop is open to the public, but is specifically addressing the Family Readiness Groups.

For more information, call 791-2014.

Job fair

The Army Career and Alumni Program along with the Georgia Department of Labor will hold a job fair **May 6**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Reserve Center, Building 14401, at 15th Street and Lane Avenue.

For more information, call 791-2009.

Change of Command Ceremony

Lt. Col. Kari L. Everett will relinquish command of the 67th Signal Battalion to Lt. Col. Paul W. LaDue.

The ceremony begins at 9 a.m. **May 20** on Barton Field. RSVP by **May 15**.

For more information, call Arlene Warren at 791-6963/6956.



Lt. Gen. Douglas D. Buchholz, former Fort Gordon commander, "will be remembered as a leading light in the enhancement of the relationship between the installation and the Central Savannah River Area, and his tireless work for Fort Discovery and the National Science Center," said James Hudgins, Public Affairs officer.



Archive photos

Fort Gordon remembers

James Hudgins
Public Affairs Office

With the recent passing of retired Lt. Gen. Douglas D. Buchholz, Fort Gordon, the Signal Regiment and the U.S. Army lost an enlightened leader, visionary, scholar and dedicated advocate. As the Army's 26th Chief of Signal and, in his final assignment as the Joint Staff's J-6, he left a legacy of distinguished service, commitment to duty and an unwavering concern for fellow soldiers and their families.

After more than thirty years of uniformed service, Buchholz had returned to Augusta to reside with his wife, Muriel, and devoted the same

energy and diligence that he displayed as an officer and soldier to issues and causes of his adopted home as a community leader, volunteer and highly-respected consultant.

He will be remembered as a leading light in the enhancement of the relationship between the installation and the Central Savannah River Area, and his tireless work for Fort Discovery and the National Science Center.

During his Army career, Buchholz served two tours in Germany as well as a tour in Vietnam, duty which placed him in the special ranks of those veterans who served during combat.

In 1993, he was assigned to the position of deputy com-

manding general of the Signal Center and Fort Gordon. The next year, and for the following two years, he was Chief of Signal and commanding general.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel on post. Besides his wife, Buchholz is survived by his son, Russell, who resides in San Francisco. His burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. His family asked that memorials be made to Fort Discovery and/or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

For those of us who had the privilege and pleasure of working for Buchholz, he will be truly missed.

Georgia's newest senator visits post

James Hudgins
Public Affairs Office

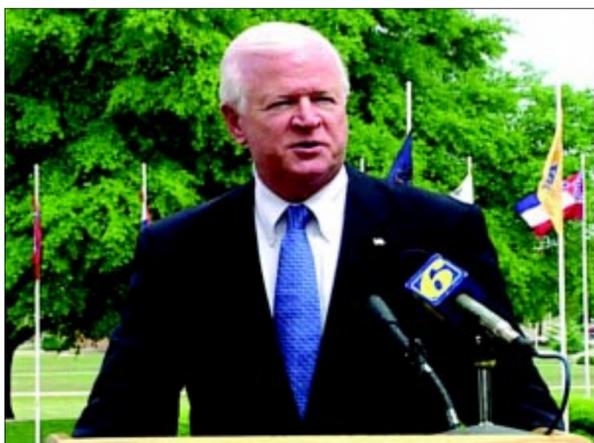
Senator Saxby Chambliss visited Fort Gordon as part of a daylong, whirlwind tour of Georgia's three major Army installations. Described as a continuing effort to keep abreast of issues and activities, Chambliss spent the afternoon of April 24,

touring the post and meeting with local media. He also met with, and was accompanied on post by Commanding General and Chief of Signal, Brigadier General Jan Hicks.

Senator Chambliss acknowledged to the media his appreciation of local concerns about the future of Fort Gordon. He stated that he recognized the vital impor-

ance of its missions and its unique capabilities as a joint center for training, communications, military intelligence and medical support.

At the conclusion of his visit, Chambliss, a member of the Senate's Military Affairs Committee, indicated that he planned on a longer, more comprehensive visit of Fort Gordon in the very near future.



Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss visited post April 24 to view the installation. Chambliss, a member of the Military Affairs Committee, is visiting all of the state's 13 military installations, and plans to return to Fort Gordon for a more extensive tour in the future.

Graphic by Bae Brown

Town hall meeting

The Fort Gordon Town Hall Meeting will be **May 7** from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre, Building 32100, 3rd Avenue.

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general of the U.S. Army Signal Center; Brig. Gen. Eric Schoemaker, commanding general, Southeastern Regional Medical Command, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, and TRICARE Regions 3 and 15 and Col. Robert F. Henderson, garrison commander, Fort Gordon, will be the panel members for the evening.

Service members, family members and Department of the Army civilian employees are encouraged to attend.

Topics to discuss will include events from the past year and upcoming projects.

AUSA/Sergeant Audie Murphy Club present awards to JROTC programs

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army and Sergeant Audie Murphy Club are reaching out to the area's top Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps members.

Approximately 30 high schoolers in the JROTC program will be awarded with AUSA JROTC medals for their excellent achievements in the JROTC program, Sgt. 1st Class Lynwood Sumner, an instructor with the MILSTAR program and Vice President for Awards for the Fort Gordon chapter of AUSA, said.

The first two medals were presented to two Air Force JROTC program cadets at Burke County High School in Waynesboro, Keturah Spence and Courtney M. Jenkins, Sumner said. He said the medals were presented during an awards ceremony March 28 by himself and Fort Gordon Audie Murphy Club President Sgt. 1st Class Sheldon Moore. The presentations will continue at high school awards ceremonies until the end of May, Sumner said.

"AUSA recognizes that today's young people are faced with many distractions, and that the JROTC program helps kids stay focused, learn leadership skills, the importance of being good citizens and striving for academic excellence," he said. "All JROTC program cadets are being recognized by numerous

patriotic and veteran organizations, and that helps the cadets gain a sense of teamwork and pride in their accomplishments."

Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and AUSA chapter officers will present medals to top cadets within the greater Augusta area, Sumner said. He said this will also include three high schools in South Carolina.

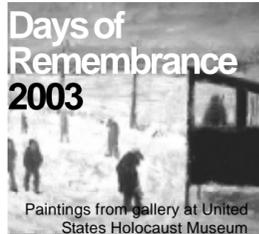
The recipients have been recommended by senior military officials in their school's JROTC program, Sumner said. They receive a medal as well as a company certificate, he said.

"By involving the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in the presentation process, AUSA is showing its commitment to Fort Gordon and community service, and it is a wonderful opportunity for the two organizations to work hand-in-hand," Sumner said.

Logistical support in preparing the awards and making the presentations possible was provided by Fort Gordon AUSA Chapter President Bob Damen and AUSA member Brenda Howard, both of the Raytheon company, Sumner said.

The JROTC program, which is open to youngsters in 9th through 12th grades, began in 1916 when Congress passed the National Defense Act. Its mission is to "motivate young people to be better citizens."

See AUSA, Page 2



Paintings from gallery at United States Holocaust Museum

Fort Gordon joins other military installations around the world in remembering the victims and survivors of the Jewish Holocaust. A command program has been scheduled for May 5, 1:30 p.m., in Alexander Hall. Charlene Schiff will be our guest speaker. Schiff was taken to a Nazi concentration camp as a child, surviving to tell her story to others, so that the atrocities of the past will never be repeated. Schiff has been featured in several documentaries, newspaper articles, and television interviews. Her goal is to fight the four evil I's: Ignorance, Injustice, Intolerance, and Indifference.

Less than sixty years ago, six million Jews were murdered in Nazi concentration camps as part of a planned program of extermination. This was primarily based on their religious beliefs.

More than six million men, women, and children were killed because of prejudice and bigotry.

Today, our Army, along with our allies, is engaged in combat against another who practices the same atrocities on those who dare to believe differently, to think differently, and to be different.

I believe former President Ronald Reagan was correct when he said, "American troops who liberated concentration camps saw things no human should ever see. But, if we in America remain strong, if we hold fast and true to the conviction that, yes, there are things worth fighting for, there are things worth dying for, we will heed the call if we must. Humans will never suffer so, nor will others be called upon to save them from suffering." Our fellow soldiers fight today so that the suffering of the past will not continue and that freedom and justice will be core values around the world.

Days of Remembrance is an annual observance which incorporates Ha 'Shoah, which is the International Day of Remembrance. The 2003 observance was held during the week of April 13-19. Our program on May 5 is designed to pay homage to the strength, resistance, and vigilance of a people. I encourage all leaders to allow for maximum participation at this event.

Janet A. Hicks
Brigadier General,
USA
Commanding



United States Holocaust Museum

AUSA

From Page 1

Usually retired military officers and noncommissioned officers from the five branches of the Armed Forces head the programs, Sumner said.

The cadets get a background in basic military cus-

Kids in the halls

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Public Affairs Office

Many high school students see graduation as the day of release.

A release from the burdensome task of getting up at about 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, and going to school.

"The students have this 'gotta get through high school' mentality," said Ronald Freeman, Silver Bluff High Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training instructor. "But high school isn't the end, that's when life really begins."

More than 120 Central Savannah River Area students visited the Fort Gordon Technological Exposition on April 24.

"Last year they offered this opportunity for students to see the Army," said Freeman. "It was great because you could see the students' eyes widen when they saw all of the opportunities there were in the military."

"The students' impression of the military is boot camp," he said. "But when they came here they learned about data links and satellite technology."

The students received a wel-

come brief from Col. Allen Woodhouse, 15th Signal Brigade, brigade commander, where he discussed the Signal Corps' mission and detailed some of the benefits of working and joining the military.

Then the students were divided into four groups.

Each group rotated through brief tutorials at Hazen Hall for Basic Electronic Training, Avionic Equipment Repair and Computer Automation Systems repair; Dixon Hall for A+ Hardware Troubleshooting and Network Troubleshooting; Vincent Hall for the Introductory to Satellite Communications course; and the Willard Park training site for the 93rd Signal Brigade's Data-Exercise where the students were able to see the classroom training being implemented.

"Before I came here today my impression of the Army was that it was the lowest ranking of all of the branches," said Ashley Fletcher, 18, Silver Bluff High School, senior.

"I learned more about the Army today," she said. "It was pretty neat intelligent stuff, like all this satellite equipment."

The students who ate lunch at the 93rd Sig. Bde. Lightning

Warrior Cafe experienced, first hand, how Army chow has evolved.

We appreciate the assistance that the 93rd Sig. Bde. has given us, said Capt. Brian Tidwell, Augusta Recruiting Unit, company commander. We want to show them (students) that the Army does more than slug through the mud, clearing minefields.

We want to show them that we really have technical expertise and some of the best technology in the field, he said.

The 93rd Sig. Bde soldiers said they enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Augusta Army recruiters.

"We're giving the students the chance to see the same top-of-the-line equipment that you would only see on the Army recruiters' television commercial," said Maj. Sonnie Deyampert, 93rd Sig. Bde., S3 Training Officer and Brigade Chemical Officer. "This equipment is the cutting edge of communications technology. Once they get a taste of it they may want to come into the Army and work with it."

"Some of the students were a bit shy, but they asked some very important questions, said Spc. Eric Swords, 235th Sig-

nal Company, satellite communication terminal operator maintainer. "What is the Army's pay like? What kind of jobs could you get when you got out? And what military, off-duty life was like?"

"I basically told them that with certain jobs in the military, the longer the schools are the better off you are when you get out," he said. "So far all of my schools transfer to about a two-year degree."

The recruiters are here to see these students succeed in life, said Freeman. He recalled paying his way

through college by working at McDonalds when burgers were about 15 cents.

He decided he wanted something different, so he joined the Navy.

"These students are very good and very capable. We just want to see them succeed in life," he said. "We want to show them that there are opportunities after high school other than a standard minimum wage job."

On the eve of their release, the students may now see the world open up to them. As the future of America, they may even join the military like so many students before them.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Maj. Steve Winterfeld, 93rd Sig. Bde., gives the students a brief overview of the Willard Park set up.

Grants, internships grouped on new Web site

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Information on more than \$570 million in internships, scholarships and grants can be found at a federal government Web site, thanks to an Army major.

Maj. Barry Williams, currently serving as a White House Fellow, created the "e-scholar" site to give people a wealth of information without having to spin their wheels with numerous search engines.

Williams, a former brigade operations officer in South Korea, began his stint as a White House Fellow in September. He was selected after competing against hundreds of other applicants and undergoing numerous interviews. To date e-scholar has been his greatest contribution to the program, he said.

"This Web site is for America - students, parents, career professionals and those with disabilities," Williams said. "From age 16 on up, from all walks of life, we want to give people a taste of what the federal government has to offer."

E-scholar, which can be found at <http://www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.htm>, went online March 28 and gets about 12,000 hits a day. Individuals

can search for grants, internships, jobs and volunteer service by indicating what type of positions they're looking for, salary expectations and geographic preferences.

Other tools located at the site include "Create a Profile" and "Create a Resume." By entering a profile, individuals can be notified if what they are looking for is posted at a future date. Also, individuals can send their resumes out electronically.

This Web site is going to build on the partnership that the federal government is trying to establish with the community, Williams said. For instance, career professionals such as teachers can participate in internships and work with renowned scientists, lawyers or doctors who are working on current projects, he said. Then they can take that experience back to the classroom or laboratory, he added.

Williams, 36, pledges that the site will only improve. His year-long tour as a White House Fellow will be up in six months, but the federal Office of Personnel Management will continue to maintain the site.

"It launched with \$400 million in opportunities, and in three weeks we've added \$170 million more. So I'm sure that there are other programs out there that



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Maj. Barry Williams, currently serving as a White House Fellow, created the "e-scholar" site to give people a wealth of information without having to spin their wheels with numerous search engines.

we haven't added to the site," Williams said. "We're also asking for input from our users to help us make the site better."

Long hours were put into creating the site, Williams said, to launch it before the summer. But according to the White House Fellow's application, work assignments for fellows are chal-

lenging, often require long hours and at times unglamorous duties.

With six months left as a fellow, Williams said he's looking for more challenging assignments during his current tour.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think

about the Army and soldiers, but it's comforting knowing that I'm able to serve my nation in a different manner," said Williams, a 13-year veteran. "I don't know where my next assignment will be, but I'm looking forward to using the leadership management tools that I've gained at OPM in the military."

SMA visits Afghanistan forward bases

Master Sgt. Pam Smith
Army News Service

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley visited soldiers from Coalition Task Force 82 and special operations soldiers at forward operating bases in Afghanistan April 22 to thank them for their hard work and to address any concerns the soldiers had.

In Asadabad, SMA Tilley visited the medical center, fired off mortar rounds and drove an old Soviet tank.

After a few quick instructions, Tilley dropped a shell into the firing tube and managed a direct hit on a target on a mountain surrounding the Asadabad base camp.

Tilley grimaced as he watched CTF82 medics dress burns and wounds on young children's bodies. He thanked the medics for the critical job they perform and encouraged them to stay motivated.

Tilley then joined Sgt. 1st Class Touw and Staff Sgt.

Lester Kinney, who gave him a brief refresher on controlling the Soviet tank. Tilley, whose military occupational specialty is armor, quickly started the tank and drove it around the compound.

At the Kabul Military Training Center, he received operational briefs on the progress of establishing the Afghan National Army. Tilley discussed education, pay, retirement and the availability of military schools with the more than 100 soldiers who attended a luncheon at the center's newest dining facility.

"I'm proud of each and every one of you," Tilley said. "We are a family and we work with and care about each other."

Tilley said that that commitment is what drives him to petition Congress every year to ensure better pay, health care and benefits for military personnel. "I am working to ensure you are taken care of and your families are taken care of."

Finally, in Gardez, Tilley was



Photo courtesy of 82nd Airborne

SMA Jack Tilley receives instructions on driving a Soviet tank in Asadabad, Afghanistan, from Sgt. 1st Class Touw, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

briefed on the military's reconstruction goals and accomplishments. Tilley was most impressed with the number of schools the coalition had a hand in opening. Again he visited with the soldiers and emphasized the importance of their mission.

"You stand on the forefront of freedom," Tilley said. "Americans go to bed every night and wake up each morning under the veil of freedom you provide."

Editor's note: Master Sgt. Pam Smith is the public affairs NCOIC of CTF 82.

Be a blood donor



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Lynwood Sumner, (left) vice president for awards of the Fort Gordon chapter of the AUSA and Sgt. 1st Class Sheldon Moore (right), president of the post's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, present JROTC students Keturah Spence (second from left) and Courtney Jenkins (second from right) with medallions recognizing their achievements in the JROTC program.

Protecting healthcare data Tricare complying with stricter Rules on healthcare information

Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Tricare, like all other healthcare providers nationwide, is working under stricter rules when it comes to protecting patients' rights and the privacy of their health information.

And like its civilian counterparts, the Tricare Management Activity implemented the privacy portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by the April 14 compliance deadline.

"Privacy of health information is extremely important to beneficiaries and the Tricare activity," said Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, Tricare's HIPAA privacy officer. "The message we're trying to convey is that we're committed to the protection of the privacy of health information. We'll do everything we can to maintain its confidentiality and security."

The act, which Congress passed in 1996 and became Public Law 104-191, was designed to "combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve portability of health insurance coverage, and simplify administration of healthcare," according to a Tricare brochure issued in January.

The measure affects health plans such as Tricare, companies that perform electronic billing on behalf of military treatment facilities, physicians, dental clinics, pharmacies and business associates such as managed-care sup-

port contractors.

Laws that were already on the books, such as the Privacy Act, have always protected patients' medical information, Jenkins noted. "But what HIPAA does is inform individuals of what their rights are and Tricare's responsibilities to protect health information, which hasn't been done in the past."

"The Notice of Privacy Practices describes patients' rights under HIPAA clearly and has been provided to beneficiaries in plain language so they can easily understand these rights," Jenkins said. "The act also requires us to have a contact to help patients manage their health information and those rights."

Complying with the new rules meant assigning treatment facility HIPAA privacy officers to assist patients in managing their health information and training nearly 130,000 healthcare professionals and workers worldwide. Implementing HIPAA also includes incorporating policies and procedures at treatment facilities to protect information.



The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act makes Tricare accountable to patients for the privacy of their health information, according to Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, Tricare's HIPAA privacy officer.

It also included identifying and training more than 500 military treatment facility privacy officers worldwide, developing marketing and training materials and mailing the Notice of Privacy Practices to Tricare sponsor households.

Tricare mailed more than 5 million notices to beneficiaries' homes between December 2002 and March 2003. The notices are also available at military treatment facilities.

"About 95 percent of the people who received the notice have understood it,"

Jenkins noted. But, he said, "we have received some further questions from people who don't understand why we've done that. We've screened and responded to those letters to help further explain the information." In addition, the privacy officers can "answer questions from beneficiaries."

Besides explaining the patients' rights under HIPAA and Tricare's responsibilities, the notice tells beneficiaries how to file a complaint if they feel their health information has been inappropriately used. Jenkins said patients have the right to read their medical records, have a copy made, request amendments or request restrictions of usages and disclosures of their health information.

"HIPAA makes us accountable to them for our management of their health information," he emphasized.

However, he pointed out that Tricare and military treatment facilities are allowed to use health information for treatment, payment and healthcare operation activities.

"But there are other uses and disclosures of information that we must document," he said. "Patients can request an accounting of disclosures so they'll know exactly how their health information was used. This gives the individual control over their health information. We're obliged by the rule to do that for them."

Patients have the right to request an accounting of dis-

closures for up to six years, Jenkins noted.

"If the patient thinks there is erroneous information in his or her record, they may make a request to the treatment facility where the records are held for review of the information," Jenkins said.

But under some circumstances, information could be withheld from patients if healthcare professionals determine that releasing it would be harmful to them. For example, Jenkins said, "if some patients know they have a catastrophic disease, it may adversely affect how their body reacts to treatment." He said the same thing applies to other patients who may react adversely if they find out their treatment is going to take a year as opposed to a month.

"These are good medical practice guidelines that allow us to withhold information from a patient where knowledge of the course of treatment or prognosis might cause them to think adversely," Jenkins said.

Not only is the patient's privacy protected in treatment facilities, it's also protected in the patient's home. For instance, Jenkins said, a patient might not want to share information left on his or her home answering machine about a follow-up appointment notice. In such a case, the patient could request a confidential communication at an alternative location.

Jenkins said HIPAA privacy applies to individually identifiable health information — paper, electronic or oral communications. This includes information that identifies the patient and relates to his or her past, present or future health condition.

But he noted that Tricare and military treatment facilities are required to give health information about any individual to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in an investigation of a complaint.

"We're permitted to use and disclose health information for many reasons, such as to assist public health officials in doing disease surveillance in a community," he said. "We can also share military health information on active duty people to help commanders determine an active duty member's ability to perform a particular element of a mission, or to determine their fitness for duty."

"We can also use health information to inform appropriate authorities, law enforcement (officials) and others of victims of spousal or child abuse," Jenkins noted.

Patients who have complaints about their privacy being compromised should contact the military treatment facility privacy officers or the Tricare privacy officer.

They can also go directly to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights Web site and follow the complaint and inquiry process at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>.

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Slip sliding away ... raising money for AER

On a windy, rain swept morning April 25, 115 runners and walkers gathered at Barton Field to take part in the 206th Military Intelligence Battalion's third annual run and walk for Army Emergency Relief.

With eleven different units on Fort Gordon participating, this year's AER Run generated 181 individual donations for a record contribution of \$1,725 — all of which went directly to the post's AER campaign.

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Chavez, the 206th MI Bn.'s top enlisted soldier remarked, "We're extremely grateful to all the runners and for the super support provided by so many post units."

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general, United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, fired the starter's pistol and watched runners dash from the starting line, sloshing their way down the track.

While the event was designed to raise money for AER, it was also an opportunity for some of Fort Gordon's top runners to showcase their talents. The top male runner, Spc.

Jonathan Siegler (Company A, 206th MI Bn.), was not deterred by the wet conditions, posting an impressive 17:10 over the 5 kilometer course.

Top female honors went to Esperonza Wakely (Naval Security Group Activity), who finished the course in 21:20, well over four minutes ahead of the second-place finisher.

Elements within the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center swept the team competitions.

The Naval Security Group Activity's male team took first place (Larell Atkins, Ian Cunningham, William Diestelkamp, Joshua Smith and Louis Wilson). The GRSOC J3's female team (Jen Buckner, Heidi Carley, Maria Cruz, Tiffany Howard and Marian Phillips) took first place as well.

A team from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 206th MI Bn. (Elston Steele, Samuel Zabrdoc, Jacob Williams, Merari Ruperto, and Larry Thomas) edged out the other competitors in the mixed team category.

The 206th MI Bn. has hosted an annual spring AER run to raise money for the post's campaign since



(Left) Spc. Wayne Landis, Company A, 206th MI Bn. opted to road march the event to help raise money for the Army Emergency Relief Campaign. Despite wet and muddy conditions, the event raised over \$1,700.

(Right) Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general of U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, starts the 115 participants for the 206th MI Bn. AER Run.



2001.

Lt. Col. Paul Nakasone, 206th MI Bn. commander noted, "Last year, for every dollar our soldiers contributed, AER paid back five dollars in assistance throughout the year — a better return on our money than any mutual fund I've seen recently. Our soldiers are committed to helping this great organization."

This year's event was made possible by the excellent work of the run's two

action officers — Capt. John Sloan and 1st Lt. Nick Mudd — and by the generosity of a number of businesses in the Fort Gordon, Evans and Augusta area. The Fort Gordon Commissary donated \$275 in food and drinks; TREXCO donated 100 shirts; AAFES donated coupon books; and Tony Romas, Golden Corral, Salsa's, Logan's Road House, Bed Bath and Beyond, First Command, Runners World and Old Navy each donated items that were

used to recognize team and individual award winners.

Fort Gordon's AER Office not only provides assistance for Army personnel, it also provides emergency assistance to members of other services by working through Navy Relief, Air Force Aid Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Office and the local American Red Cross Chapter.

The Army-wide annual AER fund campaign is con-

ducted March 1 through May 15.

You, too, can contribute to your local AER fund campaign or send your contribution to AER National Headquarters. All contributions are tax deductible. For more information contact your local AER officer or visit <http://www.aerhq.org>.

Editor's note: The above article was submitted by the 206th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Korea – 50 years ago this week

Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

May 1-5

Allied aircrews stage a large raid on Pyongyang May 1.

The Air Force announces May 1 that during April allied airmen had shot down at least 26 MiG-15s in dogfights against two allied losses.

Allied planes attack enemy supply centers near the front May 2 and 4, and supply centers in northeastern North Korea May 5.

British and Canadian troops northeast of Panmunjom repel attacks by 1,000 Chinese May 3.

An unattributed report May 3 says that Lt. Gen. Glenn O. Barcus, 49, Fifth Air Force commander, has flown several combat missions in an F-86. It's said that he taunted communist fliers over his radio.

May 1-4

The U.N. Command charges the Reds May 1 with not returning 375 disabled allied servicemen who were eligible for the exchange. Allied prisoners have identified that many who should have been returned with the other sick and wounded captives during Operation Little Switch. The command asks that the men be returned.

British authorities announce May 2 that all of its returned captives would be discharged. They believe the soldiers will recover more quickly from any Red indoctrination in a home environment rather than in military medical facilities.

After about 950 North Korean and Chinese prisoners are released at Panmunjom May 2, they stage an anti-American demonstration, ripping their

clothes and screaming curses. The U.N. turns over the last of its prisoners covered by the exchange on May 3.

At Valley Forge Army Hospital, Phoenixville, Pa., May 3, 10 Americans who were thought to have been "brainwashed" by the communists deny having been affected by enemy indoctrination. They say they are "insulted" by the suggestion.

Red China announces May 4 that the Soviet Union worked with North Korea to free seven American civil-

The countries are India, Burma, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Nam tries to persuade the U.N. negotiators to accept sending the prisoners from South Korea to the neutral country. That's quickly refused.

The talks recess so the U.N. team can confer with superiors about their choice. Although American leaders preferred Switzerland or Sweden, they are satisfied with Pakistan. Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, senior U.N. negotiator, informs the communists May 5 that Pakistan is acceptable.

It takes until May 7 before the Reds are convinced the U.N. negotiators will discuss nothing else until the neutral nation is agreed upon. They offer a new eight-point plan that contained some concessions.

The time in which the Reds will talk to the prisoners who don't want to go home is decreased from six to four months. Instead of a single neutral nation, they propose a five-member neutral nations Repatriation Commission, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Sweden and India. Each of the countries would provide an equal number of troops to guard the nonrepatriates in South Korea.

The communists cling to a six-month period in which a special commission would decide what to do with the prisoners who still rejected repatriation.

The new plan is forwarded to President Dwight Eisenhower so he and his advisors can discuss it.

May 2

King Faisal II and King Hussein I become kings when they turned 18 today of Iraq and Jordan, respectively. They are cousins who were educated

in Great Britain.

May 3

South Korean President Syngman Rhee announces again that he will not accept any peace that leaves Korea divided. South Korea will fight on alone to keep that from happening, he says. ROK government officials, before the May 7 developments at Panmunjom, said that no Korean prisoners held by the U.N. will be transferred from South Korea to a neutral country.

Former President Harry S. Truman, his wife and daughter, return to San Francisco after a month-long Hawaii vacation. He says that Hawaii and Alaska must be given statehood for national defense concerns.

May 4

Columbia University awards the Pulitzer Prize for best fiction writing in 1953 to Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway.

May 6

Viet Minh forces unexpectedly turn away from a battle with the French on the Plaine des Jarres and Luangprabang, Laos. French aviators confirm May 6 that the three columns of Viet Minh rebels are returning to Vietnam along their routes of march they took into Laos. They had gotten to within nine miles of the capital city.

French patrols have gone out 25 miles with no sign of the enemy.

The French speculate that since the monsoon season is near the communists may not want to fight during the heavy rains that turn ground to ooze.

Six U.S. Air Force C-119 Boxcars arrive in Hanoi May 6 to bring more French reinforcements to Luangprabang.



ians held since 1950. Six of them are missionaries and one is a businessman. They will be flown to Russian first and then back to the United States.

May 1-7

No headway is made at the truce talks May 1, but the next day North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, communist team chief, gives the U.N. team a list of countries he says are neutral. One can be chosen to take responsibility for the Chinese and North Koreans who do not want to be repatriated.

Commentary: It's not what I thought it would be

Spc. Zoe Morris
Staff Writer

CAMP LOKI, Iraq – Lush, green, rolling hills. Sheep grazing in red poppy blanketed fields. Golden sunlight and a cool breeze flow across my face as I look across the emerald farming valley at a rainbow left from a light sprinkling of rain here in Iraq.

Iraq? Yes, the grass, sheep and rainbows have replaced all my ideas of what I'd find in the war torn desert country.

Not to mention the bright, smiling faces I've seen. The children running up to slap my hand have all but blocked out the horrible images of Iraqi forces hiding behind a building, ready to blow a hole in my chest.

Not that those images are gone. I know we are still at war. I know the bad guys are still out there. I know to put my guard down is to invite danger, so I need to keep my hand down.

But I hope now, more that I thought possible, this country turns out ok.

As I walk the streets people of all ages come up and say, in a wonderful accent, "Hey mister, mister, George Boush goood. America goood. Thank you!"

Kirkuk, where I spent the last eight days, is in northern Iraq and highly populated with Kurds. They hate Saddam Hussein because of what he's done to their people – gassing them, taking away their homes, jailing them

for no reason. Needless to say, they are some of our biggest supporters, and aren't afraid to show it.

Rose bushes grow in abundance here. The aroma of red, light pink and white roses floats across the warm air. The people, who don't have much, give their beautiful roses to the soldiers without a second thought. We went on a patrol to pass out handbills illustrating the dangers of landmines and before we got home, even the most hard core guy carrying the squad automatic weapon had roses sticking out of his uniform.

A simple stop to buy soda would turn into a photo session. I've signed autographs in the streets (To Ali, Love Spc. Zoe Morris, USA. Peace)

There was a team ambushed April 28 in Baghdad. Shots were fired around, but not quite at, our compound in Kirkuk at night. A couple of grenades have gone off in the city. The war isn't over.

Saturday, as I was leaving Kirkuk, we drove past a building the U.S. had bombed. It was one of two I had seen the entire time in the city. As we continued driving we passed many, many more buildings – mosques, stores, homes – that hadn't been touched. The city could've been leveled, easily. But not only is it still standing, the people have electricity and water.

No, the war's not over, but when it is, this country could be great.

I would have never said, "Hey, I think I'll go to Iraq for vacation this summer!" Not that I think I will now,

but I wouldn't give back this opportunity to visit this land for anything. I've learned that thumbs up works all over the world, and a wave is as good as a wink and a smile, and everyone needs a little loving.

I've learned roses grow in even the most barren places.

I'm sorry the United States has had to wage war in these times, not because war is wrong, but because people should get along. Tyrants and dictators should look in the face of the little girl with the wide smile in Kirkuk.

No one needs to take her freedoms. She doesn't need to grow up being afraid of being killed because of who

she is, the color of her skin or the name of her God.

But, if the freedom to live without fear is taken from her again, I hope I will not hesitate to travel all the way across the world and help her get it back.

Freedom is never wrong to fight for. Politics, oil and old grudges be damned.

Freedom is worth it.

Editor's note: Spc. Zoe Morris is part of The Signal staff. She has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since February 2003.



Spc. Zoe Morris signs autographs in the streets of Kirkuk. Her stereotypes of the country have been dispelled.

Courtesy photo

Feedback

Why should we remember the Holocaust tragedy?



To never let us forget how evil the human heart can be and how important human dignity is to all of us.

Maj. Dawn Ross
67th Signal Battalion



You have to remember. Part of the reason we're here today is to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Pvt. Nicollette Molina
Company E, 369th Signal Battalion



It's good to remember the past so we don't repeat it in the future.

Pfc. Michael Sisson
Company B, 551st Signal Battalion



So that history doesn't repeat itself, for the freedom of future people and to remember those who lost their lives.

Spc. Djenane Demetrius
Company B, EAMC



It's important to remember tragedies of the past to prevent them from happening again in the future.

Trish Hutchinson
Army Community Service

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Military children honored with a day of their own

Kathleen Haskell
Special to The Signal

The rain and overcast skies of Friday gave way to a bright, sunny day just in time for the Month of the Military Child Carnival at the Youth Services football field on April 26.

Hundreds of children and their parents jammed the field, which was ringed with amusement rides, activity booths and informational, interactive displays.

Military working dogs and their trainers held an informative session and Hilltop Riding Stable had two ponies for

children to ride. The Dynamic Steppers dance team performed to rounds of applause from appreciative on-lookers.

"This was the first time I'd organized this event," said Youth Services Director Michelle Linder "and I couldn't have done it without the help of the sponsors, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Eisenhower Army Medical Center and all the other volunteers who made the carnival such a success."

During the four-hour carnival there were drawings for prizes for the children, and children and adults alike en-

joyed the free hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and sodas.

"This has been the best military child month event yet, we had quite a turnout" said Fort Gordon Credit Union Manager Kathleen Hancock, one of the sponsors at the carnival. "Everyone is already looking forward to next year's celebration."



Photos by Kathleen Haskell

(Left) Col. Christopher Krupp, Department of Surgery at Eisenhower Army Medical Center is shown the correct way to operate. (Above) Parents and their children ride the train provided by MWR. (Below) "Sgt. Strong" conducts physical training with JROTC cadets.



Children's theatre shows their stuff

Denise Allen
Staff Writer

It's a schedule that would probably make most theater directors cringe, but the actor/directors with the Missoula Children's Theatre International Project pull it off 36 to 40 weeks out of the year.

"Every week, we are in a new city. We rehearse and do two shows in one week," said Laura Beeman, who was at Fort Gordon April 21-26 auditioning and directing about 60 area children in a performance of "Alice in Wonderland."

"The kids really concentrate on the show," she said.

And there is a lot of concentration, especially for the role of Alice, which is divided into three different parts - a Tall Alice, a Middle Alice and a

Small Alice.

"I have about 100 lines," said Cahriana Nelson, a sixth grader at Glenn Hills Middle School, who played Middle Alice.

Not having a lot of time to get ready for the play was probably a good thing, said Small Alice, Madison Junod, a fifth grader at Belair Elementary School.

A month or longer to work on a play is enough time to forget your lines, she said.

While most of the children agreed the long evenings of rehearsals were tiring, they also agreed it was a lot of fun, especially for twin brothers, Austin and Thomas Sprague, who played "Tweedle Dee" and "Tweedle Dum" respectively.

"We wanted to be Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum," said

Thomas, a fifth grader at Stevens Creek Elementary School.

The two, who like to finish each other's sentences, seemed made for the part.

People attending the auditions knew the twins would get those roles, according to Chris Baugh, an Evans High School freshman, who played the part of the knave.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Austin.

Founded in 1970 by Jim Caron, the Missoula Children's Theatre in Missoula, Mont., has 27 touring teams of actor/directors who travel to all 50 states and 15 other countries.

The group has six original musicals that are performed. This year, about 55,000 young people will participate in productions by the group.

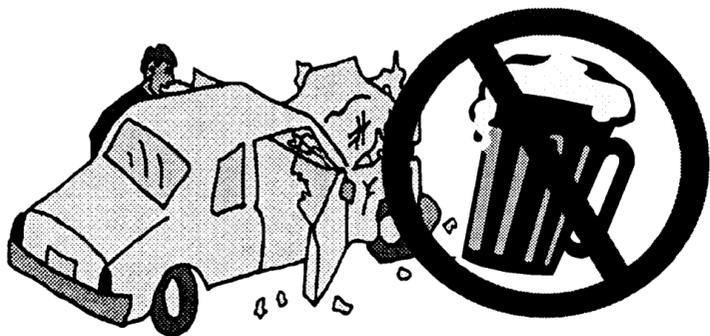


Photos by Denise Allen



(Above) Amy Chevalier (the adult) is the queen of hearts rehearsing with the deck of cards. (Far left) Tweedle Dee, played by Austin Sprague and his twin brother, Thomas Sprague as Tweedle Dum.

Drinking and driving don't mix.



Drive responsibly.

DVDs are now available for check-out at the Woodworth Library. This new collection, featuring both old favorites and classics, is located in the CD area of the library.

Musings



Volunteers ROCK!

Adam Cho (left) was one of the top 100 volunteers recognized at the Gordon Club 11:30 a.m. April 29 in celebration of National Volunteer Week. Here he is seen with a happy and grateful Brig. Gen Jan Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general. There are 3,407 people who volunteer their time on Fort Gordon in support of 82 programs. Cho volunteers with the American Red Cross.

Photos by Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey III



Pictured are some of the Top 100 volunteers recognized, all with over 20 years of sustained voluntary service. They are (back row, left to right) Tom Brown, Christine Burke, David Edmiston, Louis Silverman, Adam Cho, Lucy Zimmerman, Rosalie Evans. (Middle row, left to right) Irene Webb, Dolores Pinkerton, Marj Spitek, Masako Wells, Margie Powell. (Front row, left to right) Jessie Smith, Margarita Morales. Not pictured in the photo were Hoo Nam Matthews, Barbara Peterson, and Kathryn Kovalsky.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

Flying 'Old Glory' at Spirit Creek Middle School

(Left) Staff Sgt. Michael Sytsma, 35th Military Police Detachment, and his son Brandon, 6th Grade, presents Dr. Willie J. Wiley, Spirit Creek Middle School principal, with an American flag which flew over dog kennels of Task Force 180, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The presented flag flew from Feb. 14 - 26, 2003. Sytsma said, "Originally they (service members) were sending the flags to their families, then one person came up with the idea to send it to his kid's school and the idea just sort of caught on."

Spotlight on:

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Mariano Alvares

Unit: Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

Hometown: Brownsville, Texas

What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?

Everything, I love my job, I like training soldiers, out there in the operational Army sometimes it's too late to make the difference, but here it's different. At this level we can mold soldiers how we want them to look, act, and think. So far this has been the most rewarding job I ever had in my career. Transforming civilians into soldiers is a full time job. You always have to "stay fired up" and know that training soldiers is serious business. What you teach these young men and women might be the difference in the battle field.

How long at Fort Gordon? 3 years

What do you want to accomplish in the military?

There are many things I want to accomplish. First I want to give my kids a good role model to follow. I have one more rank to go. CSM is just a matter of time. Be the best leader, mentor, motivator I can be, so when I'm sitting at home retired I know our beautiful United States of America is safe because I made the difference in the soldiers I came in contact with.



Sgt. 1st Class Alvares

Chaplain (Maj.) Richard J. Bendorf

Director, Chaplain Family Life Center

Two things have been popping into my mind lately on a regular basis, one, the need to let go of the past and two, the idea of "thinking outside of the box." During our Sunday readings, I was struck by the admonition of Mark's gospel:

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak.

If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse.

Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined.

Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

In my work at the Chaplain Family Life Center, much of the hurt and anger that I witness in military members and spouses is due to the inability to let go of the past, or perhaps it's pure "stubbornness." It seems to me that at some level human beings have a need to be their own victims. Perhaps we enjoy being "the" victim. I remember my grandmother's sage advice, "ruminating about our problems just makes them worse." Wisdom dictates that we let go

of this mentality and move on to new and greater challenges. Growing up means to put our childhood behind us and think and act in a mature manner. We must let go of the past to move into the future. The future holds the promise of better things, a new worldview, and a greater understanding of our place in this great and often perplexing world.

Close on the heels of "letting go" is the challenge of creative/global thinking. We live in a vibrant, ever-changing world and can either choose to withdraw, or become an active part of our world. Because of fear and uncertainty we tend to live in our own cozy little worlds...this behavior is anti-theological to growth. Thinking outside of the box requires us to not only push the limits of our experience, but to let our guard down.

Non-linear thinkers not only have a plan "b," but also a plan "c," and plan "d" and so on. Fear only constrains us. Facing our fears and acknowledging our weaknesses give us strength and vision and prepare us for the challenges that make life exciting and meaningful.

Since returning to the military I have tried to adhere to the above guidance. My mantra has become "to live the adventure," and I wish that for each and every one of you.

Peace and Blessings.

Give the gift of life - Be a blood donor

551st Signal Battalion is sponsoring a Memorial Day blood drive May 22, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 in Gordon Lanes, Bowling Center.

All members of the Fort Gordon community are invited, including military members (all services), their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

Special thanks to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office as well as Kendrick Memorial Blood Center for assisting in the drive.

For more information, call Spc. Ryan Matson at 791-8512.

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. • Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
9:00 a.m. • Gen "X" Soldiers Service, Friendship Chapel
10 a.m. • Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel
11 a.m. • Gospel Service at Signal Theatre
11 a.m. • Bicentennial Chapel
11 a.m. • Friendship Chapel

Friday 7 p.m. • Spanish Speaking Service, Bicentennial Chapel

Catholic Services

11:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, Eisenhower Army Med Ctr. Chapel
12:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, Good Shepherd Chapel
3:30 p.m. Saturday, Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel
5 p.m. Saturday, Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

Sunday Masses

9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
11:45 a.m. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

Jewish Activities

Holy Day Services, Announced
Jewish Activities Center, Bldg. 38804
Daily and Sabbath service available off-post for Jewish personnel
For information call 791-3959

Islamic Services

Jumah Prayer Service on Fridays Oct-Apr at 1230-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:30-2:30.

These are held in Bldg. 38804, Academic Drive.

For more information, call CPO (Ret.) Marshall Abuwi 772-4303

Denominational Services

LDS Service - Sunday 2 p.m., Barnes Avenue Chapel
Samoan Service, Sunday 1 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Religious Education

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Education Center
Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes, Religious Education Center

Other Programs/Services

Episcopalian Soldier Representative is Kurt Miller at 791-0213
LDS representative is 1st Sergeant (Ret.) Jason Claar, 556-2102

Bible Studies

OCF Bible Study - Monday 6:30 a.m., Friendship Chapel, 791-2056
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Bicentennial Chapel

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Devotional Luncheon, Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Wednesday 11:45 a.m. EAMC Bible Study, DDEAMC Din. Fac. Conf. Rm., 3rd floor

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bldg. 39713, Faith Community Bible Study

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel Bible Study

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. 63rd & 67th SIG BN Bible Study, Contact Chaplain

Chapel Directory

Bicentennial Chapel, 791-3959
Good Shepherd Chapel (Chapel 9), 791-2945

Faith Community Chapel Activities 791-2056 (during duty hours)

Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel, 791-2056

Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel, 787-6667

Religious Education

Protestant Program, Mr. Randall Dillard 791-4703

Catholic Program, Mrs. Frances Simpson, 791-2945

For additional information, call 791-4683
the Religious Information Center, Building 29601

“While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting ... it seems unreal, and I have been waiting, and it hasn't been that long since the war started. It feels like forever. I was really just days ago, and yet with the intense media coverage, and the Embedded reporters following troops around, it seems to have gone on for forever.

I was watching in bits and pieces, sort of 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening rule, but last Saturday when I was watching my allotted 10 minutes, the news came across the airwaves about the grenade attack in Kuwait.

It was like the blood in my veins just stopped moving. It was unreal. It was scary. I do not really know where my husband is, and it was just so scary thinking of a terrorist striking in an area I thought soldiers would be so safe. It undercut what expectations I had of force protection and let all the fears I harbored that there was no place over there my husband would be safe.

Of course it took a couple of hours to sort out who was hurt, and who was safe, but those were tense times. And it was hard to be relieved when it was over, as it appeared one soldier caused the chaos.

This knowledge gave me a little more hope that in a camp, or while with the unit my spouse was safe. The grenade incident cured me of watching any more television. I will look at news web pages first thing in the morning with the false belief they will not update them while I am reading. I choose carefully which articles I read.

I censor what I tell my children because they are aware of what is going on around them. My littlest one told his child care provider “my daddy is at war.” And we both wondered if he really knew what that meant.

My oldest child, she is on the verge of understanding way too much. She wants to know that her father is ok, that

is the main news she needs each morning and when she comes home from school. I try to reassure her that all is well. And yet at times I wonder. I imagine the mess that is over there. Troops have to be tired, and dirty, filled with sand in every possible place. Tensions have to be high. Work has to be a challenge, and all that training has to be put to use. But by talking to my friends in our unit seems the soldiers over there are ready to do what they were trained to do, and do it well. Husbands, though far away seem to send the same message back as we compare notes, it's time this got started and we are ready to go to work. Emails from forward are sporadic at best. Mail is still working itself out. So we muddle through. There have been sad days when I notice too often husbands coming home to other homes, and wish mine were here.

When the sky is gray and it won't rain and wash all this yellow pollen that is getting into and on everything and causing me to sneeze. There have been bad days when I just want to get in a fight with someone so I can rant and rave, and then have a crying spell afterward, and think I feel better. But there is no one I could fuss with and make up with like I can with my husband. So why get into it with someone else, arguing wouldn't be the same. There would be no kissing and making up.

And there have been good days, where the sun has been shining here in Georgia and we can go to the park and play. The flowers, though they spread all that yellow pollen, are blooming and they are beautiful, wonderful colors, and butterflies are out and about.

Then the children laugh and giggle and remind me that there is joy despite the heavy pressure that surrounds us. When my son cracks a silly joke that has been around as old as time, and my daughter

laughs to encourage him, and I hold tight to the fact that this will not last forever, my husband will come home, and in the meantime, I will keep our love bright in my heart ... *While I am waiting.*

While I am waiting ... this has been a hard few weeks lately, hasn't it? Things were happening so fast when the war was going on. It was so scary to wake up and not be sure if you wanted to read or watch what had happened while you were sleeping.

Things changed so fast, it was a wild roller coaster ride, and it was intense. Near the middle I had to alter my ten minute TV rule, and stick to printed stories, things were changing so fast. The sense of relief was unreal when the prisoners of war were found. The sadness of the deaths that have occurred is heavy, for they were members of families, like mine, who were waiting.

Now things have changed again, there is a new sense of uneasiness, as the operations with our troops have gone from a war to a reconstruction phase. I am not sure what I think about the change.

It does impact me, because I wonder if it means that my spouse will be there for a long time, will troops be there for forever? I do wonder. I am not paying attention to the rumors that are zinging around.

I am not even reading articles in the paper if they talk about troops coming home. I am happy for the families that get their loved ones back, because they do not have to wait anymore.

I am jealous also, since my spouse has no clue when he will return. Because of past experiences with the Army, for me, it will not be real until my husband tells me he is coming home. I do not think I will even believe the unit, not until I hear it from him. And probably only when he is stateside, before he arrives back here at our home station, then, and maybe then I will believe it.

There has been so much scuttle-butt about homecomings, the folks on television nattering about it, articles in paper. It has caused some tension I will admit.

In the midst of all this confusion and uncertainty, the mailman brought a letter today.

There it was, a brown envelope, with free in the stamp corner. His handwriting. It stopped me in my tracks. I hadn't gotten a letter since the battles began. I was afraid to open it, sort of the excitement, the hesitation, the anticipation, a letter.

Then when I read the words, so many emotions raced round. We have been trying hard here at home to keep it together. We had gotten through a big birthday with grace, and Easter, another holiday without him. Yet his sadness at not being here, undid me.

The words he wrote our daughter had me crying gently but steadily. He missed her birthday, and though aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends, had all done Herculean jobs of making sure it was a special birthday, this one letter, made it, unforgettable.

To have so much love conveyed in a few words, to let her know just what a special person she is to him, to us as her parents, was the most special gift she received. She will keep the letter forever, and I will keep the thoughts contained in my heart, cause as women, that is what we do, squirrel away all those important moments in our hearts and minds (and then when we are older, and the memories are all muddled, and confused, but they are nice, and hopefully calming).

Keeping those special tender moments tucked in my mind, keeps me loving my spouse while he is gone, keeps me hoping for news of a return, and keeps me grounded ... *While I am waiting.*

While I am waiting ... Oh how I do miss my husband for

just the little things! I had a teacher who said, over and over again, “They always get you for the little things.” How true that is now. I miss him more and more for the little things. Now that spring is here, I really miss him. The bugs are everywhere...the spiders have reappeared. I do not like spiders; I kill every-one that comes into my house. My kids are laughing with the new Harry Potter movie out, they like rerunning the scene with all those creeping spiders racing about, just to get to me. I miss him, cause he stomps spiders and kills them better than I do, though lately my aim and kill ratio has gotten higher, since I alone have to get rid of them. I have even been kind and placed ones I can scoop in my dustpan outside to live another day, but if I can't scoop them, I squash them.

I miss him helping me with the dishes, cause it was a time after the day was done when we could actually talk, the kids do seem to disappear when they think there is some work to be done. But it was time together. It was time to talk. I miss talking with him, even about the little things...mostly about little things, cause well, you just cannot talk to your neighbors and friends about the little things. The silly things, like your distaste for spiders.

I miss hearing him breathing next to me at night, something so simple, yet it leaves a huge void in my life. I miss the way he squashed the toothpaste tube differently than I did, cause now I do not have a little thing to fuss over either. I miss him taking care of the yard. I will do it, even though I don't want too. It is one of those division of labor he handled, and now. Now he is gone, and I will have to face that chore. I am sure the yard is infested with fire ants, awful creatures, and spiders. But I am braver than I have to be, and I can overcome this fear.

I miss him putting air in the tires, and changing the oil, and

all those regular car care things that I just do not want to have to do. I do them, I know how, and thanks to MWR powder puff car care classes, and the quick oil change businesses in the area, I will get by. I just wish he were home, that more than anything. If he were home changing the oil would be one thing I would gladly do to help him out, with him gone, it is just one more thing I have to do. And have to do is the operative word. There are probably spiders under the hood of our car since it is warm there most of the time.

But I am a military wife, and I do a lot of things because I have to. I find that I am stronger when it comes to doing things, than my friends who lead “normal” lives.

I can do what I have to do, cause I am strong, and I may not have a choice. I can and have fixed walls before we had to move. I can and have moved all of our stuff alone.

I have taken care of our children through emergencies without blinking cause I had too, because he has been gone.

I have kept our family together when he is gone. I have even done our taxes, because he wasn't here to do take care of them. I can and have leaped tall buildings; oops I am getting carried away.

But truly I am a stronger person because of this military life. I know I can and will deal with the challenges that pop up as I go on this adventure of living while my spouse is deployed. My strength gets me through a lot. It will get me through the latest round of spiders, ...*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.

Community Events

NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award nominations

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold its 94th annual convention July 12-17, 2003, at the Miami Beach Convention Center, located at 1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida.

NAACP is an international organization committed to improving civil rights. Throughout the week, there will be a variety of training workshops and plenary sessions. For reservations, go to www.naacp.org. Mail housing form to: NAACP Housing Bureau, 701 Brickell Ave. Suite 2700, Miami, Fla. 33131, or fax 305-539-3106. If you require additional information, please contact the NAACP Housing Bureau at 305-539-2928, or 800-476-9969.

As a part of the convention, NAACP will hold the 28th Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs awards dinner, July 16, at the Fountainebleau Hilton, 4441 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Fla., 33140.

The NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award will be awarded to a military member or department of defense civilian employee who has distinguished himself or herself by making significant contributions to his/her country in the area of equal opportunity and civil rights.

Nominations should be based on the following criteria:

1. Distinguished himself or herself by making a significant contribution to his/her country in the area of civil/human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, human resources, and/or public service.

2. Has supported the full integration and promotion of minorities and women within the armed services.

3. Has fostered innovative and creative involvement within a community (civilian or military) that resulted in positive action on behalf of the residents.

Nominations should be endorsed/approved by the major command (MACOM) commanding officer, or agency head, to include:

1. An 8x10 black and white, or color (head and shoulders) photograph of the nominee.

2. A typewritten, single spaced narrative (not to exceed two pages) describing the nominee's accomplishments.

3. A typewritten, single-spaced biography (not to exceed one page).

4. A typewritten, single spaced citation (not to exceed eighteen lines of narrative, 12-pitch, arial font, with 1 inch left and right margins) summarizing the nominee's accomplishments.

Nominations for military personnel must be forwarded through their respective MACOM equal opportunity office (one military nomination per MACOM).

Nominations for civilians (employed by a defense agency) must be forwarded through their MACOM equal employment opportunity office (one civilian nomination per MACOM).

For more information please contact the equal employment opportunity agency, Mae M. Bullock, at 703-607-2339, or email at, mae.bullock@hqda.army.mil.

Nomination format:
Name of the nominee:
Position title:
Rank/grade level:
Department/agency:
Mailing address:
Work phone number:

*Please provide a detailed narrative description of the nominee's contribution and significant accomplishments based on the criteria. Name of individual preparing this nomination:

Position title and rank/grade:
MACOM or agency:
Work phone number:
Work fax number:
Mailing address:

Commands should be prepared to pay the award winner's travel, and per diem costs associated with attending the banquet.

The widest dissemination of this message is required and participation throughout the Army is encouraged. Request MACOMs acknowledge receipt of this message. MACOMs with a negative reply should do so in writing or via e-mail to the HQDA point of contact listed below. Electronic packets with the proper MACOM endorsements will be accepted.

Express mail or FEDEX the MACOM nomination packets to:

Department of the Army
Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-1
Human Factors and Leadership Dir (HF&L)
Attn: Theresa A. Matthews, HQDA U.S. Army, EO Program Manager
300 Army Pentagon, Room 2C655
Washington, D.C. 20310
Telephone: 703-693-8810, DSN 223-8810, e-mail theresa.matthews@hqda.army.mil.

The suspense for nomination packets to HQDA is June 6.

A selection committee will convene on June 17, to select the Army's Roy Wilkins Award winner for 2003.

Follow the instructions above and submit your packets to EOO Mary Jones by **May 23**.

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 opportunity for spouses to share ideas and strategies on how to cope with stress and anxiety associated with the service member's absence.

For more information, call 791-3579.

Job fair

The Army Career and Alumni Program along with the Georgia Department of Labor will hold a job fair **May 6**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Reserve Center, Building 14401, at 15th Street and Lane Avenue.

This event is open to the public. Civilians looking for employment should dress appropriately for a job interview and are asked to bring a resume with them.

For more information, call 791-2009.

Adolphus Greely Chapter meeting

Adolphus Greely Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association is having a General Membership Meeting and Social on **June 4** at 4:30 p.m. in the Gordon Club North Wing.

Nominations will be taken and the meeting will also have board member elections for the upcoming year. Free food is available.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Asian Pacific Heritage month

The Asian Pacific Heritage Month Command Program will be **May 15** at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The theme for the program is "Salute to Liberty". The guest speaker is Evelyn Dacalos Gay, a Director for the Georgia Legal Services office out of Gainesville, Ga.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Garcia B. Patterson at 791-2014/6644.

Family classes

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will offer a two-part class on **Tuesday** entitled "Helping You and Your Children Cope With Divorce." The seminar is designed to help parents establish a co-parenting relationship that will help them associate with the pain of divorce. The class will also help participants learn how to talk with their children and give them guidelines as well.

The class is free but registration is required. The classes are held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

For additional information and to register, call 791-3579.

Farewell luncheon

A farewell/retirement luncheon for Lt. Col. Mary A. Altman is **May 29**, in the North Ballroom of the Gordon Club, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meal choices include oven-roasted chicken, schnitzel or pasta primavera. Meals cost \$10.

RSVP with payment by **May 16** to Stephanie Reamey at 791-2634.

FEW 'Get-Acquainted' reception

The Garden City/Fort Gordon Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) will host their Annual Membership Drive **Wednesday**, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., in Room 229-B, Darling Hall.

For more information call Rosemary Marshall 791-2675 or Judith Creer, 791-4683.

Blood drive

551st Signal Battalion is sponsoring a Memorial Day blood drive **May 22**, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Gordon Lanes, Bowling Center.

All members of the Fort Gordon community are invited, including military members (all services), their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

Special thanks to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office as well as Kendrick Memorial Blood Center for assisting in the drive.

For more information, call Spc. Ryan Matson at 791-8512.

Road closings

The following roads and parking areas will be closed due to continuing work by DPW.

May 12 - 19, The intersection at 27th Street and B Street will be closed.

May 14 - 21, 26th Street between Chamberlain Avenue and B Street will be closed.

May 20 - 27, B Street north of Building 25705 will be closed.

Change of Command Ceremony

Lt. Col. Kari L. Everett will relinquish command of the 67th Signal Battalion to Lt. Col. Paul W. LaDue.

The ceremony begins at 9

a.m. **May 20** on Barton Field. RSVP by **May 15**.

For more information, call Arlene Warren at 791-6963/6956.

551st O-day

The 551st Signal Battalion Organization Day is **May 9** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will be on the field by the Quarter-mile Track.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Murden or Staff Sgt. Johnny Gillis at 791-6079.

Military spouse BBQ

A BBQ will be held in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, **May 10** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Freedom Park.

Military spouses will be honored with free food, car-washes, massages, manicures and give-a-ways.

There will also be live music by "Shinebox."

For more information, call 791-6234/6632.

Fort Gordon Report



C The newest edition of the "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **May 5** and includes the following stories:

- Memorial Service for LTG Buchholz
- Fort Gordon gets visit from U.S. Senator
- Month of the Military Child

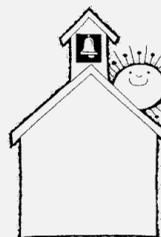
The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m.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

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



You are invited to Freedom Park Elementary School's First Annual Field Day!

May 8 is for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade and **May 9** is for 3rd through 5th grade from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, call 796-8428.

ALSO:

The students of Freedom Park Elementary School would like to thank the Fort Gordon Environmental office for the sharing of their time, and knowledge during Earth Week. Thank you, Rita Bradley

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf tournament to support deployed troops

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion Family Readiness Group will hold a golf tournament **May 9** at Gordon Lakes golf course to support deployed soldiers and their families. Lunch will be held at 11 a.m. prior to the tournament, which starts at noon.

The tournament will be played under a Lauderdale format with a Peoria scoring system.

Springfest

The May Day Picnic will be held **today** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Freedom Park and Barton Field. The picnic is open to all military, civilians, contractors, and family members of the Fort Gordon community.

There will be musical entertainment by the band "Heavy Dose" and a DJ. Food can be obtained from the Directorate of Community Activities-sponsored vendors. Sports equipment will be available for "pick-up" games in soccer, flag football, volleyball and Frisbee.

DCA will establish an equipment sign-out tent. The Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization points of contact for the May Day Picnic are Master Sgt. John Boutte, 791-9841 and Staff Sgt. Gary McKnight, 791-9533.

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.

Signal Corps band looking for members

The United States Signal Corps Band here on post is looking for some additional talent. The band is looking for a vocalist, announcer, bass guitar player, bugler (trumpet player), clarinet player, French Horn player, oboe player, and trombone player.

For more information, call 791-2481 or 2423.

Grovetown Heritage Festival

The Grovetown Heritage Festival, with the theme "A Blast From the Past" will be held in the Grovetown City Hall area on **May 10** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission to the event is free. Attractions will include face painting and exciting balloon tricks for the kids by Ms. Jolly the clown. A fun run/walk, food, arts and crafts, kids activities, a car show, live entertainment and recognition of the oldest citizen will also be part of the celebration.

For more information, call 863-1867.

Donorfest 2003

The post blood drive, sponsored by MWR in conjunction with the 551st Signal Battalion, will be held **May 22** at the Gordon Lanes Bowling Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 791-8512 or 791-6234.

Helping hands

Whether you're a grease monkey or not, the Auto Crafts Center on post can help you fix and maintain your automobile

Spc. Ryan Matson
Sports editor

For Ervin Spruill, working at the auto crafts center is a labor of love.

Spruill will have been the manager of the auto crafts center for 20 years in December of this year. He was here when the auto crafts center opened on post in 1984, and has been the facility's only manager.

Though he may not be a trained mechanic, Spruill said he has worked on cars all his life, and also did quite a bit of tinkering as a tactical Signal soldier. He said the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities needed a manager for the center when it opened, someone who not only possessed some mechanical ability, but some people skills as well. Spruill, who was coming to the end of a 30-year military career, fit the bill on both levels.

"My hobby was working on automobiles," Spruill said. "They asked me if I wanted the job (as manager of the auto crafts center), and of course I didn't. I had 30 years in the military, was getting ready to retire, and I was comfortable."

Spruill said he discussed the job with DPCA, and when it was posted, he eventually ended up applying for it.

"I said I'll come out for five years, and try to get this on track," he said. "Of course, 20 years later, I'm still here, although my intention is to retire probably this May."

At one time, Spruill said every post had an auto crafts center, although some have closed through the years. He said the principle of the auto crafts center is "self help," or teaching soldiers how to fix various problems with their vehicles.

"Our system is instruction, plus some hands-on training, it just depends," he said. "Some things are just easier for a mechanic to show a soldier how to do. If you asked me how to put your brakes together, it would be hard for me to tell you. But I can sit down there and in five minutes, put the brakes together. Therefore, the next time the soldier can actually put the brakes together himself."

Besides himself, Spruill said the auto crafts center usually operates with a staff of one supervisor, two flex mechanic and two full-time mechanics. He said all the staff members are Auto Certification School qualified mechanics.

"All of my people have either graduated from Au-

gusta Tech or another technical school," he said.

There are also mechanics on duty from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, Spruill said. At these times the Auto Crafts Center basically operates like a usual auto service garage, where mechanics fix customer's cars.

A soldier can bring his/her car in to work on it themselves (and with the help of one of the instructors if need be), Wednesday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. "You don't have to actually be out of the shop until 8 p.m. on weekdays," Spruill said. He added that the extra half hour is allotted to ensure that all the materials a soldier has been working on are cleaned up by closing time.

"If you want to change your brakes at 6:30 in the afternoon, we can't let you in to do that, because we know it takes you an hour just to pull them off," he said. He added that if someone is not finished with their car by closing time, the cost to leave the car inside the center overnight is \$5 a night inside or, 50 cents a night outside the center.

"We do accept appointments, too," Spruill said.

Another new person will soon be added to the staff, Spruill said.

"We just picked up a brand new alignment machine, which all our mechanics have been trained on, but we'll also be adding a full-time machinist to run the alignment machine," Spruill said.

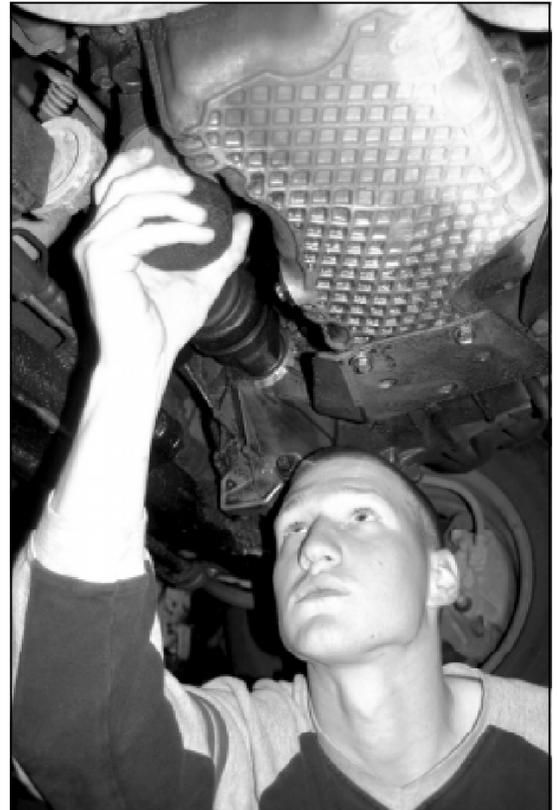
The new state-of-the-art alignment machine is a computerized machine which is capable of diagnosing exactly what area of a vehicle's alignment is off, Spruill said. For example, he said if the machine shows the area in which the alignment area is off is in the strut, the machine can tell the operator exactly what type of strut must be replaced to fix the alignment.

The mechanics are then able to order the missing part and fix the alignment problem at the center, Spruill said.

Before a soldier can work on his/her automobile, Spruill said they are required to view a safety video.

"If you're going to continue to use the shop, you need to take the safety brief," Spruill said. He said safety briefings are conducted at 8:50 a.m. Saturdays and 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To take the briefing,

(Left) Pfc. John Griffiths, Company C, 67th Signal Battalion, tightens the oil filter on a friend's car at the Auto Crafts Center on post next to the Class Six Store. The Auto Crafts Center offers soldiers a place to work on their automobiles if they know how, and if they don't, a place where they can learn car maintenance and repair from certified auto mechanics. (Below) A Pontiac Grand Am is parked in one of 24 useable bays in the Auto Crafts Center. Soldiers can sign out tools from the parts room to work on their vehicles in the bays. The center also has a brand new alignment machine, hydraulic lifts, on-board diagnostic machine, and a host of other useful tools and pieces of automotive maintenance equipment. "The same stuff any car dealer has downtown in their shop, we have here," Ervin Spruill, the Auto Crafts Center manager for 20 years, said.



soldiers need their vehicle's registration and their ID card, he said.

From 9 to 9:15 a.m., Spruill said he introduces himself and gives soldiers a quick tour of the shop area, he said. Then the soldiers watch a 20-minute film and ask whatever questions they may have, Spruill said. Soldiers are issued a Department of the Army safety card after completing the briefing, Spruill said.

Spruill took *The Signal* through a guided tour of the auto craft center here, and described all the things it has to offer to soldiers.

Besides the brand-new alignment machine, Spruill said the auto crafts center has many other helpful tools and pieces of equipment available for soldiers and the mechanics to use.

"We have an on-board diagnostic machine," Spruill said. "Each car has a plug-in, and you can plug in the hand-held on-board diagnostic machine underneath the dashboard, turn your vehicle's engine on, and the machine will identify which system is having a problem. It won't tell you, for example, your spark plugs are bad, but it will tell you the system. You then, as a mechanic will know exactly where to go. It's a tool to help you decide what you need to repair on your vehicle. That can give the mechanic a general idea of what it's going to cost the customer to get the car repaired to start with."

The auto crafts center also has ten lifts and 24 useable bays, meaning a soldier can drive his/her car in that area to work on their vehicle. The cost of using the bays runs from \$2 an hour to \$6, Spruill said. He said the center also has outdoor bays.

"On a nice sunny day if a person wants to pull a plug

or something, they can work out there," Spruill said. "You can't work with any hazardous-type wastes like oil or fluids out there, though. That's all done inside in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency."

He added that under these guidelines, it is illegal for a soldier to change their oil in the barracks parking lot.

"The majority of the work done here are oil changes," Spruill said. "After that, it's brakes."

For a soldier who does not want to change his/her own oil, Spruill says he offers a manager's special. "We'll change your oil for you, do a nine-point check, refill all fluid levels, use VTX oil and a Fram filter for \$23, which is not a bad deal for what we're doing, since we'll look at everything," Spruill said. "Or you can use the manager's special. In the manager's special, if you need five quarts of oil, and a filter, but no checks, it's \$16. For four quarts it's \$15."

The center can also handle tire mounts and balancing, Spruill said.

He said oil and filters and other parts can be purchased at the auto crafts center in the parts center. There is also a tool room where soldiers can borrow virtually any tool they need to fix their vehicles, Spruill said.

"We strongly suggest you bring your own little ratchet set and basic tools," Spruill said. "But we don't suggest going out and buy your own box-end wrenches. Those suckers cost quite a bit depending on how big they get."

He said the tool area has some expensive tools like the MacPherson strut remover, which, if used by a soldier, can save soldiers quite a bit of money as opposed to taking their car downtown to have their struts replaced.

"The same stuff any car dealer has downtown in their shop, we have here," he said. "We try to keep updated as much as we can."

Since Georgia does not require automobile inspections, Spruill said if someone simply wanted to get a general inspection, it would run about \$10 (\$2.50 a tire to pull all four wheels.)

Cars are not the only vehicles the auto craft center can help a soldier with, Spruill said. He said the soldiers can bring in motorcycles and work on them on a self-help basis because they are a small-engine repair and the mechanics are certified for cars and trucks. He said the mechanics will still help the soldiers work on the vehicle to their fullest abilities.

"Anything that has a motor in it that we can get into the facility, we will do everything we can to assist you with," Spruill said.

He said the center has even helped with lawn mower repairs.

With all the auto crafts center has to offer to soldiers on post, Spruill said a soldier can't go wrong.

"Once you go to a garage off-post to get something fixed, you'll end up coming here," he said. "The difference in the prices is quite a bit."

The satisfaction of working on cars is also one reason why Spruill said he has stayed at the auto crafts center for so long.

"It's been fun the whole time," Spruill said as he settled back in his chair with a look of contentment.

"I never had too much stress on this job, because people I can handle, and the automotive part I enjoy. No one touches my car unless the engine or transmission goes out. It wasn't really like a job, but more like my hobby."

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.

May 2 to 4
Friday - Tears of the Sun (R)
Saturday - Agent Cody Banks (PG)
Late show - Bringing Down the House (PG-13)
Sunday - Agent Cody Banks (PG)

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

Spectrum



(Above) Rob Drumm, Fort Gordon Directorate of Public Works, fields one of the many questions from eager students at his bird display.

(Left) Fort Gordon wildlife biologist Steve Camp, shows fascinated students at Freedom Park Elementary School a pine snake.



One of the snakes Camp shared with the class.



A beaver skull at the skull identification booth.



Stephanie Hadley (left) shows kids the Enviroscope.



A youngster gets up close and personal with one of Camp's snakes.



Youngsters show their interest by flooding Earth Week exhibitor and Directorate of Public Works employee Kristi Haygood with a barrage of questions.

EARTH DAY 2003



Aside from bird feathers, live snakes and animal skulls, children at the Earth Week display also viewed animal tracks and other signs of animal life, such as this collection of turtle shells.



Haygood talks to children about some of the many artifacts and natural resources that can be found on post, and how they can be protected while still ensuring military training remains the number one priority on post.

DPW staff shows children wonders of nature

Photos and story by Spc. Ryan Matson

Several employees of the Fort Gordon Directorate of Public Works provided area children with a fun, hands-on look at nature last week.

The DPW workers traveled to Jamestown Elementary April 23 and Freedom Park Elementary here on post April 24, to help educate children about the environment in observance of Earth Week.

Stephanie Hadley, of the Fort Gordon Environmental Natural Resources Management Office, organized the event for DPW. She designed a five station presentation for the children.

Hadley manned the first station, called the Enviroscope, a model of a community and the surrounding countryside. This display helped show the children about landfills, recycling, hazardous waste, and how it affects soil and ground water, among other topics.

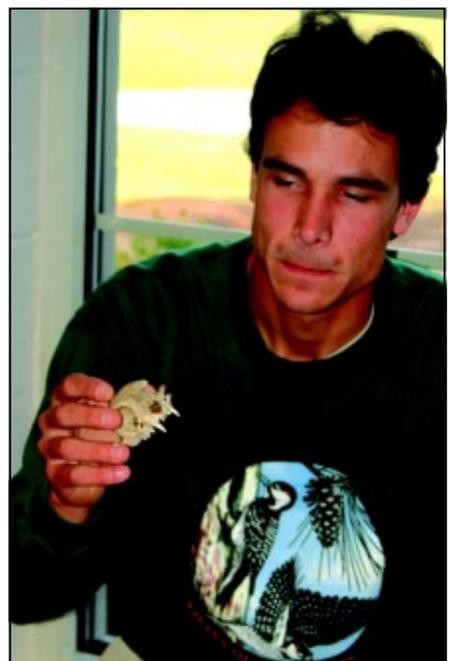
The second station, taught by Kristi Haygood, described Fort Gordon's natural resources and how to protect them. Matthew Stercic showed children at the third station skull identification from a variety of animal skulls uncovered in the forests on post.

In the fourth station, a particular favorite among the children, biologist Steve Camp talked about the various types of snakes that can be found in the area. Camp handled the snakes in front of the amazed children.

The fifth station was a lesson on bird identification by Rob Drumm. He showed kids some of the many varieties of birds commonly found on and around Fort Gordon, including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

All the classes at Freedom Park got a chance to cycle through the stations. Watching their energetic enthusiasm was very rewarding to the DPW volunteers, Camp said.

"It's so cool to see them smile and get all excited when you take out a live snake and show them the environment is a neat place and that we need to conserve it," he said.



Matthew Stercic, an intern at the DPW Environmental Natural Resources Management Office, displays an animal skull to students at Freedom Park Elementary School during the Earth Week exhibit. Stercic explained to the children how to identify animals from their distinctive skull structures. The exhibit also helped students to realize the wide variety of wildlife that can be found right here on post at Fort Gordon.