



**Supporting
deployed
troops**

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**May
Day
Picnic**

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The Signal



Friday, May 9, 2003

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 23, No. 18

**News
UPDATE**

Ticket give-a-way

Radio station Kicks 99 will be at the Gordon Lanes Bowling Center on 3rd Avenue, **May 16** at 11 a.m. to give away free tickets to Red Cross Hot Southern Nights Concert on **May 17** at Lake Olmstead Stadium.

The concert features Mark Wills, Blake Shelton and Rebecca Lynn Howard.

Military spouses

Today is Military Spouse Appreciation Day and there are several events going on today and tomorrow to commemorate the support and self-sacrifice of all military spouses.

Today from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. at the commissary, free cake and punch will be served, courtesy of the commissary.

Saturday, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and Army Community Services are co-hosting a day-long event at Freedom Park entitled "Military Spouse Appreciation Day: Focus on the Family."

There will be free food, activities for kids, give-aways, and fun stuff for parents, too.

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.

Change of Responsibility

The 93rd Signal Brigade will conduct a Change of Responsibility Ceremony at Barton Field behind the 93rd Sig. Bde. Headquarters Building, 25526, Brainard Ave, **May 15** at 9 a.m.

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., command sergeant major, will relinquish duties as the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Thomas.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Ledesmaat 791-9375.

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.

Fallen MP honored by Georgia

Henry Holmes
Public Affairs Office

The Georgia Public Safety Memorial in Forsyth was the scene May 7 of a significant event to the family of Private 1st Class Robert J. McKenna and Fort Gordon. His name was formally accepted to be inscribed on the Memorial at the State of Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Members of the McKenna family were present. Military police from installations throughout the state can receive training at the center.

The significance of this event to Fort Gordon is that McKenna Gate or Gate One bears his name and has borne it since May 1966, 3 months after he was slain on duty as a 22-year-old military policeman on the fateful night of February 22, 1966.

At that time Gate One was right off the Gordon Highway, which consisted of one traffic lane in each direction. There was no phone or radio contact with the gate, MPs checked cars leaving the installation at night, according to Roger Sargent, a fellow MP, roommate and good friend of Robert McKenna.

Unbeknownst to McKenna, a night spot in Clearwater, South Carolina, was robbed earlier that night by two men, who fled the scene in one vehicle and then later used another vehicle to come to Fort Gordon to buy ice. As they were going out Gate One, McKenna stopped them, reportedly seeing weapons in the car. One of the culprits got out of the vehicle, shot McKenna in the head, and fled the scene. Both men were captured a short time later in downtown Augusta. In December 1966 they were given lengthy terms in federal prison, according to press reports.

Sargent says the MPs received a call that an MP was down at the gate. McKenna was taken to the hospital on post but died a short time later.

Robert McKenna is survived today by his mother, Dorothy, 7 brothers and 9 sisters. He was from Bladwin, Long Island, New York.

His mother, Dorothy, remembers her son, Bobby as a "wonderful loving person" and as the third oldest child was in charge of helping his 14

younger brother and sisters. "He loved the time he was in the service, had good memories and was so happy," she adds.

Robert's sister, Fran Montore, echoes her mother's sentiments of Robert as "just wonderful."

When the plaque was unveiled at Gate One in 1966 designating it McKenna Gate, a citation was read posthumously awarding an Army Commendation Medal to McKenna. The commanding general of Fort Gordon at the time, Maj. Gen. Walter B. Richardson said, "The fact his assignment placed him in what might be called a peaceful environment, in no way detracts from the fact that his death was just as much in the line of duty as that of the soldier who died on the battlefield of Viet Nam."

At the time he was murdered, Pvt. 1st Class McKenna had been a military policeman for six months.

Two years ago, Robert McKenna's name was put on the National Law Enforcement Police Memorial in Washington, D.C., which also honors lawmen killed in the line of duty.

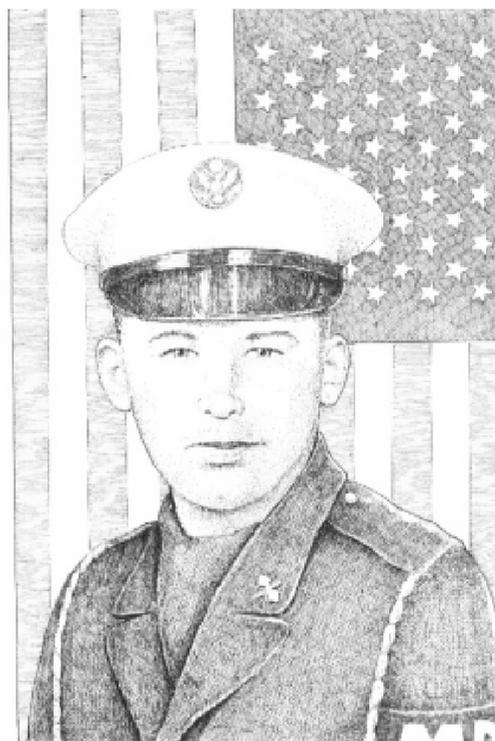


Illustration by Henry Wynn

Sweet homecoming

Special to The Signal

While much of the nation is focused on deployments for the war on terrorism and homeland defense, Fort Gordon's 252nd Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion soldiers recently deployed to Panama and Belize in Central America in support of a humanitarian mission as part of the New Horizons program.

The primary mission of the New Horizons program is to reinforce the relationship between U.S. and military forces in Central American countries, at the same time improve and enhance the joint training readiness between Army and other U.S. military services.

There is also a secondary mission to improve the living standards for the people of the region.

The soldiers of the 93rd Signal Brigade were assigned to this mission in order to provide communications support to Joint Task Force Chiriqui. This task force was part of the New Horizons 03 mission which goes into different countries every year and builds clinics and schools for the local people, usually in rural areas.

This year our mission took us to Panama, more specifically the Chiriqui Province in order to build 3 schools and 3 clinics for the indigenous Panamanian people.

The soldiers returned May 3.

During the deployment these soldiers provided communications in all forms for the task force. This included internet, secure internet, phone capability both within the site and to outside commands, radio communications and security for all of these means of communication.

For deployment prepara-

tion and execution everything usually begins with developing a detailed plan to meet contingency support requirements.

Then all necessary equipment to accomplish the mission is identified.

Upon receiving orders to deploy, rehearsals are conducted to ensure all equipment is properly validated and key personnel to participate on the deployment are properly trained on their defined responsibilities.

The last phase is to coordinate the mobilization of troops and equipment to their final destination ensuring force protection and safe return to home sta-

tion. These missions give soldiers a chance to experience all the procedures involved in a mobilization for a real world deployment.

It also provides training opportunities for the soldiers and needed support for the countries where the work and assistance is provided.

In the spirit of America's soldiers the call for help on a moment's notice will never be delayed.

Editor's note: The above information was written by 1st Lt. Ricardo Millán and 1st Lt. Jeremy Huffman



(Above) Soldiers of New Horizons 03 take part in the humanitarian effort in Central America. These soldiers provided communications network for the Task Force. (Right) Sgt 1st Class Christopher Cousins, 252nd Sig. Co. returned May 3 after a very long flight from Central America.



Courtesy photos

Strength from within

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Think of the most horrible experience you've ever had, or the scariest, darkest moment of your life. In either case, it's probably nothing in comparison to the hell-on-earth that Charlene Schiff actually lived through.

Schiff was the guest speaker at the Days of Remembrance ceremony at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. She told an astonished crowd the atrocities she had lived through as a holocaust survivor, but through it all, instead of a speech filled with anger and bitterness, which would have certainly been understandable, Schiff's speech conveyed a message of hope and love.

"For many years I searched within my soul for the reason of my own survival, and alas, I could not find it," Schiff said. "But I do know, I must bear witness. The world I knew and loved received a death sentence only because it was a Jewish world. I must speak for all of those who never had a chance."

Schiff's story is a miracle marred by almost incomprehensible tragedy. She grew up in Horochow, Poland. The town had a Jewish population of about 5,000 people. Today, out of those 5,000 people, only Schiff remains alive to tell the story.

Her mother, father and siblings, all of her immediate family, were killed in the Holocaust, as were many of the Jewish people she knew and loved. Only one other Jewish person from her town had survived the tragedy, and that person now has since died.

Before the Holocaust started, Schiff described her household as one in which the door was always open. Her father was a professor at a university in the nearby city of Lvov, and she said her family often entertained other friends and acquaintances from within the Jewish community at their home.

Then came the summer of 1941. The peace agreement between Josef Stalin and Hitler was broken, and the persecution began.

"Our town was overrun almost immediately," Schiff recalled.

She described the betrayal and tragedy that followed. A group of 300 leaders of the Jewish community in Horochow were rounded up by Hitler's soldiers. The names of these leaders had been provided to the soldiers through a list compiled from former friends and neighbors. She later learned her father was shot with the other leaders of the town in a mass execution by Hitler's army.

The synagogues of her beloved village were burned, and she and her fellow Jews were made to wear a yellow star of David. Her father's vast library was hauled away and the books were destroyed. She was herded to the poorest section of town, where she and her family and friends were forced to live in a half-prison, half-ghetto environment, the border of which was surrounded by barbed wire, with only two guarded gates as a passage into the outside world. Children and adults over the age of 14 were forced to perform slave labor, and beatings accompanied it. The children received no food, meaning her mother shared what meager amount of food she had with her children.

"We were slowly completely stripped of all of our human dignity," she said.

But her mother also had a strong will and spirit. She organized a clandestine school where children read stories, sang and colored with the little bits of crayons that were somehow able to be collected. Once a week Schiff said random "round-ups" took place, where her Jewish friends were carted away on a truck, never to be heard from again.

Together, with the help of some of her friends, Schiff said the children were able to dig a small tunnel under the fence. She recalled one time when she tried to sneak some eggs from the outside back into the ghetto.

"A Ukrainian guard caught me, threw down the eggs and rubbed my face in them over the

See Strength, Page 2

Armed Services News

From American Forces Press Service

Alaska Stryker Brigade to test unit manning

Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army announced May 5 that it will use the 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate) as the first unit to use unit manning personnel policies instead of the current personnel system of individual replacements.

The 172nd, based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, will use the Unit Manning Initiative as it becomes the third Army unit to transform into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

"The Unit Manning Initiative is about building higher levels of unit readiness," said Lt. Col. Paul Thornton, unit manning action officer. "With the current individual replacement system, you constantly have new people come into the unit as others leave on a monthly basis — requiring constant retraining of individual and collective tasks to get the new soldiers up to speed."

"Under the Unit Manning Initiative, you will have groups of people who will arrive together at unit and train together day-to-day through a standard 36-month tour."

G-1 officials have identified about 175 personnel policies and procedures that may be improved to support the initiative and lessen personnel turbulence.

Those officials are looking at everything from how a soldier enlists, gets initial and follow-on training, reenlists, earns promotions and gets assignments, Thornton said.

Total Army Personnel Command and G-1 officials are currently reviewing which 172nd soldiers can stay with the unit through its Stryker Brigade transformation. Selected soldiers will be offered the opportunity to extend their tour with the 172nd. Incentives to extend include bonuses under the Foreign Service Tour Extension Policy as Alaska is considered to be outside of the continental United States.

The idea is to have only a small number of managed personnel losses in 2004 when the brigade is scheduled to receive the Stryker vehicles and in 2005 when it undergoes initial operating capability testing, Thornton said. Replacement "packages" of soldiers on an annual basis will sustain 172nd unit strength after 2005.

The first personnel package will head to the 172nd next year to augment soldiers who extend their tours.

Lessons learned from the Unit Manning Initiative in the 172nd will be used to formulate personnel policies for brigade-level Unit of Action envisioned by planners of the Army's future Objective Force, Thornton said.

Broken-hearted no more

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Members of the 44th Engineer Battalion, held their yearly reunion at Fort Gordon and were honored in a ceremony by the post May 1.

Col. John Belsler, Staff Judge Advocate, offered remarks on behalf of the post.

"I became a lawyer because I wasn't smart enough to be-

come an engineer," joked in his remarks introducing the battalion. He went on to describe the veterans as role models who provide inspiration for today's soldiers.

Bob Heishman, who lives in Augusta and was hosting this year's reunion which has been held throughout the U.S., spoke for the engineers.

"The memories I have of the 44th Engineer Battalion are

the people themselves, and what a close relationship I had and still have with them," he said. "I still tear up when I see these guys."

The battalion was dubbed the "Broken Heart Battalion" because they deployed so quickly and barely had time to say goodbye to loved ones.

The 44th Engineer Battalion has served on the Korean peninsula the last 50 years.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson
Col. John Belsler, Staff Judge Advocate, talks with members of the 44th Engineer Battalion.

Strength

From Page 1

concrete," she said. "Even though I had a bloody face, this was one of the kind guards. One of my friends was murdered for trying to sneak in a loaf of bread."

Later Schiff and her mother were moved to a new ghetto area in town, one bordering a river. Amidst rumors the ghetto was about to be burned, the two planned an escape to a nearby farm where the family had once bought dairy products. As they walked to the river, Schiff said shots rang out and she heard babies and children crying. Schiff said she fell asleep along the riverside, and when she woke up her mother was not there. She never saw her again.

Schiff managed to reach the farm on her own, but she was only allowed to stay the day. From there, she lived as a child drifter in the forest. Somehow, unbelievably, her amazing will carried her through this ordeal. She ate insects, worms, leaves, anything to survive and did her best to stay warm as the weather grew colder.

"Everything and everyone was my enemy," she said.

One of the most horrible times came when Schiff and some other

stragglers were spotted by some children. The group tried to hide from the children in a haystack. The children mercilessly stabbed the haystack with pitchforks until only Schiff was left alive.

After the war, Schiff decided to join her remaining family in the United States. Many of Schiff's father's side of her family were living in the United States, and somehow Schiff recollected her grandmother's address and sent her a letter in the Bronx section of New York City.

"They were very happy to learn I had survived and sent over papers stating they would care for me and I would not be a burden on the government," she remembered.

Still, the papers were deemed insufficient, and Schiff would have to wait three long years before coming to America. She later went on to attend Ohio State University and marry an American soldier, and now shares her story with the world.

U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks tried to put in perspective the almost unbelievable number of Jews that were murdered by Hitler's army

during the Holocaust. Over 6 million Jews lost their lives as a result of Hitler's persecution. To put that number in perspective, Hicks told the story of a Holocaust remembrance ceremony in Germany.

"The people of Berlin read the names of 56,000 Jews who were killed during the Holocaust," she said. "It took 23 hours. That's roughly three times the number of people that can be found on Fort Gordon on any given day, and less than one percent of the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust. To read all their names, it would take four months, day and night, to read. This shows the enormity of the crime committed against these people."

As the ceremony came to an end, six candles were lit by six different Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course students, each one symbolizing a million lives that perished during the years of the Holocaust. The seventh candle, appropriately, was lit by Schiff. This candle represented hope for the future, the hope that such atrocities will never again be repeated by humankind.

Schiff's amazing strength and positive outlook on life was conveyed one final time as she pre-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson
Charlene Schiff (left) lights the seventh candle at the Days of Remembrance ceremony May 5 in Alexander Hall. The six candles before Schiff's all symbolized a million lives lost in the Holocaust. Her's stood for hope in the future.

pared to catch a plane home following a second speech/question and answer session in Olmstead Hall on May 6.

Before Schiff left, she addressed the small group of service members gathered outside Olmstead Hall who were bidding her farewell.

"Thank you very much for listening to me," Schiff said. "And for those of you who

have loved ones overseas, I wish them all a happy and safe return home. So keep your chins up and keep thinking of a better tomorrow."

Those simple words summed up the character and unbelievable inner strength it took to allow Schiff to overcome the odds and be a survivor. It is a message all of those who heard her speak will hopefully take to heart.

Operation All The Time

Special to The Signal

Georgia - Any parent temporarily separated from their family feels the longing in the child's question, "when are you coming home?"

To help Georgia's military families likely to be apart for six to twelve months, all Borders store locations in Georgia are collecting copies of the children's book, *I Love You All The Time* for donation to military families at Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, Fort McPherson and other Georgia installations.

The collection began on May 1 and will run through the entire month of May. The donated books will be distributed through the Family Advocacy Programs on each of the aforementioned bases.

This delightful book reassures young children

that the grown-ups in their lives love them no matter how busy they are or where they are. The simple message is so appropriate for today's busy families and even more meaningful for deployed parents and their children.

The idea for the Operation All the Time book drive came from Cookie Bear Press who decided to donate copies of their delightful book to military families.

Co-author and Georgia resident, Jennifer Elin Cole said, "Americans have shown great generosity and support for the soldiers stationed in Iraq but because all of us at Cookie Bear Press are parents of young children, we wanted to do something for the family members waiting at home."

Donating 50 copies of *I Love You All The Time* to the Fort Benning Family Advocacy Program was our way of hopefully easing a bit of the longing in the question "When are you coming home?" Cole continued, "

Even though the combat phase of the war fortunately appears over, there are still hundreds of active duty and reservist soldiers expected to be away from home an-

other six to twelve months."

Borders Area Marketing Manager, Kristie Salerno Kent is thrilled to assist Cookie Bear Press in their generous endeavor. "Borders is so much more than just a retail store. We are a part of our community and extending Operation All The Time to our staff and customers is a wonderful way for us to show our appreciation for the sacrifices of our Georgia military and their families."

Twin sisters Jessica Elin Hirschman and Jennifer Elin Cole founded Cookie Bear Press Inc. in 2000 with the publication of *I Love You All The Time*. The sisters wanted to share the important message of the book with other parents.

Using their previous work backgrounds in marketing, editing and freelance writing, the sisters decided to pool their resources and talents together to create Cookie Bear Press and publish the first book. Their hard work and dedication made their dream become a reality.



Messages and music

(Above Right) Paul Arrowood, a member of Shinebox, a local band from Augusta. The group donated 100 copies of their CD "This Side of Nowhere," to deployed Fort Gordon troops. They sliced open the cellophane of each CD to enclose a personal message of support. Morale, Welfare and Recreation distributed the CD's to family members of the 93rd Signal Brigade, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Eisenhower Army Medical Center and the 249th General Hospital, to forward to deployed service members.



Donations in all shapes and sizes

Aiken lends a helping hand

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Thanks to some Junior Reserve Officer Training Course students and area businesses in the Aiken area, soldiers deployed in the Middle East will enjoy a little better quality of life.

Seven students from the Aiken High School and Silver Bluff JROTC programs helped pack up over 40 boxes of quality of life items donated from the Aiken community starting at 5 p.m. May 1 in the Aiken Mall.

The project, dubbed "Operation S.O.S (Support Our Soldiers)" was masterminded by Jenny Culbreath, the Aiken Armed Forces Emergency Services Coordinator. Culbreath worked with local sponsors in the Aiken area to gather quality of life items for soldiers by placing designated donation boxes at the businesses. An abundance

of items were donated by the Aiken community, including hand sanitizer, lotion, sunscreen, shampoo, toothpaste, games, cards and books among other products.

"A little bit of home always helps," Culbreath said.

The items will be shipped off in coordination with the American Red Cross, Julie Moore, another volunteer with the Operation SOS Program and representative from the Aiken Board of Realtors, said. She said the items will all be headed for the Middle East, possibly to Kosovo.

The JROTC students who helped pack up the boxes of supplies were sophomores James Johnson and Jeffrey Heisder from Aiken High School. Silver Bluff High School had five JROTC students who volunteered their time—Christina Chambers, Michael Chambers, Nicole Harding,

Heather Chitty and Brian Chitty.

"The soldiers need things especially after the war," Brian Chitty, 16, said of his contribution. "They fought hard and they won."

"If I was out there in the middle of the desert getting shot at, I'd like to know people were supporting me, not protesting," Johnson, 15, added.

The students, who sorted and packed up all the boxes within an hour, said they are all familiar with community service as it is a regular part of the JROTC program.

Sponsors for the project included the Aiken Board of Realtors, Aiken Mall, Aiken Technical College, Aiken Regional Medical Center, Aiken Chamber of Commerce, Saturn of Augusta, Joy 102.7, The Aiken Standard, Channel 12 News WRDW, Meybohm Realtors

and Westinghouse Savannah River Company Partnership.

Workers from the Aiken Mall chipped into the program by picking up all the donated items and transporting them to a vacant store in the mall specially set up as a packing headquarters for the project.

"It's very satisfying to be a part of something greater than yourself," Anthony Alberigi, the Aiken Mall's general manager, said. "It was very rewarding working with community leaders, and collectively we've made a good start."

Depending on the level of supplies gathered, Alberigi said he plans to make a collection once a month, with the next one coming in June.

For now, Operation S.O.S

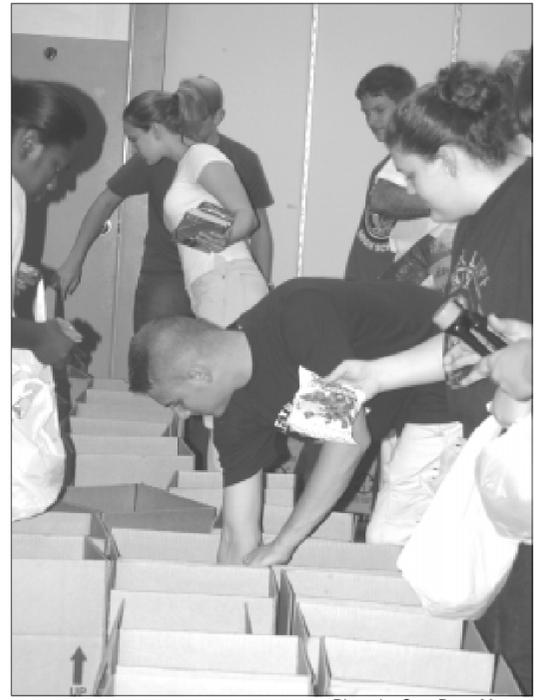


Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Members of the Aiken and Silver Bluff High School pack items donated for overseas troops. Over 40 boxes of goods were donated in support of the project, called "Operation Support Our Soldiers."

in Aiken is still in high gear.

"The troops are still in danger and will probably be stationed over there for a long time in the future," Moore said. "We're just helping them out

while they're over there."

Editor's note: *Special thanks to Staff Sgt. Rick Mane at the Aiken Army Recruiting Station for his help with this story.*

Whether paper or plastic ... it's in the bag!

Herb Greene
Special to The Signal

Fort Lee, Va. — Paper or plastic? The choice between the two is about all the thought commissary shoppers give to grocery bags. And that's typical, but the humble grocery bag, tote, poke or sack has quite a history. There was a time when there were no bags to carry groceries or anything else.

The people of Crete are thought to be the first to use the concept of a bag or pouch about 2000 B.C. These bags were probably made from leather and later from cloth. They were large, about the size of grain sacks. The first reference to the use of paper bags to hold groceries was in 1630 in Europe. The use of sacks didn't take off until 1700 and 1800 when the Industrial Revolution and its new mechanized manufacturing processes made sacks affordable.

A man named Hermann Holscher invented a machine in 1869 that manufactured paper bags at the rate of 40 per minute.

Paper became less expensive and the use of paper bags in retail commerce expanded. Soon after, Margaret Knight invented a machine part that would automatically fold and glue paper bags with square bottoms. Knight received her first patent at age 30 and went on to receive 25 more with inventions like the num-

bering machine and the rotary engine, earning the nickname of "the female Thomas Edison." Her process to make flat-bottomed paper bags assured her place in history as the mother of the modern grocery bag.

Paper grocery bags reigned supreme in supermarkets without any rivals until 1977 when the plastic bag was introduced to the grocery industry. Ever since, grocery shoppers have had to choose paper or plastic. By 1996, four of five grocery bags used were plastic.

Defense Commissary Agency stores offer its shoppers both types of bags. Commissary shoppers use more plastic bags than paper, but that's like comparing apples to oranges (That's a grocery joke!).

It takes about two-and-a-half plastic bags to carry the same amount of groceries a paper bag can carry. When you make the comparison using quantity of groceries carried, patrons seem to favor paper (57 percent) to plastic (43 percent). Only a very small percentage of commissary shoppers bring cloth grocery bags for their groceries.

"Many of our patrons still prefer paper because of its durability and ease of handling. Also, because the transaction size of DeCA's customers is so high they prefer paper because you can pack more groceries into paper bags," said James E.

Smith, supervisory commissary management specialist with DeCA headquarters operations directorate.

Grocery bags, whether plastic or paper, are an indispensable part of the daily operation of a DeCA commissary.

Although commissaries and commercial supermarkets have changed dramatically over the course of the last 40 to 50 years, one area that has remained about the same is the way we bag groceries.

DeCA is committed to providing customers with outstanding customer service in all areas of its operations. That's why we continue to offer our customers a choice of either plastic or paper for bagging their groceries.

While we are committed to change and continuous improvements in customer service, until someone invents or discovers a better way to tote groceries we will continue to ask, "Would you like plastic or paper, please?"

Each year, commissary shoppers tote away their groceries using 601,278 bales of paper bags at an estimated cost of more than \$8.5 million and 434,300 cases of plastic costing an estimated \$6.9 million. And that's not the end of it for the bags when you get them home. Both paper and plastic grocery bags can be recycled and each type has unlimited uses around the home.

A paper bag can be used

- As a book cover by cutting it and taping it over a book to keep it new looking and scuff-free.
- To ripen fruit such as peaches and plums. Just place the fruit inside a paper bag, close it and place it in a warm place. The fruit ripens in no time.
- As gift-wrap. Use crayons to draw pictures on the bag and wrap up your gift using paper with designs no one else has.

A plastic bag can be used

- To line wastebaskets and trash cans.
- To put shoes in before packing them in a suitcase.
- To protect breakables for shipping. Roll up plastic bags and place them under, around and over fragile objects when packing them for shipment.

There are thousands of uses for paper and plastic grocery bags, and that's not even counting carrying groceries home from your commissary. So the next time you choose paper or plastic at the checkout, remember the indispensable, ubiquitous grocery bag and its long, long history.

Editor's note: *Herb Greene can be emailed at the following address if you have question or concerns about the above article: herbert.greene@deca.mil*

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.

Tax Season Salute

Capt. Raashid S. Williams
Fort Gordon Tax Center

Tax season has come and gone. Add another tenet to the old saying that nothing is certain but death and taxes. Soldiers helping soldiers at the Fort Gordon Tax Center is another certainty.

This tax season, Unit Tax Advisors and civilian volunteers selflessly assisted over 2300 soldiers and family members prepare their tax returns.

These military and civilian volunteers obtained almost \$2.5 million dollars in tax refunds for those who sought assistance at our Tax Center.

In addition, these volunteers saved our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and family members \$250,000 in tax preparation fees. In other words, the hard work of UTAs and civilian volunteers saved each taxpayer, on average, over \$100 in tax preparation fees.

Though all our UTAs and civilian volunteers did a super job, certain individuals performed well above the high standards the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate required of all the UTAs and civilian volunteers. The Office of the Staff Judge Advo-

cate extends a special thank you to those who through their selflessness and hard work distinguished themselves in their assistance to the Fort Gordon community.

The following soldiers and sailors are especially deserving of recognition for their work: Capt. Angela Perez, Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl Celestine, Staff Sgt. Nakita Davis, Staff Sgt. Michelle Mathews, Staff Sgt. Sarah Reliford, Petty Officer 2nd Class Linda Carpenter, and Drill Sgt. Pamela Spencer who combined produced over 650 tax returns. In addition, this tax season would not have been a success without the assistance of civilian volunteers. Our civilian volunteers - Leo Borkowski, Dora Nagles, Conan Sanders, John Schreiber - provided invaluable assistance producing over 350 returns and assisting in a myriad of other ways.

While not every individual who worked at the Tax Center can be specifically recognized, nonetheless all deserve a "Well done" for without their contributions the tax program for the Fort Gordon community would not have succeeded. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers - we salute you!

Law brought to classroom with fairy tale ending

Denise Allen
Staff Writer

It was not Lt. Col. Lorraine Bartlett's average day in court.

"It was a ball," said Bartlett, a member of Fort Gordon's Judge Advocate General Corps who used fun to teach a group of Westmont Elementary School students fundamentals of law on May 1.

Dressed in all black with costume jewelry and sunglasses, Bartlett played Snow White's evil stepmother, the Queen.

She sauntered into court on a red carpet rolled out by counsel Capt. Ryan Chandlee, alleging Snow White had tricked her magic mirror and stolen her trademark "Fair-est One of All."

Throughout mock civil proceedings, Capt. Scott Flesch, Fort Gordon's senior defense counsel, explained the process to the Westmont students.

Some of them took part in the trial, serving as counsel and jury members. Some of them acted as the seven dwarfs and

intermittently made comments. Sleepy did just that - fell asleep in the trial.

"It was fun," said Seth Dymock, who played Doc. "I liked the trial."

As the jury deliberated, sometimes rather loudly, Flesch asked students about law and why laws were important. He also explained how military law was different than civilian law.

In the civilian world, the worst thing that could happen if someone complained to their boss about their job was the person might be out looking for another job.

"In the military, there is a certain way to complain," he said.

Otherwise, the complaint could land a soldier in some trouble that would require the services of the JAG office.

"We have a mission in the military," he said. "We have certain standards that are different than in society."

He also asked them to think of laws that should be enacted.

One student suggested a law shortening the school year

while another wanted cigarettes to be outlawed.

In the end, it was Snow White who prevailed despite the fact that the Queen had a copy of her papers from the filing of her trademark for the phrase "Fair-est One of All."

The jury voted 10-2 in favor of the fair-haired heroine, played by 1st Lt. Mary Higgins.

Lief Danielson was one of the jurors who voted in favor of the Queen.

"Snow White was guilty," he said. "She messed up the mirror when she was scrubbing it."

Flesch said the mock trial was part of Law Week, a time when the American Bar Association celebrates the laws of the community.

In preparation for the mock trial, students studied about the legislative branch of government in their social studies class at Westmont, and they wrote essays about law.

"It's a great opportunity to see the process in action," said teacher Margie Burke about the mock trial.



(Above) 1st Lt. Mary Higgins, from the Staff Judge Advocate Office, played Snow White. On May 1, soldiers from SJA went to Westmont Elementary School to teach students about the fundamentals of law.

Buckle up!

MARS grams send messages to deployed soldiers

Denise Allen
Staff Writer

While the Internet and email have gained in popularity as means of communications, Edwin Dodson has a love for an older technology.

"I'm retired Army. My father was a radio amateur, and I grew up in it," said Dodson, a Johnson Controls employee who is a volunteer radio op-

erator with the Army Military Affiliate Radio System or MARS.

When Dodson was in the Army during the Vietnam War, MARS was vital to getting messages through to deployed service members.

"In 1969 in Vietnam, we didn't have phones," he said.

MARS grams, like telegrams, were relayed via the radio from family members to

service members.

MARS grams are still available; however, with email communication and widely available phone cards that service members have, MARS grams aren't used as much as they once were.

"A lot of the older folks who had heard of MARS are surprised we are still here," said Ed Butovjac, another Johnson Controls employee

and MARS volunteer operator. "We've just turned down a different road."

Today one of MARS' focuses is on the homeland, said Dodson.

In the event of a natural disaster such as a flood or tornado, communication lines might be lost. MARS operators could fill the communication gap between hospitals and emergency management

agencies.

MARS operators have established relationships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. They've also been included in the last three Signal Corps Grecian Firebolt exercises.

There are about 5,000 volunteer MARS operators in the Army MARS program. The

Navy and Marines have a combined MARS program and the Air Force has its own MARS program. MARS is a Department of Defense sponsored program and is headquartered at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

To find out more about MARS or to send a MARS gram, visit the organization's website at www.gamars.org.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

The Military Wife

The good Lord was creating a model for military wives and was in his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared.

She said, "Lord, you seem to be having trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

The Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? She has to be completely independent, possess the qualities of both mother and father, be a perfect hostess to four or forty with an hour's notice, run on black coffee, handle every emergency imaginable without a manual, be able to carry on cheerfully, even if she is pregnant and has the flu, and she must be willing to move to a new location 10 times in 17 years. And oh, yes, she must have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head, "Six pairs of hands? No way."

The Lord continued, "Don't worry, we will make other military wives to help her. And we will give her an unusually strong heart so it can swell with pride in her husband's achievements, sustain the pain of separations, beat soundly when it is overworked and tired, and be large enough to say, I love you, regardless."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his arm gently, "Go to bed and get some rest. You can finish this tomorrow."

"I can't stop this now," said the Lord. "I am so close to creating something unique. Already this model heals herself when she is sick, can put up six unexpected guests for the weekend, wave good-bye to her husband from a pier, a runway at a depot, and understand why it's important that he leave."

The angel circled the model of the military wife, looked at it closely and sighed, "It looks fine, but it's too soft."

"She might look soft," replied the Lord, "but she has the strength of a lion. You would not believe what she can endure."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Lord's creation. "There's a leak," she announced. "Something is wrong with the construction. I am not surprised that it has cracked. You are trying to put too much into this model."

The Lord appeared offended at the angel's lack of confidence. "What you see is not a leak," he said. "It's a tear."

"A tear? What is it there for?" asked the angel.

The Lord replied, "It's for joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, loneliness, pride, and a dedication to all the values that she and her husband hold dear."

"You are a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked puzzled and replied, "I didn't put it there."

—Author Unknown

Editor's note: For more information or support, call Army Community Service, Darling Hall, Room 367 at 791-3579.

The following websites have great information for military spouses as well: www.sgmtmoms.com, www.mfrc.calib.com, www.thecombatzone.org and www.operationmilitarypride/spouselinks.htm.

"While I am waiting..."

While I am waiting ... more time has gone by. I got another phone call!! It was so good to hear his voice, though there was a bit of static. I listened to all the words, though near the end of our conversation when he said I love you, after that the rest of the words, hey sort of got muddled together. I love you, those were the words I needed to hear.

Those are the words when you are alone that mean the most.

It was grand until that voice came on and said your time is up...I felt like we had not talked that long and who ever she was, though I know it was a recording, she was cheating us out of time together.

I was so happy that day, things were looking better, well until my daughter got sick. She had a mild fever, no big deal. I got her settled in bed, and plied her with children's Tylenol. And of course it was a SUNDAY, so no chance of seeing our primary care doctor.

I hate the emergency room, there are always so many people there, and the wait seems to take forever unless you are bleeding profusely or broken badly.

Around midnight her temperature wasn't going down, so I drew a cool bath and she went in screaming. She felt better a bit later. More medicine, and finally she fell asleep.

Me, I stumbled into bed, weary, but knowing I had to rise early or I would never get an appointment the next day. It was so clear, I was going to have to deal with this alone.

There wasn't anyone to help clean up in the middle of the night, there wasn't anyone to curl up next to when I stumbled back in bed. I was just going to have to deal with this bout as it happened.

I was up dialing and redialing right as the clock hit 0730, and thankfully I got my daughter an appointment at the Family Practice Clinic. Whew. Her temperature was still high, and she was complaining of a sore throat, all I could think of was strep. Ugh. Once she saw the doctor, well, we were given a prescription, and that meant a wait.

Every once in a while, I am sure there are angels, some nice person gave us a ticket, seeing how sick my child was, that had a fifteen minute wait, I looked around to see if this could be true. A true act of kindness and my child and I appreciated it. She was a sick puppy, and I was out of the hospital ahead of schedule, to get her home in bed.

Once she was resting, and things were quiet...then and there, again it hit home ever so clearly, I was going to go through this alone. That evening about 5 p.m., my daughter had a hard time breathing, it got scary, and well, I found out I wasn't alone.

My neighbors took my son. I took my daughter to the hospital to the dreaded emergency room. A neighbor had called to let them know we were coming, and what was wrong.

The ER staff were great. The intake nurse saw how sick my child was, and immediately started taking her vitals and helping her, the doctors saw her, and off to x-rays to see what was going on inside her, back to the ER, and a breathing treatment that dislodged the stuff that was blocking her throat and making it hard to breathe.

We both felt better when we walked out of the hospital. My daughter appreciated that everyone at the hospital had been kind. I appreciated everyone that day who had helped. The kind person at the pharmacy, the kind nurses in the ER, my wonderful neighbors, who without their support, it would

have been a long night, my family who called to see if my child was ok. My friends the next day, who were concerned and offered help watching my son so his sister could rest, offering meals.

It was truly ok in the end. I found a most important thing during this deployment, that I have friends who will help me out when the going gets tough. I no longer feel so alone, *while I am waiting*.

While I am waiting ... What is it, it just seems when they leave, little things that can go wrong, always do!

It seemed like in less than 24 hours, the fan in the bathroom sounds like it is ready to take off and fly into the wild blue yonder.

For some reason, the lowest drawer in my kitchen, by the stove, keeps rolling out all by itself. I have a sneaking suspicion that one of my children used it as a stepladder to reach something in the cupboards over head. My son has done something to his thumb and it has gotten infected.

The bathroom drain is suddenly going so slow, which my children think is neat, cause it helps keep a lot of water in the tub...even when they are supposed to be getting out. I am sure in one of their more creative moments they have done something to aid in the slow drain of the water.

Our cat saw a bird too close to the open window, with the beautiful weather we are having, and suddenly thought he was a kitten again. He leapt into the window screen, claws out, and tore it. He is an old cat. It was amazing to watch.

The house is in disarray; I haven't felt incredibly motivated to keep it neat and tidy. As spring comes there are birds suddenly everywhere, and bees again, Yuck.

My aunt is sick and in the hospital and my great grandmother is once again in the hospital. My sister-in-law had a baby, which was like a rainbow in the midst of all this other stuff, which is all made a little more different, because he is gone. Because he is gone.

Since there is no chance he will be around to help me through this, I have to pick myself up and figure this out.

My son grumbles while he soaks his finger, something about slowing down his reaction time. Tough. The fan thingy, I tried to take it apart. I took off the light cover, and well, when I put it back together again, now nothing works. That will require some professional help, bumper I thought I was super girl and could fix anything. I will try again.

The drawer, well, duck tape and some WD-40 did the trick. I think you can fix anything (except well, maybe the bathroom fan thing) with duck tape. I have it in all sorts of colors. The other little things, I will muddle through.

My elder relations, I call, write, send the children's art work, since they seem to produce a lot of art work. With the elders I will wait, it is hard to not have control over a situation, it is like him being gone.

The baby, well that is a celebration all by itself, but it does represent a new beginning, a fresh start. I take that and hold it dear, it comes at a time when nature also starts to unfold, and be renewed with the oncoming of spring, there too is a reminder the hope can spring forth. So the arrival of spring and my new niece bring me hope on one level.

On another level, I keep hoping he is safe, and he will come back soon

... while I am waiting.

While I am waiting ... Now that the war has gone on for a while, I am wondering if I am different than the people around me. I know that sounds strange, but it feels strange these days to be a spouse of a soldier at war.

I haven't watched the protests and rallies on TV, as they are talking about my spouse in a way I do not care to hear. So I do not tune in. I don't listen to the radio as much since they are always breaking to news of the war.

But in other little ways I am different now. I make sure all the doors are locked all the time. Before if the kids were out playing I would leave a door open so they could come in and out. Now I don't trust outside. And that is not rational, but it is.

I do not readily tell anyone that my spouse is gone. I wonder if the mailman has noticed, as there are always now more outgoing letters to the same family name.

I fly my American flag all the time, I used to put it out before, but would forget some days, and remember others. Now I feel it is so important that I religiously take it down, before sunset and back up after dawn.

I hear things I didn't hear before, it is unnerving how many sirens sound off around my home. Before they were just noise that was part of where I lived. Now I hear each one and occasionally it gives me a start. And the bugs and the birds are making noise again, it took a while to get used to the spring noises. I hear them cause I do not sleep as soundly as before my spouse left. So am I different?

I don't think I look different. Thankfully I haven't eaten myself into a new shape, conversely I haven't done as much exercise to create a new one, I am the same.

I don't think I am acting different though in a way I know I am. I am aware of who is around me now like I never was before. I do not tell people my spouse is gone, though everyone from my dental assistant to the postal clerk are trying to express their kindness and concern.

I am not sure of anyone who is not already a dear friend, part of the unit, or on post in an official capacity. I am leery of people in a way I was never before.

I see strange cars cruising down my street and I wonder why are they there, as I wash my dishes in the evening. I never cared before.

When I am on the web, it is amazing to me all the web pages that are for deployed spouses. It also amazes me the things that people are saying on those web pages. Wow, I do not chat, I don't want to talk to anyone I do not know, but it helps to read some of the other comments, I take it all in, and process it.

I don't really want to talk to anyone much anymore, unless they are family or another deployed spouse. And that is weird. My feelings are well, just different. I am different. I am in a state of missing my husband so badly, that it is painful. Yet I would like to think that since I miss him so much it means I love him so much.

On good days that works. On bad days, I repeat to myself the depth of my anger can equal the strength of my love...sometimes that strength carries me through, 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.

Feedback

Mother's Day is Sunday. What's the best thing about your mom?



The loving care that she gave me while I was growing up.

Richard Hall
Retiree



My mom's always there for me.

Pvt. Erica Hatch
Company E, 369th Signal Battalion



She's very hardworking, she's kind-hearted and she's helping me to be the good mother I am today.

Pfc. Tiffany King
Company B, 551st Signal Battalion



Not only is she a great mother, she's my best friend.

Pvt. Lachelle Storms
Company B, 551st Signal Battalion



Her smile. It's been a long time since I've seen her.

Pfc. John Wilson
Company E, 447th Signal Battalion

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212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of a ... 02K (bassoon player)

Note: This is the 30th MOS featured in a series describing all 212 Army careers.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Sgt. Shelley Terrill, 434th Signal Band Detachment, has always liked a good challenge.

That's one reason one of her future goals is to become a drill sergeant. It's also one of the reasons she took up playing the bassoon.

Terrill is a 02K or bassoon player with the United States Signal Corps Band here at Fort Gordon.

"The bassoon is a very unique instrument," Terrill said. "It has a distinct sound, and is a challenge to play. It also requires a double reed to play."

Terrill who makes her own reeds for her bassoon, said this is a common practice among players of the instrument. She uses a kit to carve the reeds to perfection (or else the sound will suffer) and even adds colorful decorations along their base.

Terrill started playing the bassoon when she was 16, but had been playing instruments since she was 10-years-old, starting with the clarinet. She also played saxophone but the distinct sound of the bassoon lured her away.

For Terrill, playing in the Signal Corps Band is "the best of both worlds." She had already been in the Army Reserves, having enlisted as a 92Y (unit supply specialist) right out of high school and was working at a recruiting station when she saw the recruiters enlisting a soldier into the Army band.

"I was like, 'What is this?' I didn't know you could do this (play music for the Army)! I decided not too many people play the bassoon and so I would have a better chance at making the band with the clarinet," Terrill admitted, though she added she still plays the clarinet for all marching band numbers, but not very much saxophone anymore.

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

The first step is to arrange an audition with an area Army band detachment where the auditioning musician must play scales, a prepared piece and must also sight-read and play music. If the prospective Army musician passes this audition, he/she has completed only the first step of the process and earned the right to attend advanced individual training to study music for the Army following the completion of basic training.

The AIT for members of the band is a tri-service school (Army, Navy and Marines at-

tend the school) and spans six months and is conducted at the Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk, Va. Roughly a quarter of the class will be dismissed from the course due to failure to meet the course standards. If someone is dismissed, they have the option of re-classing into a second MOS.

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

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

Terrill said that since she had not played the bassoon for a year and a half, she was a bit concerned about meeting the standards of the AIT course.

"It was like I was starting over, but it kind of worked out in my favor," Terrill said. "I learned the instrument all over the way the Army wanted me to learn it, so I didn't have to break any bad habits. It was still kind of difficult, but not as hard as I thought it would be."

Terrill, who is going on three years of duty in the Army, said she doesn't really have a musical role model for the bassoon.

"I don't listen to classical that much, and the bassoon is a classical instrument," she said. "I'm trying to build my own style rather than copying people."

However, Terrill said musicians in the Signal Band have the opportunity to play many styles of music at different ceremonies. For example during Hispanic Heritage Month, the band will play salsa, and so on.

Additionally, there are numerous bands within the Signal Corps Band, such as the ceremonial band, the marching band, the concert band, the jazz ensemble, the jazz combo, the rock band, the Dixie band, the brass quintet, the woodwind quintet and subgroups of all of these bands. Since there is no military occupational specialty for vocalist, an interested member of the band can also sing if they desire.

Terrill said one of the things she has really enjoyed about being in the Signal Corps Band is not just performing for soldiers on post, but the opportunity to perform for the local community as well.

"The community here definitely appreciates the band, you can tell it when you're out there playing," she said.

While soldiers in the band are performers, they are, of course, first and foremost, soldiers. Band members must

also fulfill all other duties required of soldiers such as physical training and weapons qualifications. In addition, the band is also its own unit and must handle all its own administrative and supply issues. In the event of an emergency, the band is also responsible for force protection of the post in the absence of military police, and trains with the military police in such matters.

Though she has found happiness moving from the 92Y MOS to the Signal Corps Band, Terrill said she has so many ideas she can't quite decide her future. But one thing seems for certain: the Army will be involved.

"I'm a lifer, and I know I'm going to be a drill sergeant and want to get my education completed," she said. "Beyond that, I'm not sure. My mind changes every day."

Sgt. Shelley Terrill, 434th Signal Corps Band Detachment, has played the bassoon since she was 16. (Top) Terrill displays one of the hand-crafted reeds she made for her instrument. (Left) Terrill in action with her bassoon. She said she enjoys the bassoon's distinct sound and the fact it is a challenge to play.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson



Spotlight on:

Name: Staff Sgt. Andrew C. Baker

Unit: Company C, 551st Signal Battalion

Hometown: Mattoon, Ill.

What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?

Watching the soldiers change in front of me through leadership and mentoring.

How long at Fort Gordon?

5 years - 4 as an Instructor and 1 as a Drill Sergeant

What do you want to accomplish in the military?

Command Sergeant Major and a Pre-law degree.



Staff Sgt. Baker

Good news

Chaplain (Col.) Richard M. Goellen
Catholic Pastor

Let's imagine for a moment that we are present with the disciples of Jesus on the evening of the original Easter. There we are, wondering and worrying what we are going to do now that our leader and teacher has suffered, died and been buried. Is this the end of our encounter with our master and mentor?

True, a couple of the disciples have just come from a long walk and are telling us that Jesus himself had walked and talked with them, even had a meal with them. They were sure it was Jesus by the way he broke the bread and shared it with them. Could they have made up this story just to get attention?

But then SHA-ZAM! There he is, standing with us, giving us his familiar greeting, "Peace be with you!" He certainly sounds like Jesus, looks like Jesus, acts like Jesus. Startled, bewildered, flabbergasted, even terrified, we first think he is a ghost. But he quickly dispels our fear when he invites us to look at his hands and feet and even to touch him. Then he demolishes our doubt in one fell swoop when he asks us if we have anything to eat and promptly downs a piece of baked fish. Ghosts don't eat. Jesus is for real!

Supposing we were there that original Easter evening, would we not have wanted to ask Jesus a hundred questions such as: What was it like to be crucified? How did you endure all that pain? Why did you dare to ask God to forgive those who made you suffer so much? Do you remember being taken down and put into the tomb? What did you do in there? Were you really and truly dead? Who woke you up? How did you get out of the tomb with that huge stone at the entrance? Do you feel O.K. now? What's next? Where do we go from here?

As pertinent as these questions might be, Jesus is not about to calm our curiosity. He does not rise from the dead to talk about his dying, but rather about his living. Instead of reviewing the last three days, he chooses to review what he has taught us in the Scriptures that

we have read and heard so many times.

Yes, Easter time is Bible time. Our Easter Scripture season is initiated by the poignant prayer before the proclamation of this past Sunday's gospel: "Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us." One of our strongest connections, one of our finest and firmest links with the risen Jesus of Easter is the Bible. In this past Sunday's gospel Jesus told his doubtful disciples, "Touch me." For over two thousand years we Christians have kept in touch with the risen and reigning Jesus through the Bible. The best evidence that we have for Jesus' rising from the dead and being very much alive is our belief that it is Jesus himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read. Since "dead men tell no tales" Jesus is surely alive. He continues week after week, day by day to tell us the inspiring tales of his life and death and rising from the dead.

I can think of no better way for us to keep in touch with the Easter Jesus than to spend fifteen minutes each day reading carefully and prayerfully the Bible. I suggest reading the "Acts of the Apostles" during the Easter season. That is the book found in the New Testament right after the Gospel according to John. The "Acts of the Apostles" is the story of the daring deeds of Jesus' disciples as they continue after Easter to do the work of the risen Lord. And what exactly is that work? Jesus tells us in the gospel: "to preach in his name the forgiveness of sins." And that, my friends, is the Good News we want and need to hear all the days of our lives.

Now, having experienced the resurrection and having meditated on the living Word of God in person and in Scripture, we are challenged not to live with the Jesus of history, but with the Jesus of faith. Christ has given us his Spirit to strengthen, focus, motivate, enable us to go forward, as did his earliest disciples "to preach in his name the forgiveness of sins" by our word and example. *The Challenge of Being a Christian.*



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Dave McClain

Treasure trove

Shoppers browse through CD's at the annual Officer's Wife's Club Flea Market, held on Fort Gordon's Engineer Field. The OWC has been holding this annual fund raiser twice a year for over 20 years.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

Yard of the Month

Yard of the Month is in full swing again. Each housing area recognizes one yard each month that is outstanding, Gordon Terrace recognizes two. Terry Smith, the deputy garrison commander, stated these individuals set the example for property that isn't even theirs. (Left to right) Smith stands with recipients, for Maglin Terrace, Command Sgt. Maj. McKinley Curtis, Petrina Curtis; for Gordon Terrace, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Hawkins, Cathy Hawkins and Aaren Wilton; for McNair Terrace, Cathy Ziembra, for Olive Terrace Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Snider and for Gordon Terrace, Rita Felton (holding Armani) and Bessie (B.B.) Brown.

Donorfest 2003! Post blood drive offers donors incentives

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The 551st Signal Battalion, in conjunction with Marketing's Morale, Welfare and Recreation, are hosting a post blood drive, and they're not messing around.

The drive, called Donorfest 2003, to be held May 22 at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center will start at 8 a.m. and last until 4:30 p.m.

Incentives will be offered to anyone from the Fort Gordon family who donates a pint of blood to the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, a facility whose first priority is providing blood for soldiers and their families who need it.

Anyone who donates a pint of blood at the drive will receive three free games of bowling donated by Gordon Lanes Bowling Center, a free car wash, a free T-shirt, compliments of the Kendrick Memorial Blood Donor Center, and will be registered in a drawing, with prizes donated by AAFES food court, Rhinehart's Oyster Bar, Burger King, Fort Gordon Credit Union, Holiday Inn West and First Command. Prizes will be awarded to winners every hour.

Food and refreshments will also be offered.

Local Radio Station 102.3 (the Eagle, the home of classic rock) will be on hand with a live broadcast and other activities and entertainment is currently being scheduled, so in the words of a disk jockey, "Stay tuned!"

The drive will be the culmination of the efforts of several organizations on post. First, the 551st Signal Battalion came up with the idea of having a large-

scale blood drive to benefit the many deployed soldiers from Fort Gordon and other military installations.

Next, representatives from the battalion contacted Kim Lyons, the Commercial Sponsorship and Advertising Coordinator at MWR. She contacted the sponsors who had already voiced interest in participating in this type of event.

Lyons explained why she felt it was important for MWR to back this event.

"I feel this post-wide blood drive is a good fit for MWR," Lyons said. "MWR's goal is to make a difference in soldier's lives. I feel a big difference can be made by helping this event. A pint given today can save a soldier's life tomorrow."

Tim Stancil, the manager of the bowling center on post, donated the services of his new facility, the meeting rooms/cook-out building, as well as contributing the three free games of bowling to donors.

"It is great to be able to help the blood bank, and the last drive here at Gordon Lanes was very successful," Stancil said. "It seems to be a relaxing place to give blood. I ask all our regular customers to come out and give the gift of life at Gordon Lanes."

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offered help by volunteering to wash cars, along with other volunteers from the 551st Signal Battalion.

And, of course, Kendrick Memorial Blood Donor Center will be doing the real work behind the drive, collecting and managing the units of blood donated. They will be on hand collecting blood for the length of the drive, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capt. Jeffrey L. Richards, the Officer in Charge at the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, pointed out that though the conflict in Iraq may be winding down, the need for blood is a constant.

"Since the beginning of January, the 7217th MSU Blood Collection Task Force, comprised mainly of activated reservists from 5 different states augmented with government contract workers, have been collecting blood for the current operations in Iraq," Richards explained. "As the war comes to a halt, blood will continue

to play a vital role in any military mission, but it is also needed during peacetime operations in support of our own medical centers and supplies blood to the Armed Forces Blood Program. Every donation of blood helps save another life for a soldier, dependent or retired service member. We call it 'Liquid Gold' because without it, there is no life. When you give blood, you give back to your own community."

The event is open to the public. For more information on this event, call 791-8512 or 791-6234.



Time: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Gordon Lanes Bowling Center

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 12:30-1:30, 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

Community Events

Grovetown Fest

The Grovetown Heritage Festival is **Saturday** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Grovetown City Hall Area.

There will be a fun run/walk, food, arts and crafts, kids activities, live entertainment, the oldest citizen recognition and much more. Admission is free.

A concert "Blast from the Past" will be at Grovetown Middle School. Senator Joey Brush and his sons will perform along with Christopher Goss, an Elvis impersonator.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. and cost \$5.

For more information, call 706-863-1867.

Military spouse BBQ

A BBQ will be held in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, **Saturday** 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-aways.

There will also be live music by "Shinebox."

For more information, call 791-6234/6632.

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.

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.

OWC

Officers' Wives' Club "Change of Command" is **Wednesday**, 10 a.m. at the Gordon Club.

The brunch costs \$9 and includes: quiche, side salad, fruit, coffee and tea.

For more information or to reserve a place, call Holly Bullock **today** at 855-8122.

Change of Responsibility

The 93rd Signal Brigade will conduct a Change of Responsibility Ceremony at Barton Field behind the 93rd Sig. Bde. Headquarters Building, 25526, Brainard Ave., **May 15** at 9 a.m.

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., command sergeant major, will relinquish duties as the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Thomas.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Ledesmaat 791-9375.

Unfurling ceremony

The 56th Signal Battalion, 93rd Signal Brigade will officially relocate to Fort Gordon, Ga., during an Unfurling Ceremony on Barton Field behind the 93rd Signal Brigade Headquarters, Building 25526, Brainard Ave., **May 12** at 6 a.m.

The 56th Sig. Bn. was formerly headquartered at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico and is relocating as part of the U.S. Army South relocation.

For more information about the Fort Gordon ceremony please contact Maj. Ronnie Robertson, 56th Sig. Bn., executive officer, at 791-5695.

Auction

The Red Cross *Virtual Auction* runs through May 15.

The American Red Cross nationwide Virtual Auction started May 5 with nearly 1,000 unique items.

Hosted on eBay, the charity auction will raise money for disaster relief and other Red Cross humanitarian services.

Items in the charity auction include: seats to the taping of "Oprah"; tickets to professional baseball and basketball games; various sports and celebrity memorabilia, such as VIP studio visits with recording artists; a Bruce Springsteen autographed CD; a selection of Sting autographed items and a Tim McGraw book with personal inscription to the winning bidder by the star himself!

There are also get-aways to Jamaica, the French Riviera, and Mexico; time-shares in Hawaii; bed and breakfast stays throughout the country; Delta Airlines Round Trip Tickets; and much more.

Visit www.ebay.com/redcross until **May 15**. It's an opportunity to bid on unique items while supporting a good cause.

Memorial Day events

Jackson, S.C. holds a pre-Memorial Day concert **May 17**, from 1 - 6 p.m. at Thorton Park, Silverton Street, Jackson, South Carolina.

The Signal Corps Band will perform an hour during this time frame.

Eatonton, Ga. has a "Celebrating Patriotism" event **May 22** at 7 p.m. at the courthouse Square (corner of Madison and Jefferson streets), Eatonton, Georgia

The Signal Corps Band will perform and guest speaker is Col. Michael DeBow.

Marine Corps League

(James L. Hammons Detachment #939) participates in the Aiken Memorial Day Parade **May 24** at 1 p.m.

The parade begins at Laurens Street (downtown), Aiken, S.C.

Signal Corps Band and color guard will be in the parade and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry will serve as one of the judges for the parade.

The Columbia County Memorial Day Celebration is **May 24** from 6 to 9 p.m. across from the Evans Government Complex on Ronald Reagan Drive.

The Signal Corps Band will perform, 110 man marching unit from the 15th Sig Bde, flags, DCA stage mobile and K-9 demo.

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks will be the guest speaker. Fireworks display begins at 9 p.m.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home will have a Memorial Day ceremony, **May 26** at 9 a.m. at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home courtyard, 1101 Fifteenth Street, Augusta, GA.

Col Bernard Kulifay is the guest speaker.

Signal Corps band looking for members

The United States Signal Corps Band 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.

The School Yard

Attention parents and children of deployed soldiers

"It is an opportunity to fall in love with sailing."

The Augusta Sail Club would like to invite you to a day of sailing at Clark Hill, on May 24. If you are interested please call, 228-5262 and reserve a time.



Fort Gordon Report



The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **May 12** and includes the following stories:

- Operation Iraqi Freedom Update
- STRYKER Brigade Combat Team at NTC
- Soldier in Kuwait Throws Out Opening Pitch

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

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

The next "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **May 19** on both Comcast 66 and Charter 13.

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

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**.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf tournament to support deployed troops

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion Family Readiness Group will hold a golf tournament **today** 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.

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 8 a.m.

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

Ladies golf guest tournament

The women's golf club will hold a guest tournament **May 22** in which each member will invite three guests to join in on some golfing fun. The tournament starts at 9 a.m.

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.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day BBQ

MWR will host a military spouse appreciation day, featuring music from area band Shinebox, on **May 10**.

The event will take place at Freedom Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature an inflatable castle, free food, car washes, give-aways, massages, manicures, childrens games and much more.

For more information call 791-6234/6632.

Marathon man

Spc. Ryan Matson
Sports editor

For Steve Hubbard, a civilian who works with the 116th Military Intelligence Group in Back Hall, it was a dream realized.

Hubbard not only completed the Boston Marathon April 21, he did it in a time of 2 hours, 53 minutes (an average of 6 minutes, 36 seconds per mile for the entire race) finishing in 308th place overall. Hubbard placed 64th in his age group, placing him in the top two percent of runners 40 and over.

Hubbard said running the Boston Marathon was a dream he had held for most of his life. Hubbard, who grew up in Fairfax, Va., had run long-distance in high school. He ran in the Shamrock Marathon in 1982, when he was in college. Little did he know then that it would be more than twenty years before he'd run in the Boston Marathon.

He had gotten married and started a family, and Hubbard said those may have been some of the reasons he stopped running.

There were many reasons why running the Boston Marathon fascinated him, Hubbard said. For one, Hubbard said the Boston Marathon is one of the few marathons a runner must qualify to compete in, in order to keep the number of contestants manageable. Another lure of the Boston Marathon is the fact that, going on its 108th consecutive running,

it is the longest running marathon in the world. He also said the race has a lot of history behind it.

"It was always something I wanted to do," he said.

Hubbard said he started training for the Boston Marathon when he began running again in January 2001. The Fort Gordon 10K on post was his first race back, he said.

"That got me thinking, yeah I can have fun doing this again," he said. "So next I ran the Battleship Half Marathon in North Carolina."

He said he dropped 60 pounds to get into running shape for the race.

"It was a change in my lifestyle," he admitted.

The first step in getting into the Boston Marathon was qualifying for it, Hubbard said. To do this, Hubbard ran the Country Music Marathon in Nashville, Tenn., in April 2002.

"I surprised myself by qualifying for Boston in my first try," Hubbard said. He finished the Country Music Marathon in a time of 3 hours, 13 minutes, with 3 hours, 20 minutes being the cut-off for someone in Hubbard's age group.

Hubbard ran as much as 65 miles in a week when training for the Boston Marathon, and between four and 22 miles a day. He said he runs in the mornings, to "get it out of the way."

The determination and drive it takes to run a marathon are some of the things Hubbard said he enjoys

about the sport.

"From a physical aspect, running makes you feel better about yourself," he said. "It's mostly a lonely sport, though. You get running partners, but mostly you go it alone. In the long races especially, you have to really push yourself hard mentally."

Physically, Hubbard said it takes a few weeks to fully recuperate from running a marathon.

"The next day your hamstrings will knot up and you'll have to sit down for 30 or 40 minutes to relax them," he said.

Immediately after finishing the race and receiving his finisher's medal, Hubbard said his first order of business was preparing for 30 minutes of sharp pain.

"With humility aside, I asked to sit down in one of the wheelchairs which were pre-positioned for the runners," he said.

After running the Boston Marathon, Hubbard wrote a journal of his experience for the Augusta Striders, a local running club to which Hubbard belongs. He took readers through the course, including the famous section of the Boston Marathon called "Heartbreak Hill."

"The last big hill in the course is called Heartbreak Hill," Hubbard said. "There's a subway station by it, and it's not uncommon to see runners give up and take the subway back. I didn't see anyone doing that when I went up Heart-

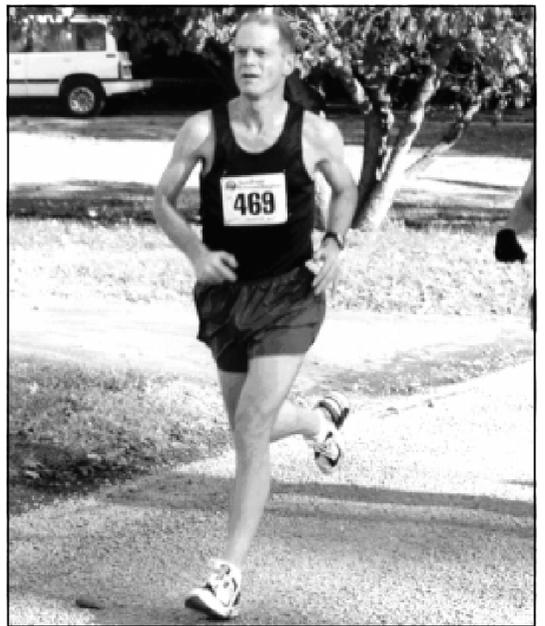


Photo courtesy of Steve Hubbard

Steve Hubbard, who works in Back Hall on post, recently finished 308th out of the more than 17,000 runners who completed the Boston Marathon.

break Hill, but I did see people walking."

Hubbard said he got a lot of support from his friends and co-workers in Fort Gordon.

"All the contestants in the marathon had an automated chip in their shoes, so everybody at work was watching me run the course on the internet!" Hubbard explained.

He said he also got a lot of support from his family. His parents were waiting to see him around the ten-mile mark, and his sister was also there.

Hubbard's next race is the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., which he has already signed up for. His next run-

ning goal is to beat his running times from when he was 20 years old.

He said he ran the Shamrock Marathon in 2 hours, 47 minutes, good for a pace of 6 minutes, 26 seconds over the span of the 26 miles. He said he plans to continue running marathons in the future, first ones in the immediate area and possibly some in Europe later on.

"I'd like to run the Berlin Marathon someday," he said.

Since his stellar performance in the Boston Marathon, Hubbard has said he has learned a lesson.

"I learned that I never should have stopped running in the first place," he said. "I missed it."



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Gary Smith, RNCOA Class 503-03, drives a motorboat during the Spring Regatta on Langley Pond outside Aiken May 3. (Right) Sgt. 1st Class Chris Smith, RNCOA Class 503-03 pushes, a boat from the Augusta Rowing Club off shore.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

A referee watches the racers while being escorted downstream by one of the noncommissioned officers who volunteered their time at the Spring Regatta.

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 9 to 11
Friday - Bringing Down The House (PG-13)
Saturday - Dreamcatcher (R)
Late show - Gangs of New York (R)
Sunday - Dreamcatcher (R)

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

Smoke on the water

Fort Gordon NCOs help with rowing regatta

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Twelve noncommissioned officers from the Advanced Noncommissioned Class, Section Number 503-03, spent last weekend on Langley Pond.

No, they weren't having a cookout or going fishing. Instead, they were performing community service by helping with the Spring Regatta at the pond.

The NCOs helped perform a variety of duties including carrying oars and pushing off boats, but most importantly, they drove the race referees around the pond in motorboats to help them officiate the races.

"They are wonderful," John Wilder, an international rowing official and one of the racing referees the NCOs assisted, said.

"You couldn't ask for better help. They are smart, and have a good attitude that won't quit."

By following the rowers in motorboats, the NCOs also performed a safety function. Since the rowers are rowing with their back toward their destination, the people following them in the motorboats can alert them if they start to wander into another boat's lane.

"They also need to be able to make decisions," Wilder

explained. "Since the judges want to keep up with the leading boats and stay a boat-length behind them to make sure they're racing legally, they may have to pass by boats in the back. This will mean the boats in the back will lose some time due to the wake caused by the motorboat."

"A good driver needs to be able to make the decision on when is the right time to do this."

The NCOs helped drive around the ten referees who officiated this race, as well as any other odd chores assigned them. There were about 150 boats that raced in the regatta, in various combinations - two, four and eight person teams, of the same or mixed genders.

Rowers young and old raced in the regatta, often in multiple races.

Older racers were given time handicaps, meaning it was possible for a boat to be the second boat across the finish line, but still win the race due to the handicap.

Wilder said the referees need to carefully watch the rowers in the race. For example, if two boats were to collide, it is up to the referee to determine who is at fault for the collision, or if the contact was simply incidental. Races can also be protested if a rower raises his/her hand before the white flag is

waved, finalizing the race. Helping out with the regatta is an annual tradition for ANCO classes at Fort Gordon, and is an activity that has been going on for years.

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Smith, one of the twelve volunteers at this event, said he enjoyed helping out with the regatta because it gives him a chance to leave post and interact with the community.

"I volunteer for anything we can do," Smith said.

"Most of us aren't from anywhere close to here, so getting off post and helping the community is great."

This is the second class project for the NCOs, who all are 31Ws, Smith said.

He said earlier this spring they volunteered their time to ride amusement rides and spend a day with abused children at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

The NCOs will also be helping with soap box derbies and road running races on post in the future.

The NCOs who helped out with this year's regatta were:

Sgts. 1st Class Todd Burmester, Mario Galan, Antonio Johnson, Matt McCoy, Ted Nelson, Deborah Owens, Don Peloquin, Frank Perez, Len Price, Chris Smith, Gary Smith, and Gerald Wilson.

Spectrum



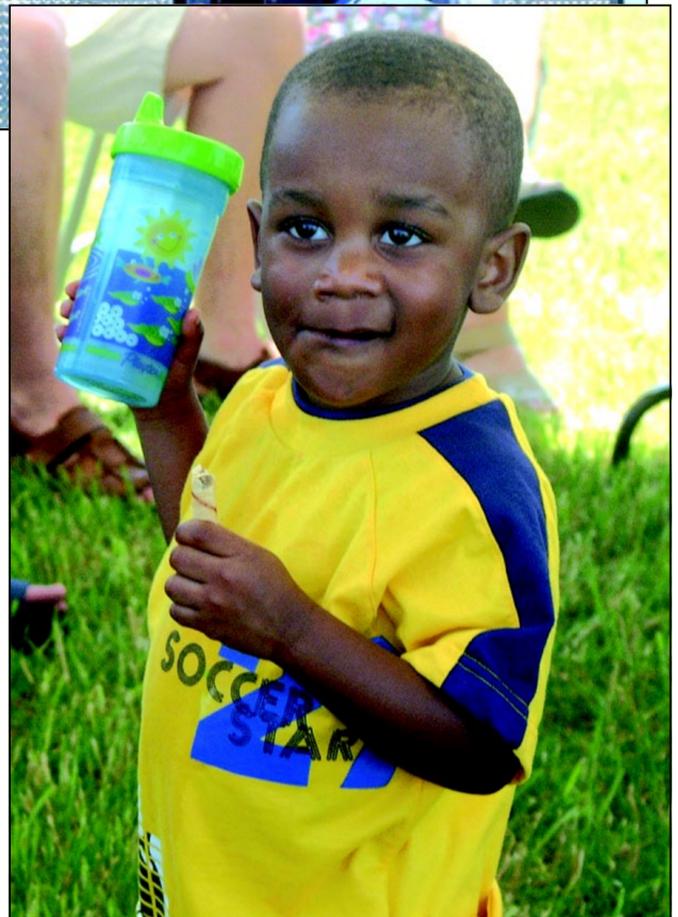
The Fort Gordon Fire Department was on hand with one of their fire trucks sporting a patriotic look.



Students scale the rock wall at the May Day picnic.

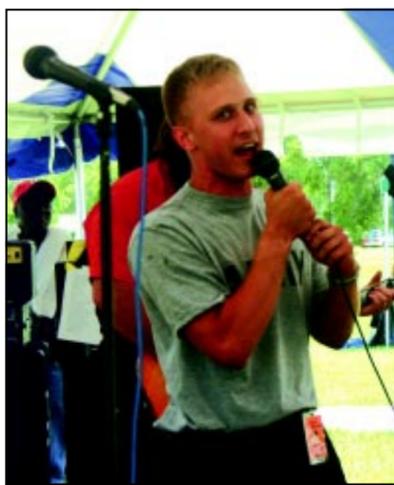
May Day Picnic

The May Day Picnic was held Friday, May 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Barton Field and in Freedom Park. The May Day Picnic was similar to post-wide organization days held in the past, except with a more relaxed feel. The event did not have organized sports tournaments or formations, although it did offer a bevy of activities, including volleyball, flag football, frisbee, soccer, and a DJ. Live music and a rock wall were also provided by MWR.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Kendrick Bryant, Jr., age 2, enjoys some food and shade at the festival.



A "Heavy Dose" of fun

Local band "Heavy Dose" entertained soldiers and their families under one of the tents set up at Freedom Park for the May Day Picnic. The band gave students Pfc. Derek Gunby (above left) and Pfc. Brandy Lowery (bottom left) the chance to jam with them on stage. (Above) U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks (seated left) applauds with some AIT students as their classmates perform. (Right) Heavy Dose drummer, Kent Medlock, pounds out the beat to a classic rock song.

