



## Freedom Park graduates first class

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# The Signal



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## News UPDATE

### Memorial Day events

Marine Corps League (James L. Hammons Detachment #939) participates in the Aiken Memorial Day Parade Saturday at 1 p.m.

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

The 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.

A marching unit from the 15th Signal Brigade will also participate.

The Columbia County Memorial Day Red, White and Blue Celebration is Saturday 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 speak. Congressman Charlie Norwood will also speak. Local Girl Scouts will carry pictures of deployed family members/soldiers. Fireworks display begins at 9 p.m.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home will have a Memorial Day ceremony, Monday at 9 a.m. at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home courtyard, 1101 Fifteenth Street, Augusta, Ga. Col. Bernard Kulifay is the guest speaker.

Bellevue Memorial Gardens will host an observance featuring a Fort Gordon bugler and color guard, 10 a.m. Monday, at 4501 Wrightsboro Road in Augusta, Ga.

The Augusta/CSRA Area Veterans Activities Office conducts its Memorial Day ceremony Monday at 11 a.m. at the Veterans of All Wars Monument, at the corner of Fourth and Broad streets in Augusta, Ga. This event will feature a bugler, color guard and firing squad. Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks will speak.

McCormick County Veterans' Affairs will hold a Memorial Day observance May 30 from 11 a.m. to noon at the McCormick County Courthouse, Highway 28, McCormick, S.C.

There will be a color guard and Col. Craig Doer will be the guest speaker.

### Correction

The job fair at the Reserve Center on May 6 was coordinated by the Georgia Department of Labor.

### Blood ceremony

The sixth annual Blood Donor Award Ceremony is Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Main Ballroom of the Gordon Club.

For more information, call 787-3234.



Archive photo

### 'Major' promotion

The U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, has been nominated by President George Bush for promotion to major general. Hicks was recommended for promotion to two-star general on May 13, pending congressional approval. Hicks has been commanding general of Fort Gordon since Aug. 7, 2002. The Public Affairs Office adds its congratulations to those of the rest of the Fort Gordon 'family.'



### 93rd Brigade Change of Responsibility



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

(Top) Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick (left) and Col. Daniel Gerstein (center), 93rd Signal Brigade, brigade commander, relinquishes duties as 93rd Signal Brigade, command sergeant major to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Thomas.

(Below) Gerstein passes 93rd's guidon to Thomas. The unit's command sergeant major is responsible for protecting the colors

## New Perspective: Area journalist shares experiences as embedded media during Operation Iraqi Freedom

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

Though he may have never served in the United States Army, Johnny Edwards, staff writer for the *Augusta Chronicle*, now has a deep "embedded" appreciation for the work of the American soldier.

Edwards was in Iraq as an embedded journalist and correspondent for the *Augusta Chronicle* covering the events of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was the only reporter from the Central Savannah River Area to work as embedded media during the operation. It was an assignment that Edwards said took a lot of persistence to secure.

"It was a really hard process to get that done," Edwards said. "I got permission from Capt. Mohandas Martin at the 319th Transportation Company, (an Army Reserve Unit based in Augusta) right away. He was in support of it. Then I had to go to the Army Reserve's higher command in Alabama, the 81st, and got their information, but then they were activated and went to Fort Stewart so I had to go talk to them. I assumed at that point they'd be working for the Third Infantry Division, and I tried to beg and lobby them, but then when they were deployed we had no idea where they were or what they were doing."

"I finally found out we had an embedding slot, but it was one embedding slot, which meant my photographer Andrew Tucker was out of it. So it was one slot with the 101st Airborne which is out of Kentucky, and we're the *Augusta Chronicle*, and cover most things from a local angle."

Edwards said the *Augusta Chronicle* agreed to send him,

*"I feel a lot more comfortable being around soldiers than I used to."*

- Johnny Edwards

but not with the 101st.

It would take a little muscle from Georgia Senator Zell Miller's office to make Edwards' aspiration a reality. Through many phone calls and letters, Edwards was able to secure a slot as an embedded reporter with the 1st Marines Division from Alabama who were deployed to Camp Coyote.

The process was made increasingly difficult because Edwards had been approved with the 101st Airborne. The Army had to give up one of its embedded reporter slots to the Marines.

"But I think they all saw that what we were trying to do is get information back to the family members, what they're doing there," Edwards said. "I was never there to be an Associated Press reporter and cover the war blow-by-blow. I wasn't there when that statue fell, and I never made it to Saddam's palace. I was there to cover what the 319th was doing and get that information back home to their family members."

Edwards said he had a tank commander offer him a ride into central Baghdad, but was worried that if he got a ride in, he might have trouble securing a way back out.

"Probably, in hindsight, I could have talked someone into driving me back to the little camp in East Baghdad that I was at, then I could have gotten my way back out, but I had a flight booked out of the country and I just didn't want to

chance missing that flight," Edwards said.

Of all his experiences while serving as an embedded reporter, Edwards said the three nights he spent with the Marines in Baghdad stand out.

"They made a little camp out of a complex of buildings and warehouses," he recalled. "There was artillery blowing up all around and at night firefights going on right outside the walls, less than a kilometer away. The word we got was that it was Iraqis fighting Iraqis - Iraqi freedom fighters fighting Saddam's Circle of Death. It lasted all night long...it sounded like a storm."

Though Edwards admits he was definitely not in the position of a soldier fighting on the front lines, he said there were times when he feared for his life.

"There were a couple of times like that," he recalled. "Once, I was in a water truck driving back into Baghdad after we had left to fill back up. We were going back in and it got dark. We were waiting to go across a bridge...There were just as many civilians walking up and down the street as there had been in the day time, but now it's dark. Most of them were wanting to come and rush up to you and say, 'Oh America, yeah George Bush!' and coming at you and the Marines were trying to keep them off you, telling them in Arabic to stay back. Anyway, one of the Marines jumped back into the truck and said they

just found a grenade two trucks ahead of us, under a fuel truck. It didn't blow up, because thank goodness the Iraqi's stuff was all just junk."

"That ride made me understand how they shot civilians," Edwards said. "Because you just don't want to take any chances. Most of those people were very nice people and loved us, appreciated us, and wanted to shower us with kisses and hugs, but it only takes one..."

Edwards said he has gained new perspectives from his time as an embedded journalist.

"It definitely made me appreciate the things we have here a lot more," he said. "It also made me appreciate the Middle East a lot more, the people over there. Being in Kuwait, for example, made me really understand the first Gulf War a lot more."

"Kuwait's a modern society with people there who have families and children who are trying to make their way in life just like we are, and these guys came and invaded the country and took over everything. You look at it from that point of view when you're actually there."

Edwards said the impact of his trip - seeing people live in poverty, hoping for a better life, took a couple of weeks of "de-compressing" to return back to normal.

"It took some readjusting," he said. "Fortunately my paper gave me a couple weeks off."

One of the most important lessons Edwards said he took home was a new appreciation for the American soldier.

"I feel a lot more comfortable being around soldiers than

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Graphic by Sgt. Kevin Quill

(Left) Johnny Edwards, embedded media for Operation Iraqi Freedom receives a coin and certificate of appreciation from (right) Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, commanding general for the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.

## Perspective

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I used to," Edwards said. "I've been educated a lot more on what the military's mentality is. They're just people, about my age, who were in the military to help themselves out for whatever reason."

Not surprisingly, Edwards said he thought the idea of reporters embedded with troops was a good concept.

"I think it's a real good thing what they're (the Armed Forces) are doing," Edwards said. "They're not saying the media only has to cover it one way. They were very cooperative with both the embedded and non-embedded media. The embedded just get the opportunity to cover it from a soldier, sailor, airman or Marines' point of view, which is something I think reporters would want to do anyway."

Edwards, who hails from the Atlanta area, but sports no discernible accent because, as he said, he "was raised on television so I have the basic American accent," went to communications school at the University of Georgia, where he studied media law and wrote for *The Red Flag*, the university paper. After college, Edwards said he worked at a law firm for a bit with the intention of becoming a lawyer but was turned off by the lifestyle.

"No amount of money is worth living that way,"

Edwards said. "It's better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable."

After dismissing a future in law, Edwards was drawn back to writing. He wrote for a small weekly paper near his hometown of Marietta. He worked his way to the *Augusta Chronicle*, and is happy to have had the opportunity to cover the conflict overseas.

"To be able to do what I did with the *Chronicle* these past few months, I'm happy everything turned out for me to get to that point," he said.

He said that it was an experience he would repeat again.

"Now that I'm back safe and sound, and now I'm pretty sure the 319th is coming back safe and sound, I can say it really was a great experience, a chance to do great journalism and inform people of what was going on over there," he said.

Though he remembers being scared at times and that it was definitely not a motion picture fairy tale experience, Edwards said he will carry with him a lifetime of people and memories.

"The Marines were just fascinating, just their mentality," Edwards said. "It was like being with a football team, but a football team that didn't want to pick on you because you weren't on the team. They respected the journalists out there

and were really nice and kind of let you into their club, so to speak. I'd stand around and talk to them and joke around with them when I wasn't working."

"The last week I was there when I was southeast of Baghdad, we sat around for like two or three days."

When asked his thoughts on the portable packages of food soldiers eat in the field, called Meals-Ready-to-Eat, Edwards said, "I only had to eat them for about five weeks, so I can't really speak for the soldiers who had to eat them for like six months, because they were getting sick of them. Some of them were even refusing to eat them and just eating the fruit and the candy and living off that. But just for five weeks, I thought they were good. I had my favorites, like chicken cavatelli and jambalaya, and jambalaya was great. There was shrimp and ham in there, and you could put the cheese spread in there and mix it up and putting the coffee creamer powder in was kind of like adding milk to it. It would be delicious, I loved it."

After returning home from Iraq, Edwards was presented a certificate of achievement plaque from the United States Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon for "exemplary and courageous efforts as an embedded journalist with the coa-

lition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"Your professionalism, journalistic expertise, and dedication to provide compelling and timely information to your readership brings great credit upon you and the *Augusta Chronicle* and adds to the sterling legacy of the American press," the plaque went on to read.

The plaque was presented to Edwards by U.S. Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks. "... Johnny Edwards is a member of the Signal team, I told him he was a member of the Signal regiment."

The general went on to explain her thought.

"He went over to Iraq and he saw and wrote down and reported back the message of the Signal man, what he saw, back home to Augusta. He was bringing home what we do, which can be very foreign to members of the community who've never served in uniform."

He brought the message home and made it real for them and told the story of some of the folks who lived in his town and it was very, very important to their families and the rest of the community to learn."

As she handed Edwards a plaque she said, "Now you've got a small token of our appreciation for what you did there, 'Mr. Signal Man!'"

## Poole honored

Denise Allen  
Staff Writer

Although she retired earlier this year, Barbara Poole was honored on May 15 as Fort Gordon's employee of the year at the sixth annual federal employee of the year luncheon at the Gordon Club.

Her honor came because of her ability to hold down two management positions at one time and maintain high morale while her departments underwent a review for possible contracting out the positions, according to the nomination read by Jenny Montgomery, emcee for the event, sponsored by the Central Savannah River Area Federal Executive Association.

Poole also battled cancer during that time.

The ceremony honored all those federal employees of the year. Other awardees included Chris Willis and Mary Jane Johnston of the Social Security Administration; Hospital Corpsman First Class Glenn E. Rich and Storekeeper Second

Class Jessica L. Brown of the U.S. Naval Reserve Center in Augusta; Staff Sgt. Rebecca R. Sparks, Cpl. Robert M. Thompson and Lance Cpl. Matthew W. Carr of the Marine Corps Reserve Center in Augusta; Sylvia Maroney and Christina Edwards of the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site; Andrew Freeman of the USDA Forest Service at the Savannah River Site; Lucille Madison of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and Tom Prince of the J. Strom Thurmond Project.

Joe Edwards, the chief executive officer of the National Science Center's Fort Discovery and former NASA astronaut, was the keynote speaker for the event.

"I want you to know we appreciate what you've done. As one representative of the American people, I sincerely appreciate your service to your country," he said.

Augusta Mayor Bob Young proclaimed May 15 as Federal Employee Appreciation Day in Augusta.

## 'Operation Comfort' extends gratitude

Denise Allen  
Staff Writer

Vanessa Stanley has two words for the Augusta community.

"Thank you."

Money and in-kind contributions from the community through an Army Community Service program called "Operation Comfort" have topped \$7,000.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Stanley with the ACS office in Darling Hall.

When the rumors of wars started swirling, people in the community called "any number they had for the post" to find out how they could help, she said.

Because of fear of terrorism, people were unable to send letters or packages to "any soldier" as they had done in the past wars, but that didn't stop them from desiring to help.

The ACS office created

"Operation Comfort" as a way for those in the community to do something.

Monetary contributions are brought in through ACS and distributed to the family readiness groups on post. Those groups have used the money to "boost morale" through cookouts, barbecues and other events that bring spouses and family members together, she said.

Also, Stanley has compiled a database of contributions of items such as books, CDs and other items people have donated. Phone cards have also been given.

ACS does not have the space to store these larger items so she lets family readiness groups know that businesses have expressed an interest in providing these items if they are needed.

Stanley said "Operation Comfort" will run through at least September and possibly longer depending on how long troops are deployed.

For more information, call 791-3579.

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## Retiree Notes: Military retiree issues: special disability compensation update

Richard T. Lechnir  
Retirement Services Officer

As reported in the last issue of *Echoes*, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2003 granted a special payment to certain disabled retirees - Combat-Related Special Compensation.

CRSC is payable to certain disabled retirees who have at least 20 years of active duty or a combination of active duty and Reserve points equaling 20 years of full-time active duty.

These retirees must have either a disability rating of 10 percent or higher associated with award of a Purple Heart; or a disability rating of 60 percent or higher for other illnesses or injuries attributed to combat situations, combat oriented training, hazardous duty, or instrumentality of war.

Retirees who qualify for CRSC must apply to receive it. Retirees who feel they qualify for CRSC should prepare to apply now by gathering (and copying) their records showing that they qualify. This would include records that show that their disability rating is combat-related.

CRSC could equal the amount of Veterans Administration compensation received for Purple Heart-related disabilities or combat-related disabilities described previously minus any additional compensation received for dependents.

**"There is a special need right now for donors with Type O blood."**

- Col. G. Michael Fitzpatrick

Those retired under Chapter 61, Title 10, U.S. Code (retirement for disability) with at least 20 years of service, will have their benefit reduced by the amount their retired pay exceeds retired pay they would have received if they had retired under any other provision of law.

CRSC is separate from a special compensation program enacted several years ago, known as "Severely Disabled Special Compensation." Eligible retirees cannot receive both benefits; they must choose either CRSC or SDSC.

Because of the complexities of the issue, Congress gave Department of Defense 180 days from enactment of the law to implement the program. A special DoD committee has been working to develop guidance and an application form. As soon as the form is ready, it will be available through the Retirement Services Offices nearest your location. The application will also be available through our homepage <http://www.army1.army.mil/retire>

According to the Authorization Act, payments will not be payable before July

1st. Retirees who qualify but could not apply before July 1st will receive retroactive payments.

**Urgent need for blood donors to maintain military supply:**

The Defense Department's Armed Services Blood Program Office supplies all deployed forces with blood collected from the 21 military donor centers in the United States, and when necessary purchases some blood from civilian collection agencies, according to the director, Army Col. G. Michael Fitzpatrick.

"The need for donors is constant because red blood cells are only good for 42 days after you donate them," he said at the Pentagon. "In order to treat military casualties every medical unit must have a readily available supply of blood. Shipments are made every week to rotate the inventory and make sure blood is on hand for any casualty who may need a transfusion."

"The need for donors is constant."

"There is a special need right now for donors with Type O blood," Fitzpatrick

said. "The Armed Services Blood Program Office has issued a plea for military members and retirees, their family members, and others eligible to donate blood in military facilities to contact their local military blood donor center to make an appointment and donate on a regular basis."

Locations of local donor centers and other information are available at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/>

If there is no military donor center nearby, Fitzpatrick said, people could still help the Armed Services Blood Program Office by supporting agencies where the Armed Services Blood Center purchases blood. These include America's Blood Centers at <http://www.americasblood.org/> and the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/donate/give/>.

Right now, he noted, the Armed Services Blood Program Office is limiting its purchases to type O negative liquid red cells because it has been able to meet all other requirements.

**Editor's notes: Information from May 2003 Army Echoes publication.** Retirement Services Office Web site: at [http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/donor\\_info/donating.htm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/donor_info/donating.htm) Phone: 706-791-2654

## Fort Gordon exposed to Asian-Pacific culture

Denise Allen  
Staff writer

All it takes is education for cultural boundaries to be brought down, and command programs focusing on cultural diversity are good for young soldiers, according to the speaker at the Asian Pacific Heritage Command program May 15 at Alexander Hall.

"It's better to be exposed to cultural diversity now rather than when they are at war," said Evelyn Gay of Georgia Legal Services.

Gay learned about cultural misconceptions while in the United States on a Rotary scholarship to Georgia Southern University.

A native of the Philippines, Gay was invited to an international students' day in a rural Georgia town in 1976 when she met a farmer with quite a few misconceptions about her native land.

He wanted to know if the people there still lived in trees and if the women wore long dresses to hide their tails.

Instead of being offended, Gay answered his questions with a bit of humor to them and ended up spending the rest of the evening with the man and his wife.

"It was a learning experience," she said.

After that year, she returned to her homeland to talk about cultural diversity, and today, she trains medical professionals working with the elderly about cultural differences.

Also in her speech, Gay said that she thought the theme for the program - Salute to Liberty, was an appropriate one and went back to her story about the rural Georgia farmer.

"Liberty provided him the freedom to ask questions. He went home with his wife knowing a lot more about my country and my culture," she said.



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Dave McClain

Evelyn Gay, Georgia legal services, explains some of the cultural challenges she has faced at the Fort Gordon Asian Pacific Heritage command program.

# First class at Fort Gordon

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

They may only be in fifth grade, but they've already made history!

On May 16, at around 9:30 in the Freedom Park Elementary School Gym, the first ever class to graduate from Freedom Park, the fifth grade, began their graduation ceremony.

Seventy-seven children graduated in the ceremony, although, as school principal Rita Bradley observed, it could have been more.

She explained that at one time the class had been as large as 100 students, but shrunk due to parents changing duty stations and situations where both parents were deployed, meaning the children went to live with another family member.

The class was divided into four sections of students, each with a different teacher.

Jamie Bates, Steven Mooney, Aberniece Rouse and Raye Robinson each taught a separate section of the class. The teachers received thunderous applause from the parents and graduation attendees for their efforts in guiding the students through their fifth grade year.

"My favorite part of this year is that we could spend time learning and with teachers who helped us when we didn't know the answer," fifth grade graduate Latasha Harris said.

Bradley started the ceremony by having the children salute their parents. The graduates stood and gave their parents a standing ovation for their efforts in helping the

youngsters through the fifth grade, and then offered a moment of silence for deployed parents who couldn't be with their graduating children.

The fifth graders also acted as hosts for the ceremony. Alexandria Brown and Dionicka Emerson led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance, Eric Braswell and Jada McLeod delivered the welcome, Luther Huling read the poem "How the Little Kite Learned to Fly," and Ruben Soto read the poem, "What Is Life?"

The class valedictorian was Monique Attard. In her speech, the youngster gave an analogy between her experience in school and a chapter in a book. She said by graduating fifth grade, she and her fellow students had closed a chapter in their lives.

"We are opening the next chapter in middle school," she said.

Attard also read the Dr. Seuss poem, "Oh the Places You'll Go!" to her classmates. When she read the poem, her expression and animation made it hard to believe she was only in fifth grade.

Following Attard's speech, the class salutatorian, Kiana French, took the podium. In her speech, French spoke of some of the things the class had done during their year at Freedom Park, such as visiting the local middle school, putting on a Tae Kwan Do exhibition, holding Law Day, and going on a day-long field trip to Asheville, N.C.

She then also recognized her teachers, saying, "They helped us with everything throughout the school year, and we want to say thank you."

Finally, French offered encouragement to her peers.

"Go on to be productive students and good citizens," she said.

Physical education teacher Gloria Jackson presented the students with the physical education and track awards, and physical education teacher Douglas Prince awarded students with safety patrol awards. The safety patrol was formed to ensure students got to school safely with the help of their fellow students.

The final award was from Richmond County Council of Parent and Teachers Association President Elect and Communication Chair Eileen Faucette to members of the school's PTA.

This award recognized Freedom Park as a new member of the Georgia State PTA, and completing their first

year as a PTA unit, and included a scholarship for one PTA member to attend PTA leadership training.

Faucette was also a member of the former Fort Gordon PTA, which was one of the key players in bringing a school to the installation. The Fort Gordon PTA donated \$3,000 worth of materials to the Freedom Park PTA to help it start.

In her closing remarks to the graduating fifth graders, Bradley said she was sure the kids could go on to succeed because they were simply good kids.

"All of them are angels," Bradley told the guests, "but some of them had their halos on a little crooked every now and then, but not for long."

"I am happy to be here at Fort Gordon, because we literally have the best kids here."



(Left) Valedictorian, Monique Attard, gives her speech to Freedom Park Elementary's first graduates.

(Below) Salutatorian, Kiana French, receives a gift from Freedom Park Elementary Principal, Rita Bradley.



## SARS: A concern but not a problem in the area

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, a severe form of pneumonia that has become an epidemic in certain parts of Southeast Asia, including China and Hong Kong, has received a lot of press lately.

Worldwide, over 4,300 cases and more than 250 deaths have been reported due to SARS. No confirmed cases in the Military Health System have been reported yet.

Since SARS is an airborne virus, it can be spread by close person-to-person contact.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Fact Sheet, potential ways a person can be infected with SARS include touching the skin of other people that are contaminated with infectious droplets and then by touching one's eyes, nose or mouth.

Lt. Col. Kevin Michaels, Chief of Preventive Medicine at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, described some ways people can take measures to protect themselves against the SARS virus.

"There are simple procedures one can take to minimize the risk of becoming infected," Michael said. "These would include washing your hands, if somebody sneezes or coughs around you, covering your mouth with

a tissue and then washing your hands, trying to avoid a lot of crowded areas, and keeping some distance between people and not getting in the face-to-face range."

Since Fort Gordon is a training environment, Michaels said the post is being careful to observe bed-space requirements and prevent overcrowding in quarters.

Most of the cases of SARS seem to originate from the Southeast Asia area and Europe, Michael said. He said that most of the cases in the United States have occurred among travelers returning from high risk areas.

Michaels said the symptoms of SARS are not unlike those of the flu. In general, the first symptom is a fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, accompanied by headaches, an overall feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory problems.

As of yet, no cure or vaccine for the SARS virus has been developed. Many scientists believe a "coronavirus," a virus in the same family as the common cold, may cause the disease.

Michaels said the key to preventing and controlling the spreading of SARS is quickly identifying people with the illness and providing them with timely treatment, as well as quarantining them from the general population.

"That's really the focus we can do here at Fort Gordon," Michaels said. "As people travel, we can identify people quickly, get them out of the general population and provide what treatment we can for them until they're no longer infectious."

With soldiers routinely returning from duty stations in areas such as Japan and Korea and some having traveled through high risk areas like international airports, Michaels said there is a risk that SARS could spread to an installation like Fort Gordon.

"The impact on the Fort Gordon community depends on the number of people who travel or are transient from a high-risk area to Fort Gordon," Michaels said. "It is a concern."

However, he said that as of yet no cases of the disease have been diagnosed in Georgia. He said the hospital has a response plan formulated similar to how they would deal with other highly contagious respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis.

"There is a SARS plan in place, where anyone who comes in and feels they may have been exposed to somebody with SARS, they are screened, we take them out of the general waiting area, evaluate it and determine that either they have SARS or they don't," Michaels said. "If we do think a patient may have SARS, we then take the appropriate precautions in the

health care facility to make sure we don't expose the staff, other patients and visitors to that, so we put them in an appropriate patient care area."

# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## Memorial Day – Summer Safety Message

Memorial Day is a day to honor Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice, that we may live in freedom. Also, the Memorial Day weekend officially marks the beginning of the summer vacation season. Sadly, statistics show that the 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day are often marred by preventable tragedies.

Privately owned vehicle accidents are the major cause of fatalities during this period. Primary contributing factors include speed, loss of control, alcohol, fatigue, failure to use seat belts, weather, and road conditions. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death. Unsupervised swimming areas, unsafe boating, and alcohol consumption often lead to unnecessary tragedy. We must be aware of the season's risks and never assume "it won't happen to me." Making good risk management decisions can save your life on- or off-duty.

Army motorcycle fatalities increased 54 percent during last fiscal year. Motorcycle-specific causes include aggressive driving, speed, alcohol, and failure to wear a helmet. A major contributing factor is that many of these soldiers did not attend the Motorcycle Safety Course. Trends show that Army male drivers under the age of 25 are the most likely age group to be involved in fatal accidents because they tend to underestimate hazards and overestimate their personal abilities.

Commanders and leaders will employ every means available to reinforce summer safety to all soldiers, civilians, and family members. Ensure POV inspections and safety awareness briefings are conducted prior to holidays. Briefing material is available on MS Outlook Public Folders (All Public Folders/FG Folders/Safety Folders) to include Summer Safety, POV Safety, Motorcycle Training Schedule, Water Safety, Heat Injury Prevention, TRADOC Roadmap, and the 22 May Safety Stand-Up Day. In addition, you may access the "POV Tool Box" at <http://safety.army.mil/home.html>, and visit the Safety Office in Room 155 of Darling Hall.

The summer season is a time for fun and relaxation. Enjoy a safe Memorial Day weekend and remember to put safety first in all your activities.

JANET A. HICKS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

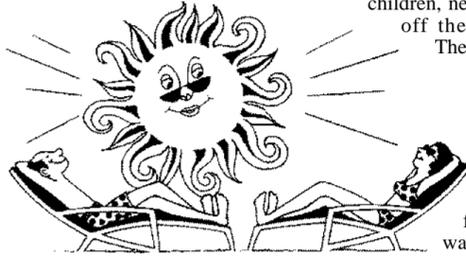


## Stay safe ... or get out of the pool

The American Red Cross, Fort Gordon reminds families to follow these safety tips for staying healthy and safe in or around the water:

- Learn to swim and swim well. One of the best things anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is learn to swim. No one, including adults should ever swim alone. Adults should practice "reach supervision" which means to be within arm's length of a child in case an emergency occurs. For swim lessons, contact the Indoor Pool at 791-3034

- Outfit everyone with the proper gear. Kids - and even adults - who are not strong swimmers or who appear to rely on inflatable toys for



safety should use U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices whenever they are in or around the water. Everyone, including strong swimmers, should use an approved PFD when boating. When used properly, this lightweight plastic equipment can help save lives.

- Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the residential pool and know how to use it.

A first aid kit, cordless phone, phone list with emergency contact information, reaching pole and ring buoy with a line attached are recommended. First aid kits should contain plastic face shields, which can help prevent disease transmission. Plastic ring buoys are a good idea; because of their maneuverability even a child can use one if the need arises.

In addition, the Red Cross recommends that pools be surrounded on all sides by a fence that is at least four feet high. It should not provide any footholds, which would allow a child to climb over or spacing to climb through. The fence should have a self-closing, self-locking gate locks when the pool is not in use.

- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Obey "No Diving" signs.
- Watch out for the "dangerous too's." Take a break at the point of being too tired, too cold, or too far from safety, too much sun, too little hydration, too much strenuous activity.

- Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.

- Pack a "safety" bag for a day at the beach or lake. Water-proof sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher, water shoes to keep feet safe from the heat and sharp objects on land and plenty of water are musts. All containers should be plastic to prevent injuries from breaking glass. Also, a hat and sunglasses keep eyes safe from dangerous UV rays.

- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

- Learn Red Cross first aid and CPR. While the above tips can help prevent emergencies, it is important to know what to do if a situation

arises. And all caregivers, including grandparents, older siblings and babysitters should have these lifesaving skills.

For more information on staying safe in and around the water visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or contact the Fort Gordon Station at 787-6311

### Swim tips

- Know your own swimming skills - what you are and aren't able to do. Do NOT take risks around the water.

- Never swim by yourself, no matter how good a swimmer you are. It is always safer to swim where a lifeguard is on duty.

- If you are in charge of small children, never take your eyes off them around water. They can fall down and drown very quickly.

- If you are just learning to swim, stay in shallow water.

- Learn to float and relax in the water.

- People who are poor swimmers, or who can't swim, should not float on tubes or rafts or try to water ski without a good life jacket.

- Even a good swimmer may get a cramp or get exhausted. Never attempt a long swim unless you have a boat following you.

- If you get a cramp in your arm, leg or foot while swimming, just stop and stretch the muscle out. You may have to hold your breath while you work on it. If you feel a cramp coming on as you are swimming, change the way you are swimming.

- NEVER swim at night in the ocean. (Many marine animals feed at night). Also, it is best not to swim in rivers, lakes, ponds, or unlighted swimming pools at night.

- Never call for HELP around water unless you need it. If you do need help, yell and wave your arms.

- Stay out of the water when an electrical storm is approaching.

- Do not swim under a diving board at the pool if someone is diving from it. Both you and the diver could be seriously injured.

- Before diving, be sure the water is deep enough and free of obstructions so you can dive safely.
- Do not swim close to piers, docks, poles, or large rocks in the ocean. The wave action can throw you against them, causing injury.

Around 7,000 people drown each year in the United States. Someone is drowning! What should I do? The first reaction for most people is to jump in and try to save the person. This is wrong. Never do this unless you have taken a course in lifesaving.

One of the very first things a person learns in a Lifesaving class is the saying "REACH - THROW - ROW - TOW."

A reaching assist is the first thing you try to do. If the victim is close to shore, a dock, or a boat, attempt to reach the person with something. Reach out with your hand, a long stick, a paddle, a shirt, a towel, or

anything for the victim to grab onto. You need to be lying down when you reach so the victim will not be able to pull you into the water.

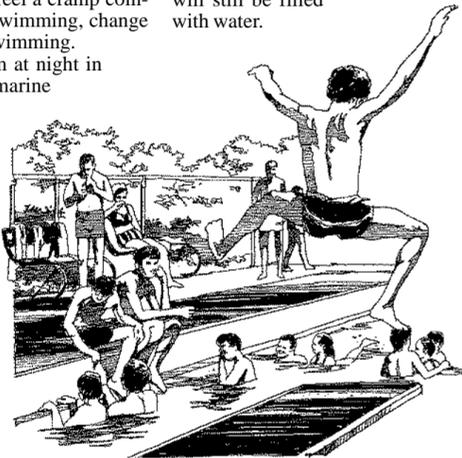
A throwing assist is used when the victim is farther out in the water and you can not reach the person. Some things you can throw or push out to the person drowning are a Styrofoam ice chest, a plastic gallon milk jug, a life jacket. Push out the spare tire from your car - it floats. Anything that will float will work. Just get something out to the victim to hang onto.

If a rope is handy, tie it to whatever you are throwing so you can pull the victim back to shore. When throwing the object, try not to hit the victim.

A rowing assist is used when a boat is available and you cannot reach the drowning person with a reaching or throwing assist. Row or paddle out to the victim. Do not let the victim grab onto the side of the boat. It could be tipped over. (This is especially true with smaller boats.)

Tell the victim to grab the back of the boat. Then do NOT try to get the victim in the boat. Tell the victim to hold on and you will pull him/her back to shore. If you were in a large powerboat, the victim would not be able to turn it over or hold onto the back of the boat and must be helped into the boat.

In a small boat, if the victim insists on getting in the boat and you can not stop him/her, be very careful not to rock the boat. If the boat does turn over, do NOT panic! The boat will float; just hold onto it. If you turn the boat right side up, it will still be filled with water.



Get into it anyway, it will still float. Then start to paddle your way back into shore. (If you have no paddles, use your hands.)

The last lifesaving technique is towing, or a swimming rescue. NEVER attempt this without proper lifesaving experience. In many water accidents each year both the rescuer and the drowning person drown. What happens? The rescuer swims out to the drowning person, who is so scared that he/she grabs at anything, close by - usually, the rescuer's head. Without proper lifesaving training, the rescuer and the drowning person panic (lose control) and both drown. NEVER try to make a swimming rescue without proper lifesaving training.

Always follow these safety rules when you are around water.

**Editor's note:** The above information was submitted by the Fort Gordon American Red Cross office and Signal Branch Safety Office.

## Feedback

Spc. Ryan Matson

Why is it a good idea to shop at the commissary?



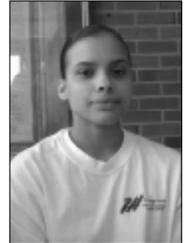
Because it's cheaper, closer and tax free.

Spc. Larisa Braden  
Company D, 201st Military Intelligence Battalion



They're not a profit organization, they charge a five percent surcharge on items, and that's just the cost of upkeep and to pay employee's salaries.

Sgt. Demetrius Dowell  
116th MI Group



It's soldier friendly and convenient to go to after work.

Sgt. Alexandra Fajardo  
Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center



Because it saves the soldier's money. It has great savings versus commercial stores, a better product for the money.

Sgt. Major Bobbie L. Ramtahal  
DCA Sergeant Major



Not only because of great savings, but because a portion of profits go to programs for the soldiers.

Ayanna Wiggins  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

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# Spectrum

## On the road again

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

Recently, the 35<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment took on a new look. Actually, it was more like a return to an old look.

The Bicycle Patrol, also known as Community Oriented Policing Service, returned to post after being inactive for a couple years. According to Sgt. Matthew B. Hershey, 35<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment, one of the patrol's main missions was to provide the military police on post with a higher degree of visibility in the community.

"The biggest thing about being on bikes is that now we can act more as a liaison between the MPs and the community," Hershey said. "When a policeman is in a car, the public perceives the car to be a barrier. We're much more approachable on bikes, because we're out in the open. We stop and talk to everybody and people seem more comfortable talking to us."

Another advantage of a bicycle patrol, Hershey said, is their maneuverability in crowds which is where they will usually be employed. Lately, the patrol has been helping to supervise the safe arrival and return of children to and from Freedom Park Elementary at the beginning and end of the school day.

"We're going to focus on the housing areas, the PX, places like that," Hershey said.

Since these areas have a lot of pedestrian activity, they also have lowered speed limits, meaning it is possible for the MPs to chase down a car who has violated the speed limit or another traffic law.

"We either pedal really, really fast or get them at a stop sign," Hershey said.

The MPs train for several situations on their bikes, including taking down a suspect while riding a bike, bike maintenance, riding skills, and a host of other scenarios an MP may encounter while patrolling on a bicycle.

While there are currently six MPs patrolling using bicycles now, Hershey said he expects that the number could grow to eight by summer's end. The patrol is expected to continue year-round, Hershey said, although the full force may not be utilized in the winter.

Hershey said five new Fuji Patrol Special law enforcement bicycles were recently purchased for the patrol, as well as other related equipment necessary for the patrol, such as tires and emergency lights.

"It's actually a very cost effective system," he said.

The MPs want the people on and visiting post to know they are safe, but also that MPs are approachable, also, Hershey said.

"We don't want to always be viewed as people to stay away from," he said.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

(Above, left to right) Sgt. David M. Thomas and Sgt. Matthew M. Hershey, both of the 35<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment, patrol a housing area on post on bicycles as part of the new Community Oriented Policing Service program implemented at Fort Gordon recently. The bike patrol is designed as a means of allowing military police to be more accessible and interactive with the public. (Right) Hershey monitors radar from a squad car outside of Freedom Park Elementary School as children return home from school. The bike patrol is used mainly in crowded areas, where bikes are a more maneuverable asset.



(Above and below) Thomas concentrates as he negotiates a flight of stairs outside the Fort Gordon Dinner Theater as part of the bicycle patrol training. The bikes used for the patrol are all especially designed for law-enforcement.



(Above) Thomas talks with a crossing guard after the bike patrol had ensured children returned safely from school. (Top right and right) Thomas is swamped by school children as he hands out anti-drug stickers. It looks as if the mission to make MPs more accessible has been accomplished!



Both Thomas (left) and Hershey (right) ride in controlled circles inside a 10-foot cone area. The drill improves a rider's maneuverability skills.



Hershey weaves around a long line of cones during another control exercise.

# Vacation Bible school pulls into the station

Fort Gordon's Vacation Bible School, sponsored by the Chaplain section, is called the "B.I.&B.L.E. Railroad." It features puppets, singing, Bible stories, crafts and other activities for children from three years of age through those completing sixth grade.

While the program is explicitly Christian in content, all children are welcome regardless of chapel or off-post church affiliation, or lack of affiliation.

This year's "train" will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three consecutive weeks beginning June 10. The specific dates are June 10 and 12, 17 and 19, 24 and 26. The program meets from 9 a.m. to noon at the Religious Education Center, on 39th Street near 7th Avenue.

REGISTRATION will be held on Sundays at all chapels following chapel services. Parents may also register their children at the Religious Education Center, Building 39709 on 39th Street, anytime during duty

hours. However, it is advisable to call 791-4703 to be sure someone is in the office before going by. Each child participating must be registered for each day of anticipated attendance.

Children may attend any or all of the days. Space is limited. Register early.

TRANSPORTATION to and from the "BI&BLE Railroad" will be provided for all housing areas on post, if assets allow. More specific information on bus stops will be provided at registration.

The program is FREE. Generous support from the post chapels makes this event possible. However, a voluntary donation of \$1 per day for one child and 50 cents per day for each additional child from the same family is requested, but NOT required.

This year's theme is:  
"America, Bless . . .  
GOD  
. . . Bless America"

We often pray and even sing, "God Bless America!" Especially right after the 9/11 attacks, this was a popular song and a popular phrase on the lips of many people. This was, and is, a good reminder because God does indeed bless us over and over again!

But maybe what we need to remind each other is, "America, Bless God!"

Psalms 115:18 says, "But as for us (the nation), we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forever. Hallelujah!" Psalm 103:1 says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Both individually and collectively, as a nation, we need to "Bless the Lord!" That is, we need to honor and glorify him as holy!

Also, most of our children are aware that we have been at war. They've seen the news. They've heard the reports. They've talked about it with their friends at school and with their families at home. Many of their parents have been, or

still are, deployed – some into very dangerous situations. Our children know their parents could be deployed anytime in the future. All of them, and we adults too, need the assurance that our God will take care of his people! That's the message of this year's program.

VOLUNTEERS are still needed to "join the crew." Adults and teens (completing 7th grade and above) are needed to serve in the classrooms as teachers, assistant teachers, and teen aides, and in support roles with the refreshments, music and puppets, bus chaperones, and administration.

Training workshops for teaching staff, and orientations for all support staff, will be provided on June 3, at the Religious Education Center. Everyone may choose from two times that day: noon to 2 p.m. or 7 to 9 p.m..

If you have questions, or can volunteer to help, call the Religious Education Center at 791-4703.

# Thoughts on Memorial Day

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James R. Snyder II  
Chief, Chapel Centers/Religious Activities

Memorial Day is full of vivid memories for me. I remember in the early fifties standing at the cemetery in my little town of 600 in southern Illinois.

I was so young that most memories of those Memorial Days are lost except to my imagination. I do know that the former soldiers would show up in whatever military uniform items they had left.

Each year fewer veterans showed up for the ceremony and even fewer showed up in uniform items let alone a full uniform.

What I can never forget are the emotions expressed by the veterans and the families gathered. I remember none of the words spoken on those occasions, but I will never forget the reverence that was displayed during the ceremony.

Not only was the service of so many in my small town remembered, but mention of the sacrifices made by some always brought tears even to many of the men.

Service in the United States military brings with it many rewards. It is a meaningful and important job. There are regular paychecks. Interesting locations and travel are just a few of the fringe benefits. The list of opportunities and rewards for service almost seem endless.

However, there is also a list, although shorter, that one could call the hardships of service. Service in the military can be costly for those serving and for their families. Some of the hardships carry such weight that they are called sacrifices.

Our current war in Iraq has demanded the ultimate sacrifice by members of our military members and the members of coalition forces. The ultimate sacrifice is the death of a service member

in serving our country.

Some of you may know someone who has paid the ultimate sacrifice. This Memorial Day once again veterans, their families and many other Americans will gather to remember all of our fallen. There will be this year, as in years past, ceremonies that will invoke pride, reverence, and yes, tears to the eyes of this soldier.

I will be thinking of my wife's grandfather who was gassed by mustard gas in World War I and suffered every day for the rest of his life.

I will be thinking about my father-in-law who served in the Army in the United States during World War II.

I will be thinking about my wife's uncle who served in the South Pacific during World War II and won two bronze stars for valor during 18 months of mainly hand-to-hand combat.

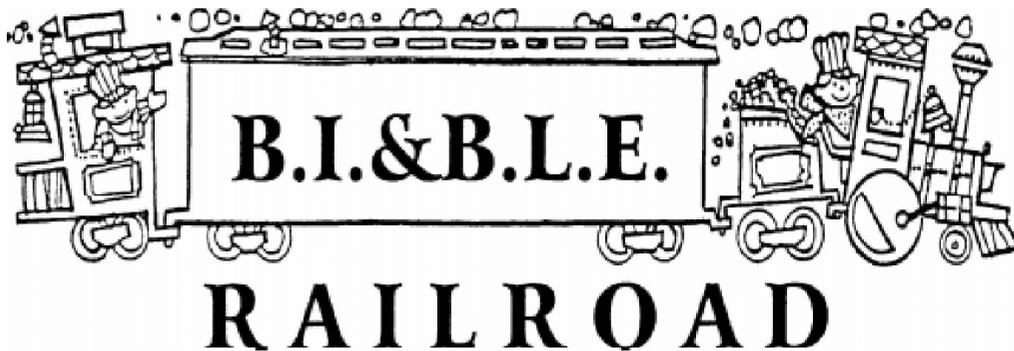
I will be thinking about my father who just a few weeks before he was to marry was recalled to active duty and immediately shipped to North Africa. He served in various combat campaigns all the way to the Northern Apennines during his 32 months of continuous deployment.

I hold my relatives' stories of hardship and sacrifice with awe and admiration.

I am humbled that in June I will have been a soldier for 30 years, including reserve time.

If a tear should cloud my eyes this Memorial Day, it will not be because of the treasured history of sacrifices that my relatives have left me. Rather, I will have a reverential pride in those with whom I am privileged to serve.

As a United States Army soldier, I will also be prayerfully remembering those in our military who are yet being called upon to sacrifice for our great nation.



## Family affair

Staff Sgt. Florence S. Amosa, center, and Staff Sgt. Leafa L. Amosa, right, receive the oath of enlistment from Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, May 16 at Conrad Hall.

Amosa is the administrative noncommissioned officer in charge of the office of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Terry. She joined the Army nine years ago in California, and re-enlisted for four more years. Her mother was present to witness the ceremony.

Leafa Amosa is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the S4 Logistics Section, 442nd Signal Battalion. He joined the Army 10 years ago in American Samoa, and re-enlisted for an indefinite period. The Amosas both credited their military and family success to their faith in their lord and savior Jesus Christ. The Amosas have been married three years and have two children: daughter, Leata, 2, and son, Leafa, 2 months. They have been stationed here since July 2001.



Photo by MSG Pleasant Lindsey III

## Spotlight on:

**Name:** Sgt. 1st Class Sheldon L. Moorer

**Unit:** Company E, 369th Signal Battalion

**Hometown:** Charleston, South Carolina

**What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?**

Assisting Initial Entry soldiers in becoming a highly motivated, well disciplined, physically and mentally fit soldiers.

**How long at Fort Gordon?**

2 years and 11 months

**What do you want to accomplish in the military?**

To become a Command Sergeant Major.



Sgt. 1st Class Moorer

# CFC theme and cover design contest

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the annual fundraising drive conducted by Federal employees in their workplace each fall. Each year Federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars through the CFC that benefits thousands of non-profit charities.

The mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient,

- Inexpensive to reproduce
- Must provide space for CFC logo

Period: May 15-July 1, 2003

A Theme and Cover Design Contest has been conducted for the past two years. This year, the LFCC decided to conduct one contest for the theme and cover design where in previous years, it was two separate contests.



Combined Federal Campaign

and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

How would you like to see your idea for a campaign theme and cover design incorporated into the 2003 CSRA Combined Federal Campaign and appear in most campaign-related materials?

The CSRA Combined Federal Campaign announces this contest is open to all CSRA Federal Employees. Participation on the part of Fort Gordon employees has been approved by senior management.

#### Develop the theme (slogan) and cover design for the 2003 CSRA CFC campaign.

Criteria: Applicability to the CFC Campaign

- Phrases of 10 words or less preferred (Past themes: "CFC - Commitment for Community", "Combined Federal Campaign - Caring for Community", "Together, We Can" and "It's You, It's Me, It's Our CFC")

#### Develop a cover design for the campaign printed materials.

Note: This contest is not seeking finished artwork (although that would also be welcome). Simple drawings and sketches which convey the cover design idea or concept are completely acceptable. The winning concept will be developed into finished artwork by the LFCC.

Criteria: Applicability to the CFC Campaign

- Originality: (If not original, can be used without paying royalties)

All contest entries are to be provided to Patricia Camacho, the Fort Gordon representative on the CSRA CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC), within the contest period specified above. Camacho will provide these entries to the LFCC where they will be judged along with the entries received from other CSRA participating Federal agencies.

Camacho is with the Directorate of Community Activities and is located in Room 260, Darling Hall. Please contact Camacho by phone at 791-2611, by fax at 791-5615, or e-mail at [camachop@gordon.army.mil](mailto:camachop@gordon.army.mil) if you have any questions.

\*The CSRA LFCC is one of about 400 LFCCs from across the country.

It is responsible for managing the CFC Campaign for the CSRA region. One of its chief responsibilities is to review applications from local charitable organizations each year to determine if such organizations satisfy the qualification criteria to be a CFC-qualified charity and thus eligible for donations.

The LFCC uses qualification criteria set forth by the Office of Personnel Management for these purposes to accomplish this task.

Membership on the CFC LFCC includes representatives from Fort Gordon, DOE Savannah River Operations Office, Postal Service, Social Security Administration, IRS, Forest Service, VA Hospital, FAA, Army Corps of Engineers, and others.

**Editor's note:** The above information was received from Pat Camacho, the installation program coordinator for CFC and from [www.opm.gov/cfc](http://www.opm.gov/cfc).

## Your CFC at work

Special to The Signal

One little-known aspect of the Combined Federal Campaign is that several criteria have to be met by any charity wishing to be included in the CFC.

All local and state-level charities seeking inclusion in the CFC of the Central Savannah River Area must formally apply and be evaluated by the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, which is a group

of local federal employees who serve on the committee on a voluntary basis.

On April 16, the LFCC met to review the application of charities seeking inclusion in the 2003 CFC in the CSRA.

The committee met again May 9 to consider appeals of its disapproval decisions.

Overall, the committee approved 44 charitable and two federations of agencies and it disapproved 35 agencies and one federation.



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Stephen Graham, volunteer, assistant; Tom Gutmann, U.S. Department of Energy, LFCC member; Terry Smith, Department of the Army, LFCC chairperson; Ben Donaldson, United Way, advisor; and Judy Hardy, Social Security Administration, LFCC member, discuss charities to approve for CFC.

## AER still hoping for last minute donations

Fort Gordon's deadline has been extended for the 2003 Army Emergency Relief campaign. They made their goal and collected \$148,000, however they are hoping to exceed that and reach \$150,000.

AER is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to

soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need.

AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation/organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.

There is still time to donate, contact your unit AER representative.

**Editor's note:** The above information was received from Diane Sarber, Chief, Financial, Relocation and Community Life Services, Army Community Service and from the following website: [www.aerhq.org/](http://www.aerhq.org/).

# Salute to military spouses continues

"While I am waiting..."

*While I am waiting* ... Things are getting stirred up.

The rumors are flying all around me and I just sit here and try and sift through them, rumors of dates when the unit will return and when they will finally come home.

Oh how we all want to believe each rumor we hear. The earlier date rumors are my personal favorite, mostly cause like all my friends, I want my spouse to come home.

But I am older, and jaded, and sadly have been through this before. I do not believe quickly all the rumors I hear. I am waiting to hear from my spouse, because as I have said before I will not believe anyone else but him.

I wish I knew how to help my younger friends, who believe all the things that they hear.

I sort of understand they want the information that is being given to them to be so true. My experiences have taught me, and sadly the hard way.

Rumors do nothing but create a false sense that the information is true. They set up heartaches, and anger that could be avoided. Yet rumors have a life of their own.

It is almost like the birds in the morning, they chatter and whistle and make lots of sounds as the day is starting. Then they are less of a unified force of sound through the day, and when dusk returns there are all sort of sounds the birds make.

Like rumors, they are loudest when it is one person to the next, they have strength as they travel during the day, and by nightfall the rumor has taken on a sound of its own, it is the talk of the town.

It starts with a tid bit of information, from a spouse, from a soldier in the unit, from a person you just want to believe so badly, or someone gets a call from their spouse forward, and then shares it with her best friend. And then the rumor begins, because the friend tells a friend, who tells another, and so on and so forth.

No one stops to ask a

family readiness group leader if it could be true. And the official command chain, well they remain silent as far as I can tell.

Maybe because they do not have an answer to give yet, maybe they do not know the timetable yet, maybe. There is supposed to be a family support group meeting, but the topic is not redeployment. So the rumor tunes go on oblivious to the truth.

The real information may be somewhere under the layers of rumors, and somewhere there may be a ker-



nel of truth to the beat.

As the rumors fly I do know two things. My husband is still gone, and I do not know when he is coming home.

When can be a long way off, so I am not changing how I am waiting. I keep writing and sending emails.

But in the back of my mind, my waiting changes from a separation to anticipation, and I try to lock that away, I am still waiting. But hope is a strong emotion. And despite my brain knowing better, I start the emotional ride.

I will have to clean my house and keep it that way. That is going to be a big task, since I have sort of been slack about the totally clean thing.

It means we will have to get back into a family routine; I will have to start cooking real meals for dinner again, no more eggs, or soup and sandwiches. My kids will have to keep their rooms clean again, so we will have to start practicing that early, cause that is a hard transition.

It was one challenge during the deployment, well it just wasn't worth the fuss.

Now we better get back in shape, me included, because my room was just as much a disaster at times as

theirs.

And then there are the other little things, like my daughter has moved into all the bathrooms in the house, now she will have to move back to her own.

The TV schedule will have to be adjusted too, cause well, dad likes TV too. But all that will be worth it when he gets back.

As I write this looking at the list of things I have created to do, I remind myself I do not want to set my emotions up for a fall, if he does not come home for a long time. But that hope is strong. I am human, and I hope. So I will get the yard in order, and I will do a few more things in anticipation, there is enough cleaning up and out, yard work, car work, which will help occupy the hours, help keep me busy... *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.

#### A Military Spouse's Prayer

Lord,

Give me the strength of heart to see

The difference in duty and his love for me.

Give me the understanding to know

That when duty calls, he must go.

Give me the patience to know in my heart

That he is serving his country and doing his part.

Give me the strength to carry on

When he's working late or must be gone.

Give me a task to do each day

To fill the time while he is away.

Give me others who can share

The ups and downs and who'll really care.

Give me the wisdom to get me through

When I'm not quite sure of what to do.

And Lord, while our family is here

Keep us healthy, safe and full of cheer.

*Author Unknown*

## EAMC top: they give from the heart



Photo by Kathleen Haskell

Lt. Col. John A. Giddens, Eisenhower Army Medical Center Troop Commander, accepts the trophy for April from Kendrick Blood Center representative Capt. Jeffrey Richards. Featured L-R: Richards, Command Sgt. Maj. Alfonso Lewis, Lt. Col. Giddens, Sgt. Jeffrey Sanders and Master Sgt. Edwin Perez. This is the first time since 1998 that EAMC Troop Command has won the coveted trophy awarded monthly by Kendrick to the Fort Gordon unit giving the most blood. Out of 82 potential donors from Troop Command, 65 were able to provide usable pints of blood. In response to the acceptance of the trophy, Giddens replied, "Caring from the heart is our motto, giving from the heart is our business."

## Kendrick Memorial Blood Center gives back to the troops

Call 787-3234 to get more information on organizing a blood drive for your unit.

# Community Events

## Adolphous Greely Chapter meeting

Adolphous 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.

## West Point applications

Each year, approximately 150 Regular Army soldiers are offered admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point or the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Interested soldiers must be U.S. citizens, be unmarried, with no legal obligation to support dependents, be a high school graduate, not be 23 years of age prior to 1 July of the year entering USMA (not be 22 years of age prior to 1 July of the year entering the Prep School), be of high moral character and have a sincere interest in attending West Point and becoming an Army officer.

Maj. Cliff Hodges, from the West Point Admissions Office, will be at Olmstead Hall on **May 29 and 30** from 1:30 - 3 p.m. to give an admissions brief to all soldiers on the process of making application. Interested soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for time to attend briefing.

Soldiers who meet the basic eligibility requirements listed above, have achieved SAT scores greater than 1050 or ACT composite score of 23 or higher, and achieved good grades in a college preparatory high school curriculum are especially encouraged to apply.

All application requirements must be met by March 15, 2004 to be considered for an appointment to West Point or the Prep School in July 2004. Interested soldiers should contact Maj. Hodges at DSN: 688-5780 or 914-938-5780 or [tc2324@usma.edu](mailto:tc2324@usma.edu).

## SMA scholarships

The Sergeants Major Association of Fort Gordon is offering scholarships for the graduating class of 2003. Applicant must be a legal dependent of an active, reserve, retired, or deceased military person living in the CSRA. Applications can be obtained from any command sergeant major or sergeant major. The application deadline is **June 24**.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons at 791-7985.

## Technology expo

The Fort Gordon Technology Expo will be held on **June 4** at the Gordon Club, North Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend.

More than 25 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest computer hardware, software and services. There is no fee to attend and complimentary refreshments will be provided. Giveaways will be available while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by Directorate of Contracting and hosted by National Small Business Council, Inc.

For more information, please contact Anne Slobodien at [slobodien@ncsievents.com](mailto:slobodien@ncsievents.com).

## Recruit the recruiter

The Recruit the Recruiter Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky. will brief on the challenges, benefits and opportunities of becoming a recruiter.

This briefing in no way obligates you for recruiting duty, so attendance by all NCOs is highly encouraged. A personal interview can be conducted by the team following the briefing to determine initial qualifications on all NCOs interested in applying.

Briefings will be held **June 17 and 18** in Olmstead Hall at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on June 17 and 1 and 3 p.m. on June 18.

More information can be found at the web site [www.usarec.army.mil](http://www.usarec.army.mil) or 800-223-3735 ext 61028.

## CMU

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration. Registration for classes starting in July (Term V) will be held through **June 6**.

Classes being offered are: financial aspects of health services; system analysis and design; environments in administration; and integrative analysis.

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

## Babysitter training

The American Red Cross will offer Babysitter's Training for teens on **May 31**, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Training will include what to do if a child is choking, safety in the home and what to do in an emergency. Participants will need to bring lunch. Training will be held at the Community Life Center, Building 33512 on post.

Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required. For more information, call the Red Cross at 787-6311.

## Dental Assistant Program

Red Cross and DENTAC have teamed up to bring the Dental Assistant Program to our community.

The program is 40 hours per week for 6 months. Candidates must be 18 or over with military I.D. card and have 100 hours of volunteer service with Red Cross.

This is intensive training and requires a big time commitment. The result is very marketable job skills. For more information, call 787-6311.

## Mosquito spraying

Pest Control will be fogging **weekdays** for mosquitoes as needed prior to 7:30 a.m. from now until October. The regular scheduled days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Days may be added if needed for mosquito control. For more information, call 791-4206.

## Retirement ceremony

The May Retirement Ceremony will be conducted in Alexander Hall at 9:30 a.m. on **May 29**.

## Library programs

Summer Reading Program called, *Beat the Heat, READ!* is **June 16 through Aug. 4** on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon for children 2 - 13.

There will be a Volunteer meeting for all individuals who would like to volunteer during the Summer Reading Program 11-noon, **June 11**. Woodworth Library summer reading program is **June 10** at 11 a.m. Magical entertainer David Ginn will present "Ocean of Magic."

For more information on any of these programs, call 791-7323.

## Ed center closed

The Education and Career Development will be closed for the Annual College Graduation on **June 11** from 2 - 3 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The Education Division counseling and testing services will be closed from 1 - 4:30 p.m. Normal duty hours will resume **June 12** at 7:30 a.m. The Army Learning Center will remain

open for normal business June 11.

## Change of command

The Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Detachment, Fort Gordon, will hold a change of command **May 29** at the Freedom Park Pavilion located on Rice Road at 10 a.m. Capt. Joseph E. Delaney will relinquish command to 1st Lt. Paul M. Mattear. A reception will follow the ceremony. For more information, call Gy. Sgt. Clarence Wellman at 791-7367.

## Bob Hope birthday greetings

On the **May 29**, entertainer Bob Hope will celebrate his 100th birthday. It has been suggested that all MARS members, veterans and others that have been entertained by the United States first "honorary veteran" send a MARSgram greeting to him for his 100th birthday. MARSgrams can be sent to Hope through via the MARS radio system at [aam9acs@at9tcs](mailto:aam9acs@at9tcs) or email [aam9acs@pacbell.net](mailto:aam9acs@pacbell.net).

The email address will be only used for the Bob Hope birthday greetings.

## Fort Gordon Report



COMING UP

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" premieres **May 26** and includes the following stories:

- Secretary of the Army White Resigns Position
- POW's Return to Fort Hood
- Vietnam Veteran Receives Silver Star

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 **June 9** on both Comcast 66 and Charter 13.

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

## The School Yard



**Need help preparing for the SAT, PSAT or ACT?**

The Southeast Region is offering an opportunity to utilize a comprehensive web-based curriculum to improve study skills, and test scores for students preparing to take college entrance exams. This program is available free of charge to students grades 9-12, and any armed services personnel or family member seeking post secondary level opportunities.

The advantages to this program are:

- 35 hours of instruction (8-9 weeks) prior to taking the SAT/PSAT/ACT tests
- 3 full practice test
- 21-35 lessons (based on test selection)
- unlimited access from any computer with the internet

For more information, call Staci Hill-Good at 791-7270.

**Youth career and job search workshop**

This workshop will be June 3 from 10 a.m. to noon, and is designed to expose youth and teens to the best jobs in the 21st Century.

The workshop is sponsored by Army Community Service. For more information, call 791-0735.

## 6th Annual 'Spirit of Nursing Showcase' honors EAMC nurses

**Lt. Col. Eleanor Fennell**  
EAMC Department of Nursing

Nurses were honored nation-wide during the month of May and this year's Nurse's Week was celebrated May 6-12. The Georgia Nurse's Association, 10th District, and the *Augusta Chronicle* co-sponsored the 6th Annual "Spirit of Nursing Showcase" May 2 at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion in Columbia County.

More than 400 nurses attended the event that honored 100 area nurses for their efforts in various nursing disciplines. Excitement and anticipation was electric as nursing agencies, hospitals, organizations and sororities showcased the best of the best of their registered nursing staff.

The program began with a reception, which included exhibits and display booths. 2nd Lt. Vincent Myers represented Eisenhower Army Medical Center with a poster display collage of pictures taken during his recent deployment to Afghanistan. Video footage of his medical deployment and a graphic display of major diseases uncommon in the United States were draws to the event. The nurses asked questions about

the photos capturing the impact landmines and bullet wounds.

At the event, nurses were recognized in "Nurse of the Year" categories including: educator, advanced practice nurse, nurse manager, nurse administrator, home health nurse, school nurse and staff nurse. Nominees representing EAMC at the event were Col. Gwendolyn Fryer, Brenda Payne, Yolanda Robles, Janet Manning, Janis Whaley, Gwendolyn Bonner, Helen Cooper and Capt. Clausyl Plummer. Gwendolyn Bonner, a critical care nurse at EAMC, was recognized as "Staff Nurse of the Year." Cooper and Plummer received award recognition for the "Reflection of Nursing Spirit of Commitment Award."

Bonner's nominator wrote that she "is truly a patient care advocate, having given exceptional nursing care to many critically ill patients. In doing so, she has educated literally hundreds of physicians, nurses, and students in the proper methods of patient care, placing particular emphasis on infection control, documentation and safety issues. She is a role model for what it means to be a professional nurse, and exemplifies



**Col. Jimmy Sanders accepts the Friend of Nursing award for Eisenhower Army Medical Center.**



**Gwendolyn Bonner was named winner of the Spirit of Nursing Staff Nurse of the Year.**

Courtesy photos

the true spirit of nursing."

Two winners were named to represent EAMC in the competition for the "Reflection of Nursing Spirit of Commitment Award." The civilian winner was Helen M. Cooper, assigned as clinical staff nurse to the Medical Oncology ward. Cooper joined EAMC over 20 years ago and has been part of the Army medical team for over 30 years. Her nominator speaks of her "stellar performance, quality documentation and su-

perb ability to bring the science of nursing to the bedside which is coupled with her impressive clinical acumen and sound judgment. She always gives her best to improve patient care. She loves what she does and demonstrates exceptional caring, a superb work ethic and is one of the strongest clinical pillars on the Medical Oncology ward."

Capt. Clausyl J. Plummer, a critical care nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit,

was selected as the military representative for the "Reflection of Nursing Spirit of Commitment Award." His nominator acknowledges his "comprehensive clinical knowledge and technical expertise and his exceptional nursing care of patients. He is requested as preceptor because he excels at making the most complex concept easy to understand." A caring nurse, his caring extends to the community where

Plummer consistently gives his time to serve as mentor and adviser for inner city youth programs. As President of the Junior Officer Council, he spearheaded a two-day Junior Officer Conference attended by more than 100 junior officers stationed throughout the Southeast Region. He clearly embodies the art and spirit of nursing.

An exciting part of the evening was when Col. Jimmy Sanders, EAMC and Southeast Regional Medical Command chief of staff, received the "Friend of Nursing Award" on behalf of EAMC. This award recognizes the numerous contributions Fort Gordon and EAMC have made to the nursing community. The "Friends of Nursing" award was also presented to Johnson and Johnson and Larry Read, president and chief executive officer of University Hospital.

Marilyn Bowcutt, the guest speaker, best sums up the event by saying, "each day nurses interface with patients and touch their lives. Nurses positively impact and enrich the lives of so many. This realization is why nurses are thankful they became a nurse."



Photo by Kathleen Haskell

(Left to right) The team of Capt. Matt Pantsari, Capt. John Wilson and Capt. Mark Roschewski placed second in the National American College of Physicians' Doctor's Dilemma competition sometimes referred as "medical jeopardy."

## EAMC team finishes second at American College of Physicians medical jeopardy competition

**Kathleen Haskell**

Eisenhower Army Medical Center Marketing Officer

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center team of Capt. Matt Pantsari, Capt. John Wilson and Capt. Mark Roschewski, graduate medical education residents, finished second in the national American College of Physicians medical jeopardy competition on April 4, in San Diego, Calif. The American College of Physicians is the professional so-

ciety for Internal Medicine.

The medical jeopardy (or Doctor's Dilemma as it is called to avoid trademark infringements) is a competition modeled after the Jeopardy TV game show. All of the states have ACP chapters and over 100 teams compete regionally for the chance to be one of the 15 finalists for the national competition. Our team won the Georgia competition over Emory, Medical College of Georgia, Morehouse, Atlanta Medical Center, Savannah Me-

morial, and Mercer University to gain the right to compete nationally.

In the first round the EAMC team competed against Massachusetts General Hospital (Harvard) and the Mayo Clinic. The team scored higher than the other two teams combined. After an additional round of competition, the team competed in the final round, finishing higher than the University of Pennsylvania and Yale University.

The EAMC team lost the

very difficult final question in the last round to the defending champions from Galveston, Texas. Only the winning team had the correct answer among the four teams in the finals.

The final question was: Name the phenomenon in which skin lesions develop after scratching in patients with psoriasis. The answer: What is Koebner's Phenomenon?

"Our team represented EAMC extremely well, stated

Department of Internal Medicine Residency Program Director Lt. Col. Bill Browne. I hope everyone will join me in congratulating these talented individuals on their stellar performance."

"Allow me to add my congratulations to those that I am sure are being heaped on the team, EAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Eric Schoemaker added after being informed of the team's achievement. This has become an almost commonplace event for those of us

who have spent time in Army Graduate Medical Education, but I never tire of seeing how well our residents perform, even when the competition is world-class!"

"EAMC has done very well at the Army and Georgia ACP meetings, but this is our first big success at the national meeting, Browne said with a smile. No Army team has made it to the finals of the competition in the past eight years, so this was a real milestone for us and for the AMEDD."

**Give the gift of life -- donate blood**

For more information on becoming a blood donor call 787-3234.

# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### Free day of fishing

The Fort Gordon Sportsman's club will take a limited number of service members fishing from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. on **June 8**.

Boats and fishing tackle will be provided by club members. Post and Georgia state fishing permit requirements have been waived for this event.

Fishing will be done in Butler reservoir. There will be no cost to service members. Directions will be given at time of registration. To register, call 791-5078 or 833-2834 or at fishing permit sales at Ring hall.

### Fort Gordon looking for Army Ten Miler Team members

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Denmark is looking for the fastest runners on post.

Denmark will lead a ten-person squad from Fort Gordon to the Army 10-Miler held **Oct. 5** in Washington, D.C.

Try-outs for the team will take place **June 21**. The top ten tryout finishers will comprise the team.

For more information, contact Denmark at 791-1238 or at [denmarkr@gordon.army.mil](mailto:denmarkr@gordon.army.mil).

### Patriots Select Soccer Tryouts

The Columbia County Patriots Select Soccer tryouts for the 2003-2004 season start **May 27**. Tryouts for girls under 10 to 12 years old are **May 27, 29 and June 3, 4, 5 and 7**; tryouts for boys under 10 to 12 years old are **May 27, 29, 31 and June 3 and 5**. Tryouts for boys and girls under 13 to 17 years old are **June 9, 10, 12, and 17**; tryouts for boys and girls under the age group of 19 are **June 9, 10, 11, and 17**.

All tryouts are on soccer fields at the CCRD Patriots Park. Tryouts begin at 6:30 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. on Saturday. All competitive players from Fort Gordon and CSRA are welcome. Tryouts are free. For more information call Phil Sines, 860-1148 or Andrew Hammer, 364-0414; or visit website at [www.patriotssoccer.org](http://www.patriotssoccer.org)

### Beach Blast

The Beach Blast celebration held each year at the Fort Gordon Recreation Center on Strom Thurmond Lake off post will take place on **May 24**, beginning at noon.

Activities will include a volleyball tournament, kids games, horseshoe tournament, watermelon seed spitting contest, as well as entertainment and food concessions.

For more information, call 541-1057.

### 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.

## 2003 Military Promotions

### Theme parks

**Company:** ANHEUSER BUSCH – Seaworld/Busch Garden Theme Parks

**Promotion:** "Heroes Salute"

**Offer time:** May 23-November 11, 2003

**Details:** Free 1 day Admission to all Anheuser-Busch theme parks including SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as four of their direct dependents. Must obtain form from ITT. For details, go to [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com)

**Company:** UNIVERSAL - Orlando

**Promotion:** "Military Appreciation Program – Bonus Pass"

**Offer time:** May 13-December 19, 2003

**Details:** Free 5-Day Bonus Pass for active duty military, Reservists, and National Guard. The Bonus Pass is valid for Universal Studios® and Islands of Adventure® for a 5-day period from the first day of visit. This pass also includes the CityWalk Party Pass. Military ID must be presented to the front gate admissions to obtain this special pass. Additional Family and Friends: Up to 5 people can purchase the Bonus Pass at a 50% discount of \$49.95 plus tax. Dependent spouses with a military ID may purchase this pass if the active member is still overseas. For more information, call 407-363-800 or visit [www.universallorlando.com](http://www.universallorlando.com)

**Company:** DISNEY – Disneyland/California Adventure

**Promotion:** "Disney's Armed Forces Salute"

**Offer time:** May 12-December 19, 2003

**Details:** Free 3-Day Ticket good for admission to both Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure™ parks. active U.S. military personnel may make a one-time purchase of 3-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets during the offer period for up to five family members (including spouse) or friends for \$39 each. For complete details, go to [www.disneyland.com/military](http://www.disneyland.com/military).

**Company:** DISNEY – Disney World, Florida

**Promotion:** "Disney's Armed Forces Salute"

**Offer time:** May 12-December 19, 2003

**Details:** Free 5-Day Ticket good for admission into the Walt Disney World theme parks, two Disney water parks, Pleasure Island and more. Each active member of the U.S. military may obtain one complimentary 5-day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" ticket during the offer period. During the offer period, active military personnel may also make a one-time purchase of this same ticket for \$49.95, plus tax, for up to five family members (including spouse) or friends. For complete details, go to [www.disneyland.com/military](http://www.disneyland.com/military).

### DISNEY ARMED FORCES SALUTE DETAILS:

- "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" theme park tickets can be obtained only at Main Entrance ticket windows.
- Active military personnel (or, if they are not present, their spouses) must present proper military identification.
- To purchase the tickets for family members or friends, the service member must show the complimentary ticket issued to them.
- Activated members of the National Guard or Reservists (or, if they are not present, their spouses) must also show active duty orders.
- Tickets for family members or friends may be purchased only by the active service member or spouse, not both.
- Last day of use on "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" theme park tickets is no later than December 19, 2003.
- A valid ID may be required for admission.
- This offer may not be combined with any other offer.
- Walt Disney Parks and Resorts ticket information is available at military base ticket offices.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Gary Moore, a member of the Augusta Striders running club, was the winner of the 11th Annual Signal Corps Regimental Association Spring Challenge race May 17.

## Moore strides to victory in 11th Annual SCRA Spring Challenge

**Spc. Ryan Matson**

Staff writer

There was a charm for Gary Moore, a member of the local running club, the Augusta Striders.

Moore ran to victory in the 11th Annual Signal Corps Regimental Association Spring Challenge 10K run, which started shortly after 8 a.m. May 17. Thirty seven minutes and seven seconds after embarking on the run, Moore emerged through the morning fog as the race's victor. It was the third time Moore has participated in the race, an event he says he looks forward to each year.

"It's one of the few races held in the spring, and it's good to run on post," Moore said. "You guys always put on a good race here, you've got good prizes. I hope it keeps going."

Several other Striders were top finishers. Ale Kennedy, of Augusta, was the first female runner across the finish line in, and Ken Dixon, also from the Striders, finished fourth overall with a time of 40 minutes, 25 seconds.

The other top-three place finishers in their age groups are listed below.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Ingraham, the race director, said 360 runners participated in this year's race, which raised a total of \$3,612 for the SCRA. He said though the number of race participants was down marginally due to conflicting events that weekend, the race was a suc-

cess. Ingraham also helped organize the 9th, and 10th Annual Spring Challenge races, and said he feels it's important to give back to his fellow Signal soldiers.

"I do it because I'm a Signalier, and to support my regiment one way or another," Ingraham said.

A kid's one-mile Fun Run at 7 a.m. preceded the 10K race. People who wanted to contribute to SCRA, but not necessarily run 6.2 miles also walked the fun run course.

Lt. Col. Robbie L. Mosley, 442nd Signal Battalion, is the president of the Fort Gordon chapter of the SCRA and said the race is one of the organization's main fundraising events. He explained that the SCRA is a professional organization made up primarily, but not exclusively, of Signal officers and noncommissioned officers who are interested in maintaining the history of the Signal Corps and whose members also focus on professional development.

Mosley said the money raised by the SCRA Spring Challenge will go directly back to the post, in the form of supporting local charities or events. The SCRA also presents a \$500 award to recognize a key up-and-coming Signal Corps leader, the Albert J. Meyer award, which will be awarded June 12.

Overall Male: 1) Gary Moore 2) Thomas Webb 3) Rich Thomas

Overall Female: 1) Ale Sabio Kennedy 2) Nora Lee

Dodge 3) Brenda Cooter  
Team: 1) C 369th SIG BN  
2) D 447th SIG BN 3) E 447th SIG BN

One-mile 8 to 10 Year Olds, Male: 1) Matthew Tuschen 2) Collin Mooley 3) Greg Brown Female: 1) Sara Venatta 2) Morgan Tuschen 3) Sarah Bualat

11 to 13 Year Olds: 1) Britt Venatta 2) Elisha Harris

10K 19 and under, Male: 1) Steven Cobert 2) Forrest Faulkner 3) James Vaughn; Female: 1) Amanda Harrison 2) Samantha Erickson 3) Susan Stern

10K 20 - 24, Male: 1) Chris Thompson 2) Robert Haines 3) Robert Ludwig; Female: 1) Shenta Brown 2) Casie Jones 3) Iwaskiw Tania

10K 25 - 29, Male: 1) Trevor Schmidt 2) Matthew McCoy 3) Robert Randall; Female: 1) Suzette Moore 2) Melissa Annby 3) Kari Matson

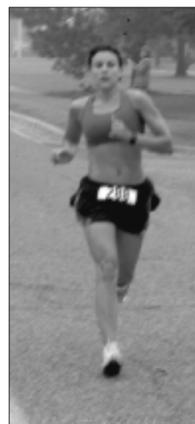
10K 30 - 34, Male: 1) Michael Harris 2) John Krivis 3) Mark Davis; Female: 1) Debbie Kemp 2) Dora Norton 3) Stephanie Gamble

10K 35 - 39, Male: 1) Ken Dixon 2) Michael Schmitt 3) Jerry Sensenig; Female: 1) Laurie Cladwell

10K 40 - 44, Male: 1) Robert Triplett 2) Daniel Daley 3) Anthony Price; Female: Tina Trombley 2) Karen Hogan 3) Coleen Zimmerman

10K 45 - 49, Male: 1) Darrell Newby 2) Doug Law 3) Kenneth Golston; Female: Joyce Law

10K 50 and over, Jacob Cooter.



(Above) Soldiers race across the finish line. (Left) Overall female winner Ale Kennedy of the Augusta Striders completes the course. (Right) Lt. Col. Robbie Mosley, 442nd Signal Battalion commander, finishes with his daughter.

## 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 23-24

Friday - A Man Apart (R)

Saturday - The Italian Jaha (Free PG-13)

Late show - Head of State (PG-13)

Sunday - The Italian Jaha (Free PG-13)

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

## Georgia Sports Hall of Fame to honor veterans/former DOD on Memorial Day

MACON, GA - The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame will pay honor to the veterans of the United States military and former Department of Defense personnel on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th.

At 11 a.m., on the GSHF's front lawn, a short-program will be held. The GSHF is asking all veterans and the public to bring a small American flag and place it in memory of someone who served. The flags will remain positioned until 12 midnight, Tuesday, May 27. WMAZ-TV anchor Mary Therese will emcee the program that will include the presenting of colors, and the playing of taps and bagpipes.

The speaker will be named next week.

Veterans and former DOD personnel will also receive free admission into the GSHF while those accompanying can enter for \$1 off the regular price.

"If it were not for the sacrifice of those men and women throughout the years, we would not be here right now," said GSHF Interim Executive Director Jacquelyn Decell. "Literally, from the founding of our country through the war on terrorism, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to these people fighting and dying for us. This is the best way the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame can say 'thank

you' to them."

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame has a proud history of its inductees serving in the military. Since World War I, over 40 have seen duty, including three that were killed in action - Clint Castleberry, James Turner Skipworth, Jr., and D.T. Bell.

"I hope the public will come out and support the veterans who have made it possible for us to enjoy the freedom we have," Decell said.

For more information on Memorial Day at the GSHF, please call (478) 752-1585, ext. 101 or visit [www.georgiasportshalloffame.com](http://www.georgiasportshalloffame.com).