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# The Signal



Friday, May 30, 2003

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 23, No. 21

## News UPDATE

### AFCEA

The Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will present scholarships to 16 area high school and college students at a reception **June 3**, 4:30 p.m. at the Gordon Club.

A total of \$17,000 will go to local students who are science and technology majors. The top prize, the Mallette Scholarship, for \$2,000 will go to the most outstanding applicant.

The reception is for members of the Fort Gordon community, as well as friends and family of the scholarship recipients.

For more information, call Mary Jones at 791-2014.

### Signal Ball

The 143rd Signal Anniversary Ball will be **June 12** at the Gordon Club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$18 for E-5/GS-5 & below and \$25 for E-6/GS-6 & above. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Peter M. CuvIELLO.

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

### Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teacher seminar is the **first Thursday** of each month, at the Education Center 741 Barnes Avenue, from 12:30 - 1 p.m.

For more information, call Bill Kirkland at 791-2000 or email: [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com)

### 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.

Many 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).

### Babysitter training

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

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.

## Welcome home

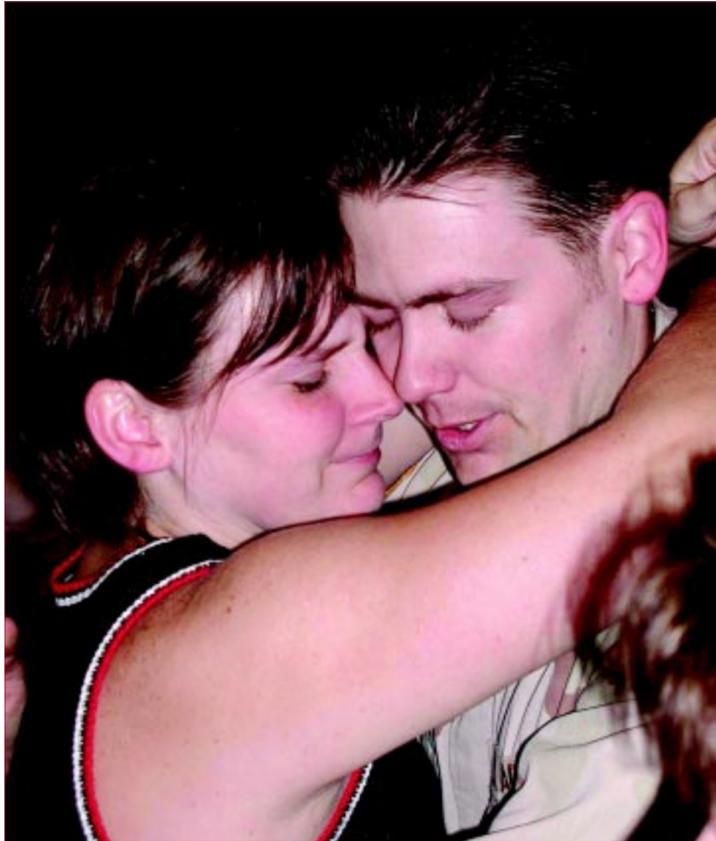


Photo by Sgt. Brian Lamar

**Chief Warrant Officer Charles Burks, Company A, 201st Military Intelligence Battalion, reunites with his wife. Burks was one of 97 soldiers returning from deployment in the Middle East.**

## 513th MI Bde returns home from Kuwait

**Spc. Leslie K. Pearson**  
513th MI Photojournalist

Nearly 100 soldiers from the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade were welcomed back to Fort Gordon in a homecoming celebration here the evening of May 21. Anticipation filled the air as friends, family and fellow soldiers gathered at Gym 5 anxiously waiting to be reunited with troops from the 201st and 297th MI battalions who have been deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for the past eight months.

Posters, banners, streamers and balloons in red, white and blue decorated the gym, while stacks of pizzas sat on a table waiting to be devoured by the troops.

The post band added to the excitement by playing patriotic tunes that got people in the packed bleachers clapping, cheering and waving American flags for the soldiers as they got off the bus and marched into the gym.

Carrying a dozen yellow roses and a poster that read "Welcome Home Mary," Althea Pontoon from Gainesville, Fla. was among the first family members to arrive at the gym to wait for her daughter Pfc. Mary Strange, a cook with the 201st MI Battalion.

"I'm so excited that I'll finally get to see her. I mean, I've read her e-mails and letters, I've heard her voice on the phone, I know she's safe and I know she's on her way home tonight, but I just want to see her, to touch her and then I'll feel better," said Pontoon holding her arms out as if reaching for her daughter.

Units began being sent forward last October after the tragic Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Although many details of the troop's activities cannot be released for operational and security reasons, their involve-

ment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom was crucial to the overall mission of the Vigilant Knights; to conduct multi-disciplined intelligence and security operations and provide support to the U.S. Army Central Command.

"Basically, our mission was to collect information, analyze it and produce an intelligence product," said 1st Lt. Travis Herron, the executive officer for 513th MI Headquarters and Headquarters Company, who recently returned from a six month deployment.

Throughout the last couple of weeks soldiers from the brigade have been trickling in slowly.

At first it was three or four, then a large group of 105 soldiers from the 297th MI Battalion returned May 14.

As part of the homecoming ceremony, the 201st Guidon was also returned signifying that the battalion had successfully completed its mission.

After a long separation from friends and family, the soldiers were eager to be released for the night.

There was hardly a dry eye in the room as everyone held on to the edge of their seats waiting for the soldiers to be released. Upon the command to be dismissed, the bleachers emptied as people raced to embrace their soldier.

Pontoon and her family made their way through the crowd and found Strange. Grabbing each other they cried and laughed at the same time.

"I'm so happy to be back," said Strange wiping her cheeks. She's just in time to see the birth of her niece who's due July 8, explained her sister Niki Smith. To her mother's surprise, Strange plans to take leave as soon as possible and spend some much deserved time in Florida with her family.

## Distinguished guests

*Annual AUSA, AFCEA, SCRA meeting includes former astronaut and war hero*

**Spc Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

He's definitely not your average Joe.

Name almost anything a young boy dreams of, and Joe F. Edwards, Jr., has probably done it. He was a Navy operational fighter pilot during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, a graduate of the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, the Topgun program. He is the recipient of the Navy's only peacetime Distinguished Flying Cross for landing an open-cockpit F-14 Tomcat on an aircraft carrier with both a broken arm and a blinded right eye. And even more impressive he has been in space.

Edwards piloted the the last space shuttle to the Russian Mir space station and flew the closest flying maneuvers ever attempted around an orbiting space station (in the history of manned space flight.) He even managed the development of the International Space Station from Star City, Russia.

Edwards was the guest speaker at the quarterly meeting between the Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army, the Signal Corps Regimental Association and the Augusta and Fort Gordon chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association held May 20 at the Gordon Club. The three organizations have been holding joint meetings for the past two years to bring an interesting speaker on post and to announce recent developments in their respective organizations.

"We have three different purposes, but complement each other very well," Mary Jones, the Fort Gordon AFCEA chapter president said. "It's an excellent opportunity to pool our resources."

Edwards described to a full room of guests at the Gordon Club what it's like to be in space, and just how amazing a feat it is to send an aircraft into space.

"I think as stunning as the view is being in space - it's more beautiful than you can put into words, really - all of that pales in comparison to the satisfaction you have from flying a \$4 billion space craft into orbit and docking on a space station, and being in actual control of the

shuttle," Edwards said in an interview after his speech.

Edwards came prepared with slides which showed a variety of space vessels lifting off and flying, as well as views from the vessels into space and looking back at the earth from above its atmosphere. As the crowd took in all the images, Edwards dropped some facts and figures on them that brought home just how amazing an undertaking it is to send an aircraft into space.

He started by talking about the enormous size of the spacecrafts that have traveled to space. For example, he said the Apollo 5 rocket stood 364 feet high on the launching pad.

"The space shuttle is 195 feet tall," Edwards said. "That's taller than the total distance the Wright Brothers flew on their first flight. It is the most highly advanced and sophisticated piece of technological equipment in the world."

He went on to tell the audience that the space shuttle flies at over 25 times the speed of sound and about the tremendous amount of fuel it takes the shuttle to be propelled into space.

"During the ascent into space, the space shuttle's main engines are burning fuel at a rate of one swimming pool full of fuel every second for eight minutes, 32 seconds continuously," Edwards said as he showed the crowd a familiar slide of the shuttle lifting off.

Though there have been accidents and tragedies on occasion in the space program, Edwards said the challenge of exploring our universe remains something that should not be shirked.

"I'm an American, and I don't quit when the going gets tough," he said. "We're fooling ourselves if we don't think one of the basic instincts is to explore our surroundings. Our destiny is to explore the solar system, and eventually leave the solar system and explore the entire galaxy."

Edwards is now the chairman and chief executive officer of the National Science Center, an organization established by an Act of Congress to improve the quality of math and science education among American

See *Guests*, Page 3



Photo by James Hudgins

## Memorial salute

**Local Georgia veterans honor fallen comrades at the Augusta-Central Savannah River Area Memorial Day observance. The ceremony was at Fourth and Broad Streets in downtown Augusta. For more on Memorial Day events see pages 10 and 11.**

# North Augusta chamber tours post

**Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey**  
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 50 North Augusta, S.C. Chamber of Commerce members toured Fort Gordon May 21. Our neighbors to the northeast got a look at the technology new signal soldiers are being trained to use here as well as some of the latest advancements in emergency medical evaluation training.

"Our tour was two-fold, in first allowing our membership to learn what is actually taking place out there in the form of missions and purpose, and second allowing us to show our sincere interest and support in our neighbor, Fort Gordon," Victoria Hann, president, North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, said. "General Hicks' comments to the group were very appropriate in promoting us as being good neighbors to one another."

The tour began with a visit to Vincent Hall where instructors displayed the major hardware components of the Satellite Communications Course. Lt. Col. Christopher Robertson, 447th Signal Battalion commander, explained to the chamber members that trainees from all four branches of the Department of Defense come to Fort Gordon to learn satellite communications and control. The North Augusta chamber members learned that a lot more than marching goes on here.

"31S (satellite communications systems maintainer operator) is assignment oriented training," explained Sgt. 1st Class Daniel J. Munch. The noncommissioned officer in charge of the students went on to say that all students will learn a common core curriculum in the initial training phase, and then will progress to strategic or tactical courses to match their future assignments.

The chamber members learned how signal soldiers convert frequencies at strategic sites into signals that are transmitted between the large dish antennas on the platform behind Vincent Hall and satellites orbiting the Earth approximately 25,000 miles up. The maximum allowable downtime for the system is eight minutes—per year, according to Sgt. 1st Class Fritz D. Hodges, course instructor.

"Prior to this event, I dare say that a very small percentage of the attendees clearly understood the work being done at Fort Gordon, and how it impacts every branch under our military, not just Army," Hann said.

The tour continued to the Center for Total Access on the outskirts of the Eisenhower Army Medical Center complex. There, Jeanette D. Rasche, director of Distance Learning and Multimedia for CTA, demonstrated the latest advances in human simulation training for the medical field.

The only facility of its kind in the United States, the CTA houses five mannequins that are attached to Apple Macintosh computers. The computers help the mannequins simulate the vital signs patients would show through various

stages of care. The mannequins breathe, have mechanical hearts that beat, exhibit pulse rates at the pulse points commonly found on various parts of the body, and two of the mannequins can be made to perspire and vomit (but that part was left out of this demonstration).

The system allows doctors, medics and ambulance drivers to simultaneously practice triage and medical emergency procedures as a team. Rasche demonstrated how the computer system can monitor the effect various injections will have on a patient by using bar-coded syringes filled with water. Each bar code represented a different medication, while each medication's use and dosage was stored on the computer.

Rasche took a syringe, scanned the bar code to identify the simulated adrenalin medication, and injected the water into the patient. The heart monitor showed the patient's heart rate increase. She then demonstrated what would happen if the dosage was too high. Not only did the heart monitor show a rapid increase in the patient's pulse rate, but also the mannequin's heart began to beat rapidly and its breath rate increased just as it would on a living patient.

Rasche said Army reserve units and local emergency medical facilitators use the CTA to hone their skills.

Dr. Julie A. Brantley said she was impressed with the quality of Fort Gordon's facilities and personnel.

"The soldiers are highly intelligent and articulate," she said. "We're glad you're part of our community and hope to keep it that way." Brantley, head of Brantley Chiropractic, P.C., said her office has several patients who are referred to her from Fort Gordon.

After the tour Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, briefed chamber members on Fort Gordon's overall range of training and services, as well as the vast number of soldiers and family members, civilian employees and military retirees who use these services and other services in the surrounding community. Brig. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, commanding general, Eisenhower Army Medical Center and Southeast Regional Medical Command, highlighted the medical center's close cooperation with the Medical College of Georgia and the Veterans Administration hospital, both located in Augusta.

Bryan Moorhouse, administrative director, NHC Healthcare and North Augusta chamber member, said Fort Gordon's impact could also be felt in the number of his staff members who were formerly stationed here. Coupled with the number of customers and family members he sees from Fort Gordon, he said he sees a "huge economic impact that helps support North Augusta."

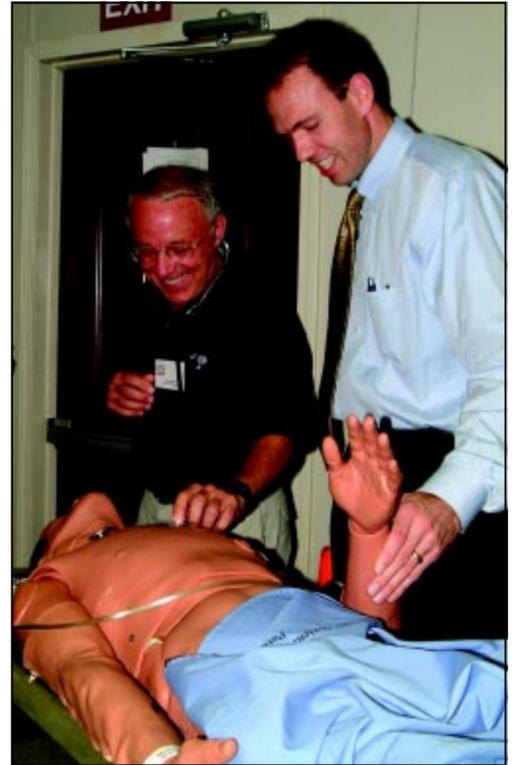
"I had no idea the scope of services, no idea of the medical perspective and its integration with MCG and the VA. I didn't realize how large and

extensive your training is here," Moorhouse said.

"Certainly, North Augusta is fortunate to have close to 500 individuals (approx. \$6 million in income) either retired or employed with Fort Gordon (who contribute to our community," Hann said. "The rest of the folks impact us by utilizing our businesses, churches, recreational facilities, etc and vice versa, Fort Gordon provides various opportunities for the community to utilize their goods and services. On more of a regional focus, this instal-

lation provides a national focus on our neighboring communities with its programs and services. There are thousands upon thousands of people visiting our region, both international and domestic, due to Fort Gordon's presence."

Many of the tour members said it was their first opportunity to view the sophisticated technology new signal soldiers are being trained to use as well as learn about some of the newest approaches to emergency medical training all of which is being taught within North Augusta's sphere of influence.



(Above) Jimmy Adams, North Augusta city councilman, and Bryan Moorhouse, administrative director, NHC Healthcare, monitor the heartbeat and pulse of one of CTA's mannequins. (Left) Standing by an OE-371/G antenna, Staff Sgt. Michael Payne explains the dynamics of the tactical phase of the satellite communications course.

## AFCEA honors ultimate sacrifice

**Marla Jones**  
Public Affairs Office

Members of the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, wanted to help the family of Sgt. George Buggs, a 3rd Infantry Division soldier who was killed in Iraq.

Buggs' 12-year-old son Guy, had his computer stolen last December, so the Chapter decided to present him with a Dell Computer, purchased through AFCEA International's partnership with the computer manufacturer.

On May 3 the sixth grader got his computer. The first thing he said to his mother was "Are we going to get internet (service) today?"

Wanda Buggs said her son is in advanced placement classes at Guinyard-Butler Middle School in Barnwell, S.C. She hopes he can go to college.

"This will help him so much with his school work. We have

been going to the library for the last four months to use the computers there," said Buggs.

She said her son really misses his father. "They spent a lot of time together," she said. She says she knows she will have to work harder to be a dual parent to Guy.

Guy enjoys writing and says he wants to pursue a career in sports writing. He is a big fan of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Sgt. George Buggs, a member of the 3rd Forward Support Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division, was declared Duty Station Whereabouts Unknown on March 29. Department of Defense changed his status to killed in action on April 5.

Mary Jones, president of the AFCEA chapter, said in a letter to Guy, "We appreciate the service and dedication of your father, Sgt. George Buggs, and hope this small token will encourage you to work toward your dreams, as your father wanted."



Photo by Marla Jones

Amy Tuschen, member of the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, AFCEA, sets up a new computer for Guy Buggs, of Barnwell, S.C. Twelve-year-old Guy is the son of Sgt. George Buggs, 3rd Infantry Division, who was killed in Iraq.

## Guests

From Page 1

students. The National Science Center is an Army-affiliated organization, and is headquartered at Fort Discovery in Augusta.

"When it's an audience at Fort Gordon and they're civil servants, that's something I can relate to," Edwards said. "That's my background. When you're talking to people at Fort Gordon you're talking to people who deal with a lot of technology. The

highly technical stuff I talk about is pretty easily understood."

While Edwards is a recognized hero of aviation, the meeting also presented another local hero with an award for his valor during the Korean War.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth L. Badke fought in the Korean War as part of the Medical Company, 9th Regiment, Second Division out of Fort Lewis, Wash. On Dec. 1, 1950, Badke and his company were surrounded and captured during the battle with Chinese communists at Kunuri, and transported to a mining camp in Death Valley. After surviving a brutal winter with minimal food and clothing, Badke and the other prisoners who were able to walk were marched north to Camp 5 on the Yalu River, arriving Jan. 20, 1951.

After surviving another freezing winter and 33 months and 10 days as a prisoner of war, Badke was finally released in

September 1953. Badke was discharged from active duty in 1954, but immediately enlisted in the Army Reserve and served

as a sergeant major with the 382nd Field Hospital here at Fort Gordon until his retirement in 1985.

Sgt. 1st Class Lynwood



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Bob Damen, president of the Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Lynwood Sumner, AUSA vice president of awards, present a certificate of appreciation in commemoration of the Korean War to retired Command Sgt. Major Kenneth Badke for his heroism during the war.

## Change of command for 67th Signal Bn

(Right) Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Signal Brigade, brigade commander, entrusts the 67th Signal Battalion's colors to Lt. Col. Paul W. LaDue, (left), during the 67th Sig. Bn. Change of Command Ceremony May 20, on Barton Field. LaDue gained command of the 67th from Lt. Col. Kari L. Everett. LaDue arrived at Fort Gordon June 2002. He formerly was the 93rd Sig. Bde. S-3 operations officer.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

# IRS sees new tax scams

WASHINGTON – Although the federal tax filing season ended on April 15, the Internal Revenue Service continues to see new tax scams. Two new schemes target families of those serving in the Armed Forces and e-mail users. In both schemes, people represent themselves as being from the IRS.

The IRS has seen isolated instances of the scam that targets the families of those serving in the Armed Forces.

The IRS warns consumers to beware of any variation of a scenario in which a telephone caller posing as an IRS employee tells a family member that he is entitled to a \$4,000 refund because his relative is in the Armed Forces and then requests a credit card number to cover a \$42 fee for postage. The scammer provides an actual IRS toll-free number as the call back number in order to make the call seem legitimate. However, the scammer then makes numerous unauthorized purchases with the victim's credit card number.

Genuine IRS employees who call taxpayers do not ask for credit card numbers or re-

quest fees for payment of a refund.

"Tax season may be over, but tax scams continue," said IRS Commissioner Mark Everson. "These types of shameless schemes hold out the allure of easy money. The IRS warns taxpayers to be on the lookout for these schemes. And we urge taxpayers to remember that the IRS does not charge for refunds or solicit credit card information."

In another scheme, victims receive an e-mail that appears to be from the IRS. The e-mail contains links to a non-IRS Internet Web page that asks for personal and financial information. Such information could be used to steal the respondent's identity and get access to sensitive financial data or accounts.

Identity thieves can use someone's personal data to:

- take over his or her financial accounts,
- run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards,
- apply for loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name, or

file fraudulent tax returns.

The IRS does not request sensitive personal or financial data by e-



mail.

Both of these schemes are being reviewed by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, which is authorized to investigate the misuse of the IRS name, insignia, seals and symbols.

Taxpayers who are on the receiving end of one of these

scams should contact TIGTA by calling the toll-free fraud re-

ferral hotline at 1-800-366-4484, faxing a complaint to 202-927-7018 or writing to the TIGTA Hotline, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044-0589. TIGTA's Web site is located at [www.ustreas.gov/tigta](http://www.ustreas.gov/tigta).

These are hardly the first

scams involving impersonation of an IRS employee or misuse of the IRS name.

In the past, scammers have impersonated IRS agents by going to taxpayers' houses to "collect taxes." Genuine IRS special agents, field auditors, and collection officers carry picture IDs and will normally try to contact the taxpayer before they visit.

In another scam, the scheme promoters sent out fictitious bank correspondence and phony IRS forms in an attempt to trick the recipients into disclosing their personal and banking data. The scheme promoters then used the information to impersonate the taxpayer and gain access to the taxpayer's finances.

Genuine IRS forms do not ask for sensitive personal and financial data except in very special circumstances.

Additional information on tax scams may be found on the genuine IRS Web site, [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), by going to The Newsroom page and then clicking on the "Scams/Consumer Alerts" link under the Topics sidebar.

## Troops to Teachers

Open house  
at Fort Gordon  
Education Center  
June 5  
12:30 p.m.

Troops to Teachers is a pilot program developed by Augusta State University and the Central Savannah River Area, Regional Educational Services Agency open to soldiers (both active and retired) as well as family members.

Bill Kirkland, program manager, may be contacted at 404-232-2608 or email: [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com). The Georgia Troops to Teachers web site is [www.ttgga.net](http://www.ttgga.net).

## 'The Spirit of September Eleventh' now at Signal Towers

On the courtyard of the Signal Towers complex stands the artist's proof of the full bronze statue which will be placed at Ground Zero in New York City after completing a tour of several installations. Artist, Alyse Lucas Corcoran designed the statue to represent the emotions of real people. It is a woman because women have been not the armor but the soul of peace and war. Spirit is the torch bearer of emotions and peace. Spirit is the figure of a woman pressing against a forceful wind, yet that same wind seems to be lifting her up. Spirit is presented by the National Arts Club of New York.



Photo by Janet A. McElmurray

Safety is  
**NO**  
accident

# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## “While I am waiting...”

Special to The Signal

While I am waiting... strange things are happening around me. I saw on the news and heard on the radio that some of the soldiers from Fort Gordon were going to be coming back, and since I have been writing this column, I hired a babysitter and went to see what the homecoming would be like.

I was a bit apprehensive. Mostly because my spouse was not returning, and I still do not know when he will come home.

Gym 5 was decorated for a hero's welcome. The red white and blue was splashed on the bleachers, the tables of food were festive and colorful.

A lovely banner from the children at Freedom Park was hanging off the bleacher seats. People carried signs, and balloons, and other colorful ways for their soldier to see them.

There was a goofy flag hat on one young man. American flags and yellow ribbons were everywhere. But the decorations paled in the face of the human emotion that was displayed in the gym that night.

The tension kept changing as a person kept announcing they would be here in 10 minutes.

At the 10-minute mark there were mumbblings that maybe they got held

up at the gate and the MPs were really going up and down the buses, then someone said no way, the MP's were giving them an escort, it would just take time to get through the gates.

A third person chimed in, I just want them to be here.

There was light banter, and then someone announced that Ruben had won the American Idol and nervous laughter, excitement and disappointment in a jovial way was tossed around for a few moments.

Thinking of something else like American Idol helped pass the time. Whenever the band would launch into a peppy tune people would jump thinking that the program had started, scan all around the gym, and then sigh, cause no one else had walked in.

Then the announcement was made, the program would start in one minute.

It was muffled, because in the gym it was hard to hear, and as the people around me started to react, a single file of soldiers starting marching in.

They were in their desert battle dress uniforms, and looked, just grand. People started clapping. The people sitting around me were beautiful; they strained to see if they could find their loved ones.

One lady was a mother, whose daughter had been gone and she was taking care of her infant.

One group around me was a family of four waiting for Dad to come home. There was bitterness for them, he had just missed a weekend of graduation events, but he was home now, and that mattered more than anything.

There were a couple of young ladies around me, they were by themselves, watching, scanning the crowd.

The soldiers kept filing in. A shout, “There he is!” and then the wife sat down fast, but bounced right back up, such excitement her husband was home. And the tears started brimming in peoples eyes.

I wish I could describe the unbridled joy I saw in the faces of the people around me. It was beautiful.

There were tears of happiness, joy, glassed over eyes, it was almost as if the tears made a mirror so the emotions of love and joy could shine through brighter.

There were smiles that would not stop and couldn't be erased. Some people were so nervous it was hard to sit still, and others were frozen in their tracks.

The soldiers formed up, and then there they were.

Time stopped. They were across

the gym floor. At that moment I do not think there was a greater distance for any of the families waiting, their soldier was so close and yet they could not touch them.

“The National Anthem” was played, and tears started flowing.

Tears of pride, excitement, joy. There were so many emotions contained in that moment.

The excited tension created the moment the soldiers walked in, lasted through the hero's welcome by the commanders. Then the magic word, dismissed, and the reunion began.

People were coming down off the bleachers and soldiers were moving towards them. I would not have wanted to be in the way.

It was beautiful, it was touching, and it was deserved.

It also was private and so I left, crying a bit for their joy was so real and so powerful.

It gave me strength, to see such a wonderful reunion, knowing it may be some time before my turn comes, but my turn will come, and that carries me through ... while I am waiting.

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

## Feedback

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Why do you think it is important to donate blood?



“It's the least we can do. It saves lives.”

Pvt. Sheldon Hansen  
Company A, 551st Signal Battalion



“I'm leaving soon and thought it would be nice to do before I left.”

Spc. Michael Ponzio  
Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn.



“In the event that my blood is needed. I figure I can help someone out.”

Spc. Megan Malone  
(first time donor)  
Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn.



“If at any time a family member needed blood, I would feel confident it would be safe.”

Gail Bennett  
(first time donor)  
1st Command Financial Group



“As a civilian, being able to help our military in any way possible is important to me. I'm not in the military, but we can fight at home by donating blood.”

“Big Robb”  
Eagle 102.3 FM

## Spouses, family members serve Army as well

Cheryl Harvey Hill

Special to The Signal

I would like to say something about those who have been “drafted” into the military by a spouse or parent.

Our sacrifices frequently go unnoticed, and the importance of our contribution is often overlooked or taken for granted.

Family support of the military member is critical to his or her performance.

Contrary to the belief that soldiers are only as good as their leaders, the truth of the matter is that soldiers are only as good as the people who support them in their everyday life.

We live on an Army post. Every morning at 7 a.m. we are awakened to the sound of “Reveille.”

At 5 p.m. daily a cannon fires signaling the end of the work day.

At 11 p.m. daily we are serenaded by “Taps.”

Every house on our street flies an American flag, not just on Flag Day, but every day.

Patriotism isn't something we celebrate only on the Fourth of July, it is a way of life for us.

In every house on post lives the spouses and family members of soldiers, but the soldiers aren't always there.

They are in Bosnia, Saudi, Korea or any one of a hundred other countries throughout the world where they might be needed, and we are left to “hold down the fort.”

I have a plaque that says, “Army wife - toughest job in the Army.”

This is an accurate description of ALL military family members of all branches.

I am not just speculating on this, I speak from experience.

I am a military spouse who is also an Army veteran. It was much easier being a soldier than it is being the family member of a soldier.

I volunteered to be in the Army. It was what I wanted to do.

I was drafted as a military dependent, and there are times when it is not what I want at all. Soldiers choose to live this lifestyle, but the family members don't.

This does not diminish the sacrifices they are required to make for the sake of their country.

They must be resourceful, capable, independent, and if they don't have at least a little bit of gypsy in their soul, the nomadic lifestyle they are forced to live can be devastating.

Military dependents are anything but dependent. We are an uniquely adaptable group of talented individuals from diverse cultural and

ethnic backgrounds.

We are required to be ambassadors to the world in the truest sense of the word, and we do, as a whole, represent our country well.

We may be reluctant patriots, but we serve judiciously, and we serve with pride.

**Editor's note:** Cheryl Harvey Hill is a veteran who has served with the Women's Army Corps, the United States Army and the Army National Guard.

If you are a military spouse, and would like more information contact Army Community Service, Darling Hall, Rm 367, 791-3579. Helpful websites include: [www.sgtmoms.com](http://www.sgtmoms.com), [www.mfrc.calib.com](http://www.mfrc.calib.com), [www.thecombatzone.org](http://www.thecombatzone.org) or [www.operationmilitarypride/spouselinks.htm](http://www.operationmilitarypride/spouselinks.htm)



# The Signal

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### Donorfest 2003

(Left) Local radio personality "Big Robb" of Eagle 102.3 FM, Augusta, donated not only his time with a live remote from Gordon Lanes Bowling Center, but also donated a pint of blood.

(Above) Gail Bennett, of First Command Financial Planning, was another of the event's sponsors who also chipped in by donating blood.



(Far left) Capt. George Roberts (left) was the big winner, taking home a DVD player donated by MWR to the drive. Capt. Kenneth Anderson, 551st Signal Battalion, presented the prize to Roberts. Several hundred dollars of prizes, including Six Flags Tickets, six backpacks donated by the Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army, gift certificates to Rhinehart's Oyster Bar and Lynx bobblehead dolls, were given out to donors at the drive. (Left) Big Robb joins in the bowling action at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center.

## Rained out!

*First annual post drive gathers much local support, but few donors*

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

As a line from the famous baseball movie goes, "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose and sometimes it rains." That was the case May 22, when two big events scheduled that day suffered due to inclement weather. The post safety day was cancelled completely, and Donorfest, the first ever post blood drive, organized by the 551st Signal Battalion drew a less-than-expected crowd.

Forty-seven people signed up and attempted to donate blood during the drive, which lasted from 8 a.m. until roughly 3:30 p.m., when it was determined that due to lack of donors, the drive would end. Some military members and their wives, such as Spc. Shawn Truesdell, Company A, 551st Signal Battalion and his wife, Idalia, both donated. Several non-Initial Entry Training soldiers from the 551st Signal Battalion who volunteered to work at the drive, also donated

a pint of blood. Six people came in to donate blood after 3:30, but by that time, the equipment was being packed up so the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center team of collectors, who will be on the road collecting blood on Memorial Day, could enjoy some of the holiday weekend. A total of 37 units of blood were collected at the drive, meaning 10 people were either unable to donate due to travel/deployment restrictions, medical issues (such as low iron lev-

els on the day of the drive), or the inability to fill a complete pint of blood. The drive had received tremendous support from its sponsors, and despite its rather low donor tally, gathered some needed publicity for the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, whose primary mission is to collect blood for soldiers and their families, locally and deployed. Several hundreds of dollars of prizes were given to donors in hourly drawings throughout

the drive. Prizes included two Six Flags tickets, Augusta Lynx hockey team bobblehead dolls, a DVD, six backpacks, overnight hotel passes, Greenjackets tickets, and much more. In addition, three free games of bowling, a plastic cup and top and T-shirts or stuffed bloodhound dogs were awarded to all donors. The car wash, scheduled to be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., had to be canceled due to the steady rainfall throughout the day. Augusta classic rock radio

station Eagle 102.3 FM provided not only a live remote at the blood drive, but also donated one of the pints of blood, as radio personality Big Robb went through the donation process before going on to another remote. Although the drive may not have lived up to its expectations, the true purpose of donating blood remains steadfast. The life of a soldier or family member somewhere, will be saved in part by the blood raised at this event.

## Dinosaurs claim sanctuary at Fort Discovery exhibit

**Denise Allen**  
Signal Staff

A maiasaura peers into her nest. More than a dozen hatchlings chirp back at her with other eggs still waiting to be hatched. Around the corner, a saber-toothed cat tries to make dinner out of a meathirum or giant sloth. The lifelike robotics of the Kokoro Dinosaurs Co. have descended upon the National Science Center's Fort Discovery in a new exhibit called "Return of the Dinosaurs," which opened on Saturday, May 24. It will run through Sept. 21. "Kokoro is very large and well-known," said Kathi Dimmock, marketing director at Fort Discovery. "They work with paleontologists to ensure these are as accurate as can be." The large scale animals are made with a steel frame. Pneumatic systems and wiring are hidden beneath a soft and pliable polyurethane skin. The power source of each of the prehistoric creatures is an air compressor. Dinosaur sounds emitted through speakers complete the illusion that living prehistoric creatures have invaded in the gallery. Another part of the exhibit gives a behind the scenes glimpse of the creatures.

A mecho-apatosaurus features just the framework of a dinosaur and allows visitors to operate its head and neck through buttons on a control panel. Also, there are pieces of the polyurethane for visitors to touch since they can't touch the real exhibit. Another part of this interactive portion of the exhibit is a sand pit, where budding archeologists might find a few fossils if they dig deep enough. The "Return of the Dinosaurs" exhibit is free with paid admission to the science center, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children, seniors and active duty military. Other activities are planned in conjunction with the dinosaur exhibit. Day camps with a dinosaur theme will be held throughout the summer. One-day camps for fourth and fifth graders will be held on Mondays, while second and third graders will have their one-day camps on Tuesdays during the summer. The camps will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, call Lisa Golden at 821-0646.

### National Science Center's Fort Discovery on the road!

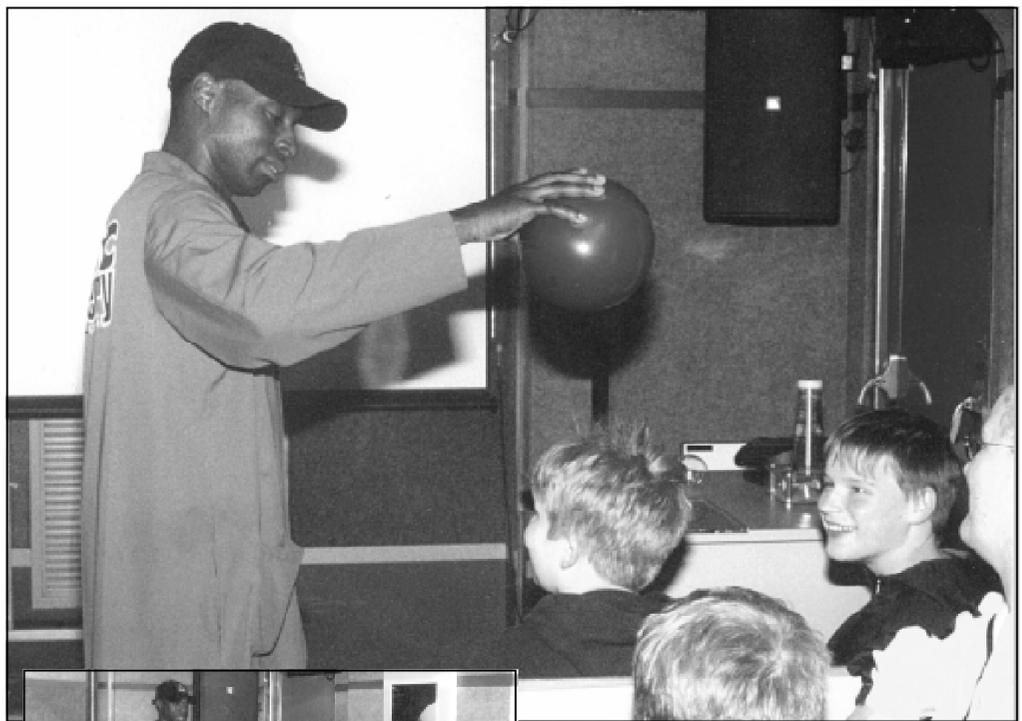


Photo by Margo Turner, Andrews Air Force Base

The Mobile Discovery Center was at the Joint Service Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., May 17. Sgt. Clarence Quarterman gave the presentation. Quarterman demonstrated how to create electricity from rubbing a balloon. The kids enjoyed the interactive scientific presentation.

# Congratulations 2003 graduates!

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

### Master of Science in Administration

Aaron, Katrina M.  
Black Jr., Jesse A.  
Butts, William R.  
Campbell, Roger  
Evans, Rachel L.  
Ferris, Gwendolyn  
Frails, Cynthia W.  
Jay, Angela D.  
Johnson, Uvetia M.  
Love-Hendrix, Latrice  
McCloud, Patricia Ann  
McDonald, Katina L.  
Nance, Pamela A.  
Patton Jr., Iules  
Pope, Dwella  
Rogers, Johnnie D.  
Simmons, Samaritan  
Simmons Sr., Alfred  
Weston Jr., Julius  
Williams, Evalyn M.

### Master of Arts

Bell, Lizabeth A.  
Booz, Gloria J.  
Brickey, Sandra  
Clanton, Yvette M.  
Davis, Karen J.  
Elam, Mary  
Goodson, Marta I.  
Gordon, John O.  
Hicks, Myrtice M.  
Jackson, Dionia L.  
Lamb, Kimberly A.  
Peebles, Mary Elizabeth Allison  
Peek, Erica D.  
Pierre, Charles A.  
Spikes, Lillie P.  
Swint, Irvin Andrew

## BRENAU UNIVERSITY

### Bachelor of Science in Public Administration

Brandon, Norma Ann Marie  
Deaton, Keelie Monteen  
Faison, LaTricia  
Palmer, Ella Marie  
Ross, Donald  
Steele, Albert  
Thippen, Jenney Anne

### Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Barker, David A. S.  
Dickinson, Victoria  
Elizabeth  
Eubanks Sr., Earl La'Ron  
Fossitt-Jones, Evelyn D.  
Glenn, Clara A.  
Jech, Ronald Richard  
Jones, Dana Marsale  
Lee, Nathaniel  
Lott, James  
Nieves, Christian J.  
Padgett, John Leroy  
Summers, James Kenneth  
Vajdl, Lisa Michelle  
Williams, Kerry Vaughn  
Williams, Stacey Lenor  
Wilson, David Alton

### Bachelor of Business Administration Management

Freeman, Kennard  
Green, Virginia Ann  
Lewis, Willis O'Neal  
Lemons, Ottis L.  
Lynn, Wayne Buckley  
Nelson, Dexter Guy  
Premo, Paulette Christine  
Santiago, Jose Alberto  
Thompson, Doris J.

### Master of Business Administration

Abubakari, Mosi T.  
Chappell, Donald Stuart  
Graves, Jeffrey Kim  
Hunter, Richard A.  
Knight, Corey Todd  
Kramer, Jeffrey Vaughn  
Nase, William Wallace  
Norat, Wilfredo  
Thompson, David Wayne  
Wakefield, Erika

\*Cum Laude  
\*\*Magna Cum Laude  
\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

## PAINÉ COLLEGE

### Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

### Business Accounting

\* Ellis, Margaret Westbrook  
\*\* Lankford, Enfuture Elaine

### Business Management

Jackson, Jean Elizabeth  
\* McLamore, Constance  
Valerie  
Williams, Eldridge C.

### Business Management Information Systems

\*\* Melendez, Marco A.  
\*\* Moore, Billy J.  
Murphy, Natasha Chiffon

### Bachelor of Science in Education

Early Childhood Education  
\*\*\* Fox, Stephen Nathaniel  
\*\*\* Roye, Malissa Mae

### Middle Grades Education

\*\* Taylor, Susan A.

### Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences

#### Sociology-General

Cooper, Sharon D.  
\* Howard, Larry  
Jessie, Wanda Lashelle  
Joyner, Darlene  
\* Tomlin, Cauden

#### Sociology-Social Psychology

\* Crews, Jeanette  
\* Lewis, William C.  
\*\*\* Scott, Rosalind Felecia  
Willis, Pamela H.

\*Cum Laude  
\*\*Magna Cum Laude  
\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude

## EXCELSIOR COLLEGE

### Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies

Dunn, Freddie Lee

## VOORHEES COLLEGE

### Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management

Davenport, Nathaniel

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

### COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

### Bachelor of Science in Electronic Systems Technologies

Ashley, Adolph Carey  
Bies, John Marshall  
Blackman, James Daniel  
Burdette, Gary Lucius  
Dow, Gerard John Sr.  
Harvey, Rodney Dwayne  
Heflin, Aaron William  
Himes, Stacy Gerald  
Jackson, Edward Jr.  
Johnson, George Anthony  
Jordan, Calmese Jr.  
Mason, Alvin Duane  
Nealy, Billy J.  
Nixon, Bruce Joseph  
Scott, Alma Louise  
Smith, Tyrone E. Sr.  
Thomas, John H.

### Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management

Frady, Tonia May  
Green, Willie Ira  
Johnson, Sonya  
Hargitt-Scott, Pogressa  
Moses, Tramisa  
Turquoise  
Rufino, Casiano  
Sikes, Lois Elaine  
Smith, Annie Mae  
Stinson-Whitaker, Judy P.  
Thomas, Alethea Venice  
Tran, Chau Van  
Walker, Francena Natesha

\* Cum Laude 3.50 - 3.74  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude 3.75 - 3.89  
\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude 3.90 - 4.00

## GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

### Associate in Arts

### Behavioral Science

Jones, Monica  
Miller, Rosamella P.

### Criminal Justice

Chapel, Jennifer A.  
Giles, Jessica A.  
Rivera, Omar

### General Studies

\* Alvarez, Argelia

### Associate in Science

### Behavioral Science

Elamin, Yasmeen S.  
Ennis, Christina K.  
Farrell, Bobbie J.  
Hughes, Danella T.  
Hutchins, Morris V.  
Johns, Michael J.  
Logan, Laura  
Lynch, Jennifer  
Reynolds, Tiffany  
Skinner, Stephanie E.  
Smart, Crystal  
Thompkins, Antoinette  
Tullis, Deborah S.  
Wiggins, Betty J. *also an A.S. in Education*  
Young, Letitia S.

### Business Administration

Brown, Jonathan  
\* Daly, Lori P.  
Davison, Keith  
Dietschler, Stephanie  
Dunn, Miranda  
Fuller, Amanda R.  
Harris, Anthony  
Herrington, Steven E.  
Ivey, Denise  
Leverett, Belinda  
Lewis, Tabitha R.  
Moradi, Elise  
Pender, Linda J.  
Reese Jr., Donald L.  
Sears, Patricia L.  
Studdard, Jean M.  
Taylor, Angela L.  
Wong, Cheuk Ni  
Zamarron, Henry K.

### Criminal Justice

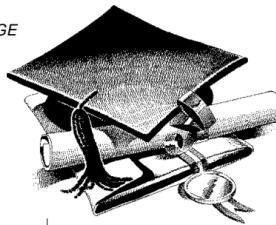
Childress, Raymond D.  
\*\*\* Dondlinger, Henry  
\*\* Jenkins, Jay W.  
Kitchens, Madie  
Nelson, Stephen P.  
Smith, Michael S.  
Warner, Keith

### Education

Archer, Chasity D.  
Atkins, Laura A.  
Cruz, William A.  
Edwards, Lakisha L.  
Foster, Norma  
Lovett, Lessie  
McCauley, Laura  
Neibarger, Nicole  
Pender, Linda  
\*\*\* Perkins, Brenda  
Shannon, Jessica  
Taylor, Kathleen  
\*\*\* Taylor, Randall  
Watts, Dan E.  
\*\*\* Wiley, Debra D.  
Williams, Linda  
Wilson, Lavecchia D.

### General Studies

Acre, Alan J.  
\*\* Asmann, Sarah  
Barrett, Rose  
Baker, Edward.  
Best, Emma  
Biggs, Mehan A.  
\* Bodiford, Keith S.  
\*\*\* Borum, James  
Bostic, Carl  
Brassell, Andrea P.  
Brown, Erin N.  
Cooper, Benjamin  
Cotton, Constance  
Crickard, David  
\* Dyer, Tasha M.  
Evans, Gennaro  
Geiger, Teneshia P.  
Granade, Joel T.  
\* Hedrick, Jonathan  
Herman, Elizabeth C.



Holmes, Crystal S.  
Jacobs, Jennifer R.  
Laster, Cedric D.  
\*\*\* Ling, Carol  
McAlister, Georgia A.  
McElveen, Stacey C.  
McGhee, Terrance  
McGuigan, Dena  
Meador, Nathaniel  
Minor, Willie M.  
Mulling, Samuel C.  
\* Odom, Carolyn B.  
\*\* Osborne, William E.  
\* Page, Jennifer R.  
Parris, Alicia P.  
Paul, Matthew M.  
Poindexter, DeAndre T.  
Prunier, Jessica S.  
Radford, Rhonda  
Reed, Schnicka L.  
Reese, Charles R.  
Reynolds, Rodney  
Rock, Crystal A.  
Roundtree, Sherita C.  
\*\*\* Smith, Atiya  
Smith, Tammy L.  
Taylor, Courtney L.  
Taylor, Gary A.  
Townsend, Jennifer  
Walker, Ashley D.  
Webb, Jennifer  
Yorio, John

### Pre Nursing

Best, Tabitha L.  
Brand, Angela P.  
Buggs, Trena  
Canada, Deborah J.  
Myers, Michelle  
Newman, Tabatha J.  
Pendrey, Kimberly P.  
\*\*\* Salemi, Tracy L.  
\*\*\* VanRonk, Sean  
Warren, Melissa

### Associate in Applied Science

### Computer Information Systems

Brackeen, Heather  
Gardner Jr., Winston  
Rhodes, Leola W.  
\*\*\* Schichner, Kevin  
Walker, Walidah  
\*\*\* Watts, Melita  
Wilson II, Lamar H.

### Criminal Justice

\*\*\* Barrios, David  
Fulghum, David H.  
Jenkins, Andrew L.  
\* Jones, Catherine D.  
\*\*\* Loflin Jr., Steven

### General Studies

\*\*\* Ballard Sr., Richard E.  
Blair, Kristopher D.  
Buckley, Michael D.  
Carter, Algernon  
Cole, Bruce E.  
Fontenot, Allen.  
Franklin Jr., Johnny  
Grubbs Jr., Joe C.  
Hawthorne, Daryl  
Holmes Jr., Louis K.  
Jones, Cheryl M.  
Mason, Shila S.  
\*\* Pitts, Johnnie  
Reddick Jr., Louie L.  
Rhodes, Michael K.  
Shaffer, Candice C.  
\*\*\* Warren, Gary  
Walker, Christopher

### Management

Leonard, Gary L.  
Mack, Karen L.  
Solomon, Erika

### Religion

Winbush, Catherine

\* Cum Laude, 3.50-3.64  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude, 3.65-3.79  
\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude, 3.80-4.00



## 2003 GRADUATING RESIDENTS

### US Army Dental Activity

Fort Gordon, Ga.

### ENDODONTICS

Lt. Col. Chris Evanov

Lt. Col. Joseph W. Vargas

Capt. Nathan E. Baker

Capt. Ike B. Hardy

### ORAL/MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Maj. Charles L. Clark

### PERIODONTICS

Lt. Col. Robert C. Gerlach

Maj. Kurt B. Fleckenstein

Maj. Bryan P. Kalish

### PROSTHODONTICS

Maj. Mark W. Fagan

Maj. Dan C. Fong

Maj. Eric A. Hall



# Second chance to serve the community

Special to The Signal

The Troops to Teachers Program is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense.

The program assists men and women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and are now seeking a second career as teachers in America's public schools.

Eligible service members may receive federal funding to help meet state certification requirements as teachers and for agreeing to teach in high needs schools.

There are near crisis level shortages of public school teachers in America, especially in the areas of Special Education, Math and Science.

In Georgia alone there is a need to hire approximately 13,000 new teachers per year.

The traditional four year university programs in the state graduate only about 4,000 new teachers per year. As a result states are developing unique alternative certification programs to help train and prepare qualified teachers for the classroom.

The Fort Gordon Education Center, the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program, Augusta State University and the Central Savannah River Area, Regional Educational Services Agency in support of Fort Gordon area school systems have developed a pilot program to help get qualified teachers into the classroom. There will be an open

house at the post education center on June 5 at 12:30 p.m. to share this program with interested active and reserve component soldiers (both active and retired) as well as their family members.

Studies have proven separating military members make great teachers. They bring a wealth of life experience that adds to their teaching ability.

Retired Master Sgt. Constance Dianne Faulke is an excellent example of this.

She retired from Fort Gordon last October and is completing her first year as an 8th grade teacher at Glenn Hills Middle School in Augusta. She has had a wealth of experiences in her first year.

She is an ex-drill sergeant, mother and now 8th grade Language Arts teacher. She is a soldier that is continuing to make a difference.

The Troops to Teachers Program is not a teacher certification program. Troops to Teachers candi-

dates must meet the same certification requirements that any other teacher must meet.

It does however provide financial assistance to eligible individuals in the form of a stipend up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs, or a bonus of up to \$10,000 for teaching in a "high needs" school. Troops to Teachers State Support Offices have been established in over 33 states to assist participants with certification requirements.

The National Troops to Teachers homepage, [www.ProudtoServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudtoServeAgain.com), provides information and resource links to help participants transition to a second career in public education. The Web site for

Georgia's Troops to Teachers is [www.tttga.net](http://www.tttga.net).

The Troops to Teachers Program was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense Program.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides for the continuation of Troops to Teachers through fiscal year 2006. Under this program, eligible military personnel can pursue a second career in public education.

For more information, contact Bill Kirkland, program manager for the Georgia troops to Teachers Program, at 404-232-2608 or [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com).

**Editor's note:** The above information was received from Bill Kirkland the Georgia Troops to Teachers representative.

**The Troops to Teachers program provides a stipend of up to \$5,000 to eligible individuals to help pay for teacher certification costs, or a bonus of up to \$10,000 for teaching in a "high needs" school.**

## BOSS shows soldiers best buy Annual Commissary Awareness Day held May 21

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

On May 21, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers was at the commissary, bringing a host of activities for patrons.

The mission was to inform soldiers of the commissary and its benefits to soldiers on post, BOSS president Demetrius Dowell, 116th Military Intelligence Group said.

"The commissary is one of the benefits soldiers contribute to and get a good price and a return on some of the money they spend here," Dowell said. "The money gets distributed back to the installation to create a better commissary and better quality of life for the soldiers."

Visitors to the commissary during Commissary Awareness Day had a



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Augusta Coca-Cola representative Chuck Woody (right) shows Command Sgt. Maj. Bobbie L. Ramtahal some signed Jim Harrison prints Coke donated to Commissary Awareness Day.

chance to enter drawings for gift certificates and prizes, Dowell said. A free lunch of hotdogs, chips and beverages was also cooked and served by BOSS members. "We have a lot of good things planned throughout the course of the

day," Dowell said.

"We're always trying to help BOSS," Woody said.

Another part of Commissary Awareness Day were facility tours held every 15 minutes guided by Dowell. The first tour started around 11 a.m.

BOSS also encouraged soldier participation in Commissary Awareness Day by awarding the unit with the most participants with a free pizza party, Dowell said. This year's winning unit was Company A, 551st Signal Battalion.

This year's event drew about 400 people.

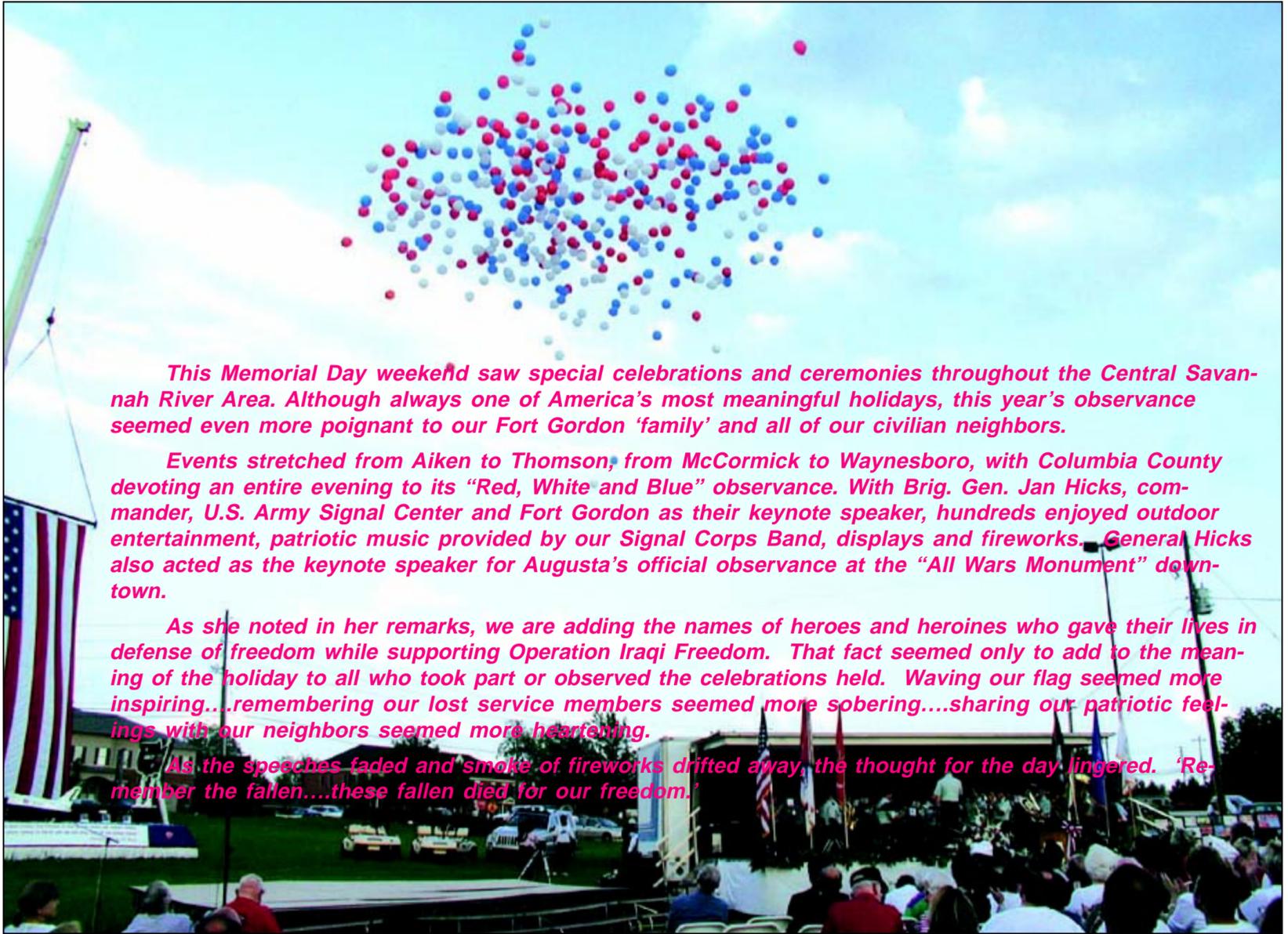
BOSS will be very active in the Fort Gordon community in the upcoming months, Dowell said. Among the activities they will be a part of on post include the Father's Day Basketball Classic, June 14 - 15 and a Habitat for Humanity project in which BOSS members will help fix a house for a local resident, May 31.

"Our goal is to try to do one quality of life type activity, one community service activity and one leisure and recreation activity each month," Dowell said.

For more information, contact Dowell at 791-0588.

# Memorial Day 2003 - A special remembrance

Photos and story by James Hudgins, Public Affairs Officer



*This Memorial Day weekend saw special celebrations and ceremonies throughout the Central Savannah River Area. Although always one of America's most meaningful holidays, this year's observance seemed even more poignant to our Fort Gordon 'family' and all of our civilian neighbors.*

*Events stretched from Aiken to Thomson, from McCormick to Waynesboro, with Columbia County devoting an entire evening to its "Red, White and Blue" observance. With Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commander, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon as their keynote speaker, hundreds enjoyed outdoor entertainment, patriotic music provided by our Signal Corps Band, displays and fireworks. General Hicks also acted as the keynote speaker for Augusta's official observance at the "All Wars Monument" downtown.*

*As she noted in her remarks, we are adding the names of heroes and heroines who gave their lives in defense of freedom while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. That fact seemed only to add to the meaning of the holiday to all who took part or observed the celebrations held. Waving our flag seemed more inspiring....remembering our lost service members seemed more sobering....sharing our patriotic feelings with our neighbors seemed more heartening.*

*As the speeches faded and smoke of fireworks drifted away, the thought for the day lingered. 'Remember the fallen....these fallen died for our freedom.'*

Red white and blue balloons fly over the crowd at the Annual Memorial Day Red White and Blue Celebration May 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. across from the Evans Government Complex.



Augusta's Veterans of All Wars Monument is surrounded by wreaths from local veterans organizations at the 11 a.m. Memorial Day ceremony.



Academy of Richmond County Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets act as a color guard for the ceremony at the Veterans of All Wars Monument Memorial Day in Augusta.



A huge American flag hangs from a construction vehicle during the ceremony in Evans May 24.



U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, watches the Red White and Blue Ceremony with Senator Charlie Norwood (center.)



(Left) The Fort Gordon color guard arrives at Broad Street during the Memorial Day ceremony.

(Right) Hicks greets another service guest at the Memorial Day ceremony in Augusta.





The American flag was at half-mast during the ceremony in Augusta.



Hicks speaks at the Memorial Day ceremony outside the Veterans of All Wars Monument.



(Above) Retired Sgt. 1st Class John Rangel, Jr., at the podium, presents a copy of "When We Were Soldiers" to Augusta Mayor Bob Young (left).

(Left) Hicks speaks at the Red White and Blue celebration in Evans.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Col. Bernie Kulifay, Commandant, Leader College for Information Technology, was the guest speaker at a Memorial Day ceremony held outside the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home in Augusta. (Below) The Signal Corps Band was also an important part of the tribute to America's fallen soldiers.



## Veterans remember fallen brothers

Spc. Ryan Matson  
Staff writer

As a crowd of mostly veterans and their families listened, Col. Bernie Kulifay, Commandant, Leader College for Information Technology, addressed the audience outside the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home in Augusta.

"Freedom isn't free," Kulifay, himself a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, said to a crowd of about 100 people lining the courtyard outside the home, with the American flag flying at half-mast in the center.

Before his speech Kulifay, the guest speaker, got the chance to speak with some of the veterans who stay at the home.

"It's certainly an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity this morning to do that," Kulifay said.

He started his speech with a moment of silence for the soldiers who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"They have joined the honored ranks of fallen American heroes who will be remembered at future Memorial Day ceremonies," Kulifay said.

"When I think of this day, I think about my father," Kulifay reflected in his speech. "He joined the military when he turned 18 years old shortly after World War II and fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars."

He said his father loved the military and the life it involved. "I remember the evenings when he would sit by his bedside and shine his shoes or his boots for duty the next day, and I never imagined that I would be doing the same years later," Kulifay said. "Like so many other veterans, my father is gone now, but the memory of him and his love for the military and this great nation of ours will always live in me."

Kulifay said Memorial Day is a time of conflicting emotions, both the optimism for a bright and free future, but also the realization that "our freedoms have always carried with them a tremendous cost."

"The phrase 'freedom is never free' has more meaning on this day than in any other day in years," Kulifay said.

He said the cost of our freedom exceeds over a million men and women who have been killed

during conflicts over the country's history. To illustrate the magnitude of that number, Kulifay said, "If we took time to just read the names of every service man and woman who gave their lives in our nation's defense, it would take nearly a month continuously to do so."

"Americans have distinguished themselves on so many battlefields for freedom and will do so in the future as we fight our current war on terrorism," he said.

One of the people in attendance to remember America's fallen heroes was Sons of the American Legion Post 178, 11th District commander Mike Powell. Like Kulifay, Powell's father was also a veteran, having served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War.

"We come out here every year to honor veterans, such as those who have died in past wars," Powell said.

"It means a lot to all of us. The veterans went out and fought for our country and its freedom, democracy and liberty and our homefront, defending our country."

Powell said the younger generation of veterans coming back from Iraq are just as deserving of the honors rendered to veterans of wars past.

"They're upholding the tradition," Powell said.

"They're incredible. What they're doing, is tremendous, going over there and sacrificing their lives for our homefront and for us to be free. We support all of our soldiers, our president and our veterans too. God bless America, and keep America free."

The ceremony, which lasted about 45 minutes, also included the Fort Gordon Ceremonial Detachment, a color guard from Fort Gordon and music from the Signal Corps Band. It concluded with those in attendance singing of "God Bless America," accompanied by the Signal Corps Band.

Though Memorial Day is a holiday especially set aside to remember service members who died for freedom in past battles, Kulifay said the message of the day should always be present in every American's mind.

"We need to truly remember, every day, those who gave their lives to enable us to live without fear of oppression."

# Moore honored for 20 years service as EMT

Jennifer M. Chipman  
EAMC Public Affairs Officer

Earlier this month, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians honored Diane Moore for her 20 years of continuous registration.

"Since its inception, the NREMT has registered over 773,000 emergency medical technicians. Most have discontinued their service, many have transferred to other health careers, and many have failed to meet the continuing education requirements established by the board of directors," said William E. Brown, executive director of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, in his letter to Moore.

"We have seen many changes in EMS over the past 33 years and you have been an integral part of those changes in your community. Many would not have occurred without your direction, dedication, and service," Brown said.

The National Registry is the national certification agency for emergency medical technicians. NREMT is a non-profit governmental agency led by a board of directors comprised of the leading emergency medical service agencies in the United States.

According to Brown, very few EMTs achieve 20 years of consecutive years of National Registration.

Moore, who started her career in 1972 as an emergency care attendant, is currently the 91W health care specialist and EMT course director and lead



Photo by Jennifer M. Chipman

(From left to right) Sgt. Luis Pagan, 91W transition student, receives instructions from Diane Moore, paramedic and 91W lead instructor, on how to intubate a patient.

educator at Eisenhower Army Medical Center as well as being a National Registry Paramedic. Her days are spent teaching a variety of emergency medical courses including basic trauma life support, trauma aims, and continuing education courses for Eisenhower and the Southeast Regional Medical Command's EMTs and 91W health care specialists.

She also provides continuing education for Fort Gordon's Fire and Emergency Services' EMTs.

"Being a paramedic and working the streets have been the best time of my life, said Brown. I have made a lot of friends and have had the greatest partners."

"And drive a big truck with lights and sirens!"

# An officer who wears the cross

Chaplain (1st Lt.) B. Jean Gunn

As a young soldier struggling through basic training, my first encounter with an officer who wore a cross was during my eight weeks at Fort Jackson, SC. As I exchanged salutes one day with the officer, to my surprise, he also exchanged a smile.

I'll never forget how refreshing it felt, as a private, to have been greeted and treated like a human being by an officer whom I later learned was a chaplain. It didn't seem to matter to him that I was just a private. He seemed more interested in me as a person. Initially, I thought, "this is a trick." So I prepared for the old familiar command of "half right." But when I realized that his response had "no strings attached," I took a deep sigh and moved on.

Although the gist of my encounter with the chaplain entailed a simple greeting and smile, the impact of his common courtesy left me astonished. After realizing that the chaplain meant me no

harm, I thanked God for him.

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before humanity that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Somehow through the chaos of basic training, and the loneliness of being away from home, the light of the chaplain's presence made my day. Even though I don't recall his rank, or his nametag, I do vividly recall that shiny, little cross that he wore at the top of his BDU cap.

An officer who wears the cross is a Christian chaplain who has been chosen and appointed by God and the church to serve the spiritual needs of military personnel and their families.

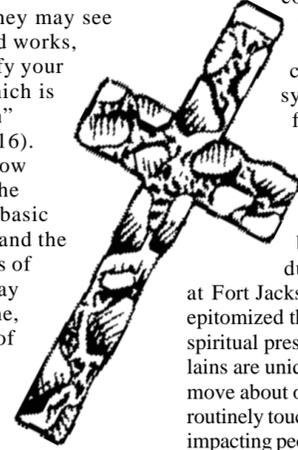
Military chaplains are specially trained individuals in the area of pastoral care and counseling, who

have dedicated themselves to the divine service of God and

country. For some, the cross that chaplains wear symbolizes a faith tradition, to others it denotes a religious conviction, but for me,

during my stay at Fort Jackson, the cross epitomized the essence of spiritual presence. Chaplains are unique officers who move about on a daily basis, routinely touching and impacting peoples' lives without ever realizing it. Being a chaplain in the military can be an awesome task; it can even be a balancing act. Wearing the strength of an officer and the compassion of a minister can sometimes really be a challenge.

Nevertheless, in the midst of all of the command staff meetings, slide show briefings, and other responsibilities of the officer, the chaplain must never allow the multiplicities of her/his tasks to overshadow the fact that she/he is also the officer who wears the cross.



# 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 3 years of age through those completing sixth grade.

This year's "train" runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three consecutive weeks beginning June 10 and 12, June 17 and 19, 24 and 26, then meeting from 9 a.m. to noon at the Religious Education Center, on 39th Street near 7th Avenue.

REGISTRATION will be

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. Each child participating must be registered for each day of attendance.

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

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

are 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

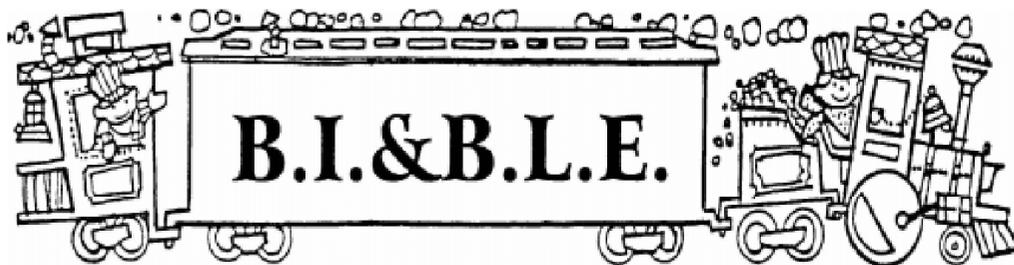
. . . Bless America"

VOLUNTEERS are 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 orientation for all support staff, will be provided on Tuesday at the Religious Education Center. Choose from two times that day: noon to 2 p.m. or 7 to 9 p.m..

For more information, call the Religious Education Center at 791-4703.



## Spotlight on:

**Name:** Monica R. Harris

**Unit:** Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

**Hometown:** Philadelphia, Pa.

**What do you enjoy about being a DS?**

I enjoy being able to train soldiers to become the best ordnance soldiers that they can be in the Army. But the most enjoyable part of the training process is seeing them walk across the stage and knowing without a doubt that they are ready for the operational Army.

**How long at Fort Gordon?**

I have been at Fort Gordon for three years.

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

I would like to become the first African-American female command sergeant major of the Ordnance Corps.



Sgt. 1st Class Monica R. Harris

*Give the gift of life -  
Be a blood donor*

For more information on becoming a blood donor, call 787-3432.

# Community Events

## ArtScape Camp

This summer the Greater Augusta Arts Council is producing an 8-week Art Camp for children living in our Housing Communities. They are partnering with the Housing Authority and Richmond County Recreation and Parks to produce a camp offering exposure to music, dance drama and visual arts.

Last summer, some campers learned how to play the violin in 2-weeks.

Russel Joel Brown will be teaching choral music.

Volunteers are needed to come to camp and assist in the classrooms.

Volunteer for a week- or two or more. Volunteers may work one day a week- for 8 weeks, but the camp would prefer not to have to change out each day. With 100 campers the program really wants each teacher to have a 'helper' in the room.

Volunteers are needed **June 2 through Aug. 1** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ursula Collins School. The camp will be closed the 4th of July week (June 30-July 4) and July 21 - Aug. 1. The camp will be at May Park-Walton Way at 4th Street. For more information, call Brenda Durant at 826-4702 or email: [Brenda@augustaarts.com](mailto:Brenda@augustaarts.com).

## AFCEA

Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter will present scholarships to 16 area high school and college students at a reception **June 3**, 4:30 p.m. at the Gordon Club.

A total of \$17,000 will go to local students who are science and technology majors. The top prize, the Mallette Scholarship, for \$2,000 will go to the most outstanding applicant.

The reception is for members of the Fort Gordon community, as well as friends and family of the scholarship recipients.

For more information, call Mary Jones at 791-2014.

## Adolphus Greely Chapter meeting

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

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

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

## Green to gold

The **first Monday** of each month, the education center will have a briefing on the Green to Gold program at Augusta State

University. The briefing is at the education center.

For more information, call 791-2000 or contact Maj. Keith Cantrell at the ASU Military Science Dept., 667-4648 or email: [kcantrell@aug.edu](mailto:kcantrell@aug.edu).

## Family child care provider

Registration for new applicants to become a Family Child Care Provider will be held **June 16-20** from 9 a.m. - noon, daily in building 45400 next to the Youth Services building.

Training will start July 11 at 9 a.m. Applicants must reside in government quarters and all training is at no cost to family members. Child care will also be provided.

For more information, call 791-3993/4440.

## 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 Ball-room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend.

Many 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).

## Troops to teachers

Troops to teacher seminar is the **first Thursday** of each month, at the education center 741 Barnes Avenue, from 12:30 - 1 p.m.

For more information, call Bill Kirkland at 791-2000 or email: [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com)

## TAPP

Teacher Alternative Preparation Program at Augusta State University holds a briefing the **first Thursday of each month** at the education center from 1 -

3 p.m. For more information email Heather Eakin at [heakin@aug.edu](mailto:heakin@aug.edu) or Wanda Oldfield at [wanda@csraresa.org](mailto:wanda@csraresa.org)

Unit briefings are available, for more information on unit briefing, email Julie McCrary at [mccraryj@gordon.army.mil](mailto:mccraryj@gordon.army.mil)

## 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. 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.

## Signal Ball

The 143rd Signal Anniversary Ball will be **June 12** at the Gordon Club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$18 for E-5/GS-5 & below and \$25 for E-6/GS-6 & above. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuvillo.

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

## 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 **Saturday**, 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 commitment. The result is very marketable job skills. For more information, call 787-6311.

## CPR and first aid training

Red Cross offers CPR & First Aid Training on **June 17 and 19**, 6 - 9 p.m. at Community Life Building. Attendance both evenings is required for certification. Cost is \$36. Pre-registration is required. 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.

## 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.

Woodworth Library summer reading program is **June 10** at 11 a.m. Magical entertainer David Ginn will present "Ocean of Magic."

There will be a volunteer meeting for all individuals who would like to volunteer during the Summer Reading Program from 11a.m -noon, **June 11**.

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.

## Fort Gordon Report



## COMING UP

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" is currently airing 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.

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.

## Mass choir

Celebration Mass Choir will have its monthly rehearsal on

the **June 28** at Signal Theater. The rehearsal will be from 1 - 3:30 p.m. All members and anyone wishing to be a part of the community mass choir are asked to be there.

For more information, call Gene Beverly at 787-5170.

# 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 **June 3, 4, 5** and 7; tryouts for boys under 10 to 12 years old are **May 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)

#### 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.

#### SCRA golf tournament

The Signal Corps Regimental Association will sponsor a golf tournament on **June 20** at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course starting at 7:30 a.m.

The best ball scramble tournament is open to all SCRA members, soldiers, retirees and family members in the Fort Gordon area. The cost is \$40 per person and includes green fees, cart and lunch,



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Augusta Lynx left wing Tyson Holly talks with some youngsters at the end of a practice during his clinic at the Augusta Ice Sports Center.

## Magic sticks

### Youth hockey league a growing sport in Augusta area

**Spc. Ryan Matson**  
Staff writer

When one thinks about Augusta, they often think of warm temperatures and golf. But not everyone. Several area youngsters have taken up a new game: hockey.

Everyday at the Augusta Ice Sports Center on Augusta West Parkway, you can find members of the Augusta Ice Hockey Association youth hockey league from the age of four to 17 years old practicing hockey. The children play two 10 game seasons, which run from August to April, and also entertain fans by scrimmaging during intermissions at the local professional hockey team's games (the Augusta Lynx), always a crowd favorite.

Hockey, especially youth hockey, is on the rise in popularity in the area, Duncan Crerar, one of the owners of the AISC rink said. Since the youth hockey league started two years ago it has grown to about 130 children and 16 youth teams, doubling in size from the initial year of the program.

There is also an adult league and adult beginners league at the AISC in which about 100 adults participate, Crerar said. He said there are 10 adult teams and four beginner adult teams.

"You don't even need to know how to skate yet to play," Crerar said of the beginner's team. "Both men and women play, and it's just for fun."

The hockey bug is even slowly spreading to Fort Gordon. Six children and about 12 adults from

Fort Gordon participate in the AIHA. Beth Sammons, the AIHA youth hockey league treasurer in charge of registering children for the league, said.

One of the reasons for the sport's rise in popularity over the last few years may be the addition of the Augusta Lynx to the area. The Lynx came here five years ago and the organization has been avid backers of the youth hockey program, donating autographed jerseys and memorabilia to the yearly awards banquet, giving out free tickets to youth hockey players, and putting on clinics for children hosted by members of the team.

#### Why hockey?

Playing hockey is not a cheap endeavor as it costs \$200 per child or adult to play a season of hockey, plus the actual hockey equipment, which the players must also purchase. Still, Pete Budwick, part owner of the Lynx and a Korean War veteran, said the rewards of playing the game outweigh the monetary cost.

"It's probably one of the only sports that requires 100 percent teamwork, which requires discipline," he said.

"The exercise, regimentation and discipline the sport provides keep the kids interested," Staff Sgt. Joseph Dezotell, 35th Military Police Detachment, whose son, Andy, 6, plays in the youth hockey league said. "Once they get involved, they don't want to quit."

Rich Rembisz, a Department of Defense civilian who works at Back Hall, has found enjoyment

by not only coaching a kids team, but also working as a referee as well. He said there are many benefits to soldiers participating in the league.

"I was in the Special Forces, and I remember that any time you get involved with the community, it's a good thing," Rembisz said. "I remember times when I used to be sitting around in the barracks saying, 'What am I going to do tonight?' Hockey is great physical exercise, a good source of camaradery. It's a lot of fun. For young kids, it keeps them out of trouble."

As a referee, Rembisz said he receives a small fee for officiating the games, which he said allows him the opportunity to make a little money doing something he enjoys. Because hockey is such a fast-paced game, Rembisz said the officials, like the players must also be in good shape, so he said that is another benefit.

"We're always looking for people to officiate," he said.

Crerar, who played minor league hockey, said if a soldier joins the league, the league will work with them. "A lot of soldiers may come here from up North who have always played hockey and they may not have their equipment with them or know if they'll even be here in 12 to 16 weeks. If someone gets deployed, we're definitely not going to penalize them for serving their country."

Crerar is hoping more soldiers join the adult league.

"It would be great to have a team just from people from Fort Gordon," he said.

John Whitwell, the assistant coach of the Lynx who grew up playing hockey in Niagara Falls, has put on clinics for area youth hockey players and is a strong supporter of the youth hockey program.

"The biggest thing kids get out of playing hockey is the exercise, getting them out of the house and away from the video games," Whitwell said. "It also teaches them to work in teams, and forms that structure of discipline with officials, discipline in obeying the rules, about being on time and following the rules in society and in life. Hockey is a good teaching tool."

"If you've never had a chance to try it, it's just an incredible game. It's new to a lot of people here, but it's really taking off in this town."

Current Lynx player Tyson Holly, a left wing who just finished his second season with the team, runs a coaching clinic for children at the Ice Forum. He will be here all summer working with

kids and helping them learn the game.

"I think the best part of working with the kids is seeing their expression when they're playing and knowing they're having fun, and knowing I felt the same way when I was their age," he said. "It's a difficult game, and takes time to learn, but I really think that once they get out here, they become very intrigued with it."

Dezotell said when the Lynx players give up their time to spend times with the kids, the children "are so excited, they just go nuts."

"I remember when I was a kid growing up in Boston, and the hockey players were really a part of the community, like the Lynx are now," he said. "I remember Bobby Orr coming out and putting on clinics and working with us, and I'll never forget that."

"I just love watching the kids grow with the game," Robyn Slaton, a parent of two children who play in the youth league, and one who has been skating since he was only a year old, said. "They start out barely being able to stand up on the skates and skating around with their ankles turned in, and before you know it, they're zipping around the ice."

"It's fun from the kids' perspective, but it's also a very good family environment. The kids all look out for each other and become a very close-knit group. We go out as families on travel games and just have the best time you can imagine."

#### Becoming involved

If someone in the area thinks it may be time to give the game a try, the first step in learning to play hockey is learning to skate. The AISC holds public skating over 30 hours throughout the week and offers a ten percent discount to military ID card holders on ice time.

"It's a good family thing to do, a lot of fun," Crerar said. "Ice skating down here is a little unique, too, I guess just the novelty of it. It's huge in Florida, too."

Crerar added the rink can also be rented out and is a nice place for events such as birthday parties or unit organizational days. And, as Dezotell pointed out, there is also the fitness factor ice skating provides.

"Ice skating is rated as one of the best low impact cardiovascular exercises," he said.

For soldiers who don't have their own skates, the cost of renting a pair is \$4 for admission and \$3 for skates. For more information, contact the Forum at 863-0061, extension "0".

## 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 30 to June 1**

Friday - Phone Booth (R)  
Saturday - Basic (R)  
Late show - Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)  
Sunday - Basic (G)

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