



**Skeet
shoot
range**

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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Ashanti concert

U.S. Army Entertainment and Fort Gordon Morale Welfare and Recreation present Ashanti, with special guest Mr. Cheeks, in concert at Barton Field today. Gates open at 7 p.m., while the concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the gate. Go to www.fortgordon.com or call 791-6779 for information.

Independence Day

Fort Gordon's Independence Day celebration is 5-11 p.m. **Thursday** at Barton Field and Freedom Park. Activities include music by Shiloh, Heavy Dose and the U.S. Army Signal Corps Band, carnival rides, military displays and more, followed by a fireworks and laser show. Admission is free. Call 791-2859.

Blood drive

The Kendrick Memorial Blood Center is having an Independence Blood Drive from 9-11:30 a.m. **Tuesday** and 3-6 p.m. **Wednesday** at 27th Street and Barnes Avenue. Call 787-1014 for more information.

447th change of command

Lt. Col. Christopher Robertson relinquishes command of the 447th Signal Battalion to Lt. Col. Michael Allen in a ceremony **Wednesday** from 8-9:30 a.m., at the Barton Field reviewing stand.

Reception will be held at the Religious Education Center Bldg. 39709.

In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will be at Gym 5.

For information call 791-6420.

SJA hours change

Beginning **Tuesday**, walk-ins to see a Legal Assistance attorney will be Tuesdays from 7:30-11 a.m. Appointments to see a Legal Assistance attorney are Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Call 791-7812/7813 for an appointment.

Notary services are available during normal hours.

Behavioral health moves

Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, Building 33800, is moving to Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Only walk-ins with emergency situations will be seen at the old location Monday and Tuesday.

Effective **Wednesday**, all patients will be seen at the new Outpatient Behavioral Health Services located on the 13th floor west of EAMC. For information call 787-2860 or 787-5415.

Meeting addresses barracks issues

Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble
Signal military editor

Advanced Individual Training soldiers will have better living and learning environments thanks to the efforts of the Training and Doctrine Command AIT Barracks Conference.

Approximately 35 training leaders—first sergeants, command sergeants major, executive officers, company commanders—gathered at Fort Gordon Tuesday through today to brainstorm on a design which will make the Army training mission more effective, according to Tom Verdel, an architect with the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers. The Tulsa district is tasked with the mission of developing conceptual designs for all Army training facilities.

The goal of the conference is to come to a consensus on how all Army AIT students will be housed, and determine which other functions accompany AIT so that space can be allotted for that, according to Verdel. Most of the additional functions are administrative or supply functions.

The design will cover everything from lighting, to door height, to room size, to bathroom size and layout.

"It's a pretty detailed plan," said Verdel. "If we get something the whole community has agreed on, then we've pretty much covered everything."

The changes would bring welcome relief for Lt. Col. Karla Donovan, 551st

Signal Battalion commander. None of her four barracks are the same.

While here the conference attendees visited two of Donovan's barracks—one that was just vacated for renovation and one that was taken out of renovation in May.

The one that was just moved out of was a safety hazard, according to Donovan. When plugs were put into some electrical sockets, they would start a fire. The drains in the second floor shower stalls would overflow and water would drain through the ceilings and into the light fixtures below causing the lights to go out.

The living quarters were also cramped. What would normally be a four-man room would be adapted to a six-man room with one desk and a six-man room would be used as an eight-man room with one desk. This caused each soldier to have 45 square-feet of living space as opposed to the 90 feet required by TRADOC.

The newly renovated barracks belonging to Donovan required work orders to be called in on the day soldiers moved into the building. Donovan also had to request doors and doorknobs for the building.

There will be at least two more AIT barracks meetings. One will cover technical issues, and one will be held to decide on a prototype.

The changes should be phased in, Army-wide, within three-five years depending on funding and approval.

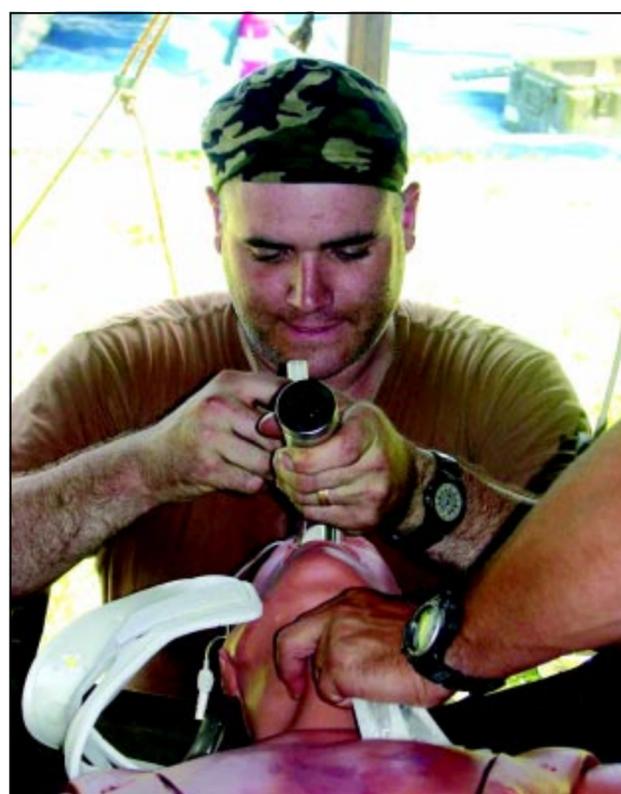


Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Lamar

Open wide

Lt. Joseph Meade, a registered nurse participating in the Golden Medic exercise, practices putting a trachea tube in a dummy. The exercise, held at Fort Gordon June 8-16, involved more than 10 Reserve units from across the country. For more photos and the story, see page 20A.

56th Signal Battalion receives new leadership

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

The 56th Signal Battalion, part of the 93rd Signal Brigade, received new leadership Tuesday during a change of command ceremony at Barton Field.

Lt. Col. Robert Rhodes, outgoing commander, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Olen Kelley.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Signal Brigade commander, presided over the event.

"Soldiers and civilians of the 56th, you have truly accomplished much over these past two years," said Gerstein. "And while you deserve a great deal of the credit, we must also recognize the efforts of your leaders including Lt. Col. Rhodes—in my estimation he has contributed greatly to the success of the battalion.

"He has been a confident soldier, an outstanding planner, a great teacher and mentor, and a caring leader; all of those qualities that one desires in a commander," said Gerstein.

During his remarks, Rhodes reflected on his two years with the 56th.

"While I was standing on William Maxie Field at Fort Buchanan (Puerto Rico) two years ago, I contemplated what the coming years would bring to the organization that I had just taken command of," he said. "Little did I know at that time, that the battalion would serve during some of the most turbulent times that our country had seen in recent memory.

"To the sol-

diers of the battalion past and present, you have performed like no other in accomplishing a daunting number of missions, and exercise support throughout my tenure as commander," he said. "This could not have been accomplished without the superb leadership of our commissioned and non-commissioned officers, technical skills and dedication from our soldiers."

Kelley was previously the U.S. Northern Command J-3 exercise and contingency officer at the Mobile Consolidated Command Center Branch, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

"I had a chance to review the 56th Signal Battalion's lineage, it is a proud one," said Kelley.

"What we do next is as important as what preceded us. Our next step is what we do together—as soldiers and leaders—will do to enhance the lineage of the 56th Signal Battalion. It is something we will do together and it is something that we will do well."

Kelley has attended Airborne School, the Marine Corps Command and Control Systems Course, the Combined Arms Service Staff School, the Command and General Staff College and the Joint Professional Military Education Course.

He has a bachelor's of science degree and attained a master's degree in Telecommunications Management.

Arts Council awards Fort Gordon its president's award

Denise Allen
Signal staff

It was the weekend after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

While many large events around the country were being cancelled or placed on hold because of fear of more terrorism, the Greater Augusta Arts Council decided to move forward with its annual Arts in the Heart of Augusta cultural arts festival to give the city's residents a diversion and use the healing arts to soothe the pain.

Then Brenda Durant, the executive director of the arts council, got a phone call from Fort Gordon officials.

They weren't sure how many soldiers they could spare to work as volunteers

helping set up tents and work at other parts of the festival as they could be needed for additional duties.

"I realized how much we depended on Fort Gordon," said Durant.

On Tuesday, the arts council gave Fort Gordon its president's award for contributions to the community at the organization's annual meeting at the Pinnacle Club in Augusta.

Arts in the Heart of Augusta isn't the only place Fort Gordon's volunteers can be found.

Volunteers also assist with

the council's annual Garden City Music Festival in the spring.

When the arts council needed musicians for the opening ceremonies of the Georgia Games last summer, the Signal Corps Band stepped up to fulfill the call. Band representative, Staff Sgt. Timothy Ledoux, attended several planning meetings prior to the band playing in the opening ceremonies.

"They are so wonderful. You see them all over town," Durant said.

Even when Durant headed to Atlanta for "Augusta Day," the Signal Corps Band was there.

"They are everywhere. They play morning, noon and night," she said.

Durant said it was especially important this year to honor those at Fort Gordon with the war on terrorism and rumors of possible base closure.

"We knew it was a crucial year for Fort Gordon," she said.

The council also honored Gloria and Lowell Greenbaum for their volunteer efforts, Greg Goodwin as the arts professional, Peter Knox as an arts sponsor, Comcast in the media division and Russell Joel Brown in the individual artist category.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Lt. Col. Olen L. Kelley assumed command of the 56th Signal Battalion June 24, 2003, during a Change of Command Ceremony at Fort Gordon's Barton Field. The 56th Sig. Bn. is the subordinant organization of the 93rd Signal Brigade.

Post gets high marks on water quality

The Fort Gordon 2002 Consumer Confidence Report water report was recently released by the Fort Gordon's Environmental and Natural Resources department.

The report contains information about Fort Gordon's drinking water: its source, how it is treated, and most importantly, its quality.

Where does my water come from

Fort Gordon's drinking water is obtained from Butler Reservoir on Butler Creek. The Butler Water Supply Watershed is located at the northeast side of Fort Gordon and covers 8,292 acres, including portions of Fort Gordon, Augusta—Richmond County, Columbia County and the city of Grovetown.

Fort Gordon has developed a Watershed Management Plan to protect water quality by the use of vegetative buffers. The development and review of the plan has been a joint process between Augusta - Richmond County, Columbia County, Fort Gordon, and the city of Grovetown. The Watershed

Management Plan was developed to comply with environmental planning criteria for water supply watersheds under the Georgia Rules for Environmental Planning.

What should I know about my water

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land surface or underground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals. In some cases, water can pick up radioactive material, or substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Although Fort Gordon's water supply may contain some of these contaminants, it is important to know that these substances are either removed completely or reduced to a safe level before water arrives at the tap. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, organic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, and radioactive contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap

water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disseminates regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

How your water is made safe to drink

Prior to entering the Fort Gordon Treatment and Distribution System, raw water from Butler Reservoir flows through a series of screens designed to remove large debris. The plant uses a series of conventional water treatment processes including filtration and chlorination to further treat the water.

The plant is designed to produce approximately 5.2 million gallons of water per day. The finished water is tested several times a day to ensure that pH and chlorine are at appropriate levels.

In accordance with the Fed-

eral Safe Drinking Water Act, the plant routinely samples for a variety of required drinking water contaminants. Fort Gordon has been granted a monitoring waiver from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for the monitoring of asbestos, dioxin, cyanide, and 28 synthetic organic compounds.

The waiver was granted to Fort Gordon for complying with all of the baseline monitoring requirements for the parameters.

Chemical analytical results of the system's water samples, and a vulnerability assessment

prepared by Georgia EPD, demonstrate that our drinking water complies with the chemical monitoring requirements of the Georgia Safe Drinking Wa-

ter Act. We are confident that we are providing you with the highest quality product available.

Do I need to take special precautions

Drinking water - including bottled water - may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those who are undergoing chemotherapy, have undergone organ transplants, or contracted HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly; and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

The above individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care

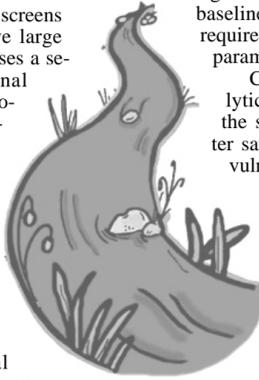
providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants.

What's really in my drinking water

The EPA requires that water treatment and distribution systems must monitor for certain parameters, referred to as regulated contaminants. The following table lists regulated contaminants that were detected in your water. All substances were detected in quantities less than the EPA's limits for safe drinking water.

The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. If you would like more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4291.

For more information about the report or about the drinking water system at Fort Gordon, contact John Wellborn, water program manager, at 791-6237.



Type of Contaminant	Maximum Level Detected	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbial Contamination						
Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.03-0.3	TT	NA	No	Soil runoff
Organic Chemicals						
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) ¹	87.7	41.5-87.7	60	NA	No ²	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) ¹	74.8	28.9-74.8	80	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	11	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	1.1	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Chemicals						
Fluoride (ppm)	1.53	0.14-1.53	4	4	No	Additive used to promote strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	90% = 2.5	ND-6	AL = 15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	90% = 0.18	ND-0.32	AL = 1.3	1.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppb)	350	NA	NA	NA	No	Natural or background sources, or alum
Sodium (ppb)	2900	NA	NA	NA	No	Natural or background sources

Footnotes:

¹ These entries are quarterly averages. We are in the process of adding new technology to our water system in order to consistently remain below the MCL for Haloacetic Acids.

² MCL is based on an annual average. The annual average for the plant is 60.5, which

meets MCL.

Fort Gordon received a Notice of Violation for failure to submit the 2001 CCR certification Form to the GA EPD by July 1, 2002; the NOV was closed promptly with submission of the required form, it was an administrative error.

Terms and abbreviations

used in the table:

* Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed

in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

* Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a mar-

gin of safety.

* Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measure of cloudiness in water.

* Not Applicable (NA): When NA is used in the range column, only one sample was taken, therefore, no range exists.

* Not Detectable (ND): The

contaminant is below the detectable limits of the testing method.

* ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

* ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

* Treatment Technology (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Defining a consumer confidence report

In 1996, Congress amended the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It added a provision requiring that all community water systems (serving at least 15 service connections and/or 25 people year round) deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report.

Consumer Confidence Reports summarize information that your water system already collects to comply with regulations.

A Consumer Confidence Report includes information on your source water, the levels of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules; as well as some educational material.

Spouse wonders how homecoming will be

While I am waiting...oh my goodness, it feels like I am pregnant again, only this time it is not when is the baby due, but when is he coming home! At least when I was asked the question when I was pregnant, I had a ballpark figure with which to give an answer.

Both events are grand events, when they happen. Now, I do not know when my spouse is coming home, there isn't a nine-month time limit on his deployment. This deployment seems to be rather open ended.

I know people who ask me when will he be home are expressing their concern by asking. I appreciate their kindness, and I am working on a gentle response to their questions, since I still do not know when he will be back.

When you are pregnant and down to the last month, you are ready for the baby to come. There are days you wish the baby were born, especially when it is hot, like it is here in Georgia. You and your body want some relief.

You could be tired, not sleeping, or full of energy (that was never me) ready for the baby to come. You are ready for your internal organs to no longer be a springboard for your baby. You want to meet this little person who has been wreaking havoc with you for the past few months. A baby brings a new twist to your life like nothing anyone can prepare you for. All the words of wisdom expecting mothers are given do not hold up to the volumes your new child teaches you about yourself.



Waiting for my spouse is starting to have some similarities. Well I am not down to the last month—how I wish I was, he has been gone long enough— but nonetheless I am ready for him to return. All my thoughts about him have been percolating in my mind. I can't wait to see, touch, and hold him.

More than anything I want to talk to him, share all the

things I have been saving for him when he comes home.

But patience will have to prevail, it goes back to what it was like being pregnant.

Through this whole deployment, I haven't been sleeping nearly as well as when he is home. And also... some things are different from when he left and that creates an anxiety for me.

Listening to my friends I am not alone feeling strange about my husband's return. First and foremost, my love for my spouse has never changed. It has grown and truly blossomed while he has been gone, and that is a great confidence building block with which to face his return. He is a true hero, and he is mine. He has been through this war, and been an honorable soldier.

I am so proud of him. So with our love in good shape, homecoming will be grand. But there are still going to be changes we will have to deal with. I have gained strength, because I have dealt with the challenges this deployment has presented and I have handled what has come my way.

How will I share all the changes that I have been through without him, and

how will we share the next challenge since lately I have been used to handling it all? What do I expect of him when he comes home? I have been pondering that idea a lot. I have a list. I will share it with him before he comes home.

And I wonder what has he gone through? I can only imagine the things he has seen, the places he has been, and the responsibilities he has had during his absence. His letters have told me some of what and where, a glimpse. How much will he be able to share with me, how much will he want to share with me? Will I understand all that he tells me?

A chaplain I heard talking at one of our family readiness group meetings said, always make sure to listen, listen to what he has to say, and thank him for sharing with you. I will try to do that. Thankfully for me, it is not the weight of being pregnant that I muddle through, but the thoughts of what a homecoming will be like... 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.

Volunteers 'Aim High'

Civilians in the field

Denise Allen
Signal staff

A high-flying project is currently underway at Augusta's Daniel Field with the help of several airmen stationed at Fort Gordon.

The project combines history, building models and a challenge — three things that Tech. Sgt. David Cassinger, Air Force 338th Training Squadron Detachment 1, said he enjoys.

"I've never taken on an opportunity this major," said Cassinger, who is one of approximately 25 volunteers assisting in building a full-scale model of the Wright Brothers' 1903 flyer. The flyer will be an integral part of the National Science Center's Fort Discovery's next exhibit, honoring the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight Dec. 17, 1903.

The model will have a wingspan of 41 feet when complete. Work began on the plane about two weeks ago in a hangar at Daniel Field.

It arrived in five crates and will take about four months to complete.

Unlike many model airplanes, which come with detailed instructions connecting part A to part B, the Wright 1903 Flyer is a little more difficult to construct.

The kit was purchased from Arizona Models. According to the company's website, the kit contains "assembly plans for the model derived from the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum reverse engineered drawings."

However, the original assembly plans are hard to follow.

"We are essentially building it from scratch. We have pictures but no working plans," said Tom McCarthy, a member of the South Carolina RadioControlled Aero Model club. Several club members have volunteered to help.

The model cost about \$20,000, and it takes nearly 200 wood pieces just to create the wings. Two pieces must be fused together to create a longer piece used in the wing.

It will take more than 1,000 feet of wire and 10 gallons of model glue to complete, according to Bob Moak, the science center's instructional systems specialist. These items weren't included in the kit.

Volunteers are working four hours a night, twice a week on the project.

"Hopefully it will be done in time for the Boshears Fly-In



(Above) Master Sgt. Chester Benedict, element chief with the 388th TRS Detachment 1, and other volunteers assemble parts of the Wright flyer at Daniel Field. (Right) Benedict sands a piece of wood for use in the Wright flyer. The model will eventually be displayed at Fort Discovery.

Photos by Bob Moak



Oct. 4 and 5," said Moak.

The plane will be transported to Fort Discovery and placed in the Knox Gallery for the exhibit, which will feature flying memorabilia. It will also emphasize the city of Augusta's role in aviation. The Wright Brothers once had a flight school in the area and the Signal Corps had a winter training school in Augusta

before moving it to San Diego in the early 1900s.

After the exhibit, the flyer will be on permanent display in the barrel-vaulted ceiling of Fort Discovery.

Soldier cools Army one head at a time

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

There is little doubt that Kevlar helmets in combat prevent injuries and save lives.

But while going through training, one local noncommissioned officer posed the question: How do you stop soldiers from continually removing their helmets to cool off?

Since necessity is the mother of invention, Staff Sgt. William Vaughan, 518th Tactical Installation and Network Company, supply NCO, took the initiative to come up with the answer.

Vaughn invented the Thermotux® Cool-Aid™ combat helmet insert, a device designed to keep soldiers cool while wearing their helmet.

"I was sitting around eating a Meals Ready-to-Eat thinking with all of the technology at our disposal, and we couldn't invent something to make the Kevlar more comfortable," said Vaughan.

"When I returned from field training I looked through various websites and found

the site for the cooling vest," he said.

"I called a representative from Thermotux who was very interested in my idea, and we discussed a design plan," said Vaughan. "I put about \$5,000 of my own money into the initial design because I knew this was a great idea."

The prototype Cool-Aid was completed by December 2002, three months after he started the research.

To field test the prototype, Vaughan sent it to his previous unit, the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, then deployed to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I haven't received one negative comment yet," said Vaughan. "One letter said 'I should receive a medal.'"

David Lumbley, Army and Air Force Exchange, military clothing senior buyer, has since contacted Vaughan about stocking the Central Command area of

operation's military clothing sales with the Cool-Aid.

Financially the rewards have been sufficient, but Vaughan says it's a bigger reward knowing he is making life easier for other soldiers.

"As a former infantryman it takes no time at all to realize what was needed for the Kevlar," he said. "It reduces the chances for heat injuries

and soldiers won't keep taking it off every 10 seconds because it also adds padding for the head.

"My end state goal for designing this was to see soldiers getting one issued to them, rather than spending their own money," said Vaughan.

The Cool-Aid is profiled at www.actiongear.com and costs from \$21-\$24.



Vaughn

West Nile virus makes early debut

Jerry Harben
Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - Army preventive medicine specialists are waging a war against the West Nile Virus.

Although there have been no cases of humans infected by West Nile Virus in the United States so far this year, according to U.S. Centers of Disease Control statistics as of June 11, the virus has been detected earlier than usual in birds and mosquitoes this summer. Therefore, experts say protective measures are important.

The virus, which can cause a form of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), normally resides in birds and infects humans through mosquitoes that bite both the birds and humans. So, preventing mosquito bites is the best way to prevent human infection.

"Personal protection is the first line of defense," said Lt. Col. Dave West, an entomologist for Medical Command's Proponency Office for Preventive Medicine at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"People should wear long sleeves rolled down, wear insect repellent with DEET and wear uniforms treated with permethrin," West said.

Staying indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening, when mosquitoes are most active, also will help, he said.

Mosquitoes reproduce in standing water, so eliminating pools (even small ones such as in old tires or tin cans) can reduce the threat, West said.

Many military installations will take measures to control mosquito populations, but West noted

that, "even with the most effective control measures, there will still be mosquitoes out there."

West Nile Virus is not transmitted from person to person — except, in rare cases, by blood transfusion or organ transplant from an infected donor — and there is no evidence a person can be infected directly from birds, according to medical experts.

West Nile Virus is commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. In 1999 it was identified in New York and it has since spread to 44 states. Last year there were 4,156 reported human cases and 284 deaths in the U.S.

Most humans infected with the virus have no symptoms. Some develop mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Less than 1 percent of infections cause serious illness, which could include encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord). Some 3 to 15 percent of encephalitis cases result in death. The elderly are most at risk, experts say.

"Most of our military population is young and healthy. Even though we may become infected, most people will not show signs of disease," West said.

The Web site of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine states that there is no vaccine or specific medication against West Nile Virus, but the symptoms and complications can be treated. By far, most people who get this illness recover from it. The center's Web site at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil> offers more extensive information about the illness and preventive measures.

(Harben is a senior correspondent for the U.S. Army Medical Command.)

2003 DSOY announced

Sgt. 1st Class
Reginald Rogers

TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Miranda became part of history June 20 as she, along with Sgt. 1st Class Corenna Rouse, was named as the 2003 Army active duty and Reserve Component Drill Sergeants of the Year.

It is the first time in history that women hold both titles in the same year.

Miranda, a Signal soldier who holds the active title, has been a drill sergeant since February 2002. She represented Fort Jackson, S.C., during the competition.

She said being a drill sergeant is something she has always wanted to do. Despite being denied the opportunity twice by her personnel branch, she kept applying to attend Drill Sergeant School. She said her persistence finally paid off, and she was able to realize her dream.

She said she forgot all the worries and concentrated on winning the DSOY competition.

"The only thing I kept hearing about the competition is that you have got to get a 300 on the (physical training) test," she said. "Once the PT test was over, it was like wow! But honestly, that was the slowest I've ever run in my military career."

Miranda said she was inspired to become a drill sergeant by the impression her basic training drill sergeant left on her.

"From the time I came in the Army, I said 'I want to be a drill sergeant,'" she said. "Drill sergeants are influential people. They did nothing wrong."

Drill sergeants usually work in 12-man units, meaning there are usually three drill sergeants assigned to each of a unit's four platoons. Miranda said she wanted to deliver a message to drill sergeants who are new to the drill sergeants' corps.

"I would tell them it's not about what you can do by yourself," she said. "The 12 of you together have got to keep it all together and help each other. If you don't work together as an entire unit, it will never work."

"Learn," she said. "Learn something everyday you're out there if someone is doing something a better way or can add to the way you're doing it. And continue to be a good NCO, because obviously, you had to be a good NCO to become a drill sergeant."

She said the most rewarding thing about being a drill sergeant is "the reaction on a soldier's face everyday you're teaching them something."

She said she recently received a message from a former soldier that had special meaning to her.

"I've gotten a call from a soldier in Iraq, who said, 'Drill sergeant, thanks for what you've taught me. I know I'm going to be OK and come home alive,'" she said.

Miranda said her career aspirations are to become sergeant major of the Army.

"That would really be something, wouldn't it," she said.

Denise Allen
Signal staff

While service members took the front and battled Saddam Hussein's Army, there was a group of civilians who stayed quietly in the background and provided much needed support.

Among those civilians were about 20 from Fort Gordon who heeded the nation's call and spent nearly six months at Camp Doha, Kuwait, and at different locations in Iraq.

"We were not the only civilians there," said John Iwancio, senior civilian adviser with the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, who spent six months working 12 to 20 hour days on classified intelligence issues. "There were a significant number of contractors."

Iwancio worked at Camp Doha, a hub for all soldiers deployed to the Middle East, beneath the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

The camp, which usually holds approximately 6,000 to 8,000 soldiers, often saw upwards of 20,000 people at one time.

Even though Iwancio and the other civilians there are not classified as combatants and efforts are made to keep the civilians out of harm's way, there were some scary moments for him and his crew.

The Iraqis were aware of Camp Doha's importance. Soon after the war began, the Iraqis made Camp Doha a target.

"It was not unexpected," said Iwancio. "One of the ways they decided to fight us was to rocket Camp Doha. They knew that it was the center of the war."

Early on, there were 17 missile attacks, including seven in one day, and there were numerous false alarms.

There was one period of several days in which the alarms were going off every few minutes, he said.

Because of the threat of chemical or biological warheads on the missiles, they were required to don their protective clothing anytime an alarm sounded.

It took about 10 minutes to put on the suit, boots, gloves, Kevlar vest and mask, he said.

"We had to keep it at arm's reach," said Iwancio.

That meant carrying the gear wherever he went including the showers and dining facility.

During that span of four days of repeated alarms, Iwancio spent his time in all of the gear except the mask and gloves.

After the alarm sounded, an uneasy quiet ensued.

"The fear factor would go up" during those times, said Ken Brown, chief subcontrol officer and another Fort Gordon civilian who was deployed.

Part of what brought the adrenaline down were two sounds in a specific order.

A "boom-swish" signaled Patriot missiles being launched to intercept incoming rockets. A "swish-boom" meant an incoming rocket.

"The Patriots did a really good job," said Iwancio.

"They probably saved thousands of lives," said Brown.

Sometimes, there wasn't a "boom-swish;" the non-precision missiles often "went haywire," said Iwancio, and didn't reach their intended targets.

"There was only one or two times, we heard an impact," he said.

Total relief from the "fear factor" came with a droning voice saying, "All clear."

Iwancio said he and his crew spent most of their days working. There was little time for recreational activity and little means for it.

The base was locked down and the only reason they could leave was official business, so there could be no excursions around Kuwait.

Even places at Camp Doha experience shutdowns. The dining facility was closed down for a short period, as was a recreational center with televisions.

Despite the hardships endured while deployed, Iwancio said that what kept them going through the war was the support they received from home. Members of churches and other civic groups sent care packages, and schoolchildren from Westminster Schools in Augusta sent letters and patriotic drawings. "The support Augusta gave was super," he said.



Miranda

212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of...

A 91X (mental health technician)

Note: This is the 33rd MOS featured in a series describing all 212 Army careers.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Even the strongest, most independent person needs a little friendly advice from time to time. When the going gets tough, the tough get going and the smart get help.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Haskell, Company A, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, is available for soldiers and their families experiencing troubled times. Haskell is a 91X, or mental health technician, and his duties include counseling soldiers experiencing hardships.

"I like being able to help out people with whatever's going on in their life," Haskell said. "I like knowing that as a result of whatever I've done to help them, they're a happier person."

Because he deals with so many people with varying problems affecting their lives, Haskell said that sometimes a 91X could find him or herself becoming too caught up in a case.

"We all have things that we hold near and dear to our hearts," Haskell said. "Sometimes the patient and their situation really kind of touches you, and typically when that happens, you go and talk to your supervisor and say, 'I think this is hitting a little too close to home for me, to really be able to intervene and be objective.'"

"Normally that can be worked out and the supervisor will give the patient to



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Haskell and Col. McFerran consult the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV, which lists and describes any recognized mental health illness, on a diagnosis.

someone else who is better capable of working with the particular issue that the patient is going through," he said.

"For instance, if a 91X is dealing with a rape case, and the 91X has been raped in the past, they may not be the best person to deal with the patient's problem. But then again, they may be the ideal person to help the person, depending on where they're at with their own personal experiences."

The MOS was a natural fit for Haskell from the beginning. He enlisted in the discipline 19 years ago, and plans to continue working in the field.

"I thought it was really neat, and I was talking to my recruiter, and he said he had never seen that job come up before," Haskell recalled. "He really wasn't sure what it

was, but he said I guess that's talking to people with problems, and he hit the nail right on the head. I never pictured myself doing anything like that, but when he saw it and started talking to me about hypothetical situations, I said that sounds really different, and like something I would really enjoy doing."

"Lo and behold, it was something I've loved doing, and have been doing for 19 years ever since. I've never even thought about another MOS."

If a young recruit today were thinking of enlisting in the 91X MOS, Haskell described the type of person it would take to succeed in the field.

"The Army says you need to have a GT score of at least 110," Haskell said. "But I think a really good 91X has to

have some good sense, good sound judgment, some good insight and you would have to be a good communicator. In fact, that is a requirement. You must be an effective communicator both orally and in writing, because you will do an awful lot of documenting, and an awful lot of just talking. You have to be able to talk in a one-on-one setting or to a group. And it would help to be outgoing. But most of all, you need to like people. If you generally don't like people, then this is not a job for you."

Haskell said he, and the team of 25 91Xs at Fort Gordon, deal with a host of different problems each day. Among these are marital problems, and what he says is common for young and new soldiers at Fort Gordon, "adjustment reaction" problems.

"Because this is a training installation, we have a lot of soldiers who are new to the Army and are still getting acclimated to the military and the lifestyle," Haskell said. "A lot of them may be experiencing some degree of homesickness or may feel like they don't really fit in here. A lot of it is the first-time-away-from-home situation, so what we do here is sit down and talk to them. We have a wide variety of groups set up for them dealing with stress management, anger management, communication, those kinds of things."

Dealing with these problems, are just some of the responsibilities of a 91X, Haskell said.

"The 91Xs work in a variety of different areas,"

Haskell explained. "We work in outpatient mental health, inpatient psychiatry wards, social work service, primarily doing discharge planning, and we also work in research, as well as, here at Eisenhower, we work in drug and alcohol inpatient and partial hospitalization."

Unlike a medic, who has physical tools to solve a problem, a lot of a 91X's tools are intangible, he said.

"We have a standard questionnaire that we hand to the patient every time they come in for an appointment," Haskell explained. "They answer certain questions which help us gauge where they're at on an emotional level. It lets us see how they're progressing or digressing, whatever the case may be."

Computers are used frequently for psychological assessments and neuro-sight testing, which can give indications of IQ or neuro-psychological injuries, Haskell said.

The Advanced Individual Training for the 91X MOS is conducted at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Haskell said. The first phase is a general medical phase given to all medical MOS soldiers. Following that, a second, 19-week phase focusing on the 91X MOS is taught at a Veteran's Administration hospital where students are able to interact with real patients to discuss their problems.

"They learn the basic fundamentals of the job - primarily interviewing patients, setting up counseling strategies for patients, and working with inpatient, or hospitalized, people in a psychiatric facility."

Combat stress and combat psychiatry are among the topics a 91X soldier focuses on in AIT, Haskell said.

"We go over combat stress reactions, battle fatigue, their signs and symptoms, interventions, what to look out for, those kinds of things, for our wartime mission," Haskell said. "A phase of our training also deals with substance addiction and ways to assess

that. We also talk about differential diagnosis. We have what is our big bible of psychiatric ailments, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV, which lists and describes basically any recognized mental health illness. By the time we leave the school, we are very familiar with that book."

Still, Haskell said, AIT provides only a general background in the field, and a 91X has to work hard to hone and build these skills.

Haskell said the DSM IV is a very comprehensive book covering all sorts of personality, anxiety and somatoform disorders as well as their signs and symptoms.

With the training Haskell and other 91Xs receive in the Army, there are a number of possibilities for their careers in the future.

Down the road, if a 91X gets a bachelor or doctoral degree in psychology, there is always the possibility of working in that arena. To be a psychologist in the Army, a doctorate is required. Work as a psychiatrist also requires additional schooling, but is a possible future goal of a 91X. To work as a social worker in the Army, a master's level degree in social work is required.

"Our civilian equivalent is basically a counselor, or psychiatric technicians on an inpatient ward, trying to do various things, but always under the professional - a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker or registered nurse," Haskell said.

A 91X works closely with these professionals, and is often called upon for his or her advice when discussing cases with a psychiatrist or other mental health professional, Haskell said.

"In a way I think we're really fortunate, because we get to do things that people in the civilian sector go to school for many, many years to do, and work closely with psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers," he said.

"We're always learning something new from them, every day, and I've always thought that to be fascinating."

Finding strength when you have none

Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Lyons
442nd Signal Battalion

Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

I was particularly happy this past April. I've never put too much thought into my own birthday, but this one was slightly more significant than ones of the past several years. This one was number 47.

Why would this be special? Very simply - it now puts me into the 47-51 age bracket on the Army Physical Fitness Test. This, I will tell you, is a special gift, especially when the soldiers

you run with are young lieutenants and captains.

But, as things like this go, I did not fully capitalize on the gift of my new age. On my next APFT, when I saw the scorecard, I understood why I was given the extra few seconds - no change in score. I was still where I was.

My first reaction was of disappointment. I want to be 25 again, and do the things young people do, but my body thinks otherwise. I do not want to get older. I hate the pains in my feet, back and knees. I know that a great part of self-acceptance is that I must accept the fact that I'm getting older and consequently slower, but that's a fact that I don't want to acknowledge. But it's a fact I cannot change.

My second reaction, however, was to remember the true source of my strength. My APFT was one small event that illustrated my human limitation. But it is only a limitation if I believe that my performance is only a reflection of my ability.

Whether it is this single event in my life, or countless opportunities I face in a

given week, I soon come to realize that if everything were left only to my strength and my abilities, I would utterly fail. If, however, I came to understand that "waiting on the Lord," and deriving my strength from a greater relationship than myself, I would soon realize that I can overcome any challenge I face.

I love this passage from Isaiah - it speaks of the awesome strength and endurance of God, given to a 47-year-old who sometimes grows tired and grows weary. It speaks of God's great power, which stands in contrast to the power and invincibility I thought I once had, but now I can only turn to Him. It speaks to us all, young and energetic, and those who still want to be, for we all stand in need of the great power of God.

When I run, I often repeat to myself, "run and not be weary, walk and not faint," as a way to remind myself that all I do, or can do or achieve, belongs to the power of God. Today, as you approach some of the great challenges of your life and career and soldiering, remember that your true strength comes when you "wait upon the Lord."

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name: Staff Sgt. Kent McClain
Unit: D Company, 369th Signal Battalion
Hometown: Tyler, Texas

Family: Father Joe McClain; mother Jan Roan; stepmother Rosemary McClain; stepbrothers Bobby Jones, Steven Jones, Mark Jones; and son Mikel McClain

What do you enjoy about being a DS? Being able to work with the soldiers in the aspect of training them to high standards. Instilling pride, professionalism, discipline and a strong sense of military bearing.

Time at Fort Gordon: Nine months

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? I want to be successful in all my endeavors so that eventually I will be promoted to command sergeant major and share the wealth of knowledge that has made me successful thus far.



Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Full throttle on boating safety

Georgia's lakes and rivers are fuller than they have been in years and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division expects thousands of people to head to the water during the upcoming months. Last year there were 168 boating accidents and five boating accident related fatalities in Georgia. WRD Conservation Rangers also issued 291 boating under the influence citations. The division urges boaters to follow safety tips and to be familiar with state boating laws in an effort to avoid such situations.

Safety rules for boaters and personal watercraft operators

- Wear your life jacket. Nine out of 10 drowning victims did not. Children under 10 years of age are required by law to wear a life jacket while on board a moving boat.
- Don't drink and operate a boat. Half of all boating fatalities involve alcohol. The boat's movement, vibration, noise, sun, glare and wind often produce "boater's hypnosis," so alcohol can affect people much more rapidly on the water. Make sure someone refrains from drinking alcohol so they can safely operate the boat.
- Don't overload your boat with people or equipment. Check the capacity plate on the boat that indicates the maximum weight capacity or the maximum number of people that the boat can safely carry.
- Know before you go. Get a weather forecast. While underway, observe current conditions and keep a sharp eye out for changing weather patterns.
- Brush up on your boating safety knowledge. Take a boating safety course. There are three easy ways for boat operators to take a course in Georgia - in a classroom, on the Internet at www.boat-ed.com, or through a home study course that can be ordered either on the Internet at www.boat-ed.com or by calling (800)460-9698.

Additional PWC safety rules:

- Watch your speed and don't jump wakes. The 100-foot law prohibits people from operating ALL vessels, including PWC's, at a speed greater than idle speed within 100 feet of any vessel that is moored, anchored, or adrift outside normal traffic channels, or within 100 feet of any dock, wharf, pier, piling, bridge structure, person in the water, or shoreline adjacent to a full-time or part-time residence, public park, public beach, public swimming area, marina, restaurant or other

public use area. Jumping the wake of another boat within 100 feet also is illegal.

- Keep a sharp lookout and make sure you stay well clear of other craft.
- Know Georgia's age requirements for PWC operation and don't lend your PWC to anyone underage.
- Make sure everyone who operates your PWC is aware of safe boating rules and knows how to safely operate a PWC. As the owner, you could be held responsible.

Age requirements for operating a boat

- Less than 12 years old:**
- May not legally operate a Class 1, 2, or 3 boat or a Class A boat powered by a motor of more than 30 horsepower.
 - May legally operate a Class A boat which is either non-motorized or powered by a motor of 30 horsepower or less only if they are accompanied by a competent adult.
- 12 - 13 years old:**
- May legally operate a non-motorized Class A boat without restrictions.
 - May legally operate a Class A boat powered by a motor of 30 horsepower or less only if they:
 - a. Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources
 - b. Accompanied by a competent adult, or under direct supervision of a competent adult.
 - May not legally operate a Class 1, 2, or 3 boat or a Class A boat powered by a motor of more than 30 horse power.

- 14 - 15 old:**
- May legally operate a non-motorized Class A boat without restrictions
 - May legally operate any other boat only if they
 - a. Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources
 - b. Accompanied by a competent adult or under direct supervision of a competent adult.

- 16 years or older:**
- May operate any boat on the waters of Georgia if they have proper identification onboard.

Personal watercraft or "jet skis" laws and responsibilities

Personal watercraft, commonly called jet skis, are fast becoming an integral part of pastimes involving water sports. Riding a personal watercraft can

be an exhilarating experience. The driver has a sense of "flying through the water." The freedom of movement a personal watercraft gives a driver may cause him or her to be less careful if certain precautions are not taken.

In the interest of providing a safe environment for the operation of personal watercraft, Georgia has passed several laws which apply to personal watercraft operators.

- Each person aboard a personal watercraft must wear a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V, which is properly fitted and fastened.
- No person shall rent, lease, or let for hire a personal watercraft to any person under the age of 16 years; provided, however, that personal watercraft may be rented, leased or let to a person age 12-15 years if such person is accompanied by and under the direct supervision of an adult 18 years of age or older. Direct supervision is defined as being within sight or hearing distance of the adult.
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state after sunset or before sunrise.
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless such personal watercraft is equipped with a self-circling device or a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch. If equipped with a self-circling device, such device must be fully operational. If equipped with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, the lanyard must be attached to the operator's clothing, body, or PFD.
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state in excess of five miles per hour within 100 feet of any moored or anchored vessel, shore, wharf, dock, pier, piling, bridge structure or abutment, or a person in the water.

Registration of PWC

Personal watercraft, or jet skis, are considered Class A vessels under Georgia law and thereby must be registered. To request a boat registration application, contact the Boat Registration office of the Department of Natural Resources at (404)414-3337. Upon receipt of your completed application, the Boat Registration office will issue you decals and assign registration numbers for your personal watercraft, which must be affixed to the vessel.

Towing Skiers

- It is legal to tow a skier behind a personal watercraft only if it is de-

signed by the manufacturer to carry three or more persons. The skier must wear a ski belt, ski jacket, or a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II, or III personal flotation device, properly fitted and fastened.

• A competent observer other than the operator must be on board the personal watercraft. A wide angle mirror cannot be used in place of an observer to tow a skier with a personal watercraft.

Required and recommended equipment

The following items are required to operate a personal watercraft under Georgia law:

- United States Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device, properly fitted and fastened. This requirement is for the driver and passengers.
 - United States Coast Guard approved B-I fire extinguisher, charged and in proper operating condition.
 - Self-circling device or lanyard-type engine cutoff switch. If equipped with a self-circling device, such device must be fully operational. If equipped with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, the lanyard must be attached to the operator's clothing, body, or PFD.
 - Recommended equipment includes protective eyewear, wetsuit, gloves, and footwear.
 - No one under the age of 12 may operate a personal watercraft.
 - A person age 12-15 may operate a personal watercraft only if one of the following criteria are met:
 - a. completion of a personal watercraft safety program which has been approved by the department;
 - b. accompaniment by an adult 18 years or older, who has met all requirements relating to the operation of personal watercraft and who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs; or
 - c. under the direct supervision of an adult 18 years or older who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Direct supervision is defined as being within sight or hearing distance of the adult.
- It shall be unlawful for a person who has temporary or permanent responsibility of a child or ward to allow the child or ward to violate any of the requirements listed above.

Editor's note: The above information was compiled from the following website, www.georgiaoutdoors.com/watersports.

Feedback

Has TV gone overboard with reality shows?



Yes. When they first came out they were interesting, but now they are outrageous for children to see.

Staff Sgt. Ricky Baldwin
Headquarters and Company A,
551st Signal Battalion



No, because I would rather watch what really goes on than a bunch of crap.

Pvt. Trisha Hunt
Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion



Yes, because it is not reality. It is fabricated reality.

1st Lt. Jeremiah Ashing
Company B, 442nd Signal Battalion



No. None are original. They are all replays.

Sgt. Abbua Jaffar
Company A, 67th Signal Battalion



I actually like some shows, but yes some do go overboard.

Sgt. Jamie Johnson
518th Tin Company



The Signal

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Community Events



Photo by Steve Brady

Pvt. Rusty Donovan, D Company, 551st Signal Battalion, helps students with an activity Monday at Woodworth Library. The library is holding a summer *Beat the Heat and Read* reading program through Aug. 4 for ages 2 to 13 years.

Holiday events

The Augusta Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars is sponsoring an Independence Day ceremony from 10-11 a.m. **Friday** on the steps of the Municipal Building, 530 Greene St. The guest speaker will be Col. Bernard Kulifay, chief of staff, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. For more information, contact Terry Pitts at 736-9581.

Columbia County will celebrate Independence Day **Friday**. The celebration at Patriots Park on Columbia Road begins with an opening ceremony conducted by the Augusta Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars at 6 p. m. The guest speaker will be Col. John Belser, Fort Gordon staff judge advocate. Festivities continue through the evening, concluding with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. For information, call David Titus at 860-2205.

Behind the Masque, Inc., presents a tribute to the military with a living statue version of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. Five performers will recreate the memorial, and other tributes to America, from 3-9 p.m. **July 4** on Broad Street in Augusta. Call (803)442-3071.

ACS birthday

Army Community Services celebrates its 38th birthday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **July 25** in the Darling Hall atrium. For information, call 791-3579.

Vehicle registration closed

The Vehicle Registration Office will be closed from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. **today** for a retirement luncheon.

Teen redeployment class

Child and Youth Services offers a course titled Teens and Redeployment from 9-10 a.m. **July 7** in Building 40200. For information, call 791-3579.

Support group

Army Community Services is holding a support group titled Surviving Military Separation for spouses of deployed service members or service members on unaccompanied tours. The group meets in the ACS conference room from 1-2:30 p.m. **July 2**. For information call 791-3579.

Tuition assistance

The Army tuition assistance program provides soldiers assistance with tuition fees for college classes.

The Army will pay up to \$250 per semester hour for a post-secondary course. Soldiers may be eligible for payment of some fees over and above the tuition rate. However, total benefits cannot exceed the established rate of \$250 per

semester hour. The total tuition assistance benefits per individual for FY 03 can not exceed \$4,500.

To find out more about the use of TA, call 791-2000.

New chief named

The Fort Gordon Fire Department recently appointed Raymon Hinegardner assistant chief of fire prevention. John Ryan and Paul Tyson were also named station chiefs for fire operations.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents *A... my name is Alice* **July 11, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26**. Dinner is at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. Call 793-8552 for information, reservations and ticket pricing, or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Property book closed

The Training Support Center Property Book Office will be closed **July 7-11** for training. Areas affected include hand receipt updates, document processing and property turn-ins. The PBO will re-open with normal hours **July 14**. New hours for the Training Support Center property book office and device loan and issue section are 6 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. These hours will be effective until Sept. 8.

Diabetes support group meeting

There is a Healthy Living With Diabetes Support Group meeting at 6 p.m. **Monday** in Darling Hall, Room 229. The topic is The New Precision Xtra, replacing the Precision G glucometer now in use at Eisenhower. The speaker is Samee Ellerbee, pharmacist. For information, contact Martha Larry at 787-8469 or Maj. Tonya Dickerson at 787-1126.

ROTC opportunities

The 9th Brigade, 108th Division, has officer and noncommissioned officer opportunities available in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia including Atlanta, Augusta and Columbus, and Puerto Rico.

Duty normally requires four hours per week when classes are in session. Other duties include recruiting, administration, operations and logistics. Field training exercises are conducted during the year, which require some weekend duty. Contact james.franks@se.usar.army.mil for information.

ATNM conference

The semiannual Army Tactical Networks Modernization Conference for tactical Signal unit commanders is **Aug. 11-15**. Preregister now through Aug. 1. A primary focus will be the top five critical systems as designated and approved by the recent Signal Council of

pavilion, picnic area, boat/RV storage, camping equipment and more.

For more information on the recreation area or reserving part of the area go to www.fortgordon.com or call 541-1057.

Youth services

Youth services offers summer fun camps Monday-Friday through **Aug. 13**.

Fees are based on combined family income and are due at registration.

For more information, call 791-6500 or 7575.

Newcomer orientation

The newcomer orientation is held Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m. in Room 367, Darling Hall.

PIE meetings set

Parent Information Exchange meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month in the ACS conference room from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A different agency is highlighted from the community to share information with parents about various medical conditions and educational issues.

Call 791-4872/3579 for information about EFMP.

Colonels. Relevant vendors will also have displays. Go to www.signalcorps.org for information and registration.

Lake activities

Fort Gordon recreation area and Strom Thurmond Lake offers lodging, campsites,

Special to the Signal

A Fort Gordon civilian recently received an award normally reserved for soldiers – the Signal Corps Regimental Association's Bronze Order of Mercury award.

Patricia Wallace, director of contracting, received the award Wednesday at a retirement luncheon at the Gordon Club. Wallace retires Monday after 33 years of service.

Wallace was formally recognized for her achievements during the luncheon. Highlights of the ceremony were a video documentary of her career, a proclamation by Mayor Bob Young designating June 25, 2003, as Patricia D. Wallace Day, and the presentation of the



Bronze Order of Mercury award.

The Bronze Order of Mercury award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and selflessness, and who have contributed significantly to the promotion of the Signal Corps and the Signal Regimental Association.

Patsy, as she is better known, joined the Fort Gordon community in 1970 straight out of Augusta College, now known as Augusta State University. She was hired as a junior level Department of the Army career intern and began her career in the acquisition arena. Over the years she rose through the ranks from contract specialist to contracting officer to chief of the contracting division, and ultimately, in 1991, to director of contracting.

Wallace has seen numerous changes in the acquisition world during her career, from the various stages of "contracting out" installation services and providing full acquisition services to Eisenhower Army Medical

Fort Gordon Report



COMING UP

The newest edition of the *Army NewsWatch* premieres Monday and includes the following stories:

- Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki retires
- Stryker Brigade combat team completes certification
- 228th Army birthday

The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army NewsWatch" alternate weeks on Charter Cable Channel 13 on:

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.

The next edition of *Fort Gordon Report* premieres July 7.

Catch the newest "Fort Gordon Report" on Comcast Cable Channel 66 on: **Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.**

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 Support Center.

Employee receives Mercury award



Patricia Wallace learns to operate a microfilm reader-printer as a part of her on-the-job training here. William A. Youngblood, assistant chief of the procurement division of Purchasing and Contracting, congratulates her on receiving the award.

A *Rambler* newspaper article from 1970 outlines the intern program to which Wallace was hired.

Army Intern Program seeking top-flight civilian

By Pauline Cheeston

The Army is looking for top-flight civilian employees. And tens of thousands of young college graduates are looking for jobs that they can make an effective contribution. And, they must have been in the top percent of their graduating classes.

Typical of the young college graduates participating in the Army Career Intern Program is Miss Patricia Wallace of Augusta who is intern in purchasing and contracting under the Procurement Career Program. She was graduated from Augusta College on June 7 with honors — the second in class of 211. She holds a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and a minor in education.

(Continued on Page 6)

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf classes

Gordon Lakes Golf Course offers junior golf classes for children 9 - 15.

Kids will learn the rules and etiquette of the game and follow-up with a four-hole tournament on the last day.

Classes are **July 15, 17, 22 and 24** from 9 - 11 a.m.

For more information, call 791-2433.

Third Annual PBA Southern Regional Pro-Am Tournament

Fort Gordon soldiers and area bowling enthusiasts will have a chance to bowl with top professionals and see them in action at the Third Annual PBA Southern Regional Pro-Am Tournament **July 18** at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center.

The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Tim Stancil at 791-3446.

Swim lessons

The American Red Cross offers swimming lessons at the Ring Hall pool for children ages six months to 18 years. Lessons are open to active duty, Department of Army civilians and family members. Cost is \$50 per student. Call 791-3034.

Lacrosse club meets

The Aiken-Augusta Lacrosse Club is having practice July 13 and 27, Aug. 10 and 24, and Sept. 7 in both Aiken and Augusta. The club is open to players of all abilities. Call 733-4271 or 854-1908 for information.

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.

Spouse bowling night

The Gordon Lanes Bowling Center offers bowling for spouses of deployed soldiers the **third Thursday** of each month beginning at 7 p.m. The cost is \$1.25 per game with no charge for shoe rental. Call 791-3446 for information.

Riding lessons

English and Western riding lessons are available at Hilltop Riding Stables for ages six and older.

Group lessons for three or more people are \$15 per person, per lesson on Thursdays.

Private lessons are \$25 per person, per lesson, and semi-private lessons for two people are \$20 per person, per lesson on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 791-4864 for details.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents *A... my name is Alice* **July 11, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26**. Dinner is at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. Call 793-8552 for information, reservations and ticket pricing, or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Army-Navy teams slug it out at the White House

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Most teams have to win a world championship before visiting the White House to meet with the president. That was not the case today.

The Fort Belvoir Little League Braves and the Naval Base Little League Yankees were the invited guests of President and Mrs. Bush for the opening game of the 2003 White House Tee-Ball season. The Army team was visiting from the Virginia post located in metropolitan Washington. The Navy players traveled from the sprawling naval complex in Norfolk, Va., about three hours southeast of Washington.

The White House event was dedicated in honor of the men and women in uniform, the president said in opening remarks. Each player wore a patch from a different military unit on his or her uniform.

ESPN sports announcer Kenny Mayne, called the game, held on the White House South Lawn.

Before the start, the president led the players in an oath in which they pledged "to play fair, strive to win and always do their best." He then yelled, "Play ball," and the game began.

On a perfect weather day for baseball, a perfect game was played: Every player got a hit, and every player scored in the one-inning game.

Special hit of the day came from 6-year-old

T.J. Flood of the Fort Belvoir Braves, who sported the White House Communications Agency patch on his uniform.

He got the crowd cheering when he belted the ball deep to center field. It was the longest hit of the game, and before the throw could catch him, he'd made it to home plate.

"I always hit hard in the

game," T.J. said in a post-game interview.

Cal Ripken Jr., honorary commissioner of White House Tee-Ball and former Baltimore Orioles player, was on hand for the event, as well as two Hall of Fame players, Brooks Robinson and Billy Williams.

Ripken said that one thing about being a big league player is that "you have in-

fluence with kids." He said that he's "always enjoyed passing on the fun of baseball ... I'm tickled to death to be here."

Also on hand was Darrell Green, chairman of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and former Washington Redskins standout. Green joined the president in recognizing youngsters Tanisha

Faulkner and Mileika Miki of the Fort Meade, Md., 4-H Club for their volunteerism.

The two were credited with making more than 300 yellow ribbons to show support for members of the Armed Forces and participating in Operation Chocolate Chip Cookies, an effort to support local military police and fire department personnel in their community.

The president launched the White House Tee-Ball initiative to promote interest in baseball and to foster a spirit of teamwork and service to America's youth. This is the third season for the initiative. Three games were held during last year's season.

The players were given a tour of the White House. After the game, each player got a photo taken with the president and an autographed baseball by Ripken.

The players and their families then joined the president for a picnic on the White House lawn - something not even world championship teams get to do.

"I don't think they know exactly how big this is," said Maura Janssen, whose son plays with the Yankees. "In a few years they will. They'll look back and just know that they were a part of something special. This is a one in a lifetime chance."

Tee-Ball is entry-level baseball for young players. Team members take turns hitting the ball off a batting 'T' pedestal at home plate. Players range in age from 4 to 8. The visiting Yankees and Braves featured 5- and 6-year-olds.



Photo by Sgt 1st Class Doug Sample

Jordan Alphonse, 6, of the Naval Base Little League Yankees scored the first big play of the game with this hit landing just shy of the fence. Alphonse drove in two runs and was held at second base.

Caught in the trap

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff Writer

Approximately 30 shooters from on and off post came to try out the new skeet and trap shooting range on Range 14. The area is actually two ranges constructed side by side.

The two ranges each feature eight shooting positions of varying difficulty with towers that throw out skeet birds across the shooters line of sight in high or low patterns.

The skeet throwers are

also capable of projecting two birds at once from both sides of the shooter.

In the center position of each range is a trap machine which throws out clay birds directly away from the shooter in straight lines or at 45 degree angles to the shooter's left and right in random patterns.

Sgt. 1st Class John Landrum, 447th Signal Battalion and president of the Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club, said he enjoys the new ranges not only because they're fun and for the challenge they

present, but also because shooting at the range improves sighting of objects quickly and thereby enhances soldiering skills.

He said the Sportsman's Club, an organization sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation with about 100 members, hopes to host state skeet and trap shooting tournaments at the new ranges in the future, and local outdoorsman groups, such as the Pinetucky Shooting Club, have already expressed interest in participating in tournaments at the range.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Frank Mihm (left), last year's Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club president, looks on as Jesse Landrum, 11, aims at clay pigeons during the grand opening of the skeet and trap shooting range on Range 14 Saturday. The range is open 3-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturdays.

Unit level softball standings

Red Division	Win	Loss	Blue Division		
NSGA	9	1	31IS	9	1
ANCOA	10	2	MP	7	3
USAG	8	3	B-297	8	5
A-442	7	4	CO D MAR	6	5
A-551	7	4	BNCOA	5	5
A-EAMC	6	5	D-201	4	7
A-73	6	6	HHD-116	4	7
Green Division			White Division		
HHC-206	9	2			
A-67	8	3	C-447	14	1
338 TRS	8	4	C-369	13	2
C-67	6	3	D-369	12	3
518	5	4			
A-206	6	5			
HHC-67	5	5			

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.

June 27-29

Friday - Identity (R)

Saturday - Terminator 3 - Rise of the Machines (R)

Saturday late show - The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Sunday - Terminator 3 - Rise of the Machines (R)

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

Spectrum

Golden Medic, Grecian Firebolt exercises test soldiers mettle

Reserve unit from Puerto Rico, supports Golden Medic

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Members of the 35th Signal Battalion, a Reserve unit located at Fort Allen, Puerto Rico, had always done well in school at Fort Gordon. Since December, the unit has had two honor graduates in the 31L course and two distinguished honor graduates in the 74B course.

But they had not deployed as a unit and tested their skills as a complete unit in support of a mission for 14 years. That changed this month when the unit came to post June 5-20 for Grecian Firebolt, an exercise which supported the Golden Medic exercise (see related story). Grecian Firebolt provided secure and flexible communications for joint, interagency, and potentially multi-national commanders through the use of reliable, high-quality voice and data communications for more than 6,000 customers.

"It was a challenge," Command Sgt. Maj. Denis Cintron, 35th Signal Battalion, said. "We hadn't been deployed as a unit from Puerto Rico for 14 years. It was outstanding training, and we really wanted to do it. The exercise came out excellent."

Nearly 250 soldiers from the 35th Signal Battalion were deployed in support of the mission, Cintron said. He said the bulk of the soldiers, 190, were in the field here establishing communications systems, although 55 soldiers were also supporting the mission from Fort Meade, Md., and Fort Dix,

N.J.

"We were selected because we were readily available and motivated to participate in the exercise," Lt. Col. Juan Rosa, 35th Signal Battalion commander, said. "It was a tremendous learning process for us. We have many soldiers in the unit who are just getting back from 74B school (information systems operator/analyst), and this exercise gave them the chance to use their training in action."

The unit established, for the first time, both voice and data communications including NIPRNET, SIPRNET, and video teleconferencing capabilities. The unit also created its own data packs which allowed NIPRNET capabilities.

"In the past we just concentrated on doing voice communications," according to Rosa.

"There were a lot of adjustments that had to be made," said Capt. Shari Barfield, commander Company C, 35th Signal Battalion. "When you train within the battalion you don't have to adjust that much. This time we had to."

"It was great to interact with different units and see what our communications can do in the real world," she said.

The 7th Transport Group from Fort Eustis, Va., aided in the unit's deployment. Rosa said 17 pieces of equipment essential to accomplishing the mission were transported, including two 39D digital communication switches. An advance party arrived at Fort Gordon May 28, with the rest of the unit following June 5.



Photo by Capt. Jorge Riera

A TTC-48 Small Extension Node is removed from a ship in Charleston, then driven to Fort Gordon for Grecian Firebolt, in support of the Golden Medic exercise. Seventeen pieces of equipment, from the SEN to 39D switches, TRC 173-174s and TRC-138s were used by members of the 35th Signal Battalion as part of the exercise.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Lamar

Reserve soldiers utilize post during Golden Medic

Sgt. Brian Lamar
513th Military Intelligence Brigade

Hundreds of medics from across the country converged on Fort Gordon June 8-16 for the annual Golden Medic exercise.

Each year the 3rd Medical Command compiles more than 10 reserve units in three locations across the country to conduct the largest medical exercise in the country, which includes more than 1,000 soldiers, said Maj. Alexander Rodger, the staff officer in charge of the exercise.

What is the Golden Medic exercise?

Golden Medic is an Army Reserve Command exercise that takes place at Fort Gordon, Fort McCoy, Wis., and Camp Park, Ill.

Weeks of planning ensure the soldiers get excellent experience from the training. The first week is nothing but hands-on and classroom training preparing them for the week to follow in the field.

"Before the scenarios are played out, the casualty exercise half of Golden Medic is utilized," said Rodger. "This portion is used as a means to train medical units and their staffs in conducting the military decision making process," he explained.

"The scenario is supposed to be geared toward southwest Asia," said Sgt. 1st Class Elaine Everett, the exercise NCOIC.

During the casualty exercise, the part of Golden Medic with the most action, the soldiers involved learned to set up field hospitals in a wartime operation setting, patient decontamination, force protection, and medical patient and accounting reporting, according to Pfc. Gordon Lewis, a medic with the 401st Field Sanitation Team from Fort McCoy.

Although the exercise is USARC's

premier medical exercise, the program has been hit hard due to deployments overseas.

"This exercise is running as well as last year's training. Last year we trained how to set up hospitals and did another casualty exercise, while pretending to be in the southwest Asia region. I believed that training helped us for our real-world exercises," said Rodgers.

"There were a number of units scheduled to play, but were taken away due to operations down range," said Rodgers.

Even though the exercise was condensed due to deployments, soldiers still felt that it went well.

"With all the challenges of current operations it's pretty impressive to pull off an exercise of this scale and caliber with all the degradation we have. Our soldiers are doing an excellent job coping with the losses," said Rodgers.

During the after action review one of the most valuable lessons learned for the leaders were learning how to deal with operational security in a third world country.

"I think we learned some valuable lessons that will save lives due to the intensive training we receive here. Fort Gordon is a wonderful training facility," said Rodgers.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

(Above) A soldier sets up communications gear near Fort Meade, Md., during the Grecian Firebolt exercise. The exercise was held at Fort Gordon with support from soldiers at Fort Dix, N.J. and Fort Meade. (Top left) As part of the exercise, a soldier examines chemical paper, testing for the presence of nuclear, biological or chemical agents. (Top right) Spc. Robert Stallings evaluates a casualty during the Golden Medic mass casualty exercise.