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The Signal



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Vol. 23, No. 28

News UPDATE

Welcoming ceremony

There will be a welcoming ceremony for Brig. Gen. Greg Premo, incoming deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center, at 8:30 a.m. July 28 at Signal Towers courtyard.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Carlos Jenkins at 791-3702.

Chaplain Corps anniversary

The Chaplain Corps is having its anniversary celebration July 29 behind the installation chaplain's office, Bldg. 29601. There will be food, games and music from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; the program and lunch is from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Chap. (Maj.) Ronald Owens at 791-0969 for information.

Single soldier day

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers presents Single Soldier Day beginning at noon Friday at Barton Field, behind the theater. The theme, *Around the World in Half a Day*, will include an early morning fun run and guidon competition, Mr. & Ms. Fort Gordon GNC Iron Man/Woman Competition (three-mile run, pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups, 100-meter dash), and a reggae contest.

Sample food from the Orient, the Caribbean, Mexico, Italy and France. Tickets are \$1. For information or to enter events, contact your unit BOSS representative, or call Sgt. Latanga Clinton at 791-6415 or Spc. Arianne Gonzalez at 791-7862.

ACS birthday

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

EOD recruiting

The 748th Ordnance Company from Fort Jackson is recruiting for EOD members today from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Olmstead Hall. Call (803) 751-6919 for information.

116th changes command

The 116th Military Intelligence Group will host its change of command ceremony July 30 at Barton Field. Col. Daniel G. Daley relinquishes command to Col. Robert A. Carr.

513th opens new DFAC

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade opened an additional dining facility Monday. The DFAC, located on B Street, is open for breakfast 7:30-9 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fort Gordon helps endangered woodpeckers propagate

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Wildlife biologists at Fort Gordon are helping bring back an endangered species.

"We feel like we've made pretty significant strides in our population here. It's grown significantly to almost 30," said Ken Boyd, a wildlife biologist in the Directorate of Public Works.

Seven years ago, there was only one red-cockaded woodpecker at Fort Gordon.

About the size of a robin or bluebird, the red-cockaded woodpecker had traveled from the Savannah River Site to make a new home in the a cavity in the trunk of one of Fort Gordon's longleaf pines. Bands on its legs told biologists a little about the bird.

Since there were no other red-cockaded woodpeckers on the installation, the biologists brought in other female birds. Two attempts were unsuccessful, but the third female bonded with the male.

The couple had seven juvenile birds.

To help birds making their homes in the trees on post, biologists have a shortcut. They cut a hole in a tree with a chain saw and fit the hole with a pre-fabricated cavity.

"Natural excavating takes

one year to two years, sometimes longer," he said. "It takes us about two hours."

The birds like living in the pine trees because of the resin, which serves to protect them. The oozing substance repels predators such as snakes.

Flying squirrels are also a problem. Biologists will catch the squirrels and relocate them if they interfere with the woodpecker population.

Lack of longleaf pines due to timber harvests and other reasons have led to the birds' decline. It was once found in the same areas the longleaf pine was found, from Virginia to the eastern portion of Texas.

While territorial in nature, the bird is clannish and social; therefore, cavities can often be found in close proximity to one another in clusters averaging a radius of about a half mile.

"Some cluster areas have eight to 10 cavity trees in them," he said.

Young males will often stay around the cavity to feed the young even though the birds are not their offspring, said Boyd.

Plans for the continued expansion of the bird's population have been mapped out for the next 50 years, Boyd said.

"The ultimate goal is to have the birds delisted" from the endangered species list, he said.



Courtesy photos



(Above) Wildlife biologists Ken Boyd and Steve Camp band juvenile red-cockaded woodpeckers. (Left) Juveniles have individual color bands placed on their legs at 7-8 days old. The bands aid in identifying the birds and their associated history.

Soldier aids victim at local restaurant

Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble
Signal military editor

Heroic acts by soldiers are not all that uncommon—soldiers jumping in front of bullets to save their battle buddy, jumping on grenades to save their squad or platoon, or running blindly into enemy territory to allow others to get away.

Recently the fast thinking and action of a soldier has saved yet another life.

Staff Sgt. Jason Gifford, a satellite communications operator maintainer with Company B, 1110th Signal Battalion, Fort Meade, Md., applied the Heimlich maneuver to a diner who was choking at a local restaurant July 10. Gifford is in the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course at the Fort Gordon Regimental Noncommissioned Academy.

"We went to Applebee's to have lunch. We ordered an appetizer. After the appetizer arrived at our table, I was sitting there with Staff Sgt. (Richard) Jones and we were discussing things that were going on in BNCO class, and I heard a lady yell out 'She's choking.'"

Gifford, a 13-year Army soldier, looked around to see what was happening and saw a lady stumbling to the ground. The customer was being patted on the back by her son-in-law and a waitress. Gifford moved the two out of the way and lifted the victim off the ground to apply the Heimlich.

"I knew that she was choking. I knew that I had to react quickly because by the time I got over there, she was actually lying on the ground," said Gifford. "I almost at the time thought she was unconscious. I knew I wanted to pick her up off the ground because if you do perform the Heimlich on the ground you have the possi-

bility of breaking a rib.

"It was just happening, pieces were coming together," he said.

"Luckily on the first try, it expelled the nut that was lodged in her throat. She then took a big gasping breath of air," said Gifford.

Gifford's table was about five tables from the victim, according to an account by Alesia Hutto, the waitress who served the victim at the restaurant. Ironically, the lady was celebrating her birthday.

"If it wasn't for the effort on his part, there could possibly be a more devastating situation than what happened," said Hutto in her account. "He used his knowledge to help clear the airway of the guest and helped stabilize her."

Gifford credited his fast action to the training he has received. Gifford is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and is a combat medic.

"It's because of the high-speed training that I was able to not only react to the situation and do the correct procedures to help her, but also to be able to react under such stress and keep a level head the entire time," said Gifford.

"It's very important to pay attention to the training you receive and to understand why you are put under the stress because it helps you to react in those kinds of predicaments."

While to many Gifford is a hero, he is taking it all in stride.

"Well, I just was thankful that she was OK, and I was hoping that I didn't hurt her at all. I'm just glad that because of the training I received that she's alive today."



Staff Sgt. Jason Gifford

Fort Gordon applies for air quality permit

Public has 30 days to respond; post to keep records

Denise Allen
Signal staff

A Title V Air Quality Operating Permit will mean a little more record keeping for owners and operators of machinery at Fort Gordon.

The post recently applied for the permit and a public notice is scheduled to appear in *The Augusta Chronicle* Thursday. Once the notice appears, the public will have 30 days to respond to the state of Georgia. The state then has 45 days to reply to these comments.

"Major sources (of air pollution) are boilers and generators," said Derrick Haltiwanger, an environmental scientist with Fort Gordon's air quality program. "Annually, we have to report all sources."

Applying for the permit has been a project of several years.

Fort Gordon will also be required to keep more stringent emission reports. Failure to comply with state laws could result in fines or imprisonment. "They will have to log ev-

erything — engine hours, fuel consumption," he said.

Over the past 36 years, federal and state governments have enacted and amended several pieces of legislation controlling air quality. These have woven a complex web of standards to which large entities and industries must comply.

"Our objective is to provide clean air quality to the military community and the civilian employees at Fort Gordon," said Sherill Edwards-Owens, air program manager.

Federal guidelines target six areas of pollutants. Particulate matter such as dust or other pieces of matter in the air is the main pollutant generated at Fort Gordon, said Haltiwanger.

While the state has named Fort Gordon as a possible major source of pollution and required the permit, Haltiwanger said people working at Fort Gordon should not be alarmed. "We are way below our emission limits," he said.

Employees affected by this permit will be required to take training to learn about the laws and record keeping procedures.

Haltiwanger said training has not yet been scheduled.

For more information about the Title V permit, go to www.air.dnr.state.ga.us/sspp or to find out how it might impact certain jobs at Fort Gordon, call Edwards-Owens at 791-5634.

Seminar extolls virtues of recycling, buying recycled

Steve Brady
Signal editor

The Department of Public Works is holding a seminar titled *Learning to Buy Recycled* from 8-11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Royal Signal Hall, Bldg. 40711.

The seminar is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Ground Water and Solid Waste Program.

Topics will include the importance of buying recycled materials, who has to purchase them, what items are included, regulations, Executive Order 13101 and compliance. All P-

card holders are urged to attend.

"It's about saving money and being efficient," said Stephanie Hadley, natural resources specialist for DPW.

The Army consumes a vast amount of materials, and many of those products are available containing recycled materials. Some examples include re-refined lubricating oil, traffic barricades, retread tires, plastic fencing, printer ribbons, floor tiles, playground surfaces and many more.

Buying recycled products is sometimes less expensive and sometimes not, but solid waste generation and disposal cost is

reduced and in turn has a positive effect on the environment, Hadley said.

"Indirect savings result from the purchasing of recycled products which reduces solid waste generation," she said.

The seminar is aimed at helping Fort Gordon meet the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and EO 13101, which requires government agencies to purchase items containing recycled materials.

Small changes in purchasing habits made locally can make a large impact nationwide.

By recycling we reduce the volume of paper that is taken to the landfill and therefore reduce the cost of disposal, she said.

And by purchasing recycled merchandise, a demand is created, encouraging further recycling.

This is the first time DPW has conducted the seminar, Hadley said.

"It's a smart thing to do and it makes us more efficient," she said. "We urge P-card holders to order recycled or environmentally friendly products when they make purchases. With the money crunch, we need to be more efficient with the money we spend."

Defense, Labor partner in quality of life upgrades

Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense and Labor departments are combining forces to improve the lives of service members, their families and veterans re-entering the civilian workforce by sharing of information on job training and employment programs.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the new collaboration at a July 11 Pen-

tagon ceremony.

People, Rumsfeld noted at the signing ceremony, "are the most important thing that we have as a resource and we value them greatly."

The DoD-DoL agreement is equally important, the defense secretary asserted, because "it can help (military) spouses get steered toward careers that are compatible with frequent relocations."

The partnership, he added, also provides "access to national and local employers, both of which, of course, can help the Department of Defense in that it improves its retention and recruiting as well as quality of life."

It's recognized, according to DoD surveys, that frequent family moves that are part of military life can put a damper on the job and career aspirations of service members' spouses. This, in turn, can have an adverse impact on military recruitment and retention.

And DoD surveys show that 45 percent of military spouses say frequent moves have hurt their job advancement prospects.

There are about 700,000 military spouses across the services, according to DoD, and 93 percent are women. The employment issue is an

especially important to the 340,000 spouses married to enlisted members in the pay grade of E-5 or below, according to DoD surveys - a group that makes less than \$20,000 yearly in basic pay.

The memo of understanding cites a number of initiatives to address this situation, to include sharing information on job training programs and employment centers.

Also, the MOU targets military members returning to the civilian job market, noting that DoD and DoL will share job training and employment search information in that realm as well.

Initiatives under the agreement include "expanding the services available to veterans and military spouses through America's Job Bank and through our nationwide network of more than 3,900 one-stop career resource centers," Chao pointed out.

Another resource available to military spouses, she added, is the Web site <http://www.milspouse.org>, "which provides all sorts of information about employment and training opportunities for military spouses."

Chao saluted service members' efforts in the war against global terrorism, noting, "it is our turn to support them by providing separating service members, military spouses and veterans with the help that they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce."

DoD is obligated to improve the quality of life for its people, Rumsfeld reiterated, noting that without service members' skills, courage, training and dedication, "this department wouldn't be able to do anything approximating of what we are capable of doing."



Photo by Neshan Naltchayan

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, center, and Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao speak to reporters at the Pentagon July 11 as Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, looks on.

212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of...

A 79S (retention NCO)

This is the 34th MOS featured in a series describing all 212 Army careers.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

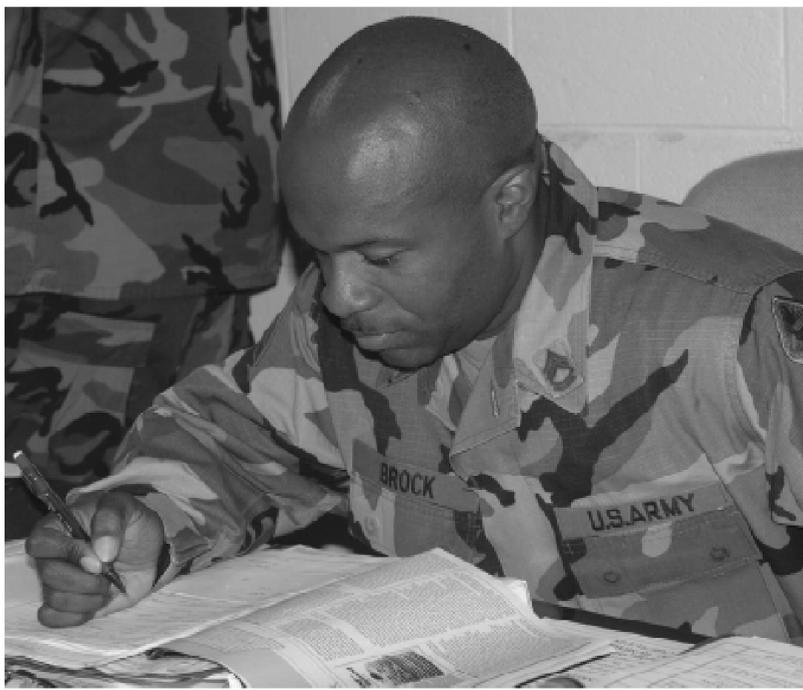
While a recruiter is responsible for showing a prospective soldier the benefits of the Army and signing him/her up, it is the 79S (retention noncommissioned officer) who keeps the soldier in the Army or shows him/her other career options as the soldier's enlistment draws to a close.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Brock, 15th Signal Brigade, who will have been in the Army for 19 years as of July 23, has been a 79S for nine years. He said the basic job of a 79S is to advise commanders on retention issues and policy changes.

"I also interview soldiers for re-enlistment, we do re-enlistment contracts, give retention training to the units, speak to the soldiers about changes in retention, we assist the Recruiter and Green to Gold programs," Brock said.

Brock said after a recruiter brings a soldier on active duty, he assists soldiers who wish to stay on active duty, or opt to go into the Reserves or National Guard from active duty status.

"We help the soldiers with the transition from active duty, and help the soldiers who want to stay on active



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Sgt. 1st Class Brock goes over paperwork to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date. Brock has to stay current on all regulation and policy changes.

," he said. "We'll talk to them about the benefits and advantages of staying on active duty or the advantages of keeping their military service updated."

Every unit has a career counselor who maintains an eligibility roster of soldiers who are entering their re-enlistment window, Brock

said. He said the window starts 12 months from the soldier's ETS (end of term of service) date and ends 90 days prior to the soldier's ETS.

Brock said he enjoys keeping up on Army policy and assisting soldiers to do what's best for their careers and lives.

"I get to stay up on current policy changes, and help other

soldiers," he said. "I also get to advise commanders on some issues within their units on why a soldier may not want to stay on active duty. I can go to the commander and say, 'Sir or ma'am, this is what's hurting our unit as far as retention's concerned, and if we could change this or that, it may help not only retention,

DoD police add Pentagon cycle unit

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – BMW of North America has donated six BMW R 1100 RT-P ("P" for police) authority motorcycles to the Defense Department's police force, which enables the Pentagon law enforcement agency to create its first motorcycle unit.

Credit for obtaining the motorcycles goes to Officers William Caouette and Chad Wyble.

Wyble said a few months ago, he and Caouette were tossing around the idea of having a motor unit for the Pentagon Police Department. "We thought that due to the amount of traffic we have, motors would be useful for responding to emergencies and incidents," Wyble said standing by his shiny BMW in the Pentagon's center courtyard.

BMW donated six motorcycles to DoD in mid-February, but the unit has only been in operation for about five weeks. "We started after we came back from training," said Wyble, a former member of the Texas National Guard who spent six years in the Navy.

The six riders attended an 80-hour course on basic police motorcycle skills at the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Academy in Raleigh, N.C. The training included low-speed riding and negotiating obstacles.

"We also did high-speed training for motorcades and pursuits," Wyble said. He pointed out that the North Carolina training academy is one of few that does high-speed operations — anything over 40 miles per hour.

The Pentagon motorcycle cops are integrated within the operational branch of the force, Wyble explained. "Our primary role is patrolling the Pentagon reservation and other line properties we have in the Washington metropolitan area," he said.

"Our main focus at the Pentagon is police protection of the force and the DoD community. Our secondary mission is accomplished through

the protection of those members through our traffic enforcement."

Wyble said the advantages of having policemen on motorcycles "is just the sheer mobility of a motorcycle that you wouldn't have in a car. For instance, on the Fourth of July, about 30 minutes before the fireworks started (on the National Mall across the Potomac River in Washington), everything was so congested that we were riding past patrol cars waving at them because they were stuck in traffic."

He noted that "we didn't have any problems getting through traffic and responding to calls on our motorcycles."

Wyble envisions the unit expanding up to about 12 members, which would allow full shifts and full coverage during rush hour.

"Right now, we're still getting our feet wet," he said. "We're trying to hammer out what the schedule is going to be, what's the best time to deploy, how many units. For instance, during the daytime, we have morning rush hour and that's when most of our motorcades and escorts occur. So we need that majority of motor officers on days. But we still need a minimum of motor officers on swing shift to cover the afternoon rush hour in case any motor vehicle crashes occur."

The BMWs come from the factory with a special high-energy cooling system and a fan drive so the motorcycle won't overheat in parades or slow-speed traffic, said Frank Stevens, BMW authority program manager in North America.

BMW is the largest seller of motorcycles for law enforcement use. More than 80,000 BMWs are used in more than 150 countries. In the United States, more than 275 law enforcement agencies across the country are using BMW authority motorcycles.

"BMW's are used by the largest police motor agencies in the U.S.," Stevens noted.

but esprit de corps in the unit as well."

Because the job requires an Army service background and a knowledge of Army programs and policies, soldiers cannot enlist as a 79S. Before becoming a 79S, Brock was a 52D (power generation equipment repairer). He made the transition to the 79S MOS because he had seen soldiers who had been misinformed on re-enlistment issues and wanted to help soldiers make the correct choice utilizing the correct information.

If a soldier is interested into making the transition to become a 79S, he should be approachable, said Brock.

"You also need to be persistent, and not be afraid to be able to be told 'no,'" he said. "If you ask a soldier if he/she wants to re-enlist, and their first reaction is 'no', you can't take that as a firm no. You have to find out why they're saying no, because there's usually some reason for it. Maybe he/she is unhappy about something, or was told some incorrect information, so you need to try and bring them around as to why they're really here."

Some of the requirements to become a retention NCO/career counselor are that the soldier works the job for at least six months and is evaluated by another senior career counselor who oversees a prospect's duties. At this point, a soldier must receive a recommendation from his chain of command to reclassify into the MOS, Brock said.

Other requirements to switch to the 79S MOS are a minimum GT score of 110, no adverse actions on the soldiers record, and the soldier is at least E-5 promotable and a Basic Noncommissioned Officer graduate, since there is no BNCOC for the MOS, according to

Brock.

Retention NCOs attend their training course at Fort Jackson, Brock said. He said the course is nine weeks long and covers a variety of subjects.

"You learn how to give a retention interview, how to properly screen a soldier's 2-1 file, and how to verify soldier's Basic Active Service date," Brock said. "When a soldier is qualifying for re-enlistment we make sure the soldier is eligible for discharge, or for the option they are re-enlisting for, and if they are eligible for a re-enlistment bonus if there is a bonus for the MOS they are re-enlisting into."

A soldier is not fully awarded the 79S upon completion of the retention NCO course at Fort Jackson, he said.

"Once you successfully complete the 79S course, you are placed on a probationary period for 12 months, and then you're awarded a career counselor badge, and at that time you are also awarded the MOS," he said.

Regulations, the retention data worksheet and a soldier's 2-1 file are some of the basic tools Brock uses to perform his job. He must keep abreast of regulations and Army policies to make sure he can help soldiers do what they wish career-wise if at all possible. Retention NCOs must also make sure the retention data worksheet is updated. They also ensure a soldier's file is current.

Once his time as a re-enlistment NCO, and his time in the Army, concludes, Brock said he has several options available to him in the outside world. Some of these include working as a guidance counselor, teacher, in youth development or as a career management representative.

"I just got selected for E-8, so I'll be doing at least two more years," Brock said. "Once I retire as a sergeant major, possibly, I'd like to be a social worker. That's my goal."

Grovetown library hosts show and tell



Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons
Public affairs office

"So what do you think people in the Army do?"

It was an ice-breaking question Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey III, Fort Gordon Public Affairs noncommissioned officer in charge, asked students at the Euclaw Creek Public Library in Grovetown July 9.

"They kill people," said 4-year-old Janni Nel.

"Well," Lindsey replied with a chuckle, "It's a little more than that."

The library has a 'show and tell' every Wednesday throughout the summer. As part of the program Judy Hudson, the library assistant, invited soldiers to come and speak about the Army.

Hudson said she's never asked anyone from Fort Gor-

don to come out and talk about what they do in the Army and thought it would be something different for the families.

For 40 minutes Lindsey explained to about 20 kids and their parents the variety of jobs, different uniforms worn, places around the world soldiers are stationed and things they can do in their off time.

"With the group I talked to, I was really surprised how many families weren't associated to the military," Lindsey said. "This gave a greater opportunity to tell a small part of the Army story."

One of the biggest crowd pleasers was the M16 training aid Lindsey brought with him. Although it didn't have the moving parts of the actual weapon, kids and parents were allowed to feel how heavy it was.

"It was a riot to watch the kids with the 'rubber duck.'



Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

(Upper Left) Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey shows kids at Euclaw Creek Library what the Kevlar helmet looks like under its cover. (Above) Lindsey helps Hunter Tenpenny, 7, get ready for a road march.

They all were trying to squeeze a trigger that wasn't going anywhere," Lindsey laughed.

"He did such a wonderful job," Hudson commented. "The program was excellent for the parents as well as the kids. They both seemed to enjoy it."

Because of the response Hudson received, she said she would like to put something together for adults in the evening, but even if that didn't follow through, she will definitely invite soldiers from Fort Gordon to be a part of future summer show and tells.

263rd Armor leaves Gordon

Steve Brady
Signal Editor

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/263rd Armor bid Fort Gordon farewell Wednesday during an awards and farewell ceremony at the Gordon Club.

The South Carolina company has been at Fort Gordon providing force protection since September 2002. Its battalion is headquartered in Mullins, S.C.

While at Fort Gordon, the company augmented military police by performing vehicle searches and identification checks at the gates, and was a part of the quick reaction force, a team on standby for quick response to emergency situations.

"The signal units were having to give up bodies to pull 24 hour ops and they were having trouble getting their primary mission done," said 1st Lt. Mark McGee, company training officer for the 263rd. The company took over gate duty full time so the signal units could concentrate on its primary mission, he

said.

"Our soldiers trained for and performed gate duty 24-hours a day, so they were well prepared and able to do the job well," McGee said. "I would hear people at the PX commenting how thorough they were."

"Everyone here at the Fort Gordon Provost Marshal Office and Directorate of Public Safety have been very proud of all the members of 1/263rd Armor," said Maj. Kendrick McCormick, provost marshal. "Their performance has been outstanding. Their genuine concern for every soldier, civilian and family member who lives and works on Ft. Gordon was clearly evident in their mission execution. We wish them all the best of luck in their return back home."

Members of the unit are from Charleston, Mullins, Conway, Dillon, and Marion, S.C. The rest of the battalion is helping at Forts Jackson, Stewart and Benning.

The 263rd will be replaced by 120 members of the 82nd Maintenance Co., Army National Guard, from Atlanta.

Awards ceremony

The installation quarterly awards ceremony is 8:30 a.m. **July 31** in Conrad Hall. The ceremony will honor the following individuals:

Servicemember of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Spc. Wayne Landis (Company A, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion); Noncommissioned Officer of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Staff Sgt. Sara Smith (Company B, 551st Signal Battalion); Instructor of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Staff Sgt. LaManns Fingers (Headquarters & Company A, 369th Signal Battalion); Civilian of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Judy Wyatt (Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources); Volunteer of the Month (April 2003): Kathryn Robertson (442nd Signal Battalion Family Readiness Group); Volunteer of the Month (May 2003): Karenann B-Amster (American Red Cross); and Volunteer of the Month (June 2003): Rae Lynne Guthrie (Community Life Center). Everyone is encouraged to attend.

For information, contact Linda Means at 791-1871.

School dress code

The Richmond County Board of Education recently announced a revised mandatory dress code for the 2003-04 school year.

Tops must be solid red, white or blue, while bottoms must be blue, black or khaki; denim is acceptable. All pants must be of a traditional style, and fit at the waist.

There is no "opt out" provision this year. For information, call 737-7200.

Human resources workshop

The Society for Human Resource Management Augusta Area Chapter will host a session on the impact of the aging workforce from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. **July 30** at the Holiday Inn West on Steven's Creek Road.

Guest speaker is Lucy Welchel, a consultant from Covington, Ga., noting the impact of the baby boomer

generation's retirement from the workplace.

Cost for non-members of the SHRM Chapter is \$15. Guests interested in attending should contact Karen Whitman at 220-2915 or by e-mail at karen.whitman@siteeast.com by July 25.

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.

Lake activities

Fort Gordon Recreation Area and Strom Thurmond Lake offers lodging, campsites, 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.

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

Special Forces briefing

The Special Forces Recruiting Team is holding a briefing at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. **Thursday** at Darling

Hall, Room 307. The team is seeking highly motivated, professional male soldiers, both enlisted and officers, from all career management fields to join the Army's premier fighting force. Call (912)876-6225 for more information, or go to <http://www.stewart.army.mil/SpecialForces/index.htm>.

Purple Heart order

Chapter 425 of The Military Order of the Purple Heart meets the third Saturday of each month. The order is open to all Purple Heart recipients in the CSRA. For information, call 731-7210.

Job opportunity

Federal Network Systems, a division of Verizon, will be at the ACAP Center at 11 a.m. **Tuesday** to discuss employment opportunities for transitioning service members. For more information contact Juva Alexander at 791-7356/7333.

Papermaking workshop

The Augusta Museum of History is having a papermaking workshop at 1 p.m. **July 31** at the museum. The workshop is free; reservations are required by calling 722-8454. The museum is located at 560 Reynolds St. in Augusta.

Youth services

Youth services offers summer fun camps Mondays-Fridays **through Aug. 13**.

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

For more information, call 791-6500 or 7575.

School screenings

School screenings will be held at the Primary Care Clinic from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. **July 26**, and **Aug. 2** and **9**. This is a one-time screening required for all students entering Georgia public schools for the first time.

Parents should bring their ID Card, medical records (if not kept at Eisenhower), shot records, eye glasses, hearing aids, medical stamp

card and medical power of attorney (if applicable).

To make an appointment for information, call the Family Practice Clinic at 787-7300. For sports physicals, contact your primary care physician.

Classes begin Aug. 6 in Columbia County, and Aug. 12 in Richmond County.

Change of command

The 93rd Signal Brigade will conduct a Brigade Change of Command ceremony at the Barton Field Reviewing Stands at 8 a.m. **Friday**.

Outgoing commander Col. Daniel Gerstein, will relinquish command to Col. Nathaniel Smith. For more information, call Maj. Tina Schreiner or Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo at 791-9309.

Volunteers needed

The next Dental Assistant Program course begins in October. Candidates must be a currently registered Red Cross volunteer with 100 hours or more of volunteer service.

The first step in becoming a Red Cross volunteer is to attend Red Cross Orientation. The next orientation is **Tuesday**, 9-11 a.m. Call 787-6311 to register.

Shiloh Day festivities

The Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center festival is 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. **Saturday** and 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. **Sunday**. Events include vendors, food, entertainment and a rummage sale. Admission is free. The center is located at 1635 15th St. in Augusta. For more information, call 796-8143.

Mosquito spraying

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

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. 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.

July 18-24
Today - Finding Nemo (G)
Saturday - The Italian Job (PG-13)
Saturday late show - 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)
Sunday - Finding Nemo (G)
Thursday - Down With Love (PG-13)

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

Fort Gordon Report

COMING UP

The newest edition of the **Fort Gordon Report** premieres Monday and includes the following stories:

- 263rd Armor Farewell
- PBA Southern Pro Am on post
- Youth golf at Gordon Lakes

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 **Army Newswatch** premieres July 28.

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.

We all possess time in equal amounts

Chaplain (Maj.)
Michael Riddle

15th Regimental Signal Brigade

What is it that we all have the same amount of? Rank? Status? Money? Life insurance? Toys? Lottery tickets?

No! What do we all have the same amount of – time.

Now I know what some of you are thinking, because I also have thought it and said it at one time or another, and that is – “I don’t have enough time!” The truth is, the clock ticks the same amount of time for each of us – rich or poor, old or young, man or woman, no matter what category we are in.

There are 60 seconds to the minute, 60 minutes to the hour, 24 hours to the day, 7 days to the week, 30 days to the month, and

365 days to the year. That is true for all of us. Time is our most precious commodity and yet it is the most wasted and abused thing that we all have the same amount.

Time is a precious gift. The people I know in my work as an Army chaplain who have the most regrets are those who said they didn’t have enough time. They didn’t have enough time to play ball with their son or sit down to a tea party with their daughter.

They didn’t have enough time to spend quiet, romantic evenings with their spouse or enough time to tell them, “I love you.” They didn’t have time to help an aged parent or visit a lonely, elderly relative or neighbor.

They didn’t have enough time to help someone who needed help. They didn’t have enough time to

encourage someone who needed encouragement. They didn’t have enough time to mentor someone who needed mentoring. They didn’t have time to read the Bible, to pray, or to get to know their Creator.

Not too many people I know looking back on their life regret that they didn’t make general, colonel, or lieutenant colonel, sergeant major, master sergeant or sergeant first class.

Not too many people I know look back on their lives and regret that they didn’t become a millionaire or go to some of the exotic places in the world they dreamed of going.

The people I know who look back on their lives with regret are those who said, “I didn’t have enough time. I didn’t have enough time for those relationships that were the most important” – relation-

ships with our loved ones and relationship with God.

In the Bible, Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV), we are admonished: “Be careful then how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” St. Paul is simply saying here that many of life’s opportunities come but once, and that the careful, thoughtful, and wise person recognizes this and seizes the moment and does not squander opportunity and time.

For any skeptics out there who think you have “time to kill,” who haven’t grasped the importance of this gift of time that you have been given, who still think time is not that important, then notice that

□ To realize the value of one year: ask a student who has failed a final exam.

□ To realize the value of one month: ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

□ To realize the value of one week: ask an editor of a weekly magazine or newspaper.

□ To realize the value of one hour: ask two young lovers who are waiting to meet.

□ To realize the value of one minute: ask the person who has missed the train, bus, or airplane.

□ To realize the value of one second: ask the person who has survived an accident.

□ To realize the value of one millisecond: ask the person who has won a gold medal in the Olympics.

—Anonymous

Time waits for no one! Treasure and use every moment you have . . . especially for those people and those relationships that matter most.

More soldiers deploy, more spouses wait



ment, and it appears for a long time to come. I am not alone in waiting; this effort to combat terrorism has touched the lives of many people. These thoughts occupy my mind a bit; these thoughts do require some energy.

And then I remember my friends at Fort Stewart who thought that their soldier was coming home in July and now things have changed. A September wedding will have to be postponed until a later date. Fort Stewart spouses face a unit that has an open-ended mission.

I listen to the television and I hear people talking about deploying troops to more places, and I think that they forget how many places the Army already is. I have friends in Europe whose spouses have been gone for months on rotations to Kosovo, Macedonia and Bosnia. I am not waiting alone; there are thousands of spouses out there, in all walks of this military life, waiting.

And then I think small again and back to my situation. It has already been months for me, more for some of my friends, nine months, a year. So the open-ended calendar keeps on going.

And I keep on surviving. I try to draw strength from knowing I am not going through this alone. I am not the only spouse waiting. There is company in misery.

And while I am back thinking in my little world, trying not to be too overwhelmed by all the deployments and other waiting spouses, I think of my soldier and of my love for him, of my wish he will come home safe. I hope our family will be together again, sooner rather than later.

I wonder how all of this talk of the military going to other countries affects him. I wonder if he even knows it is going on since he is somewhat insulated from current events while deployed. I hope not. I hope he is able to stay focused on his task, to complete this mission, so he can come home. I hope that is what he is doing...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.

While I am waiting... things change. The country seems to have moved on somewhere along the road. There are days when I can watch the news; it doesn’t do anything for me, one way or the other.

The media has moved on to other events to cover; the economy, grisly murder trials, and the hot summer movies. I am sad since my spouse is still gone, and with soldiers still in harm’s way it seems there should be attention paid to them.

It is sad to hear stories that another soldier has died in Baghdad. I mourn the loss. It is so overwhelmingly sad. The news usually causes me to think about more pressing issues for me, mostly more about when he will be able to come home, because Iraq is not a safe place to be.

I wonder when time for his unit will be over and the mission will be passed on to another unit. The mission seems to be on going and keeping everyone busy.

But I also think who is replacing these soldiers, what other family will have to start waiting. It seems the Army is everywhere in the world these days, keeping the peace. A lot of families are waiting, it is not just me.

Then I am humbled. I knew I was not alone, but it is amazing how many people are going to be affected by this deploy-

Civil Affairs soldier gets Iraqi kids off street

Spc. Ryan Smith
Army News Service

BAGHDAD - A captain is walking the streets of Baghdad looking for homeless kids who would be willing to go to an orphanage.

Concerned civilian journalists who stay in the nearby hotels first brought the problem of homeless children to the attention of Capt. Stacey Simms, a Civil Affairs team leader.

One of the obstacles that Simms faces in trying to help these children is that they were often treated poorly in state-run homes, he said. They were threatened and frequently abused.

Simms is with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, N.C. Unfortunately, there is little Simms can do for kids who refuse to leave the streets, except to return later to provide them whatever assistance he can.

Near a U.S. military checkpoint outside the Palestine Hotel, Simms met Amar, an 11-year-old boy who said he does not know his family. Amar, who wore a filthy T-shirt that would have been baggy on a large adult, said he survives by begging for food and water from soldiers and other people around the hotels.

The boy once lived at a government-run institution for juvenile delinquents and homeless children in Baghdad, but left at the start of the war when the home was shut down. Amar said that he did not want to go back to an orphanage because he was afraid of being beaten.

A teenager that Simms spoke to said that he was beaten for joking around with other children at Dar al Rahma.

Simms visited two Catholic homes for girls in Baghdad. One was at the Saint Hannah church; the other was the Zapharania orphanage.

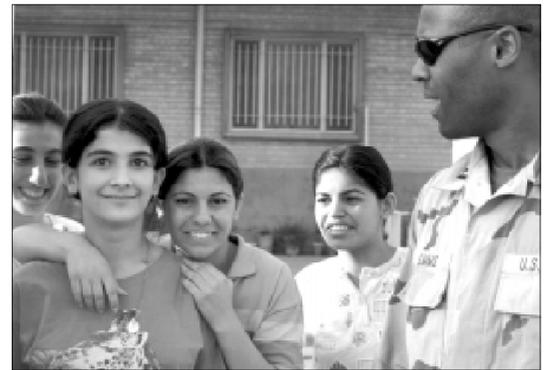


Photo by Spc. Ryan Smith

Capt. Stacey Simms, team chief, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, meets with the girls of the Zapharania orphanage in Baghdad July 3.

Both orphanages are home to girls ages 6 and older, and needed supplies and repairs. But they were in relatively good condition, compared with other places in the city, Simms said. Neither was damaged badly by combat or looting.

The nuns that run the orphanages told Simms of their needs - food, plumbing repairs, air conditioning, clothes, and so on - they also said the girls were excited to meet American soldiers.

The military, along with private organizations, will begin to provide assistance as soon as possible.

Simms plans to return to both orphanages to further assess their needs and to help them with their supply and repair issues.

“We see the results almost immediately,” he said. “It’s incredibly rewarding. It’s my life’s work while I’m here.”

(Smith is a journalist with the 372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Iraq.)

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rodriguez

Unit: Company D, 447th Signal Battalion

Hometown: New York City and Jersey City, N.J.

Time at Fort Gordon: 20 months

What do you enjoy about being a DS? I most enjoy the satisfaction of knowing I affected a soldier in a positive way. It makes me feel great inside when a soldier thanks me on his way out or when a soldier really wants his parents to meet me.

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? I want to become a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and I want to be the first sergeant of a company. I would also like to further my education.



Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Precaution needed to avoid Heat injuries

When the call goes out that the post is in Heat Category 5, what does that really mean.

According to officials at Eisenhower Army Medical Center Preventive Medicine, it means caution is necessary to prevent heat related injuries.

Keep safety and fitness in mind in order to prevent heat injuries. Physical activity in extreme heat can cause serious injuries if prevention and common sense measures are not taken. Recognize the symptoms of heat-related injuries, how to treat

them and, more importantly, how to avoid injuries in the first place.

Stages of Heat-Related Illness
Heat-related illness usually comes in stages. The signal of the first stage is heat cramps in muscles. These cramps can be very painful. If you are caring for a person who has heat cramps, have him or her stop activity and rest.

If the person is fully awake and alert, have him or her drink small amounts of cool water or a commercial sports drink. Gently stretch the cramped muscle and hold the

stretch for about 20 seconds, then gently massage the muscle. Repeat these steps if necessary. If the victim has no other signals of heat-related illness, the person may resume activity after the cramps stop.

Heat-related injuries include:

Sunburn - Inflammation or reddening of the skin due to prolonged exposure to the sun's rays.

First Aid: Remove from sun, cover burned areas of the body and apply antiseptic cream.

Heat Cramps - Heat cramps are muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. They usually involve the abdominal muscles or the legs. It is generally thought that the loss of water and salt from heavy sweating causes the cramps. Heavy sweating and extreme thirst may occur.

First Aid: Move to cool, shady area, loosen clothing and slowly give

large amounts of water. Get medical help if cramps continue. Do not give liquids with alcohol or caffeine in them, as they can make conditions worse.

Heat Exhaustion - Heat exhaustion is less dangerous than heat stroke. It typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a warm, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Fluid loss causes blood flow to decrease in the vital organs, resulting in a form of shock. With heat exhaustion, sweat does not evaporate as it should, possibly because of high humidity or too many layers of clothing. As a result, the body is not cooled properly.

Symptoms include heavy sweating with pale, cool skin, headache, dizziness, loss of appetite. Symptoms of more advanced exhaustion may involve heat cramps, chills, rapid breathing, confusion, tingling of hands or feet and nausea. Body temperature will be near normal.

Call 911 or the local emergency number if the person refuses water, vomits or loses consciousness.

First Aid: Move to a cool, shaded area and loosen clothing. Cool body with water and fanning. Victim should slowly drink water and legs should be elevated. If symptoms continue, get medical help.

Heat Stroke - Also known as sunstroke, heat stroke is life-threatening. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

Signals include hot, red and dry skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing. Body temperature can be very high—sometimes as high as 105°F.

First Aid: This is a medical emergency. Seek professional medical help immediately. Take steps to cool the body by moving player to a cool shaded area, loosen or remove clothing, immerse in water and fan to cool. Elevate legs slowly, drink water if conscious.

If you have ice packs or cold packs, wrap them in a cloth and place them on each of the victim's wrists and ankles, in the armpits and on the neck to cool the large blood vessels. Do not use rubbing alcohol because it closes the skin's pores and prevents heat loss. Watch for signals of breathing problems and make sure the airway is clear. Keep the person lying down.

Prevention
The best way to avoid heat related injuries is through prevention.

Gradually adjust physical activity intensity and duration to heat conditions. Acclimatize to avoid heat-related injuries.

When possible, wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Heavy clothing can increase the risk of heat injury.

Finally, use sunscreen to protect exposed skin.

Dress for the heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.

Drink water. Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body. Drink adequate amounts of water every 20-30 minutes. Water intake, however, should not exceed 1.25 quarts per hour or 12 quarts per day.

Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.

Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.

Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4 and 7 a.m. and use work and rest periods. Rest periods should be in a cool or shaded area.

Stay indoors when possible.
Take regular breaks when engaged in physical activity on warm days. Take time out to find a cool place. If you recognize that you, or someone else, is showing the signals of a heat-related illness, stop activity and find a cool place. Remember, have fun, but stay cool!

Know What These Heat-Related Terms Mean

Heat Wave: More than 48 hours of high heat (90°F or higher) and high humidity (80 percent relative humidity or higher) are expected.
Heat Index: A number in degrees Fahrenheit that tells how hot it really feels with the heat and humidity. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the heat index by 15° F.

(Editor's Note: The above information was compiled from the following websites:

<http://www.sycravelsooccer.com/heatinjursafety.htm>
<http://www.medtrng.com>
<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/heat/html>)

Work/Rest/Water Consumption Table

Heat category	WBGT Index, F ⁰	Easy Work		Moderate Work		Hard Work	
		Work/Rest	Water intake*	Work/Rest	Water intake*	Work/Rest	Water intake*
1	78 ⁰ -81.9 ⁰	No limit	½	No limit	¾	40/20 minutes	¾
2	82 ⁰ -84.9 ⁰	No limit	½	50/10 minutes	¾	30/30 minutes	1
3	85 ⁰ -87.9 ⁰	No limit	¾	40/20 minutes	¾	30/30 minutes	1
4	88 ⁰ -89.9 ⁰	No limit	¾	30/30 minutes	¾	20/40 minutes	1
5	>90 ⁰	50/10 minutes	1	20/40 minutes	1	10/50 minutes	1

*Water intake listed as quarts per hour. If wearing body armor, add 5°F to WBGT Index. If wearing NBC clothing (MOPP 4) add 10°F to WBGT. For average sized, heat-acclimated soldier wearing BDU. Information courtesy U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Heat illnesses and death in the United States

More people in the United States die from extreme heat exposure than from hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes combined.

During 1979 to 1999, 8,015 heat-related deaths occurred in this country. Heat illnesses include heat cramps and heat rash with the more severe conditions of heat exhaustion and heat stroke (hyperthermia).

Heat exhaustion can develop after prolonged exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Warning signs of heat exhaustion include paleness, muscle cramps, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, and fainting.

The skin may be cool and moist; sweating may or may not occur. The pulse rate will be fast and weak, and breathing will be fast and shallow. If heat exhaustion is not treated, it may progress to heat stroke.

Heat stroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature. Body temperature may rise to 106°F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes.

Heat stroke is a serious condition; 15 percent of the people who experience heat stroke are at risk

of dying even with treatment.

Who's at Risk?

Anyone exposed to high temperatures for a sustained period of time is at risk for heat-related illness or death. At greater risk are the very young, the elderly, and people with chronic health conditions. Obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, and sunburn are other risk factors.

In addition, certain behaviors can increase the risk for heat-related illness, including alcohol or drug use; taking part in outdoor physical activities in very hot weather; and taking certain medications (e.g., anti-psychotics, tranquilizers, antidepressants, and over-the-counter sleeping pills) that impair the body's ability to regulate its temperature or that inhibit perspiration.

Can It Be Prevented?

Yes. The key is to stay hydrated and cool. Drink plenty of hydrating fluids; spend time in an air-conditioned environment; wear light clothing; reduce activity; and plan outdoor activities for the cooler parts of the day.

Electric fans may provide some comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, a fan will not cool the body. A cool shower or bath, or spending time in an air-conditioned location such as a mall or movie theatre, is a more effective way to cool off.

Doctors or pharmacists can provide information about how health conditions or medications can increase the risk of heat illness.

The elderly, disabled, or homebound friends, neighbors, and relatives should be checked on to ensure their safety during heat waves, and children should be closely watched.

They should never be left in cars or other enclosed spaces or allowed to play in a confined area that has the potential to become locked, such as a car trunk.

During a heat wave, local organizations should take special care that people who don't have any way to deal with the heat receive help. These people often include the poor and those who are socially isolated from the mainstream, such as some of the elderly and those who cannot speak or read English.

(From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.)



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Gerstein marks two year anniversary

Special to the Signal

Two years ago, Col. Dan Gerstein was at the Pentagon when he was notified that he would take command of a signal brigade as well as fulfill the duties of the U.S. Army South's G-6 in Puerto Rico and the Army Signal Activity's Director of Information Management, located in Miami.

Three hats, he thought, with two of those hats separated by more than 2,700 miles. A daunting task and challenge, but one he eagerly accepted.

Prior to taking command of the 93rd Signal Brigade, Gerstein was assigned as the Army's deputy director for Army transformation in the G-3 directorate. There, he was responsible for managing the Army's Transformation Campaign Plan.

"When I found out I was going to the 93rd, I was very excited," said Gerstein. "The 93rd had a great reputation and very few signal officers get a chance to command a tactical signal brigade.

"I wanted to focus on the war fighting aspects of our jobs and the individual soldiering skills," said Gerstein. "So, we developed and implemented a command vision based on tough, realistic training; taking care of soldiers and families, and building esprit."

The idea was to train hard so that we could save lives in a real world situation, which resulted in the situational training exercise.

Lt. Col. Stephen Jurinko, former 93rd Sig. Bde. deputy commander, arrived in September 2000, making him one of



Gerstein (left) monitors a situational training exercise. "We must always train as we fight," said Gerstein.

the few soldiers to have seen, firsthand, how Gerstein transformed the brigade by implementing his training philosophy of tough, realistic training.

"Before he came on board, we both sat down and talked, and he asked what I felt the brigade needed to work on," said Jurinko. "We were both of the same mindset—we (the brigade) were a tactical unit that wasn't tactical enough. We both agreed that we had a huge responsibility to prepare our

soldiers to go to war.

"It's easier to be tough and have the soldiers go out there and find out that the real thing

"I wanted to focus on the war fighting aspects of our jobs and the individual soldiering skills," said Gerstein.

is easier than it was during training," said Jurinko. "We have a responsibility to make sure that they come home to their families. The only way to do that

is to recreate the scenarios during the situational training exercises that they would experience in combat."

Lt. Col. Steven Ingwersen,

the 93rd Sig. Bde. S-2, also arrived just after Gerstein and before 9-11.

"Col. Gerstein has a great training philosophy—it has been proven time and again, and when our soldiers were deployed to support the war on terrorism after the attacks on Sept. 11," Ingwersen said. "He's very demanding, but his demands are within reason. When you listen to what he says and understand the intent, then you can attain great things."

Besides training, one of the areas Gerstein has had the most impact is in relations with allies in the Latin America and Caribbean areas of operation. Gerstein played a crucial role in structuring the Latin American-Caribbean Conference that has been held here annually, and improving interoperability and cross-border communications

between the United States and countries throughout the region.

Along with Maj. Gen. Luis Alberto Pozzi, director of communications and information systems (G-6), Argentine Army, Gerstein pioneered a major C4 interoperability initiative between the two countries. Through this initiative, the two armies conducted an exercise in which the 93rd Sig. Bde. provided Defense Service Network, commercialized Internet service, and video teleconferencing directly to Argentina using Argentine Army satellite terminals linked to the brigade's Theater Network Operations Center.

"We have been very successful interfacing with the Argentine Army," said Mike Roman, S-3 operations chief. "We have it down now to where we can do it as a routine operation from our TNOSC, and more importantly, we have demonstrated a capability to provide C4 services to the coalition armies."

Likewise, the Andean Ridge C4 Conference, which Gerstein co-hosted with his Colombian counterpart, Col. Viveros, facilitated cross-border communications between the countries of the Andean Ridge, including Colombia, Peru, Panama, Bolivia and Ecuador. This initiative directly resulted in C4 cooperation at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. Armies of the region now can communicate in real time based on the work done during the conference. In addition, the methods developed have broadened to include cooperation in other key areas including logistics.

Gerstein played a vital role in advancing the technological capabilities of the 93rd Sig. Bde.

"This brigade has made tre-

mendous progress in acquiring and assimilating cutting-edge technology into its operations," said Lt. Col. Paul LaDue, 67th Signal Battalion commander. "He has been the driving force behind the technological achievements, which run the gamut from International Mobile Satellite Organization phones to the data packages, and the commercial satellite service to Colombia.

"This brigade has become relevant on the battlefield today because of the investments made in technology. In addition to procuring new, commercial off-the-shelf equipment, like the Promina multiplexors, we have also upgraded our existing military equipment to include installing the Enhanced Tactical Satellite Signal Processors in every brigade multichannel TACSAT to double the number of links that we can install."

Finally, Gerstein's concern for soldiers is embodied in the numerous garrison improvements made during his command. There have been several improvements to the brigade's billets, dining facility, an improved Lightning University facility, and many enhancements to the brigade's Gym 3.

Current renovation projects that will improve the quality of life and the overall work environment for years include Building 25423, the 56th Sig. Bn.'s headquarters, and the 63rd Sig. Bn. and 67th Sig. Bn. S-3.

The Theater Network Operations Security Control Center and Automations Building was completed more than a year ahead of schedule. Over the last two years, the brigade's contingency warehouse, EO office, re-enlistment office, and the mailrooms were renovated as well.

Pending BRAC will reflect changing times

Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON — There were 97 major base closures and 55 major realignments during previous base realignment and closure actions in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995, according to DoD documents.

Besides cutting redundant infrastructure, those BRACs resulted in a net savings of \$16 billion through fiscal 2001, according to DoD figures, and annually recurring savings of \$6 billion beyond then.

However, almost a decade has passed since the last BRAC was conducted, Raymond DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, noted during a July 10 Pentagon interview. Congress authorized DoD to execute a new BRAC round in 2005.

Much has changed since 1995, DuBois emphasized, pointing to today's war against global terrorism.

"A great deal has changed in the last 10 years that ought to lead any thinking person to the conclusion that ... (another BRAC) is a good thing to do," he said.

The next BRAC will affect stateside and U.S. territory bases. DoD, he added, is also looking at its global military force structure to see if it meets today's national security needs. Lessons learned from 9-11 and the ensuing war on terrorism, DuBois noted, suggest that adjustments should also be conducted with forces stationed

The next BRAC will affect stateside and U.S. territory bases. DoD is also looking at its global military force structure to see if it meets today's national security needs.

overseas.

And besides trimming excess real estate that's costly to maintain, he explained, another BRAC would assist DoD to become more "joint."

"We ought to look at how all four services can utilize a reconfigured footprint to better support the warfighting plans of the combatant commanders," DuBois said.

Although not addressed in the 2005 BRAC, it's well known, DuBois pointed out, that "there are (overseas) places where we have a concentration of troops basically as a legacy from the Cold War — as a legacy of the post-World War II situation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO."

The Cold War "has gone away," he asserted. Consequently, he pointed out, there is no longer a need for having 70,000 U.S. troops based in Germany. In fact, DuBois noted that U.S. combatant commanders are slated to meet soon to study today's worldwide basing and warfighting needs.

The 2005 BRAC, DuBois noted, will reconfigure stateside

military infrastructure to meet the realities of the 21st century. Some installations, he explained, will gain assets while others will be closed.

"The secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs (of Staff) and the combatant commanders have learned that our force structure is not necessarily positioned in the right place," DuBois pointed out, to carry out U.S. military deployment and warfighting plans in the most efficient way.

Another potential result derived from another round of base realignments and closures, DuBois noted, is fewer duty station moves: Remaining military installations would be in advantageous locations related to their military missions.

If service members move less from station to station during their careers, then "I think that has a positive impact on quality of life," DuBois said.

Basically, the war against global terrorism has caused DoD to rethink "what opportunities should we have for basing, for deployment, for supply lines — globally," DuBois concluded.

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 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 **beginning today** 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 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 *Alice* **today, Saturday, and July 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.

Youth Challenge Academy canoes Savannah River

Natalie Allison
Special to the Signal

The Fort Gordon Youth Challenge Academy took a canoeing trip down the Savannah River July 11.

The 35 girls went canoeing down four miles and somehow ended up on a lake where they worked extra hard to row against the current of the lake.

"Well, I thought that it was very fun. I had a great time," said Cadet Ashley Sanders. "Not only did I have fun just canoeing it gave me a good chance to talk to the other girls in my platoon. At YCA you always learn something new everyday, just floating down the river was a new experience. At the end it got a little hard because we were all hot, tired, and wet."

What they saw while going down the river were turtles on the logs and a few snakes crawling around among the beaver dams.

"Everything that YCA does has a challenging purpose," said Cadet Kitty Upshaw. "It was fun, and a good experience and it taught me to trust more people than just my family members. It also showed me to work as a team."

"The trip was fun. It

was a little scary at times, because I can't swim. But it was still a great experience. With the help of my peers I did just fine," said Cadet Whitney Rogers.

Youth Challenge Academy is a place for Georgia youths in at-risk situations to go when they have no other option. The cadets are between the ages of 16-18. All are high school dropouts who made poor choices and are now trying to correct them. To become a cadet you must go through a two-week hard-core phase.

The hard-core phase is when the cadets test themselves. They learn all the basic skills of being in the military.

After finishing hard-core, the cadets start school and begin the hard work to get their general educational development degree. When they finish their GED, they can either start taking college classes or they can job shadow.

Job shadowing is when the cadets pick a place they would like to work and do volunteer work for that office.

There are only five months after the hard-core weeks. All cadets that make it the entire 22 weeks will graduate and receive three diplomas, an adult high school diploma,



Major Alonzo Portwine and the Youth Challenge Academy nurse wait for cadets so they can show them the right direction to navigate the river.

certificate for completing their GED, and a certificate for completing the program.

The purpose of the program is to help some of the teenagers in Georgia to continue their education and open doors to new opportunities. The cadets also receive skills in how to cope with the challenges that come with being an adult.

Every year there are more and more high school dropouts. But at the same time there are also more cadets graduating from a Youth Challenge Academy.



YCA cadets getting ready to canoe the Savannah River July 11.

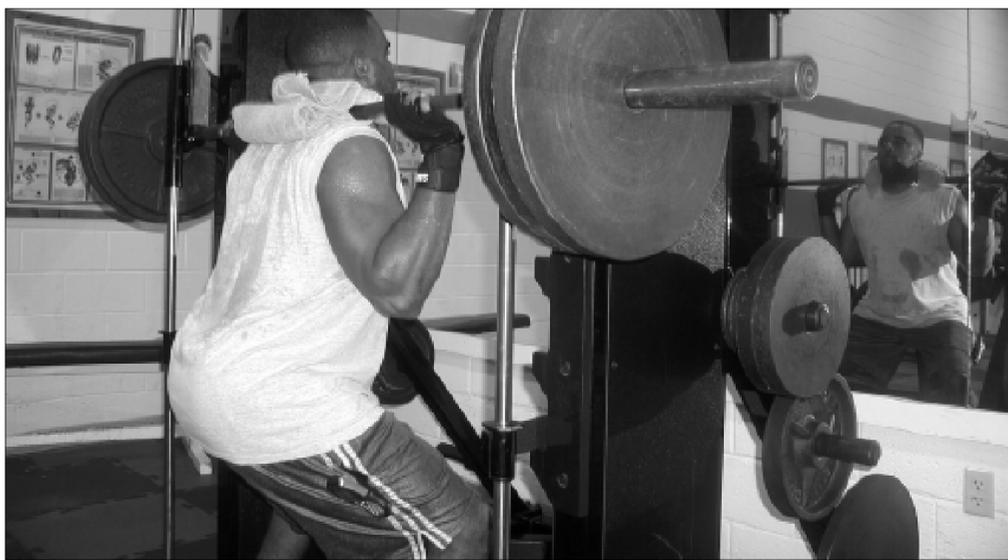


Photo by Natalie Allison

Workout!

Petty Officer Ray Hawkins, Naval Supply Corps School Detachment, spends his free time weightlifting at Gym 3. Early this year the post spent close to \$300,000 on new gym equipment. The equipment has been kept in top condition because of the specific workout rules. Patrons are required to supply a towel to use while exercising and also to wipe off the equipment when finished.

Tia first soldier to win five All-Army Chess Championships

Tim Hipps
Army News Service

FORT MYER, Va. — It seems nobody in the U.S. Army can figure the chess strategy of Sgt. Rudy Tia Jr., who recently became the first five-time winner of the All-Army Chess Championship.

Tia, 38, of Fort Hood, Texas, won his fifth overall and fourth consecutive championship June 21-26 in Army-wide competition at Fort Myer, Va. Sgt. Michael Fletcher, the only other four-time winner of the event, owned the All-Army crown from 1979-1982.

Sgt. Kenneth Davidson came all the way from Karsi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan — north of Afghanistan — to get a rematch with Tia, the ultimate commander of an Army of 16 chessmen.

"I was trying to get him this year," said Davidson, who lost to Tia in the first round. "I thought I had him beat last year, but I just missed my winning move. This year, I was trying to get my revenge, but he's tough."

Only by defending against opponent's threats can chess players successfully exercise their own strategies. Once they figure out what their opponent is plotting, attempts are made to nip those plans in the bud.

"He has a strong, solid game and he doesn't beat himself," Davidson, 36, of Fort Myers, Fla., continued of Tia. "The small things you overlook, he never seems to overlook. He can pretty

much run the table on anybody."

Davidson deployed to Uzbekistan last December and originally was scheduled to come home this month. Having been extended until September, he was allowed two weeks leave to return to the States.

"I told them I didn't care about the leave, to just make sure I could make this tournament," said Davidson, who has half the members of his unit playing chess. "I even hosted a chess tournament over there for soldiers, so they supported me wholeheartedly on this."

Staff Sgt. Vidal Carvajal, Jr., of Camp Stanton, Korea, was humbled by finishing 12th in the 43rd annual, six-day, round-robin tournament.

"I thought I was good until I got here," said Carvajal, 44, a native of Fort Sill, Okla. "I've lost more games in this tournament than I have in the last two years. I play a lot, but I don't have the chance to play this caliber of chess players."

Carvajal's final game was against Tia, a native of Manila, Philippines.

"He plays really, really hard," Carvajal said. "Everything I did, he countered — every single thing. Every time I weaseled my way in somewhere, he had a trap waiting for me. Then he just picked me apart, one part at a time."

Although everyone wants to know Tia's secrets to chess success, he won't offer any clues.

"I don't know what it is," Tia said

with a smile while rubbing his head. "I think it's about being aggressive. I don't care about the opening. What I care about is the middle game and the endgame, and being aggressive."

Veterans of this tournament say Tia always opens the same way, and then finishes them off like an unfazed champion. He credits playing against a laptop computer for immensely improving his game — along with his overflowing shelf of more than 60 chess books.

"I just play my own style," Tia said. "I don't know why these guys cannot beat me. I would be happy just to become a master."

Tia entered the tourney with a U.S. Chess Federation rating of 2,109. A master's rating ranges from 2,200 to 2,399.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey McAleer, who finished fourth, won the All-Army Chess Championship in

1993 and boasts two victories over Tia.

"I'm the only one to beat him, and I beat him twice, but neither one of those efforts was good enough to take first place [in the tourney]," said McAleer, stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. "He's like a notch above the rest of us; he's more consistent. Even though I'm able to beat him every now and then, over the long run, his consistency pays off for him. He can do it day in and day out. We know where he is, and we know what he's coming with — we just can't stop him."

The top six finishers in the tournament will represent the Army in the Interservice Chess Championships Aug. 4-8, at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Top finishers there will comprise the U.S. Military Chess Team in matches against 13 NATO countries at the 14th International Military Chess Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 8-12.

(Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Tim Hipps

Sgt. Rudy Tia Jr., of Fort Hood, Texas, contemplates his next move en route to winning his fifth All-Army Chess Championship at Fort Myer, Va.

On p*int

Company D, 369th Signal Battalion uses fun activity to cover basics of soldiering

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

What's an activity that allows soldiers to practice force protection skills they have been taught while allowing them to learn new skills and still be fun?

Paintball.
"We actually planned this training in the last quarter," Capt. Mark Henderson, commander, Company D, 369th Signal Battalion, said. "This was the highlight of a quarter's worth of training, covering various CTT tasks, security briefings and force protection. We want to make sure the soldiers are aware that there is still a war going on out there, even though we're doing something fun here today."

"We're trying to use a fun scenario to educate them and reinforce a lot of lessons we've been teaching them. We ask them questions about tactics - what they saw that was effective, what could have been more effective, and what can you take with you from here when you leave AIT."

Henderson said the paintball battles were an opportunity to "take the company's training to the next level."

"The objective at the end of the quarter was to try to culminate everything that they learned into this fun exercise here, and so it was voluntary, but most

soldiers wanted to play anyway," he said. "And it was a lot of fun."

About 70 soldiers participated in the voluntary training. The soldiers played three games of paintball. Before each of the games, Henderson and his cadre briefly discussed strategies for going about the games with the soldiers, but left it mostly up to the soldiers.

"I wanted them to learn on the ground in the first battle, and then look at what they did and see what they could do to improve," Henderson said. "Over the course of the day you could see more leadership and also cohesion as a unit. I didn't want it to be a controlled, directed thing, I wanted to use it as a learning experience, and if you direct everything, they're probably not going to use that as an opportunity to learn."

In each game or battle the company broke up into two teams and tried to capture the other team's flag.

Soldiers then split up into different flanks, always at least working with their battle buddy, and made their way across the field using techniques such as high and low crawls, three to five second rushes, and incorporating trees, high grass and the obstacles and bunkers on the field for cover.

Henderson said the value of a



The object of the game is to capture the other team's flag without getting shot. Here two soldiers guard their team's flag

battle buddy was one of the big lessons reinforced through the morning of paintball.

"It reinforced everything we're trying to teach them here, especially the battle buddy system," he said. "They're starting to learn that it's neat to have them here, it's required, but also out here a battle buddy can save your life."

"I've heard battle buddy and teamwork come up from the soldiers in our after action reviews of the battles. They learned that if you try to work as a bunch of individuals, ultimately you will meet with failure, but if you have an organized plan and work together as a team, then victory is much more certain."

Rory Calhoun is the owner of Flying Colors Paintball, the business which brought paintball to post under the guidance of Morale Welfare and Recreation.

Like Henderson, he believes a fun activity like paintball can teach soldiers valuable lessons transferable to wartime situations.

"It's a good chance for them to hone some basic tactical skills such as movement to contact, and it can build on their common task training," he said, then added. "But it was fun just watching them have a good time."

And the soldiers agreed it was fun and something they'd like to repeat.

Pfc. Jennifer Robinson was a first-time paintball player, and said she learned a lot from the exercise and enjoyed herself.

"It was fun, I loved it," she said. "I was worried about getting shot, since everyone said how much it hurts, but it didn't hurt at all. It was a good adrenaline rush."

Pvt. Shawn Tupper echoed

Robinson's sentiments, and added he liked the practical side of the exercise.

"I liked being put in a situation where you get to use real strategies and think them out and see how they actually play out," he said. "I've played paintball before in Atlanta in three-story competition warehouses, but this course was a lot more spread out and realistic. It was great."

The paintball field can be reserved for company parties and picnics, as well as a creative day of physical or tactical training for a unit. The cost is \$20 for civilians and \$18 for military and includes paintball gun rental. Calhoun has 120 paintball guns available and for large groups offers a discounted group rate. Rounds of 100 paintballs are \$5.

For more information, contact Calhoun at 294-7475.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

(Left) A soldier carefully chooses his firing position. (Above) A player sprints across a field, looking for the best position. (Top right) Stealth often comes into play during the competition. (Bottom right) Capt. Mark Henderson, 369th Signal Battalion Company D commander, gives strategies and guidelines to players.

