



See
Page
13

Grueling
Tour de Fort
tests riders'
stamina



BOSS Talent Show
takes center stage

See
Page
18

Index

- Viewpoint • Page 5
- Chaplain • Page 9
- Community Events • Page 10
- MWR News • Page 12
- Sports and Leisure • Page 13

Friday, August 27, 2004

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 24, No. 34

News UPDATE

Trash pickup changed

The schedule for bulk trash pickup has been changed. Bulk trash pickup in all housing areas is now the first and third Thursday of each month.

CFC kickoff

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign kickoff is 2 p.m. Wednesday in Alexander Hall. There will be entertainment by the Signal band, door prizes and refreshments.

For information about CFC, call Pat Camacho at 791-2012.

Life insurance elections

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FEGLI program, is conducting an Open Season from Sept. 1 to 30.

The effective date of coverage is delayed until the first day of the first pay period that begins on or after Sept. 1, 2005.

Election of coverage must be completed through the Army Benefits Center; no paper election will be accepted.

For information, contact Karen Ellis at 791-4179.

Employment classes

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, "Tools of Employment" will be held in Darling Hall, Room 229-C, from 9-11 a.m. Monday and Sept. 8.

Resumix Training will be held in Darling Hall, Room 229-C, from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday.

To register call Army Community Services at 791-3579.

Rodeo coming

The Professional Cowboy Association is holding a rodeo from 8-10:30 p.m. Sept. 10-11 at Barton Field.

The rodeo features bareback riding, roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding and more.

Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and younger. Tickets available at area Papa John's locations, Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union and Gordon Lanes.

For information, call 791-6779 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Welcome coffee

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Health Services Auxiliary is having a Welcome Coffee from 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 10 at 6 Boardman Lake.

RSVP to Lauren Parker at 922-9993.



Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

Gordon gets new Garrison commander

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, passes the colors to Col. Karen Adams, incoming Garrison commander. Adams assumed command as Col. Robert Henderson, outgoing Garrison commander, relinquished command in a change of command ceremony Thursday at Signal Towers. Adams most recently served as chief of the Training and Mission Support Branch, Operations Division, Installation Management Agency in Washington. Henderson leaves Fort Gordon after three years for the Pentagon.

New restaurant offers 'sneak peak'

Denise Allen
Signal staff

With its green roof and brick construction, the Huddle House on Avenue of the States may look like any other restaurant of its type; however, there's something special about the one on post.

"They have set the precedence here with this project," said Shirley Lovgren, chief of asset management office, non-appropriated funds construction directorate, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, who was at Fort Gordon Aug. 20 for the ribbon cutting of the public-private venture.

"It was the quickest from concept to opening," she said.

In her remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, jokingly said that it usually takes about 17 years to get a public-private venture off the ground.

Lovgren said it's not quite that long and depends on the project, but some take four to five years or longer.

The Fort Gordon Huddle House only took a total of about 18 months, bringing together several groups on the

project including the garrison spearheaded by Col. Robert Henderson, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center and the private sector with Patriot Foods and its partners, Richard Leonard and Jim Hall.

The process of the public-private venture was streamlined going from a 12 step system to only four.

"We're hoping a lot of other installations will follow suit," Lovgren said.

The Huddle House is slated to open Sept. 5 with a grand opening on Sept. 10.

Hicks said the opening of the Huddle House is on a lot of people's minds. She said she often gets stopped at the gym or in the ladies' room and asked about the restaurant.

"I hope this is the first of many successful ventures," she said.

Leonard with Patriot Foods said much of the credit for the restaurant's opening went to Henderson.

"I'm not sure this project would have happened" without him, Leonard said.

Leonard and his partner, Hall, said they were looking forward to a long-term relationship with Fort Gordon and were glad to be a part of the community.



Photo by Denise Allen

Col. Robert Henderson, who transferred command of the garrison Thursday, samples the fare at the Huddle House's ribbon cutting. Henderson was a driving force behind the public-private venture. Officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the restaurant Friday. The restaurant should open to the public Friday.

Judge addresses equality day breakfast crowd

Steve Brady
Signal editor

Thursday marked the 84th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

To mark the occasion, the Equal Employment Opportunity office hosted guest speaker M. Yvette Miller, Georgia Court of Appeals judge, Wednesday at the Gordon Club. Miller is the first African American woman to be seated in the

court, and one of two women on the 12-person bench.

During her speech, Miller recounted some of the women who claimed firsts for women, including Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court (1981), and Ella Grasso, the first woman elected state governor (1974 - Connecticut).

"We women have a wonderful legacy and we have many trailblazers to thank for their efforts that have really brought

many of us to where we are today," Miller said.

But women still have work ahead of them.

"What women need to do is to continue to persevere and not be dismayed. We still have work to be done," she said.

"Get a good education, get (your) credentials. Get prepared and make certain (you're) ready to... be elevated to a higher office," Miller said.

Despite Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Cen-

ter and Fort Gordon commanding general, being the first woman to command the Signal Corps, women in the military face similar challenges as those in the civilian sector.

"I'm in a male-dominated professional capacity, and women in the military are very much so, too. I really have a lot of empathy, and support frankly, for women in the military."

See Judge, page 11

Women's Equality Day facts

- On June 11, 1970, Col. Anna Mae Hays, chief, Army Nurse Corps, was promoted, becoming the first female Army general officer
- There are 11 female generals in the Army
- There are currently approximately two million women veterans

73rd Ordnance Battalion names its Iron Soldiers

Spc. Nicole Robus
Signal military editor

Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, held its Iron Ordnance Soldier competition July 26-30.

It is an event that emphasizes "warrior ethos," while enhancing the morale, esprit de corp, and cohesion within the unit.



Common task testing was part of the competition.

The winners, Pfc. Stacy Cozine and Pfc. Robert Anderson, both from 2nd Platoon, received an Army Achievement Medal, Iron Mike Trophy, Ordnance Medal, one-year membership in the Ordnance Corp Association, \$75 prize packet and a \$50 savings bond.

First runners-up, Pvt. Robert Bingham, 3rd platoon; and Pvt. Elisha Harmon, 1st platoon, received a Certificate of Achievement, Ordnance Medal and a \$75 prize packet.

Second runner-up, Spc. Anthony Makridis from 1st platoon, received a Certificate of Achievement, Ordnance Medal and a \$50 prize packet.

The desired result is to challenge Soldier's mental and physical toughness in four tasks; the army physical fitness test, a six-mile road march, common task testing and a formal board proceeding.



Courtesy photos

A 73rd Ordnance Battalion Soldier competes in the road march portion of the Iron Ordnance competition.

Each platoon drill sergeant selects one highly motivated, dedicated male and female Soldier from their platoon.

Soldiers are trained for six weeks at platoon level in preparation for the competition.

The seventh week of the competition is proclaimed Iron Ordnance Soldier Week.

"The event was a great way to work towards a short term goal; becoming a better Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Kimberly Thompson, a drill sergeant with Company B, 73rd Ord. Bn. "The competition drove the Soldiers to exceed the standards both physically and mentally."

Plasma needed to develop new anthrax defense

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new program started Aug. 11 to develop a new defense against anthrax will depend on servicemembers' donated plasma to be most effective.

The greatest number of the 1.2 million people vaccinated against anthrax – a deadly disease that can be used in biological warfare – is in the military. Their blood plasma – the straw-colored fluid part of the blood – can be used to make a new medication called anthrax immune globulin, said Army Col. John Grabenstein, the deputy director of the Military Vaccine Agency, in a telephone interview.

Unlike a vaccine that prevents disease, the anthrax immune globulin will be used to treat "people who develop a severe anthrax infection," Grabenstein noted. They would receive the globulin along with antibiotics "to give anthrax-infected patients their best chance for survival."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is in charge of the program. The CDC, part of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, is the lead federal agency in protecting people's health and safety. DoD responded to HHS' call for assistance by agreeing to distribute information to servicemembers.

"The plasma part of the blood has a lot of antibodies in it," Grabenstein said. "Antibodies are proteins that people use

to defend themselves from infection." From that plasma, CDC can derive the medication to treat severe cases of anthrax.

The CDC wants to make enough anthrax immune globulin to protect between 5,000 and 10,000 people. They could be anybody in the country, civilian or military, Grabenstein said. The globulin will go into the CDC's strategic national stockpile, a collection of emergency supplies for mass-casualty events.

He said CDC "will need a good number of volunteers" to reach this goal.

And he does mean volunteers. No one will order anyone to participate.

"It's entirely up to the troops, but they need to know what's in their blood might help other people," he emphasized. "Troops who receive anthrax vaccine have very valuable antibodies in their blood stream that could help others, as well as themselves. By donating plasma, these troops would be sharing the protection they carry around inside them, so that an anthrax-infected patient would have a better chance at surviving the infection."

The program began Aug. 11 at Fort Campbell, Ky. DoD plans to add other sites in the future, based on the need and the number of available volunteers.

Servicemembers who received anthrax vaccination No. 4 or higher are eligible to participate. There are six shots in the anthrax series. There's a narrow window when they can begin to donate – between 10 and 21 days after that vaccination. "That's when their antibody levels are the highest and the CDC would get the most yield from the plasma," Grabenstein said.

A civilian collection center in Clarksville, Tenn., will gather the plasma and turn it over to the CDC.

Grabenstein said the process is just like giving blood, "except you get the cells back."

During the process the blood flows from the donor through a needle to a collection chamber. In that chamber, a spinning centrifuge separates plasma from blood cells. The plasma is kept, and the blood cells go back into the donor's bloodstream. The process takes about an hour and a half.



Photo by Denise Allen

From left Kyle, Gail and Tom Fitzpatrick cut a cake celebrating the Defense Commissary Agency Scholarship that Kyle received at the Community Information Briefing on Wednesday at the Gordon Club. The cake was baked in the commissary bakery. The scholarship award was one of several items on the agenda at the monthly Community Information Briefing.

Scholarships handed out during community information briefing at the Gordon Club

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Kyle Fitzpatrick and Kristen Panula were among the record number of military dependents applying for scholarships this year through the Defense Commissary Agency.

On Aug. 18, the two were honored at the Community Information Briefing at the Gordon Club, as being among the 500 chosen from 7,000 to receive \$1,500 awards.

Panula could not attend because she is enrolled at the University of Minnesota at Duluth, where she will major in biology.

Fitzpatrick, a May graduate of Westside High School and son of Gail and Tom Fitzpatrick, plans to attend Georgia State University and major in film and video.

"I want to thank everyone for making this scholarship possible," said Fitzpatrick.

Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, U. S. Army Signal Center and

Fort Gordon commanding general, presented Fitzpatrick with a certificate

Hicks said she often wondered how military life affects children since she came from a family that stayed for generations in the same place.

"I look at what military children are achieving and what military children are," she said. "They end up fabulous. They end up thinking on their feet. They end up being able to cope."

Scholarship recipients were judged on their grade point average, their community involvement and on a short essay in which they wrote about how being a military dependent affected their goals.

Also at Wednesday's CIB, the top three in the recycling buy back program were awarded cash prizes. U.S. Army Garrison recycled 8,552 pounds of materials and received a \$500 first place check; the 369th Signal Battalion was second with 7,953 pounds and received a \$300 check; and the Military Police Activity came in third, recycling 3,756 pounds of materials for a \$200 award.

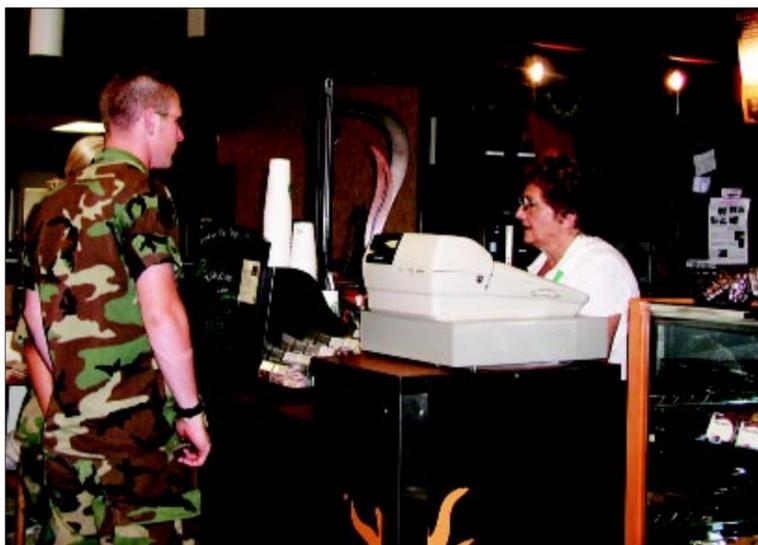


Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

Big java

Customers line up for a cup of coffee at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center Starbucks. The outlet, licensed by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, has the highest sales of all Starbucks in the AAFES southeast region, selling about \$30,000 of coffee and food each month.

U.S.-Iraq women's network prepares for Iraqi elections

David Shelby
U.S. Embassy Islamabad

Washington – With Iraqi national elections expected in January 2005, the U.S.-Iraq Women's Network is seeking to encourage Iraqi women to participate in their country's political life and define their role in a democratic Iraq.

In a briefing to inform representatives of non-governmental organizations about the project opportunities available under the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, members and associates of the Women's Network spoke of the progress that has been made and the challenges that lie ahead.

Ellen Sauerbrey, U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, told the audience that "our priority now is not the temporary transition but it is ensuring that we have elections that will form an Iraqi government that has unquestioned legitimacy in the eyes of the people of Iraq."

"And it's also ensuring that women have an equal opportunity to participate fully in the election process as candidates, not to be resisted or intimidated when they seek political office," she added.

Several speakers spoke of the progress that has been made in preparing women to assume a more active role in the political process and outlined numerous initiatives that are currently in place.

The CPA's Joanne Dickow, who began working with Iraqi women in April 2003, recalled the timid response she received from those women in the early days after the fall of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime.

"There was this incredible sense by the Iraqi women of 'Oh my goodness, what do you mean we are going to get in-

involved in politics?'" she said. "And there was this sense of 'Oh, these are doctors, lawyers and engineers.'"

Dickow explained that women largely had been excluded from the political process. "Unless you were a relatively rare chemical and germ warfare specialist, your options in Iraq were relatively limited," she said.

"Getting them to understand that this was their time was probably the hardest job of all at the beginning," said Dickow.

She observed, however, that the Iraqi Governing Council's adoption of Resolution 137 served to galvanize the Iraqi women, and their successful campaign against it gave them a sense of what they could achieve.

Resolution 137 transferred family law matters from civil

pened to the cause of women in Iraq," Dickow said. "When you look at the way the Iraqi women mobilized, they have really grasped onto the concept of representative democracy and grassroots politics better than anyone else inside the country. They got together. They signed petitions. They peacefully demonstrated. They demanded time with the Iraqi Governing Council and they got it. And they spoke their mind. And they succeeded in repealing resolution 137."

"That is an extraordinarily tremendous achievement," she said.

USAID representative Allyson Stroschein echoed Dickow's observations, saying, "There's been an amazing transformation among women

but said that the group is now quite active, having formed an NGO and currently seeking funding for a women's center and skills training projects.

Dickow said that the greatest need now is in training. "We don't need to convince them any more of how this is their time. They know it. They just need the tools to get there," she said.

The speakers mentioned initiatives that are already under way, including the development of women's centers and women's caucuses, as well as training in advocacy, campaigning and journalism skills.

Sauerbrey noted, however, that there is more work to be done as elections in post-conflict situations are subject to destabilizing forces.

She said that the commitment to democracy in such situations is often fragile with some political players intent on subverting the process, while voters may harbor doubts about the value of the elections.

Sauerbrey also noted the potential for intimidation, fraud and boycotts, as well as outright refusals on the part of some players to accept the results at the ballot box.

Nevertheless, Sauerbrey spoke of a recent meeting with a delegation of Iraqi women at the United Nations and said, "What I came away with was the excitement, the recognition of the future that is there for the taking and the commitment that I heard from these women that they are going to build a true democracy in Iraq."

The U.S.-Iraq Women's Network is helping to administer the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, announced by Secretary of State Colin Powell on March 8. This initiative allocates \$10 million to projects aimed at strengthening the democratic skills and practices of Iraqi women.



Women's Equality Day

Aug. 26, 2004

administration to religious Sharia law in December 2003 but, under intense pressure and lobbying from women's rights groups, the council subsequently repealed the resolution.

"It ended up being the best thing that could have ever hap-

pened in Iraq and their confidence level in themselves to get involved and to change the situation that they're in."

Stroschein spoke of a women's group in Tikrit that began meeting in secret for fear of a lack of community support,

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Bush declares Thursday Equality Day

President George W. Bush

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on August 26, 1920, guaranteed the right to vote for American women.

Women's Equality Day commemorates this constitutional amendment and is an opportunity for citizens across our country to honor those who took part in the long and difficult struggle for women's suffrage, as well those since 1920 who have continued to fight for equal rights for women.

Beginning with the Seneca Falls

Convention in 1848, women's suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, and lobbied for enfranchisement of American women. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott led this movement and advocated an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee women the right to vote. Through their vision and dedication, these women advanced the fight for equal rights.

Today, American women are making a difference in their communities and workplaces.

Women's accomplishments in education, business, science, art, medicine, athletics, and every other field have made America better and stronger. The courage and determination of American women are exemplified in the personnel serving in our Armed Forces. Women across America are also helping to secure our country by serving as police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, paramedics, and first-responders.

Americans believe in opportunity for all and -on this day, we

honor the achievements of women who have charted the path to equal opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

(From Bush's 2003 proclamation.)

Plastic surgery no luxury for most Soldiers

Michael Dukes
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army is not offering free face-lifts, tummy tucks and breast enhancements to everyone in uniform, medical officials said, adding that recent articles in national publications may be misleading.

"The spectrum of plastic surgery most people see are the shows on TV, extreme makeover shows, and they think that's plastic surgery," said Lt. Col. Joseph Kolb, Walter Reed Army Medical Center's Plastic Surgery Service chief. "We are primarily a reconstructive service."

Less than 20 percent of the plastic surgery cases at Walter Reed are for elective cosmetic procedures, Kolb said.

The entire Army has only about a dozen plastic surgeons, Kolb said, adding that plastic surgery is far from a luxury service offered to military beneficiaries.

"The Army keeps us around for reconstructive procedures," Kolb said.

"In addition, we operate on children with congenital defects like cleft lip, cleft palate and other defects to the head and neck," added Kolb. Kolb said Walter Reed's four plastic surgeons are very intimately and actively involved in treating wounded from the war in Iraq.

One, Lt. Col. Andrew Friedman, is currently deployed to Iraq as a general surgeon. "He ends up doing a lot of acute hand injuries over there."

"Hand function is really very dependent on the timeliness of repair," Kolb explained. "So having a hand surgeon in Iraq can make a difference in having a functional hand after an injury, and not having a functional hand. It's that important."

"We also have nasal reconstruction patients – people who have part or all of their nose blown away," he said.

"And we've all been involved in some very difficult head and neck traumas with Iraq going on.

"In addition, we operate on children with congenital defects like cleft lip, cleft palate and other defects to the head and neck."

Lt. Col. Joseph Kolb, Walter Reed Army Medical Center's Plastic Surgery Service chief

Those are always very difficult to do because of the complexity," he added.

"There are some injuries where you're never going to make a person look normal again. And unfortunately, some of the injuries we've seen (from Iraq) are in that category. But we make them function, obviously saving the patient's life is important. Functional considerations are much more important than cosmetic," Kolb explained.

"Luckily, we've had some good results with the reconstruction, and I think it will return people to certain levels of duty in some cases," he added.

"The spectrum of plastic surgery goes from the very simple, purely cosmetic things up to the very complex micro-vascular surgery," Kolb said.

Using micro-vascular techniques, surgeons can move a piece of tissue with its artery and vein to another part of a patient's body and hook into a different artery and vein.

This is something Walter Reed plastic surgeons perform regularly.

Despite supporting deployments and spending long hours in the operating room to treat the war wounded, "We have maintained our

support of the Breast Center and of cleft lip, cleft palate and cancer surgery in general," he said.

"We've been in a little bit of a squeeze and our ability to do cosmetic surgery has been compromised a certain bit. But, we're still offering most every service we've always offered – certainly the waiting times have increased though," he added.

Walter Reed plastic surgeons also find time for research.

"We are on a (Food and Drug Administration) protocol for using silicone-gel implants for breast reconstructive work," Kolb said.

This allows doctors in the Walter Reed Comprehensive Breast Center to send their breast cancer patients to plastic surgery for a consult for breast implantation.

To help maintain the surgeons' skills in all areas of plastic surgery, Kolb said services are sometimes provided in other areas.

Walter Reed gets thousands of plastic surgery consults for beneficiaries wanting some type of cosmetic surgery.

"The demand is tremendous and we don't have the OR time to devote to all of them," he said.

"Because of that, I personally have to go through all of the consults, that go to the service, and prioritize them," he added.

Kids and patients with cancer who need reconstructive surgery come first.

Because of Walter Reed's vast expertise in plastic surgery, medical students from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences come to the hospital's Plastic Surgery Service to conduct research.

The service also offers a unique opportunity for the USUHS residents.

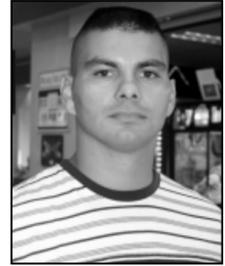
"We're also restarting humanitarian trips down to Central and South America in fiscal year '05," Kolb said.

(Dukes writes for the Stripe newspaper at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.)

Feedback

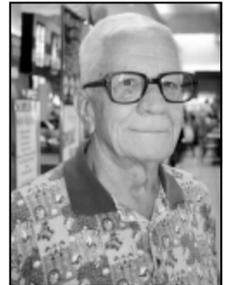
Pfc. Armando Monroig

Will the U.S. ever elect a female president?



Yes. We'll definitely have a female president. I'm predicting probably the year 2012. We're more ready today than we've ever been

1st Lt. Roy Davis
C Company,
442nd Signal Battalion



At this time no. The president has to be commander-in-chief of all services and a female doesn't have the background or qualifications for this job.

Jim Jaworski
retired Army veteran



No because I think they're afraid of them. I feel they should give them a chance. If they're qualified and they can do the job – there should be no difference

Master Sgt.
William Williams,
359th Signal Brigade



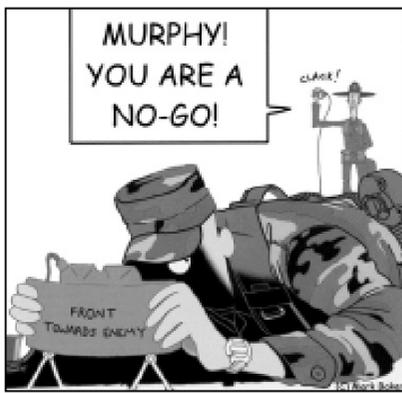
Yes. Probably 2008. Hillary Clinton – I would vote for her. I think she should have run this year.

Spc. Lakeisha Adams
116th Military
Intelligence Group

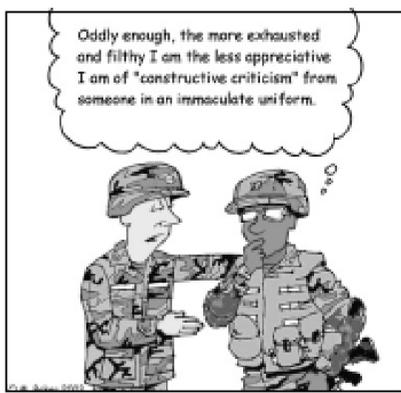
Private Murphy

By Mark Baker

'Claymore'



'Yes Sir, Mr. Clean'



'Open door policy'



The Signal

News Office
(706)791-7069

Nelson Hall Room 209, Fax 791-5463
www.gordon.army.mil/pao

Advertising Office
(706)724-2122

P.O. Box 948, Waynesboro, Ga. 30830
Ads may be faxed to 706-554-2437

Commanding General:
Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks
Garrison Commander:
Col. Karen Adams
Public Affairs Officer:
James L. Hudgins
Command Information Officer:
Nancy Martin
Acting NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons
Civilian Editor: Steve Brady
Military Editor: Spc. Nicole Robus
Staff Writers: Sgt. Sam Smith, Pfc. Armando Monroig and Denise Allen
Editorial Office: Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29801 Room 209, 520 Chamberlain Ave.,

Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905-5735
Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers
Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens
This Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for all personnel at Fort Gordon. Contents of The Signal are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Signal Center. The Signal is published

weekly using offset production.
The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Citizen Newspapers, of the products or services advertised.
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an

advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.
The Signal is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. The Signal is published by the Citizen Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.
The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer

and the commanding general. Letters to the editor must be signed with the author's printed name and address included.
Requests for use of information by other news organizations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office. Pictures not otherwise credited are official U.S. Army photographs. Army News Service and American Forces Information Service material is used.
Opinions expressed are those of individuals, and are not to be considered those of the Department of the Army or its agencies.
Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.



Photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell

Soldiers and their vehicles assemble along a main route in Sadr City, prior to moving out toward their first objective during Operation Iron Fury. Iron Horse Brigade Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division have spent the past week in an operation to root out radical "Mahdi Army" forces terrorizing the eastern Baghdad district.

'Iron Fury' pushing insurgents out of Sadr

Sgt. Dan Purcell and Pfc. Erik Ledrew

Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iron Horse Brigade Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division have spent the past week in an operation to root out radical "Mahdi Army" forces terrorizing the eastern Baghdad district known as Sadr City.

Operation Iron Fury began Aug. 17 and officials called it an "all-out effort" to stop violence in the Baghdad area by militia headed up by Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Since insurgents launched a wave of violence in Sadr City Aug. 5, shops and government offices have been closed in the heavily populated area. U.S. Army-sponsored humanitarian missions there also came to a standstill.

"The objective of Operation Iron Fury was to reduce the Mahdi Army's influence in Sadr City and provide a secure and stable environment for the people," said Capt. Anthony Martinez, the public affairs representative for 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team. 2-5 Cavalry Soldiers spearheaded a task force which included elements of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment – both from the Iron Horse Brigade.

"This operation is a combined effort conducted by the 1st Brigade," said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle, 1-12 Cavalry. "We want the law

abiding citizens (of Sadr City) to know that we are here and that we will do what it takes to support a legitimate government so that all Iraqis can live a normal life."

During the initial phase of the operation, Soldiers from 2-5 Cavalry pushed into the center of the city to secure their company's objectives.

Capitalizing on the brigade's foothold in the city, 1-12 and 2-8 Cavalry commenced their respective attacks the following day.

"This is the largest operation I've been on," said Spc. Thomas Jeffcoat, Headquarters Company (Maverick), 1-12 Cav. "We should have done this a long time ago, because the Mahdi Army has just been running wild out here."

"This is my first time out here in Sadr City, and it's a lot different from (1-12 Cav.'s) regular area of operations: There's more activity, more improvised explosive devices, and rocket-propelled grenades," Spc. James Garcia, Headquarters Company, 1-12 Cav., added.

By day three of Iron Fury, the 1st BCT had exceeded its initial expectations for the mission, pushing blocks past their planned objectives despite mounting opposition from the insurgent forces.

"The operation is going exceptionally well," said Battle. "The tempo has been very high and I have been very impressed with the way the Soldiers have conducted themselves."

In order to keep the front-



Photo by Pfc. Erik Ledrew

Sgt. Eloy Garza, an Infantryman with White Platoon, "Comanche" Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, keeps watch over a street in Sadr City.

line troops moving, Iron Horse Brigade's forward support elements gathered at a location several kilometers from the fighting. These elements included Company C, 115th Forward Support Battalion, a team of medics from 1-12 Cav., and two Civil Affairs teams from the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"This is a full-spectrum operation so we are staying focused," Battle said. "This is the first time we have conducted an operation of this scale here, but it needed to happen and it's paying big dividends."

"I think that when this is all over we will get a lot of thumbs up from the civilian population," he added. "The key thing here is we are bringing peace (back) to Sadr City, so that the people won't be afraid to walk down their streets."

(Purcell and Ledrew are members of the 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

25th Infantry Division goes modular

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
Army News Service

SCHOFIELD BAR-RACKS, Hawaii –

As part of the Army's ongoing transformation, a total of six brigades, including two Stryker Brigade Combat Teams, will form over the next three years under the 25th Division (Light) patch pending future decisions on unit designations.

Contrary to a recent Army Times article, 3,600 additional Soldiers will not be stationed at Schofield Barracks. Instead, three brigade combat team units of action will be formed under the Tropic Lightning Division, but will be located at other posts.

The new BCT(UA)s will be temporarily located at Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Richardson, Alaska. The

BCT(UA) at Fort Richardson will have an airborne capability for forced entry operations.

Those locations could change, however, with a Base Realignment and Closure analysis due in 2005.

Growth in the number of Army modular brigades will include 1st Brigade at Fort Lewis, Wash., the Army's second Stryker Brigade Combat Team; 2nd Brigade at Schofield Barracks, which will convert to an SBCT by 2007; and 3rd Brigade at Schofield Barracks, which will convert to a BCT(UA) in fiscal year 2006.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History is currently examining options for renaming the new BCT(UA)s, so they will likely assume different unit designations.

The temporary stationing of modular BCT(UA)s is



Photo by Spc. Stephanie Carl

Third Brigade Combat Team Soldiers dismount from their HMMWV to inspect a possible IED during an exercise in January. The 3rd Brigade is expected to transform into a unit of action in Fiscal Year 2006.

critical to ensure the Army is properly postured to fully support its strategic commitments, including ongoing operations in support of the global war on terror,

according to an Army press release.

Additionally, this allows the Army to continue its transformation to a campaign-quality force with

joint and expeditionary capabilities that meet the future demands of the combatant commanders, the release continued.

The locations of the new BCT(UA)s were selected based on existing capacities, available training space and current locations of similar units. The Army will revisit the locations of these units during the BRAC process.

The new modular forces will be capable of operating across the entire range of military operations. As part of Army transformation, capabilities previously found within the divisions and corps will be shifted to the BCT(UA). These new brigades are the first conversions in Army transformation and are designed to deploy as independent units in support of the joint force.

"The normal links between divisions and brigades are going away,"

said Lt. Col. Christopher Rodney, a Pentagon Army spokesman. "This is a major change in the command and control piece for our Army."

The BCT(UA)s are designed to operate independently and will in most cases report to the base commander until they are deployed, Rodney added.

On Jan. 30, 2004, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approved increasing the number of active modular BCT(UA)s from 33 to 43 between FY 04-06.

In accordance with the Army Campaign Plan, the Army began converting to modular designs this year with three new BCT(UA)s temporarily stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Fort Drum, N.Y.

(Rhen is the editor of the Hawaii Army Weekly newspaper.)



Courtesy photo

Iraq's first megawatt generator since 1976 is now operational. The 40-megawatt generator went online Aug. 18 near Basrah, Iraq.

New generator goes on line in Iraq

The generator adds enough electricity to the national grid to service nearly 120,000 homes

Mitch Frazier
Army News Service

BAGHDAD – Iraq's first new electricity generator since 1976 came on line Aug. 18, in the southern part of the country, adding enough electricity to the national grid to service nearly 120,000 homes.

The 40-megawatt generator located near Basrah fills a void in the Maysan Governorate, which was previously isolated from the Iraqi national grid.

"This is a very important step in overcoming the power shortage across the country," said Raad Shalal, a senior Iraq Ministry of Electricity official. "This will help us reach our goal of increasing power for the country."

The commissioning of the generator marks the fourth time in three weeks Iraqi and U.S. engineers have brought additional electricity to the national grid.

Construction of the generator began nearly 10 months ago when senior Iraqi and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials identified the site and began building a power station in what was then a sandy rock-laden field.

"A lot of work went into this from the scraping of the earth, to pouring of the concrete to placing the generator; it makes you really appreciate the magnitude of work that was done by Iraqi and Corps engineers to make today possible," said Maj. Erik Stor, the operations officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Restore Iraqi Electricity Directorate. "The electricity this new generator produces will offer the Iraqi people a long-term aid in bettering the safety and security of this country."

Electricity production in the country continues to climb to more than 5,200 megawatts — a total that exceeds pre-war levels and services an estimated 15.3 million Iraqi homes, according to officials.

"We know how important electricity is to the safety and security of the Iraqi people, and we continue to work on their behalf with the Ministry to bring the country additional electricity," said Lt. Col. Jeffery Ogden, the director of the Corp's electricity efforts. "We continue to work in partnership with the Ministry of Electricity and the Iraqi people to bring the country more electricity."

Despite the addition of power to the country's national grid, the demand for electricity in Iraq continues to grow, according to a fact sheet published by the Iraq Ministry of Electricity.

"With more than half a million new jobs created, new industries and new factories coming on line and with the sale of thousands of home appliances such as washing machines and air conditioners, Iraq has experienced a rapid increase in electricity demand," the fact sheet reads. "The increase in demand is a good sign of a thriving economy emerging from three decades of isolation."

Increasing available electricity is slated to continue throughout August, as additional generators are expected to come on line throughout the month and bring more electricity to the Iraqis.

Since beginning its work in the country nearly a year ago, the Corps has added an additional 1,500 megawatts to the Iraqi national grid.

(Frazier is a public affairs specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers currently serving in Iraq.)

Broadcaster's morale boosted by call from Adrian Cronauer

Karla Gonzalez
Army News Service

LOS ANGELES – What started out as a routine radio interview in mid-July ended up as a chance-of-a-lifetime meeting for one U.S. Army Reserve broadcast journalist.

Sgt. Sandra L. Mercado, 22, with the American Forces Network, Iraq, spent the first six months of her deployment as the radio station's morning show disc jockey – so doing an interview with a Los Angeles radio station seemed old hat to her.

"I've done a few interviews with several radio stations," said Mercado, a native of San Gabriel, Calif. "While we were doing the interview I heard someone come on and say, 'Gooooood morning Baghdad!' It was Adrian Cronauer."

Cronauer was an AFN morning show DJ during Vietnam and was portrayed in the movie Good Morning Vietnam. Robin Williams played Cronauer.

While Mercado didn't open her show with a catch phrase, Mercado said she and Cronauer do have a few things in common.

"We share very similar experiences," said Mercado. "We both know what it's like to wake up so early, get the show going, and act like you've been up for hours even though you're really just waking up like everyone else."

Mercado's time with Cronauer was a treat and she walked away with some tips from the disc jockey turned lawyer.

"The main bit of advice was to be personable, remember what the troops are going through out there and just have fun," said Mercado.

Mercado's morale got a boost from the call, which in turn increased her motivation.

"It is one thing to be



Sgt. Sandra Mercado, American Forces Network.

Courtesy Photo

deployed," she said. "It is another thing to be deployed to a combat zone. Although I may have sounded happy on the air all the time, some of the things I've seen and experienced would bring me down just like any other service member. Hearing from (Cronauer) just let me know that people back home cared about us very much."

Being deployed isn't new to this five-year Army veteran. She was also deployed to Kosovo, from May 2002 to November 2002, with the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. She did television and radio stories from the area with Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division.

Compare that deployment with this one and she has many different stories to tell. Mercado remembers the good stories like the capture of Saddam Hussein and the signing of the constitution as well as the not so good – seeing the aftermath of a car bombing.

"I was filming the press conference announcing the capture of Saddam. That was crazy. Grown Iraqi men were crying because they were so happy – so relieved. I also witnessed the signing of the constitution. Both events were very memorable moments," she said. Mercado has also been able to witness the transfer of power to the Iraqi people.

Following a car bombing, Mercado interviewed and aired a radio story about an Army private who was 20 feet away from the car but survived with no injuries. Mercado said the Soldier attributes his survival to a concrete wall put in place two months prior.

Good or bad, Mercado does what she does for the others stationed in Iraq than for herself.

"A lot of service members would tell me they liked listening to me because I knew how to relate to them. They said I would keep them awake during their guard

shifts, because I was full of energy. It was definitely cool hearing what people thought," she said.

Mercado's role has changed some since her encounter with Cronauer. She is now working with the TV team, traveling more and meeting more people. Once her deployment is complete, she plans to take the skills she's learned and all of her experiences to the "civilian side of the house," she said.

Although Mercado will be transitioning back to civilian life later this year, she doesn't regret anything about being a Soldier.

"I've grown so much as a person and as a Soldier from all of my experiences," she said. "I wouldn't have done anything differently. My family, friends, co-workers and professors are so proud of me. I feel honored and grateful to be serving my country. I thank the Army for giving me so many opportunities to do so much with my life."

Being 'brand new'

Chaplain (Capt.)
Gilbert Eliason
201st Military Intelligence
Battalion

You gotta love it – being brand-new at an Army installation, that is.

We've all experienced it. My wife and I recently arrived from San Antonio, Texas.

I joked with people as I finished most of my in-processing and began to settle into a work routine that, when I flip the light switch on in my office in the morning, I leave it on all day so I don't have to hunt around to find it again for the rest of the duty day. It makes life simpler.

The same thing applies to moving into a new house. As I write this, it was yesterday that we received our household goods and began settling in.

Our dogs woke me up in the middle of the night needing to go out. I stumbled around in total darkness in an unfamiliar house with boxes stacked everywhere and furniture in odd places. I had no idea where the light switches were. It's hard to be new and to be in the dark.

It's never easy being new. Some people toss and turn at night pondering the unknown.

Where am I supposed to go? What's my new boss like? What will the hours be like? Are there any extra duties involved? Will I make friends? Will I be given further training?

Will there be a lot of TDY travel? Is my new unit deploying any time soon? Will I be working with people I can trust? How long will it take before I am trusted? And, what'll happen if I can't cut the mustard?

Even in the 21st Cen-

tury, these are old questions. As the teacher said, "What has been will be done again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Moses, the great leader of his people and the human author of a large segment of the Old Testament, certainly didn't think he was capable of the monumental tasks God assigned to him at the burning bush.

He kept offering excuses and trying to dodge the bullet, looking for a way out of his new role. But the Lord more than equipped him for the job. (Exodus 3 and 4).

Even Paul, the human author of much of the New Testament, who often seems to overflow with confidence, confessed, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling" (1 Corinthians 2:3). But he too was amply outfitted and was enabled to accomplish mighty works of evangelism.

The same Lord watches over you and me. As far as being "new" goes, well, maybe we should just get used to it.

As God has told us, "Forget the former things, do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)

How we perceive – and rejoice in – the new things God has prepared for us is the same way we keep from stumbling in the dark. Turn to his word.

As the Psalmist declares: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Now there's a light switch you can keep on all day and all night too!

Corps of Engineers assists Florida with Hurricane Charley recovery

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Hurricane Charley made landfall in the United States Aug. 13 as a category IV hurricane, blowing devastation through much of Florida. The strongest storm to hit there in more than a decade, it charged over the southwest coast with winds of up to 145 mph, demolishing mobile home parks and damaging tens of thousands of buildings.

Roughly 280 US Army Corps of Engineers military and civilian employees from around the country have been working in support of Hurricane Charley recovery in conjunction with Florida National Guardsmen and other local, state and federal agencies.

The most immediate need has been for ice, water and power. USACE is currently delivering 20-40 truckloads each of ice and water per day into victimized communities.

Eighteen Soldiers of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), a USACE unit, arrived in Florida a day after the hurricane to assess and install generators for communities blacked out by Charley.

"We moved into Lakeland last Saturday, immediately after the hurricane passed through to begin the recovery work," said Lt. Col. Andrew Goetz, deputy district commander for south Florida. "What the Corps is doing now is really a team effort with the state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private contractors. Situations like these require a lot of effort from everyone."

USACE is using Deployable Tactical Operations System vans, which provide a full range of emergency communications and command-and-control support, as part of the recovery effort.

In the first five days of op-

eration, the Corps provided 1.8 million one-liter bottles of water to the residents of southwest Florida. Water transportation has been accomplished in part through the use of contracted, British-owned aircraft. The aircraft's cargo area is enormous and holds seven truckloads of water. These aircraft were also used by the Corps in Iraq to deliver emergency repair parts for the Iraq power grid.

In addition, to the electricity, ice and water support, FEMA asked USACE to manage installation of temporary roofing materials. FEMA has transferred \$30 million in disaster-relief funds to USACE for the huge temporary roofing mission.

The Corps is also conducting debris-removal assessment and coordination in nine of the 18 affected Florida counties. The USACE Jacksonville District has activated its emer-

gency operations center on a 24-hour basis, as has South Atlantic Division headquarters in Atlanta. Col. Robert Carpenter, USACE Jacksonville District commander, is serving as the South Atlantic Division forward commander.

Overall, FEMA has to date provided USACE more than \$60 million for ice, water, the temporary roofing and debris oversight missions, emergency power, logistics and technical assistance, among others missions.

The response by the Corps of Engineers was immediate, as preparations were being made before Charley blew ashore.

USACE is one of 26 federal agencies comprising the Federal Response Plan, which is administered by FEMA and Homeland Security.

(Article provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office.)



Courtesy Photo

Army Corps of Engineer emergency operations vans in Lakeland, Fla., oversee the hurricane recovery effort.

Community Events

Military homecoming

The City of Augusta and the Metro Augusta and Columbia County chambers of commerce hosts "CSRA Salutes Our Military" to welcome back active duty servicemembers and National Guard and Reservists from the CSRA who recently returned from deployments.

The salute will be held Saturday at Olmstead Stadium before a Green Jackets game. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.; the baseball game begins at 7:10 p.m.

Admission is free to active duty military who deployed in the past 18 months, and their family members. For information, call Pat Buchholz at 791-3752.

Signal Corps Regimental Ball

The Atlanta Chapters of the Signal Corps Regimental Association and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association host the Greater Atlanta Signal Regimental Ball Sept. 17 at the Commons on Fort McPherson, Ga.

The reception starts at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Dress for military personnel is Dress Blue, Dress Mess or Dress Green, with formal attire for civilians. Tickets cost \$30 per person for the buffet dinner.

The deadline for reservations is Sept. 13 and can be made by calling (404) 464-6713 or go to www.afcea-atlanta.org.

Welcome coffee

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Health Services Auxiliary is having a Welcome Coffee from 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 10 at 6 Boardman Lake.

RSVP to Lauren Parker at 922-9993.

Babysitter training

The American Red Cross of Augusta is offering Babysitter's Training at the Child Development Center from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Cost \$25.

The course will provide individuals, ages 11 to 15, with the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians.

For information and registration call 724-8481.

Become ASE certified

The Education Center will offer the Automotive Service Excellence examinations on Nov. 9, 16 and 18; register by Sept. 8.

All candidates must pay a \$31 registration fee. Credit may be used for academic credit or promotion points.

The latest ASE preparation guide can be found at <http://www.asecert.org/>.

For information contact or visit the Education Center, 741 Barnes Ave., Bldg. 21606, phone 791-2000.

CFC kickoff

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign kickoff is 2 p.m. Sept. 1 in Alexander Hall. There will be entertainment by the Signal band, door prizes and refreshments. For

information about CFC, call Pat Camacho at 791-2012.

Family child care homes off post

The Fort Gordon Family Child Program is currently seeking qualified active duty and retired military spouses to provide off post child care.

For more information contact the FCC office at 791-3993 or 791-4440.

Red Cross classes

The Augusta American Red Cross will offer two safety training classes:

Adult CPR and First Aid will be taught at 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Cost is \$45.

Adult/Infant/Child CPR and First Aid will be offered at 6 p.m. Sept. 8 and 9. Cost is \$55.

For more information and registration, call the Augusta Red Cross office at 724-8481.

Life insurance elections

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FEGLI program, is conducting an Open Season from Sept. 1 to 30.

The effective date of coverage is delayed until the first day of the first pay period that begins on or after Sept. 1, 2005.

Election of coverage must be completed through the Army Benefits Center; no paper election will be accepted.

For information, contact Karen Ellis at 791-4179.

PWOC events

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is having its Fall Kickoff at 9 a.m. Wednesday at Bicentennial Chapel (Building 28414 on Brainard).

The theme for the year is "Delight in the Lord: My Heart's Desire" (Psalm 37:4). The Fall Kickoff will include the program, food, fun and fellowship. Sign up for the Fall Bible Studies to be held at 9 a.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

For information call Gwen Chandler at 869-1930.

Volunteer drive

A Volunteer Drive is scheduled from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 14 in the Dinner Theatre, Building 32100.

The event will provide an opportunity for programs and services on Fort Gordon to recruit and develop a volunteer database.

For information call Lynn Harshman at 791-3579.

Signal reunion

The 17th Signal Battalion association is having its 10th reunion Sept. 16-19 in San Antonio, Texas.

For information, call Henri Vellmure at (561)750-0371 or e-mail vellmurehjfl@att.net.

Rodeo coming

The Professional Cowboy Association is holding a rodeo from 8-10:30 p.m. Sept. 10-11 at Barton Field.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 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.

Aug. 27-29
 Friday - Catwoman (PG-13)
 Saturday - Catwoman (PG-13)
 Sunday - A Cinderella Story (PG)

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

The rodeo features bare-back riding, roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding and more.

Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and younger. Tickets available at area Papa John's locations, Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union and Gordon Lanes.

For information, call 791-6779 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Commissary coupons

Commissaries are again accepting computer-generated Internet coupons with a couple of requirements to guard against fraud, Defense Commissary Agency officials announced.

Recently all commissaries began accepting computer-generated Internet coupons that meet the following criteria: they must have a bar code that store checkouts can scan and they cannot be for free product. Photocopied or facsimile-generated coupons remain unacceptable at all commissaries.

The agency's Web site, www.commissaries.com, will soon re-establish links to Internet grocery coupon sites for the convenience of commissary shoppers.

Orientation

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

For more information call 791-3579.

Free classes offered

Army Community Health Nursing Service, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, can provide classes to units or groups on Fort Gordon who would like training in any of the following areas:

HIV Awareness, STD Prevention, Health Promotion, Personal Hygiene and Healthy Practices, Tobacco Awareness, Tuberculosis Awareness, Child Safety, Field Hygiene, Testicular/Breast Self Examination Awareness, or Prostate Cancer Awareness.

Call 787-5354 to schedule a class.

MCG offers free classes

The public is invited to participate in a Medical College of Georgia Mini-Medical School to learn

more about science and medicine.

MCG Faculty will teach courses on obesity, pain management, joint disorders, the heart and cardiothoracic surgery, urology and endocrinology.

Courses are free and will be held Tuesday evenings Oct. 12- Nov. 16, from 7-9 p.m. in the MCG School of Dentistry auditorium. Advance registration is encouraged.

Online registration is available at <http://www.mcg.edu/ce/med.html>. For information call the MCG Division of Continuing Education at 800-221-6437.

Bariatric support group

The Bariatric Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in the hospital auditorium on the first floor; the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

The group is open to pre-op and post-op patients, and anyone interested in learning about the surgery.

Call Florrie Cox at 595-8330 for information.

Correction

The "Can you hear me now" article appearing on page 18 of the Aug. 20 Signal contained inaccuracies.

Training at the small antenna field at Willard Training Area includes UHF, SHF, and CHU (omni directional) antenna heads. The shelter types in that same paragraph should have been identified as V1, V2, V3 or V4.

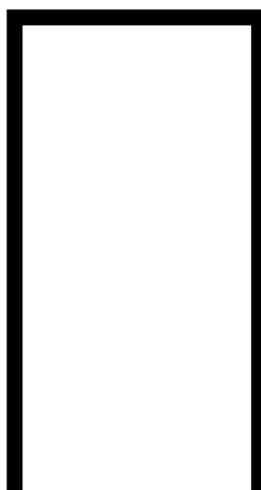
Also, the radio sends out a signal in a 15-kilometer footprint, not 15 meters.

Movie night

The Gordon Club will hold its movie night Monday with new school hours for pizza and a movie buffet from 5-7 p.m.

The feature movie is Disney's "Home on the Range." Movie, pizza buffet, drink and popcorn are included in the \$3 entrance fee.

Feature movie begins at 6 p.m. For information, call 791-2205.



54-year-old boots help end training

Jim Fox
Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Fifty-four years ago plebe Douglas J. O'Connor spent his cadet basic training summer orientation, otherwise known as "beast barracks" to new cadets, breaking in a new pair of brown World War II-era combat boots.

Retired Maj. Gen. Douglas J. O'Connor, USMA Class of 1954, completed the march Aug. 10 with this year's plebes in the same pair of boots that carried him through his own "end of Beast" event so many years ago.

"If you give your boots regular "Kiwi" snacks they will last forever," he said.

O'Connor wore his 54-year-old buckle boots proudly as he helped lead the alumni contingent that made up the rear element of the march. A group of graduates have accompanied the plebes on the march back

from Beast for the last five years. Plebes began classes Aug. 16.

More than 160 graduates attended this year's event. Although some only marched the final two miles of the 15-mile trek from farthest point of the training area on Lake Frederick to the cadet barracks on the main post, 140 of them marched the entire length.

While many of his old grad marching mates were sporting a collection of spiffy new – and nearly new – hiking boots and sneakers from the finest retailers, O'Connor proudly matched them stride-for-stride in his vintage footwear. Positioned in the middle of the front row of the "old grad" element, he bellowed out the command "Eyes, Right!" as the alums passed the superintendent's house.

The affable big, loud Irishman, as his marching mates described him, even

has a plan for his boots.

"I was thinking of having them bronzed and sending them to the Smithsonian," he said with a laugh, only half-kidding.

After the day's march was over, the retired two-star general talked about his boots. He even pulled out a New York Times advertisement showing a retro version of the same boots retailing for \$395.

"Mine were standard issue," he added, chuckling once again. "They were free."

The former Marine corporal, before his days at West Point, said his boots saw service in the 1950s carrying him through infantry training at Fort Benning, Ranger School at Fort Bragg and training with the 82nd Airborne Division.

According to O'Connor, these boots were used at the end of World War II after the Normandy landings



Photo by Jim Fox

Retired Maj. Gen. Douglas J. O'Connor wore these brown buckle boots 54 years ago during World War II.

specifically, and throughout the Korean War before being phased out in the late 1950s.

(Fox is the assistant editor of Pointer View newspaper at West Point.)

Abu Ghraib Article 39a hearings held

American Forces Press Service

MANHEIM, Germany – Article 39a hearings were held here Monday and Tuesday for four soldiers named in the Abu Ghraib Prison abuse investigation.

Military judges typically use Article 39a hearings to arraign the accused, to hear and decide on motions raised by the defense or the prosecution, or to perform other procedural functions, officials said. The military judge, the prosecutor, the defense counsel and the accused are present at the hearings.

Spcs. Megan Ambuhl and Charles Graner appeared before military judge Col. James Pohl Monday, and Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick and Sgt. Javal Davis appeared before Pohl the next day. All had civilian attorneys present for the sessions, as well as their appointed military defense lawyers. The pre-trial hearings were moved to Germany after defense

attorneys expressed concerns about security in Baghdad, Iraq.

Each defense team made motions to compel discovery. Pohl gave the U.S. government until Sept. 10 to provide the defense with the requested reports and documents.

Davis and Graner moved to suppress evidence, which included statements they made while being interviewed by CID agents. The judge denied both motions. Attorneys for Frederick and Graner requested a change of venue because some witnesses could not be compelled to come to Iraq to testify. Both motions were denied. The judge explained in his ruling that video testimony and depositions could be used.

Through their attorneys, Frederick and Davis sought immunity from prosecution for several people so they may testify for the defense. These motions were denied.

Davis's attorney asked the judge to compel Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to be interviewed. The judge denied the motion, ruling that the defense failed to make a connection between the accused and actions and orders from Rumsfeld.

The defense teams for Frederick and Ambuhl both asked to add psychiatric experts. The judge granted the request from Frederick's team to add Dr. Frank Zimbaro to the defense team. Ambuhl's team's request for Dr. Craig Haney to assist in their defense was not approved. The judge did, however, order the government to supply a psychology expert by Sept. 2.

The next hearing dates will be Oct. 20 for Frederick, Oct. 21 for Davis and Graner, and Oct. 22 for Ambuhl. The hearings will be held in Baghdad.

(Courtesy of the Coalition Press Information Center, Baghdad, Iraq.)

Judge

From page 1

"I would just say to them... my standing belief, as long as you persevere you'll get equality, even in the military. You just have to be willing to do the same kinds of jobs men do and be as competitive and proficient as they are in those jobs," Miller said.

Miller was designated as one of the leading judges in the country in the 2001 Edition of Black Judges in America, fulfilling the sentiment of this year's equality day theme, "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

The importance of the 19th Amendment should not be taken lightly.

"Freedom is not free – you need to exercise your right to vote," Miller said. "Women are significant in number and can show their clout on Election Day – you can elect your leaders if you just vote," she said. "All women have ever asked for is to be treated equally, with respect, in all aspects of society."



Photo by Steve Brady

Capt. Beverly Grandison, Headquarters and Company A commander, 551st Signal Battalion, greets Judge Yvette Miller Wednesday at the Gordon Club. Miller, the first African American woman to sit on the Georgia Court of Appeals, was the guest speaker for Women's Equality Day.

IRR

From page 1

"It was the difficult balance between the emotions of wanting to stay with my family and the sense of duty and obligation that you have as a servicemember – even if you haven't worn a uniform in a number of years," Tanin said. "I'm hoping the next 12 months go by quickly, and I know that a challenging and rewarding duty assignment can help that along."

Topinka served 10 years as an Army Signal officer before separating in June 2001, also to spend more time with his family. Over the last two years, he's worked as a product engineer for Carrier Corporation and recently as a communications engineer for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Topinka says he found his

mobilization orders in his Army Knowledge Online account before he received the Western Union telegram. At first he thought it was a mistake.

"My world stopped for about 10 minutes. What do I tell my wife and son was my first thought?" Topinka said. "The sudden realization that I may soon be separated from them for 18 months or more filled my heart with sorrow."

His wife cried at first and would not believe it, but eventually accepted the fact her husband was going to serve his country again. Then, they began planning for his departure.

"My family, my office, and my fellow IRR's have been my bedrock keeping me steady these last several weeks," Topinka said. "I'm truly proud to serve again."

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Free golf lessons

Gordon Lakes Golf Course offers free 10-minute golf lessons the third Wednesday of each month through October.

For information, call 791-2433 or stop by the Pro Shop to sign up.

Outdoor recreation

The Army's Clark Hill Recreation Area offers camping, water skiing, fishing, hiking, biking and more. Located just 25 miles from Fort Gordon, the area is open to all ID card holders.

For information, call 541-1057.

Aerobics

Total body workout. Thirty-minute cardio workout and a 20-minute upper-body work-out. Bring hand weights, a towel and water bottle. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. until completion at Gym 6.

For information, call 791-4300.

Rugby

The Augusta Rugby Football Club invites Fort Gordon military and civilian members to join their club. The club fields senior, men's and women's teams for matches and tournaments around the southeast, and occasionally outside the country.

The club practices 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, at the Richmond Academy practice field.

Players and coaches with years of experience are available to teach the finer points of rugby, so no experience is required. For information, call Tim Landreth at 394-0379, or e-mail the club at playrugby@augustarugby.org.

Match schedules and additional information can be found at www.augustarugby.org.

Rodeo

A rodeo will be held at Barton Field from 8-10:30 p.m. Sept. 10 and 11. Gates open at 6 p.m. Events include bareback, saddle bronc and bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling and more.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 years old and under, in advance, and \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 10 years old and under, the day of the event. For more information, call 791-6779.

Salsa nights

The Gordon Club is having its Salsa Night Friday with a free buffet and a pajama party today, featuring DJs The Rodriguez Brothers.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Doors are open from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. and is open to the public. For more information call 791-2205.

Movie night

The Gordon Club will hold its movie night Monday with new school hours for pizza and a movie buffet from 5-7 p.m. featuring Disney's "Home on the Range." Movie, pizza buffet, drink and popcorn are included in the entrance fee of \$3.

Feature movie begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 791-2205.

Riders endure Tour de Fort

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The second annual Tour de Fort endurance bicycle race was held Saturday, kicking off at 8 a.m. near 15th Street and North Range Road.

About 60 bicycling enthusiasts began the 12-hour road race that tested the participant's endurance, with the individual logging the most miles around a 15 mile loop in 12 hours declared the winner.

Eight teams and 15 individual riders participated in the event. Team riders took turns riding the course while individual riders were on their own for the duration of the race.

About 20 participants from last year's event participated in this year's race.

Jeff Stoddard of Aiken, S.C., and second time Tour de Fort participant, was the first place winner for the male riders, finishing 12 laps in just under 11 hours, for a total of 180 miles.

Stoddard, an experienced bike rider who has done 100-mile rides, said this race was somewhat tougher than last year due to it being a lot warmer than it was in last year's race held in October.

He said the seven major hills and several other minor hills of the course make it challenging.

"From the golf course to Gibson Road was probably the toughest," he said. "You had head wind and two hills."

He said it was not only a challenge but also for a good cause.

"I like to do any kind of ride to raise money for charity," he said adding that the event was well organized.

Proceeds from the race will be used for Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs on post.

The top female rider was Stephanie Gamble, recording a Tour de Fort record for females by completing 150 miles in 12 hours.

"It feels great," said an exhausted Gamble after her completion of the 12-hour race.

She said it was a tough course and race for her, but was very happy with her performance. She said she would definitely try to compete again in next year's Tour de Fort.

Gamble echoed Stoddard's sentiments saying she appreciated the support from those who helped organize the event, and that it was well done.

Winners received their entry fee of \$25 back, a free entry for next year's Tour de Fort, \$50 and a trophy. All participants received a shirt and commemorative medal.

Karen Eclavea of Augusta, a first-time participant in the race and third place female, said she decided to do it for fun.

"It sounded like fun and a good opportunity to go for a long ride," said Eclavea.

Another first time participant, Eli Epps of Martinez, said he heard about it through a bike shop he frequents and decided to give it a shot.

"Some of the guys from the bike shop rode in it previously and said it was a good ride - pretty tough, hilly," he said adding that he did it for a challenge as well as fun.

Greg Bailey of Grovetown said he heard of the race through the grapevine and wanted to have an enjoyable time and hang out with friends.

"Just for fun mostly. And I heard they have good hills out here," said Bailey. "It's a closed course too so you didn't have to worry about cars."

The Family Fun ride, an 11-mile, one lap race for the whole family held from 2-4 p.m., gave participants the opportunity to win a new child's Schwinn bike in a raffle after the ride.

Family festival activities including music and a bounce house were available as well



Photos by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Focused and determined, a rider in the 12-hour Tour de Fort endurance ride pedals on as he completes one of his laps around the 15-mile course. The second annual race traversed many of the hills along Range Road.

as a Family Walk and Kiddie Ride around a one-mile course.

Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Zell, Company A, 551st Signal Battalion, was on hand with his son for the family fun ride race.

"I had a wonderful time taking my son on an 11-mile bike ride," said Zell. "It was a good, family fun activity."

Stephanie Crow, her husband Pfc. Lance Crow, Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, and 18-month-old daughter Victoria participated

in the Family Fun Ride as well.

"I just love to ride bikes," said Stephanie, adding that the event was a great idea for a family outing allowing them to enjoy the outdoors.

Brett Ardrey, director of the Tour de Fort and owner of Outspoken Bicycle shop, said participation is up and the race is continuing to grow.

"We all agreed that what we wanted was something that would give back to the Fort Gordon community and give them something exciting

and fun to do as well as involve the Augusta community with something recreational," said Ardrey.

Bill Wren, chief of sports and recreation division for DMWR, said the event was modeled after the Tour de France.

"This is a way to help Fort Gordon to improve its relationship with the Augusta and CSRA communities," said Wren.

He said many civilian riders participated in the Tour de Fort and it gave them the opportunity to see "the caliber of personnel Fort Gordon has and quality of programs we can put on."

For example, he said the Family Fun Ride gave the bicyclists the opportunity to tour an Army post - something most people don't get to do, especially with high security lately.

In addition, he said the race gives servicemembers the chance to interact with the members of the local community outside of post.

"It helps build camaraderie," Wren said. "We are part of the community too."



(Above) Family Fun Ride participants are on their way. (Below) A focused Spc. Chad Lecount, DDEAMC, rides his way to first place in the military solo category.



Staff Sgt. Torrey Wiggins, a drill sergeant assigned to Company B, 369th Signal Battalion, watches his son 3-year-old Na'il as he rides in the Family Fun Ride.



Top female rider Stephanie Gamble and her son.



Tour de Fort participants begin their 12-hour arduous journey as spectators cheer.

Coalition assists in launching Afghan QRF

Sgt. 1st Class
Darren Heusel
Army News Service

KABUL, Afghanistan – Afghan citizens want added security leading up to the Oct. 9 presidential elections and that's exactly what the Afghan National Police, backed by the U.S.-led coalition and the International Security Assistance Force, intends to provide with the emergence of a new Rapid Action Division.

The RAD is the Afghan equivalent of a quick reaction force. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made mention of the group's potential during a recent visit, saying that it is vital to the security and stability of the region.

"This RAD is going to be a very important organization because they're going to respond to serious election-related contingencies," said Col. Jon Lopey, chief of the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and Civil Military Operations Law Enforcement Cell.

"I've been very impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of our Afghan police counterparts," Lopey added. "Police development is so important throughout the nation and what we do now is going to help shape the police force for years to come."

Training for the division is conducted by three-man Police Technical Assistance Teams from the Parwan and Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Teams and includes modern police tactics in the areas of riot control, convoy security, dignitary protection and more. These PTATs are assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 76's Task Force Thunder.

"It's been very interesting working with the local police," said Staff Sgt. Damian George, a native of Farmington, N.M., and a member of the 58th Military Police Company tasked with training the division. "I'm very confident the Afghan police will be able to take the skills we've given them and put them

to good use."

Pfc. Joseph Workman, another member of the 58th MP Co. and a resident of West Hamlin, W.V., said, "I think the training is very important for the role that these police officers are going to play in the future. They're definitely going to add to the stability."

The RAD security plan is to deploy 100-man security contingents to Jalalabad, Logar, Gardez, Laghman, Khost, Surobi and Kabul in direct support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for the elections.

The new force currently stands at 800 members, but the division expects to field another 400 officers when they graduate from the Kabul Police Academy in early September.

"These police officers recognize the importance of their mission and I'm confident that with the training they've received they will be able to provide much needed security for the upcoming elections and

beyond," said New Zealand Army Maj. Bede Fahey, who was sent to Afghanistan to assist the PTATs and oversee the RAD training.

Gen. Mahboob Amiri, ANP commander, said the training has been "very effective and very practical" and that he'd like to see the training continue well into the future.

"We plan to take the new police force and send them to other areas of the country to provide security for all the people of Afghanistan," Gen. Mahboob said.

The RAD was recently thrust into action ahead of the elections when they were deployed by the coalition and its ISAF partners to Herat Province to help quell factional fighting among armed gunmen belonging to local militia com-

manders and bring the Shindand Airport back under control of the Afghan government.

Abidullah, 25, said he joined the ANP because he had always dreamed of becoming a police officer as a child and because he wanted to serve his people and help provide security for the country.

"I'm very happy to be providing security for my country," said Abidullah, who only goes by one name. "Putting myself in harm's way is part of my job. Whenever I get a mission, I am ready. If I have to lose my life, I'm ready to do my job."

Each member of the RAD is equipped with an AK-47. UNAMA has also provided 100 jeeps with communications, 300 police kits and 106 tents.

The Law Enforcement Cell at CFC-A has also pitched in four 25-man tents and 10 portable generators and will deliver 200 complete sets of riot gear by the end of August.

In addition to providing the trainers, Task Force Thunder supports the RAD by providing vehicles, communications and other logistical support to RAD elements in their area of responsibility.

"I'm very proud that the RAD has been formed in a very short time," Gen. Mahboob said. "This division is going to provide hope and promise for the people of Afghanistan and provide security at a high level."

(Heusel is assigned to the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)



Sgt. 1st Class Darren Heusel

Staff Sgt. Damian George of the 58th Military Police Company stationed at Bagram Air Base, demonstrates to the Afghan National Police the proper way to handcuff a suspect as part of a training exercise in the use of modern police tactics such as riot control, convoy security and dignitary protection. The MPs from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, are part of Combined Joint Task Force 76's Task Force Thunder assigned to help stand up the ANP's Rapid Action Division to serve as a quick reaction force ahead of the Oct. 9 presidential elections.

Afghan election security, reconstruction efforts continue

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Coalition and host-nation forces in Afghanistan continue providing security for the country's upcoming elections as the nation's rebuilding goes on, a military spokesman in the Afghan capital of Kabul said at a news conference Monday.

Maj. Scott Nelson, spokesman for Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, said 11 Afghan National Army battalions will be positioned in Nangarhar, Paktika and Herat provinces.

The ANA unit deployments are part of the coordinated Election Security Plan that Afghan, International Security Assistance Force and coalition forces have cooperatively prepared, Nelson said.

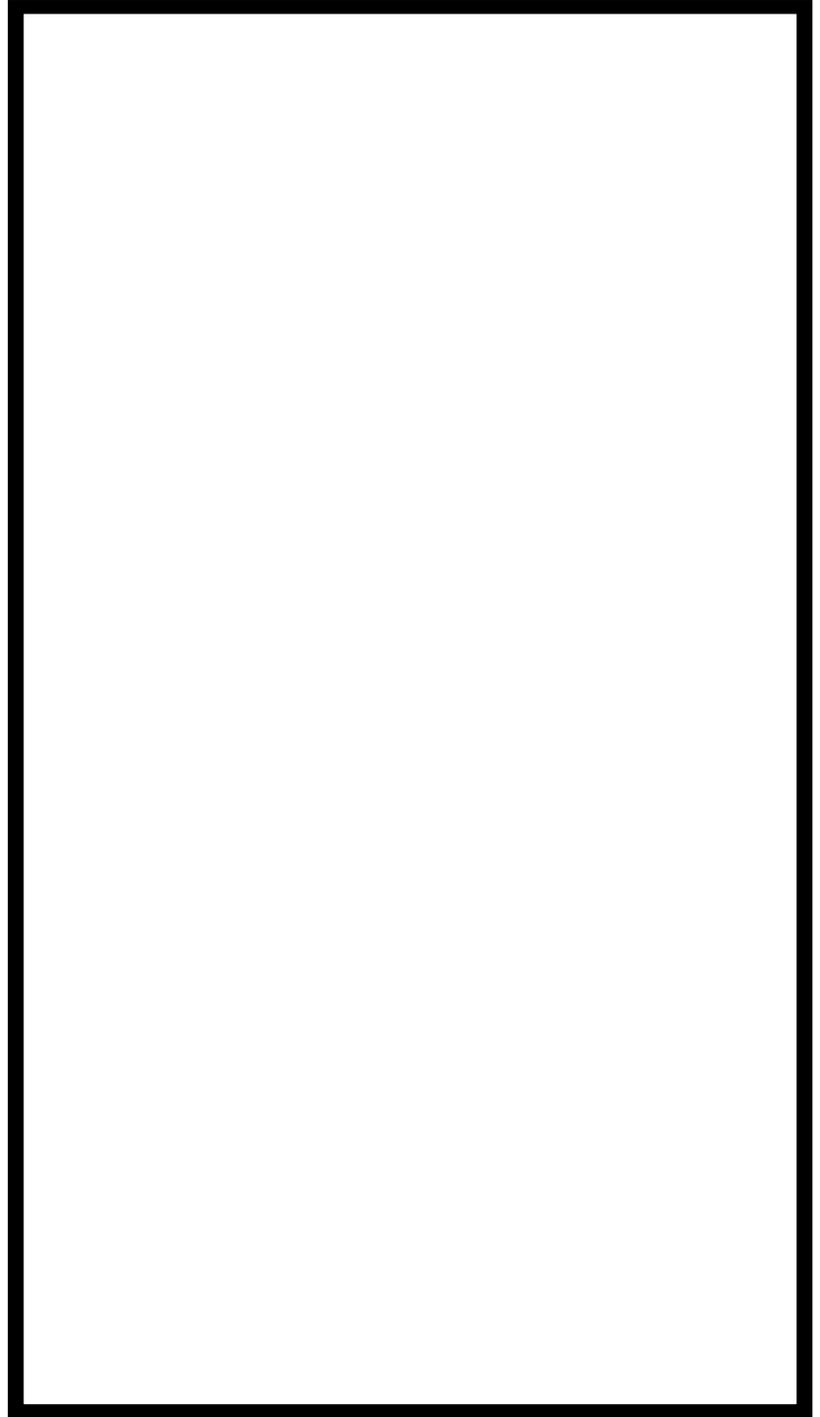
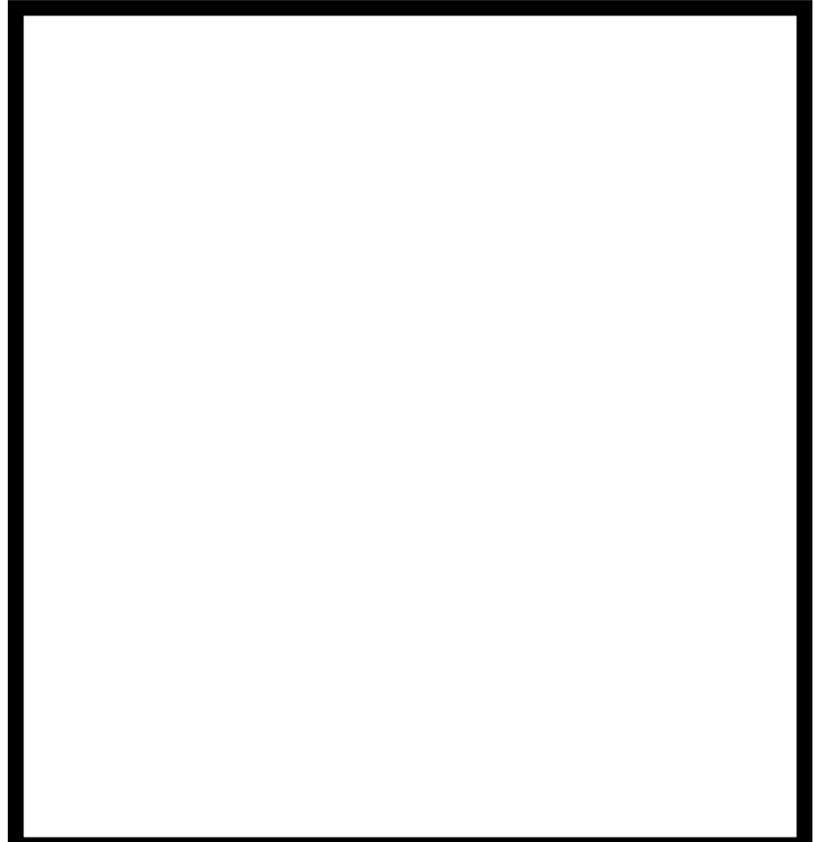
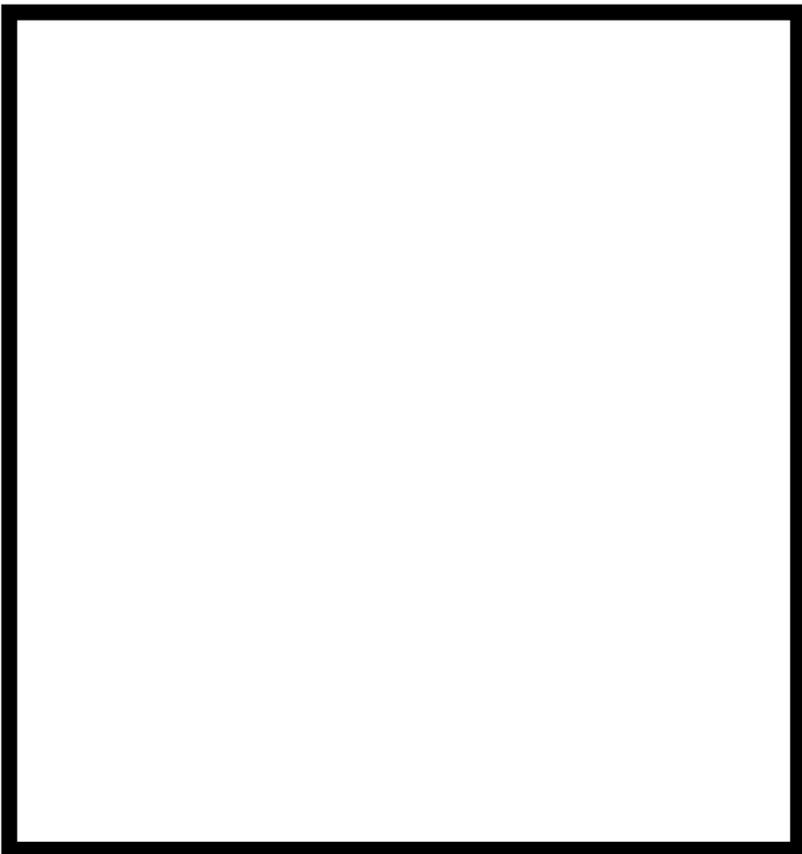
"The plan also includes the cooperation of the Afghan people, community and tribal leaders," he noted. "The purpose of the plan is to provide a positive atmosphere for voters to par-

ticipate in the presidential electoral process without interference."

Task Force 2/27 recently completed an operation in southern Paktika province as part of Operation Lightning Resolve, Nelson said. "The operation provided security for the governor and voter registration teams as they visited areas of the province that had previously been under heavy Taliban influence," he explained.

Nelson added that coalition contributions to rebuilding Afghanistan are "extensive and contribute positively to the future success of this democratic Islamic nation."

"As you can see, we've come a long way," Nelson said. "But we still have a long way to go. The coalition, however, is ready and willing to do its part in helping to sustain the Afghan government and provide a higher quality of life for all Afghans."



Spectrum



Henry Winn Jr., left, and his son, Henry Winn III, play a guitar-fiddle duo to "Orange Blossom Special." The pair came in third place and won a cash prize of \$25. More than 300 people attended the event at Alexander Hall Aug. 18. Photos by Cadet BreAnna Pugmire

Stars shine on BOSS talent show

Cadet BreAnna Pugmire
Youth Challenge Academy

"I am not looking to win tonight, only to share my talents I have been blessed with," said Cadet Chau'trese Porter from the Youth Challenge Academy, who competed in the BOSS Talent Search Aug. 18.

With a turnout of more than 300 guests, the time and effort that went in to putting this show together paid off, said Ayanna Wiggins, Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Marketing and Advertising office.

This particular show was entered in the Army Festival of the Performing Arts Competition, and was designed to "provide an outlet to showcase talent and enhance opportunities for Soldiers and family members," said Wiggins.

There were 25 acts in all that competed for cash prizes.

"The show consisted of diverse talent such as vocalists, a poem recitation, guitar, rappers, dancers, and a theatrical performance," said Wiggins.

All contestants were servicemembers and civilians of all ages.

According to Wiggins, there were talent scouts from



Youth Challenge Academy Cadre, a member of the group "Main Attraction" glides her hand over a globe for good luck before performing "My time has come."

the U.S. Army Soldier Show present.

"A few Soldiers were able to speak with the representatives afterwards, but I can not say at this time whether anyone was selected. I am confident that at least one of our very talented soldiers will be picked up. I heard comments from the judges that they were impressed by some of the acts," said Wiggins.

It was a time to get out and interact with people, a blend of Soldiers and

civilians.

The show was co-hosted by KDO, radio personality from Foxie 103. Command Sgt. Major Clark Dimery Sr., senior military advisor for the Fort Gordon Better Opportunity for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers Program, came to support BOSS, and give the closing remarks. The Naval Security Group Activity Fort Gordon Choir was also present to sing the National Anthem beginning the talent search and end it with "Bring him Home."

"You always hear about the bad things that happen with servicemembers over in Iraq, this was a time to showcase some of the positive things servicemembers do for their country and community," said U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class David Suda, NSGA and the assistant coordinator of BOSS.

The Talent Show marks Suda's first day as the Assistant Coordinator of BOSS, but he has been involved with the organization since last January. "I really like it so far and it's very rewarding," he stated. Other members of the BOSS team include: Sgt. Ukema Reese, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th RSB; Staff Sgt. Ebonie Sorrell, Headquarters and Company A, 44th Signal Battalion; Pvt. Farilde Porquin, 56th Signal Battalion, and Sgt. Dana Brown, Company A, 63rd Signal Battalion.

"The show took about one and a half to two months to prepare for. The main things were deciding where the event would take place, who would head the committees, coordination of auditions, selection of participants and just bringing these things together for the big night. I

say big night because for some, this may have been the first time they stepped foot out on a stage. People are not always given due credit for simply accepting the challenge of facing their fears. It is easy to look on a stage as a spectator and be critical of someone who does not perform, as well as the next person, but it's a whole lot harder to walk in that person's shoes," said Wiggins.

When asked how they felt, many of the contestants were excited but more so nervous than anything.

"I was nervous, more nervous than I have ever been before. But when I hit my first note, I just let myself go with the music," said Porter.

"I hope that each contestant -whether they walked away with cash prizes or not- gained something positive from the experience," stated Wiggins.

Spc. Chris Ortiz won best overall and a cash prize of \$200 for doing a love story in a song.

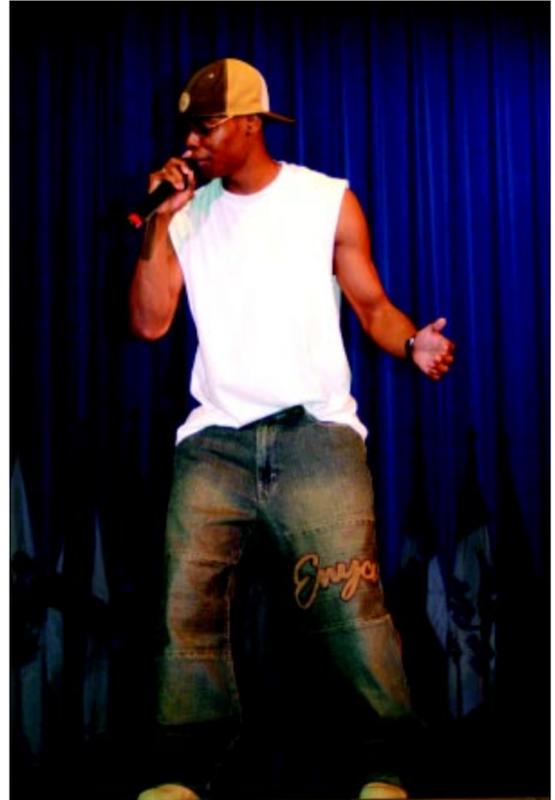
Flaco Calderon won first place and a cash prize of \$150 for an original rap.

Adrienne Fernandez came in second place and won a seventy-five dollar cash prize for singing Mariah Carey's "Hero."

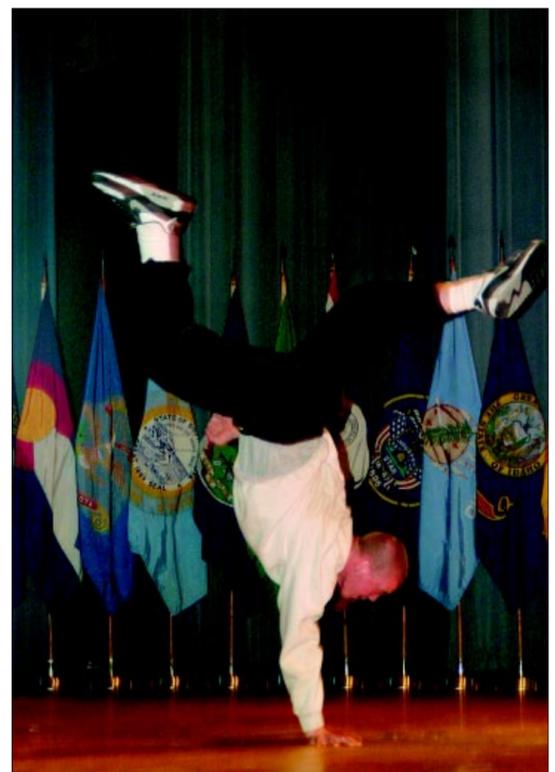
Last but not least, Henry Winn Jr. and his son, Henry Winn III, came in third place and won a cash prize of \$25 for doing a guitar-fiddle duo to "Orange Blossom Special."

"Whether or not contestants were in the contest to participate or win, all in the entire event was enjoyable," said Wiggins.

"This was our first time doing this, so lessons were learned and will be useful in planning future showcases.



Spc. Chris Ortiz won best overall and a cash prize of \$200 for doing a love story in a song.



Kristopher Pugh break dances to "Rapper's Delight" during act two of the talent show.



Melody Frans sings "Where would you be" by Martina McBride during the second act of the talent show. Her husband also competed in the show.

Lastly, we appreciate the fact that Army Entertainment representatives took time out of their busy schedules to visit our installation and witness

some of the great talent on the fort!" (Pugmire is a YCA cadet and job shadowed at the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office.)