

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

## Inside The Frontline News



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# 1/3 ADA helps Iraqi police round up illegal weapons

**Spc. Jacob Boyer**  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

ABU GHARYIB, Iraq — A series of police raids backed by soldiers from 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Abu Gharyib have yielded several illegal weapons in the past week.

The raids are part of an overall effort to “restore security and peace to the local community,” said Lt. Col. Mark Garrell, commander, 1/3 ADA.

In one raid Saturday, the police confiscated a loaded pistol, several AK-47 magazines and an infrared scope, said Capt. Jeff Zanelotti, commander, B Battery, 1/3 ADA.

The operation started when B Battery set up roadblocks at both ends of the road that leads through the market, said Garrell, a Fayetteville, N.C., native. The purpose of the roadblocks was to stop any weapons from coming in or going out of the market.

A group of about 30 soldiers and police officers led by Garrell patrolled from east to west through the market with an M2-A3 Bradley in support.

As the soldiers neared western end of the market, an unidentified Iraqi man near a tree at the western end of the market started running, and soldiers and police officers apprehended him. They confiscated a pistol from the man and found the other equipment at the stand he had set up.

“The innocent people stood still, and the guilty ran away,” said Zanelotti, a Long Island, N.Y., native. “We were lucky. It looks like it was a protection piece because there were no rounds chambered. It could have gone a lot worse.”

Zanelotti said several patrols have turned up weapons in the same area of the market.

“The area we raided has been a popular place for selling and trading arms,” he said. “We went in there three times yesterday and rounded up a couple of weapons.”

From Thursday to Saturday, the raids had collected several AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns, said Garrell, a Fayetteville, N.C., native.

The battalion is working in conjunction with the police to help restore order in the community, Garrell said. He told local officials that he expects the police to do the work while his soldiers reinforce them.

“They’re taking the weapons, not us,” he said. “We provide assistance. There’s not a heavy arms presence here, but together we’ve made it even smaller. That’s a positive sign.”

The police need to do the majority of the work to restore respect for them in the people’s eyes, Garrell said.

“They’ve got duties and responsibilities as police officers,” he said. “We can’t do all the work for them, because we won’t always be here.”



**Capt. Jeff Zanelotti, commander, B Btry., 1/3 ADA, clears a pistol confiscated from a weapons dealer at a market in Abu Gharyib Saturday. Patrols by U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police netted several weapons in an effort to re-establish order in the town.**

See MARKET, Page 21A

## Joint U.S., Iraqi effort facilitates local university reopening

**Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp**  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Baghdad University College of Agriculture, located in west Baghdad, is scheduled to reopen its doors today when between 3,500 and 4,000 undergraduate students are expected to return to class. Graduate students returned to class on May 3.

The university professors and staff have been working with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment soldiers in a joint effort focused on debris cleanup, basic infrastructure repair and restoration of essential services.

All 700 employees have received their emergency payment of \$20 as an incentive to return to work, and the Organization for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, headed by retired U.S. general, Jay Garner, who is overseeing Iraq’s reconstruction, is working on salary compensation for the university staff and workers. Approximately 150 families live on the

campus and most are employed by the university; including a 29-member local Iraqi campus police force.

The security element, trained and equipped by U.S. forces to include uniforms and digital photo security badges, works with 1/15 in providing a safe and secure environment for campus families and workers.

“There exists a very well educated university staff. Most all of the professors and administrators have attended college in the United States, spent time abroad, and speak English fairly well,” said Capt. John Montgomery, 1/15 fire support officer, who has spearheaded the restoration of the university.

Major reconstruction contracts are being negotiated with local companies to replace all the damaged glass as well as reclaim university acreage, which is currently unusable due to flooding. The university payroll, cleanup and operating expenses have been assumed by OHRA.

See UNIVERSITY, Page 21A



**An anti-aircraft gun sits atop the university. It was placed there by the Iraqi forces in the days preceding the start of the war.**

## DoD approves funds for new headquarters building

**Spc. Jonathan Stack**  
Staff Writer

The Department of Defense has funded \$25,000,000 to Fort Stewart to build a new Headquarters Command and Control complex.

“The 100,000 square foot complex will replace fifteen World War II wooden buildings that are 62 years old, inefficient, and with severely deteriorated workspaces for more than 400 soldiers and civilians,” said Georgia Rep. Jack Kingston. “The fifteen separate buildings are inadequate for the critical functions of command and control and inadequate to keep pace with Army transformation.”

This will benefit the command by providing a work environment that allows soldiers to focus on their jobs with out dealing with power outages, running across post

for meetings, and poor air conditioning, said Col. Gerald J. Poltorak, installation commander.

“It will be a dominating building, central to the installation and reflective of our Southern Coastal Georgia architecture that will bring pride to be stationed here,” he said.

“Fort Stewart is recognized as one of the premier power projection platforms in all of the Department of Defense,” Kingston said. “We feel that Fort Stewart is more and more becoming the installation of choice for quality of life, force readiness and deployability of the troops.”

“Completion of the headquarters, along with several other projects completed in the last few years, will keep Fort Stewart on the leading edge of the Army’s transformation efforts,” Kingston said.

## Brig. Gen. Austin selected to move up to next level

**Spc. Casandra Bolton**  
Staff Writer, 372 MPAD

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) assistant division commander for maneuver, was selected for promotion to major general along with 30 other brigadier generals.

Austin pointed out, “We continue to progress because our soldiers and NCOs have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make us successful in our careers.”

“I was grateful when I learned of my selection,” said

Austin. “I worked hard to qualify for the next higher level of responsibility.”

He added, “You get more and more competitive as you go along.”

Austin’s position makes him responsible for training the division in peacetime, maneuvering the division during war and fighting the close fight.

After a brigadier general is selected, they have to be confirmed by Congress. The results of the confirmation are usually released by September or October.

## Weather Forecast

**FRI**  
High 88° Low 63°  
[Weather icon: clouds and rain]

**SAT**  
High 80° Low 62°  
[Weather icon: clouds and rain]

**SUN**  
High 83° Low 63°  
[Weather icon: clouds and rain]

Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp

# No one is more professional than I ...



Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith cuts the lock of a suspected ammunition storage facility in central Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Fallen soldier recommended for Medal of Honor

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

50th PAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – “He took the hard right over the easy wrong.”

“He always set the example – he was a professional who lived by the creed of the non-commissioned officer.”

“He accomplished the mission, exceeding the standard, and always made sure his soldiers were taken care of.”

Ask any soldier in B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, and their thoughts on Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith, 2nd Platoon Sergeant, would reflect those of Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollin said, a squad leader in 2nd Platoon.

Smith was killed April 4 east of Baghdad International Airport when his platoon came under attack from Iraqi forces numbering more than 100.

It’s not the fact that he lost his life, but how his life came to an end that has garnered him praise from his soldiers and leaders alike.

Smith’s command has submitted him for the Medal of Honor.

On the morning of April 4, 2nd Platoon was tasked to establish a blocking position on Highway 8, six miles from the airport, when they stumbled upon a large cache of rocket-propelled grenades 10 meters off the north-bound lane of the highway.

“We loaded them up in our (HMMWV) and brought them to a trench for disposal,” said Pfc. Matthew Hartley, 2nd Platoon medic and driver for Smith. “We received a single incoming RPG from our rear that missed us. We looked around and didn’t see anyone.”

They were continuing with the ammunition disposal when Smith took notice of an eight foot high wall that spanned from east to west, 25 meters to their north.

“He told me to get the vehicle and drive it up to the wall so he could stand on it and see what was on the other side,” Hartley said. In the meantime, Smith had the platoon establish a defensive perimeter toward the wall.

What Smith saw gave him an “uneasy” feeling, according to Hartley. On the other side of the wall was a 20-square-meter courtyard enclosed with a gate on the far side.

Smith had ordered an armored combat earthmover to knock down a 15-foot section of wall leading into the courtyard when he received word that enemy prisoners of war were apprehended down the road, according to Hartley.

The platoon began laying concertina wire for an EPW holding area in the courtyard.

“I could tell (Smith) was concerned about our safety at the location,” Hartley said. “He kept reassuring me and putting me at ease.”

### The fight begins

A team was maintaining security through the gate in the courtyard on an open field when Smith and Sgt. Kevin Yetter, a 1st Platoon squad leader attached to 2nd Plt., noticed Iraqi troops filing out of the buildings, woodline and tunnels in the distance.

“Smith had said, ‘We’re in a world of

hurt,’” according to Yetter. “What began as a dozen grew to 50 and then 100 or more enemy.”

Smith sent for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an M249 squad automatic weapon, and sent Yetter to bring his team up to the gate in their M113 armored personnel carrier, according to Hartley.

“I left (the gate) to get my (APC) that has a .50 caliber machine gun and SAW on it,” Yetter said. “When I got to my (APC), we started receiving Mortar, RPG and machine gun fire.”

After Yetter left to get his APC, Smith and Sgt. Matthew Keller, a team leader in 1st Sqd., engaged scores of enemy with antitank weapons and 40mm grenades.

“I saw (Smith) stand out in the open to survey the situation while we were being engaged,” Keller said. “He said, ‘Get (40 mm grenade) rounds and (antitank weapons) while

See LEADER, Page 21A



B Company, 11th Eng. Bn., consolidates and reorganizes following their fight April 4 on Highway 8 in Southern Baghdad.



The soldiers of B Company, 11th Eng. Bn., maintain security of the battle site in southern Baghdad April 4 following the death of Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith. Aside from the death of Smith, B Co. had three soldiers injured during the battle.



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith takes time to show a soldier proper clearing techniques during urban training in the Kuwaiti desert in February. Smith was praised by his soldiers as an “outstanding leader” who “took the hard right over the easy wrong.”



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith and Spc. Fernando Guillen, a mechanic with 11th Eng. Bn., pause from wheel hub repair for a photo at Camp Pennsylvania in February.

# DIY Network lends helping hand to families

## TV show films home improvements for 3ID

**Sgt. Raymond Piper**  
Editor

When soldiers are deployed, it can be hard for their families to work on remodeling and home repair projects as they keep the home fires burning.

The Do It Yourself Network stepped up to help three 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) families with their home improvement projects May 7 to 11.

"During deployments home repairs and do-it-yourself projects get set aside so this is our way of stepping up with donated goods and services to help out," said David Doyle, supervising producer.

The Help on the Homefront will be a five-part workshop featuring the three families here and two at Naval Station Norfolk.

"We're only doing five episodes, but I wish we could do 5,000," Doyle said.

Gianna Childers, whose husband Sgt. 1st Class David Childers is currently deployed, said, "I am so glad to see the public eye taking a look at the military community."

The construction team was made up of the three hosts Ed DelGrande, Scott Branscom and Jay Baker who worked side by side with the contractors from One-Stop Remodeling, a Savannah based remodeling company.

One-Stop Remodeling is no stranger to helping out the local community. The company is a regular participant of Habitat for Humanity and



Sgt. Raymond Piper

**Scott Branscom and Jay Baker, hosts of the show, get a helping hand from Josiah Childers, 3, May 7.**

Build-A-Thons, said Scott T. Richards, One-Stop Remodeling president.

He said, "When we were contacted about the project, we thought it was a great idea to come out and work with the community."

A variety of projects were done for the families, ranging from landscaping to kitchen remodeling.

The team built the Childers a privacy fence and children's play area.

"There haven't been many places in the area for the children to go play in so this will give them a safe environment and someplace close to home," Childers said.

For James Jarrell, a Gulf War veteran who served in the Navy, they tackled a kitchen-remodeling job. This time around he has stayed with their three children, while his wife, Staff Sgt. Malaya Jarrell, is deployed.

Heather Hill, the 21-year-old spouse of Pfc. J. Colin Hill, had the help of the team in finishing off her "To Do" list as they repaired incorrectly installed windows, faulty locks and several other odds and ends.

Although the Do It Yourself network's 30-minute show normally focuses on home improvement and how-to projects, these five episodes will be a little different.

"In the half-hour, two-thirds will focus on the projects and the other one-third will focus on the family and the deployed soldiers," Doyle said. "We wanted to get more of the human side."

"At the core level, we want to teach how-to knowledge; at the human level, we wanted to show our appreciation for what the families go through, and overall, we hope to inspire support and patriotism for them."

# Community leaders tour Stewart

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

Leadership Glynn toured Fort Stewart May 9 in order to see how the post is run.

The group saw various presentations from many different Fort Stewart organizations.

Following a warm welcome by Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith, installation command sergeant major, and a briefing from Col. Gerald Poltorak, installation commander, the visitors witnessed a demonstration from the Fort Stewart Military Police K-9 unit.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Fitch, 3rd MP Battalion, gave the leadership tour a brief history of the dogs and their training before letting Sgt. Daniel Mattson, handler, and his dog Daisy, a 6-year-old Dutch shepherd, go to work searching for black powder concealed in a vehicle in the parking lot.

Next up was Spc. Shane Belleville, handler, and his dog Ronni, a 7-year-old black German shepherd, who showed a captive audience the attack capabilities of an MP dog.

Once the demonstration was complete, the tour stopped into the Division Artillery dining facility for some Army chow.

After their bellies were full, the guests hopped on the bus and went down to the Fort Stewart museum and soaked up some history before Smith presented souvenir photographs of the group in Marne Garden.

The excitement built as the visitors went to Evans Army Airfield for participation in the Close Combat Tactical Trainer. CCTT is a battle simulator much like a large video game. Members of Leadership Glynn got the chance to experience virtual combat, shooting at simu-

lated enemies and sometimes a friendly target in M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and a Humvee, before departing back to Glynn County.

Leadership Glynn is a program sponsored by the Glynn County Chamber of Commerce to select community leaders who participate in community involvement, said Carl Coolidge, Leadership Glynn co-chair.

Prospective members submit an application before being nominated to Leadership Glynn, he said.

The group has so far been to see Kings Bay Naval Base and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, as well as local education and court systems, said Coolidge.

"I grew up in Brunswick ... and it just opened my eyes as to what businesses really do," he said.

Glynn County includes the city of Brunswick, Sea, Saint Simons, Jekyll and Sapelo Islands.

Smith is a native of the Brunswick metropolitan area and spoke about the importance of tours like this.

"I'm an old Glynn Countian ... it's our job as what I like to call the city of Fort Stewart to show our surrounding cities how we do things and make them aware of what we do, being good (liaisons) of how the government and civilian leaderships work," he said.

Those on the tour said that they had a great time and look forward to returning.

Bill McHugh, Leadership Glynn member and attorney, who was on active-duty from 1995-1999, said "We've all been very impressed with the dedication of everybody here."



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

**Kelly Crews drives a Humvee at the Close Combat Tactical Trainer May 9.**

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

CG: Still work to be done in Iraq

**Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III**  
3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commanding general

We sent several units of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) back to Kuwait this week to begin the process of Redeployment to the United States. Other units and division headquarters personnel have returned to Kuwait to support the redeployment process. Senior theatre commanders have not established a timeline for the return of the division troops home.

There is plenty to do before deploying. The redeployment process includes turning in equipment to prepositioned stocks, clearing U.S. Customs, and cleaning, packing and loading equipment aboard ships for its return trip to Savannah.

Troops from the 1st Armored Division have arrived from their home station in Germany, to begin replacing Marne soldiers. Units returning include those whose missions are no longer needed. Although units are returning, the overall troop strength will not decrease.

The first units to depart Iraq include elements of the 1st Battalion 39th Field Artillery Regiment and the Division Band. No other units have been given an order to return. There is still work to be done to get some bad guys off the street.

The remainder of the division continues with the important work of returning Baghdad to normalcy. Just as Baghdad was the center of gravity for toppling the old regime, it is the center of gravity for securing the future of Iraq. Baghdad is a culturally diverse city of more than five million Sunni and Shi'ia Muslims, Christians and even Jews.

It is imperative that members of various religions learn tolerance for one another and stop the cycle of violence. We are working to achieve that, sometimes one person at a time.

Baghdad is still a dangerous place in some areas. Part of the problem is a criminal element that has decided to use their newfound freedom to continue the oppression of Iraqi people. There are many others

Commentary

who supported the old regime that do not want either the coalition forces or the Iraqis to succeed in self-determination. Unfortunately, that element killed one of our soldiers recently. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Pfc. Marlin T. Rockhold, who was killed on May 8. Rockhold was directing traffic when he was struck by a sniper's bullet.

Rockhold was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment. He will be missed. In light of this and other incidents, we have stepped up aggressive patrols throughout the city to reduce crime and ensure a safe and secure environment for the people of Baghdad.

Our efforts to rebuild the infrastructure continue. The division engineers are working hard to get some predictability with the utilities. Power and water were seldom continuously available

under Hussein's regime. Trash pickup was virtually non-existent in those generally poorer areas of the city inhabited by people who did not support the regime. They are cobbling together systems installed by companies from several countries including among others, Germany, France and Japanese firms. Continuous utilities may still be a little bit away. We believe that within a week there will be consistent power generated that we can predict periods of power throughout the city. Predictability will help businesses and people get on with their daily lives.

We had some special guests recently when General Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff visited Sunday, and General Richard B. Myers, chairman, joint chiefs of staff visited Monday. Both expressed their gratitude for a job well-done and were effusive in their praise of the division. Shinseki, a former Spartan Brigade commander, will be retiring soon and he joined us in perhaps one last rendition of the "Dog-Faced Soldier Song." It wasn't pretty, but it was plenty loud.

Before I close, congratulations to Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin and his wife Charlene. The Army announced Tuesday that Austin was selected to wear two stars. Austin did simply an outstanding job directing the close-in fight. Look for even better things to come from Austin and Charlene. I am continually impressed with the Marne soldiers I see as I get around the city. They have performed magnificently under trying circumstances in combat and stability operations. They are disciplined, proud, and above all very professional. They understand there is a job to do and will continue to perform the task at hand until relieved.

"Rock of the Marne"



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brantley

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general and Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff, sit during a briefing.

Heroes are always among us

Harry Noyes

Special to the Frontline

Once again our nation has heroes to admire. Strong, skillful warriors who have made mincemeat of a foe we sent them to defeat.

Courageous ground fighters and brilliant technicians who keep the most high-tech force in history humming like a tuning fork; pilots with godlike mastery of flying machines of staggering sophistication were seen in our magazines and on our television screens, these heroes are getting the recognition they deserve.

Yet, let us not forget that there are always heroes among us, people whose iron will to endure, whose determination in adversity and whose self-sacrificial devotion to others rarely get the attention they deserve.

In the quiet places of our world, out of sight of the journalists and the historians, many unsung people (one can hardly call them ordinary) achieve awesome triumphs of the human spirit every day.

Somewhere a young man or woman in a wheelchair controlled by a breath tube is admiring the strapping young soldiers rolling up Saddam Hussein's hooligans like a rug.

In its own way, that disabled person's every-day life is a saga of courage and stamina that would take a Delta Force commando's breath away.

Somewhere a mother gets up deep in the night, every night, for the umpteenth year in a row, to medicate a helpless child with a grave illness for which there is no cure, then goes to work in the morning to pay for the child's care. Her ministrations are a victory for love such as few of us will ever know.

Somewhere a nurse in an understaffed hospice collapses after

a grinding day of toting bedpans, consoling terrified people and watching helplessly as death wins round after round, on a battleground without the hope that keeps most medical people hanging on.

Somewhere a woman huddles in the cold wind of public disdain, picketing a courthouse, quietly taking her stand against a popular war, enduring the taunts of her former friends, sacrificing much and gaining nought for herself, because she thinks it is the right thing to do.

Right or wrong, she too is a portrait in self-sacrificial courage and a defender of our Constitution, reminding us what it means and why we fight for it.

Somewhere a man or woman with an unglamorous but vital job musters the strength to get out of bed for one more grueling, underappreciated day of service to the rest of us.

Somewhere, unheralded, on a stateside post, a called-up Reservist has left spouse, children and medical practice to help deliver babies at a military hospital, filling in for Active Army practitioners who deployed.

Most likely the spouse and children will still be there when he or she returns, but the business; well, two out of three's not bad, huh?

And yet the Reservist serves, without compulsion and despite the harsh experiences of his or her peers in an earlier war, because it is the right thing to do.

It would be tacky not to lavish the in-theater heroes with all the admiration and honors they are receiving and which they richly deserve for their skills, courage, and service.

But let us spare a kind word, or at least a thought, for the other heroes who hold our world together without ever getting an overseas patch or a chance to wave at the television cameras.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

How do you define a hero?

"Somebody putting the cause before themselves and wouldn't do something for self-gain."

Spc. Darin Gardner  
221st MI Bn.



"Somebody who risks their life for another emotionally, physically, spiritually or in any way."

Spc. Kimberly Nelson  
HHC 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.)

"Someone who responds to a unique calling in a positive way."

Capt. Phil Willis  
801st CASH



"Someone who would do something that is beyond the call of duty."

Spc. Tiffany Bagley  
HHC 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.)

"A hero is someone who lays his life at risk in protection of country and friend."

Sgt. 1st Class Jude Akins  
414th Chemical Co.



"Someone willing to risk their life to save the rest of the troops."

Pvt. Lee Rambo  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Replacement

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Write a letter to the editor!

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# CA soldiers help reopen school, deliver supplies

Spc. Katherine Robinson

50th PAD

AL JANABI, Iraq — Soldiers with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Greensboro, N.C., delivered school supplies and candy to the students of Al Baroodi school in the village of Al Janabi May 5.

The school reopened May 3, for the first time since the beginning of the war, according to Maj. Brent Perley, CA team leader from Kernersville, N.C. It was one of several schools that reopened following a meeting in Baghdad between coalition forces and the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

The meeting determined that any schools that were ready should resume sessions, and the coalition put out a radio message instructing children to attend, Perley said.

Civil Affairs soldiers visited the school May 3 to assess security, make sure the facility was not damaged by combat, and assess availability of school supplies, he added. They also made wooden signs and posted them next to the road, warning motorists of the presence of a school in the vicinity.

About 100 of the school's 300 students attended May 3, and by May 5, the number had climbed to 200, Perley explained.

"We delivered school supplies that were donated by a variety of sources," he said.

Supplies included writing and drawing paper, pencils, pens, soap and other hygiene items.

Children of all ages greeted the soldiers at the school. Many of the children recited parts of the Koran in front of their classes, and welcomed the soldiers in Arabic. They sat quietly in their classrooms with their arms crossed, boys on one side, girls on the other, until their teachers entered with the soldiers.

But when groups of teachers and soldiers left, young faces and hands filled the classroom windows, waving and smiling.

Hakim Kawy, a member of the Free Iraqi Forces attached to the 422nd as an interpreter, greeted the children and helped bridge the language gap between child and soldier.

Soldiers from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Division Support Command, who came along to meet the children, handed

out candy and snacks.

"That was such a great experience," said Capt. Stacy Taylor, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) subsistence officer. "They were the most well-behaved children. They didn't seem timid or anything."

"There are a lot of things where you know you're making an impact ... large infrastructure type of things," said Maj. Paulus van Breemen, 422nd linguist officer from Salem Ore. "You know people are grateful, but when you go visit kids, you get instant gratification."

For Kawy, the reopening of the school in post-war Iraq was a herald of brighter days to come. Kawy fled from Iraq 26 years ago and now resides in San Diego. He is back to fight for his country again, to help rebuild it, and said he loves to be able to help and serve the children and the people.

"The first time I saw (the children) ... I went silent ... the emotions were so strong ... I cannot describe it," he said. "I picture them in the future, free and democratic ... where no child like them (will have to) live through such horrible experiences and such oppression ... I owe it to the American people."

The Civil Affairs mission in Iraq is to help get the infrastructure of the country up and running — things such as water, power and sewage facilities, schools and hospitals, according to van Breemen. While it is a large project, it is also personal.

"You always get closely involved in the schools and clinics that are close by," he said. "I enjoy the kids — the smiles on their faces, them trying to interact with us."

The CA soldiers intend to continue providing aid to the Al Baroodi school. While they were there, they met with the principal and other school leaders to discuss the need for recreational facilities, and come up with some suggestions.

"Some soldiers want to volunteer their time to help," Perley said. "We're looking at building a basketball court, repairing a fence, and maybe (constructing) some soccer goals."

To end the visit, all the students gathered in the schoolyard and posed for photos before bidding the soldiers goodbye and continuing their school day.



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

(Above) Boushra, a student at the recently reopened Al Baroodi school, recites part of the Koran to Hakim Kawy, a member of the Free Iraqi Forces attached to the 422nd CA Bn. as an interpreter. The battalion delivered school supplies and candy to the school May 5.

(Left) Maj. Jamie Eaker, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Deputy SJA, hands out cookies to students of Al Baroodi school May 5 during a Civil Affairs visit.



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a CFC participant

# Installation's only female rigger 'kicks butt'

**Pfc. Emily Danial**

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

Ever since females were first allowed to join the military, there has been controversy about where they can go, what they can do, what they can wear, and so on.

With all the discussion about what women can't do, there's not enough talk about what they can do — and do well.

Spc. Shannon Dirks, a parachute rigger at Hunter Army Airfield, has been working in a male-dominated military occupational specialty for more than two and a half years, and is presently the sole female rigger on the installation.

"I originally wanted to be a rigger because it was one of the only MOS's that guaranteed airborne school, and I wanted to jump out of planes," said Dirks, who is originally from Tenino, Wash. "I had no idea what a rigger actually was."

And what is a rigger, "actually"? The job, regardless of gender, is not an easy one — tasks assigned to riggers include:

- Packing, testing, repairing and maintaining the Army range of parachutes and airborne delivery systems
- Inspecting parachutes, parachuting instruments, aerial delivery equipment and helicopter lifting equipment to determine serviceability and the necessity for repairs
- Repairing and modifying airdrop equipment
- Servicing and reassembling metallic items of air drop equipment
- Washing and cleaning airdrop equipment
- Repacking cargo and personnel parachutes and refolding other items of air drop equipment

Riggers are divided into three sections: pack, issue, and maintenance, said Dirks.

"Everyone starts in pack," she said. "I worked in that section for a year, and then I was moved to maintenance."

Packing a parachute, said Dirks, was the most physically demanding part of her job.

"It takes a lot of strength to pull the chutes tightly closed," she said.

"It was something I had to get used to."

Now, she said, she works repairing damaged material, patching holes and sewing tears.

Dirks arrived at Hunter in September 2000, after her Advanced Individual Training and airborne school, and said even though when she first arrived there were two other female riggers, she has never let her gender dictate her standards.

"When I realized what a hard job it was physically," she said, "I worked even harder to make sure I could do the same amount of work as everyone else. I didn't want to leave my buddies hanging, so I had to pull my own weight."

Sgt. David Hattan, Dirks' supervisor and squad leader, said her determination and self-sufficiency has also made an impression on him.

"Females in general don't realize how hard it is to pack a parachute — even some of the guys have to ask for help from time to time," he said. "Dirks only asked for help maybe once or twice."

"The only difficulty she could have," said Hattan, "is her inability to deploy with the Rangers."

The riggers are attached to the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment on post, with whom the riggers deploy whenever parachutes are needed for a mission.

However, as the Rangers are an all-male outfit, certain logistical problems arise when one female rigger, albeit a good one, would necessitate special arrangements on the deployment.

"It's not the only reason I didn't deploy with them (on their most recent mission)," said Dirks, "I mean, I just wasn't on the list, like the rest of the guys who stayed back ... but I can see how my being a girl would pose problems for them."

"She has deployed with them in the past, to Fort Lewis, Wash.," Hattan said, "but in my honest opinion, she would have done outstanding, excellent, superb work in either Operation Enduring



Photos by Pfc. Emily Danial

**Spc. Shannon Dirks, parachute rigger, "lays out" a parachute to prepare it for packing. Although she has not worked in the "pack" section of her job for more than a year, she still helps out there whenever she is needed.**

Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Still, Dirks has not let any of this restrict her from doing her job well, said Hattan.

"Everybody has a good time working with her," he said. "She's very free-spirited, open-minded, and does what she's told, but if she has an idea of how something can be done better, she doesn't hesitate to voice her opinion."

"She would've made an outstanding noncommissioned officer," he added.

As she has only six months left in her contract, Dirks is unable to

gain the "promotable" status she needs to become an NCO, but she said she still plans to go to the Primary Leadership Development Course at the end of May.

"She was my second in charge for about a year until (another soldier) got his promotable status," said Hattan, "but when he stepped up, Dirks did not have any problem mentoring and guiding him while I was gone (on a deployment)."

"I did her initial counseling back on September 26, 2000," continued Hattan, "and she's been outstanding ever since ... she can kick butt with the best of them."



**Spc. Shannon Dirks, a parachute rigger, repairs a tear in a deployment bag. Dirks packed parachutes for a year before moving to the "maintenance" section of her job.**

# Monument to recognize fallen soldiers

**Spc. Casandra Bolton**  
Staff Writer

The Military Affairs Committee is sponsoring a memorial at Marne Gardens that will recognize the fallen soldiers of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Donations are being accepted to help with

the funding of the memorial.

"Anyone wishing to make a donation can make their checks out to the 'City of Hinesville, Military Affairs Coordinating Committee,'" said David Anderson, chairman of Military Affairs Committee.

The address that donations can be mailed to is 115 M. L. King Dr., Hinesville, GA, 31313.

"Col. (Edwin) Marrero and our Mayor Thomas Ratcliffe had talked about the idea of the memorial," Anderson said.


"At our last meeting, Col. Marrero was present and he presented the plan to the committee," he said.

After the plan was presented, the committee voted and accepted the challenge of spon-


soring the Operation Iraqi Freedom memorial monument.

The addition to Marne Gardens is going to add another walkway that leads up to a memorial in honor of the 34 fallen soldiers.

"It is important that we remember those who gave their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom," Anderson said.



## Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Monument Fund



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Plant trees.
5. Conserve energy.
6. Buy non-aerosol products.
7. Carpool.
8. Keep your car engine tuned.
9. Recycle used motor oil.
10. Choose less packaging.

# Sixth graders go to "trial"

**Spc. Casandra Bolton**  
Staff Writer, 372 MPAD

The sixth graders of Diamond Elementary participated in a Mock Trial on May 5, at the Marne Courtroom. The courtroom was packed with anxious and nervous sixth graders as the trial began with the case of "The stolen lunch money."

The purpose of the Mock Trial was to recognize Law Day, which was recognized nationwide starting May 7.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience a mock trial first hand," said Meredith Rice, sixth grade teacher at Diamond Elementary.

"The military judge and the lawyers handled everything as if it were a real trial to make the children's experience as close to reality as possible," said Rice.

"Those participating as lawyers, witnesses and jurors were so excited," said Rice.

"The audience members enjoyed the 'show,'" said Rice. "They saw their friends play these parts as well as how a trial would actually unfold."

The children were all on the edges of their seats as they watched their fellow classmates debate against each other and try to get the jury on their side.

One student who was acting as a prosecutor was trying to prove that the accused was in fact guilty. Her defense lawyer said that her client couldn't have stolen the lunch money. Why? Because her client has a "crush" on the victim. She said her client could never steal from someone he has a crush on. After that statement there was a little snickering and laughing from the audience, but the judge stopped the noise just as quick as it had started.

After all of the evidence was presented to the court-

room and to the judge, the jury left and began their thought process to come up with an answer.

When they came to their verdict, the children of the courtroom sat on the edge of their chairs to see how their peers had decided. After the jury deliberated, they found the accused not guilty.

"The lawyers were nice, accommodating and generous to give us their time," said Rice.

After the trial the children got to ask the judge and the lawyers questions they had about the trial that was held. At the close of the day, the children went home with a little more understanding of a trial than what they came with.

"We (the teachers) enjoyed watching the judge and lawyers having as much fun as our children," said Rice. "We will certainly try to make this a yearly event for our students."



Spc. Casandra Bolton

The sixth graders of Diamond Elementary participate in a Mock Trial that was held May 5. The trial was about "stolen lunch money." The audience looks on as their fellow students try and convince the jury to come to a decision in their favor.

# Wal-Mart donates \$100,000

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**

Staff Writer

The Military Spouse Appreciation Day celebration was made a little more joyous, when Wal-Mart gave the Army Emergency Relief Fund something to celebrate about — a check for \$100,000.

A staple in the Hinesville community for more than 20 years, the company moved to a 24 hour-a-day Super Center in July 2000 in order to serve a growing population made up largely of military families with odd schedules, said Barry Nelson, Wal-Mart district manager.

The check was presented to Col. Gerald Poltorak, installation commander, and Frederick Slade, AER coordinator, by Nelson and Wally Davidson, store manager.

"Wal-Mart stores realizes the tremendous sacrifice our servicemen make for their country. This gives us an opportunity as a company to give back to the country by helping to support our forces," Nelson said.

"Asa Bailey (Wal-Mart coordinator) called me and told me that the corporate office wanted to show their appreciation to the 3rd (Infantry Division (Mech.))" said Slade, "It's exciting and great that the community is giving back to the soldiers."

According to Nelson, the Hinesville Wal-Mart is one of the higher grossing stores in



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

**Col. Gerald Poltorak, Barry Nelson, Fredrick Slade and Wally Davidson hold a check for \$100,000.**

America, because of the Army's presence here.

"This is a chance to share our support," he said, "It's an honor for us to be here."

Wal-Mart will continue doing whatever it can to assist the military families of Hinesville, Nelson said.

# Suicide prevention class makes soldiers aware

**Spc. John M. Stack**

Staff Writer

Living Works Education held a two day applied suicide intervention skills training workshop at Victory Chapel May 8 and May 9.

The workshop was taught by Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers, family life chaplain, and Becky Sellars, family advocacy program educator.

The training is set up to teach suicide first-aid, helping a person at risk stay safe and how to seek further help, said Sowers. The training is critical because everyone should know how to identify a person with suicidal thoughts and how to respond.

The class is taught through videos, slides, lectures and role-playing, said Sowers.

During the class, Sellars played a suicidal person and allowed the students to take some skills they have learned and try to talk her out

of it.

Afterwards, the students were given an opportunity to discuss what was their thought process while talking to the jumper.

Throughout the world, about 2,000 people kill themselves each day, according to [www.psycom.net/depression.central.suicide.html](http://www.psycom.net/depression.central.suicide.html). That's about 80 per hour, three quarters of a million a year.

In the U.S., there are more than 80 deaths from suicide every day, 30,000 every year, according to the website.

The reason people commit or attempt suicide is to stop the pain, according to the website. Sometimes this pain is physical, as in chronic or terminal illness; more often it is emotional, caused by a myriad of problems.

Suicide is a big problem not only in the United States, but also all over the world. It is important to be able to recognize the signs and try to help the individual.



# Eyes of the Multiple Launch Rocket System direct rounds to support frontline units

Timothy L. Rider

Special to the Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Firefinder Radar operators from A Battery (Target Acquisition), 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) normally operate well to the rear of frontline units, but one crew woke up to a different reality March 22, in Southern Iraq.

Operations had been underway only two days that early morning during the peaceful duties of waking, personal hygiene and readying for a 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) convoy to start rolling once again — which it quickly did. A rally of enemy mortar fire suddenly exploded.

“We did a survivability jump. We all took off! We were driving for everything its worth,” said Sgt Nathaniel Evans, senior radar operator. “That was our wake up call.”

That day they had pushed forward until they became part of the front.

“They would stop us because we had no protection in front of us,” said Evans of 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment among the frontline infantry and cavalry troops that led the northward push to Baghdad.

“We were receiving small arms fire, so we had to let the Infantry catch up and engage because they were still caught up in battles behind us,” said Evans. “We called ourselves radar infantry after that. We were radar recon.”

The accordion-like process of filtering into the front was

repeated, according to, Staff Sgt. Mike Jensen, section chief who frequently saw Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Abrahm tanks moving by to engage troops in front of them.

“They would just pass by with a quickness and do what they did,” said Jensen, who mentioned that very shortly thereafter, the convoy would start up again.

After the convoy reached southwest Karbala, March 24, the radar operators set up and returned the favor to the cavalry and infantry troops. Enemy tanks were in a formation that were creating a lot of resistance for the infantry units and the tanks had support from artillery, according to Evans.

Minutes after his team completed the mission to set up their Q-37 Firefinder radar systems southwest of Karbala, Evans got a call on the radio from the chief fires officer: “I want to speak to Predator Niner Five,” the call sign for Evan’s radar team. “I just want to confirm with you that that counter fire mission resulted in four howitzers destroyed and 35 men killed.”

Evans then turned from the radio and said, “We’re in the battle boys.” He was later told that turning on the radar was the turning point in the battle. “That right there is what basically freed them to take the airport, which is what we needed to do. So they said we came up just at the right time,” he said.

The target acquisition battery also provided support to direct combat units starting around 3 p.m. near An-Nasariya on the first day of ground operations according to their commander, Captain Gino Quintiliani. “We got the radar up. Immediately, (there) was almost 200 acquisitions within a couple hours. It was

just amazing how quickly we acquired them and were able to put rockets and cannon fire there.”

The battery responds to missions to set up their two types of Firefinder radars, the Q-36 and Q-37. The radars are capable of detecting artillery fire, its direction and a grid coordinate of the location from which it was fired.

The Firefinder system and operators determine friendly from enemy artillery and has the capability to pass coordinates digitally to the artillery battalion where the appropriate Multiple Launch Rocket System or cannon troops can send rounds right back at enemy mortars or cannon, according to Quintiliani.

“Basically, as soon as they fire, we know where they’re shooting from and we can destroy and shut down their artillery. It puts in their mind that as soon as they fire they’re gonna’ be destroyed,” said Quintiliani.

Optimally, the time from the moment the Iraqis fired until U.S. artillery crews fired back is three to five minutes, said Quintiliani. “We were meeting that pretty easily.”

During combat operations, the battery acquired more than 3,000 rounds, and one Q-37 acquired more than 1,800, said Quintiliani.

“Every round that we got they went after something fierce,” said Jensen.

Two, twelve-man crews in the battery operate a Q-37, radar, which tracks artillery and rockets for the whole division zone. Three six-man crews operate the Q-36, which tracks mortar fire, small artillery and has a smaller range, according to Quintiliani.

Firefinder radar operators operated well behind the frontline troops in Operation Desert Storm and being closer was unexpected, according to Quintiliani. Between six and eight kilometers from the front line trace is considered normal.

“My guys, a lot of times they moved into positions (and) were clearing bunkers and capturing prisoners and doing things you don’t think radar guys and MLRS guys are supposed to be doing,” he said.

The adage, “everyone in the Army is a soldier first,” proved apt. Evans and Jensen found an Iraqi soldier hiding under a blanket in a bunker and turned him over to a warrant officer. According to Jensen, his crew experienced mortar fire daily, went through an area with a known sniper, engaged in small arms fights, cleared bunkers with grenades and recovered from ambushes.

“I’ve seen this stuff on TV and I was thinking I would never see myself doing this,” said Jensen.

The rapid move north also pressured the soldiers who keep the radars up and running, something Quintiliani considered most important. Advanced radar repair specialist and spare parts were further to the rear during the rapid advance north, according to Quintiliani.

“If they’re not up, you can’t do your job,” he said.

Quintiliani said, however, being there at the front was at least one of the reasons the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) was able to keep moving north toward their objective, Baghdad.

“If we had not had the target acquisition assets in place, on the right place, on the battlefield to track the rounds to put through the system and deliver fires on them, it would have been a much longer campaign.”



Spc. Matthew Richter radar operator of Alpha Battery (Target Acquisition), 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) sights a Q-37 Firefinder radar near Baghdad.

# Photos summon image of 3ID's past

**Pfc. James Cornwell**

107th MPAD

While soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) were making themselves at home in Saddam Hussein's largest Baghdad palace, a click of a camera conjured a shadow of the division's past to the present.

In May 1945, a World War II photographer captured scenes of division soldiers lounging in The Eagle's Nest, one of Adolph Hitler's retreats in Berchtesgaden, Germany. A photo taken last month of 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) troops in the deposed Iraqi leader's lavish home bears striking similarities, showing soldiers relaxing in Hussein's living room.

When Jeff C. Reed, a technician at the Fort Stewart Museum, spotted the most recent photo on the Internet a few days after it was taken, he immediately recalled the World War II picture. He had seen a magazine with the photo in it just a few months ago.

"I was looking at it and I was like, 'Great, our guys are the first in,' and the memory starts turning, and that (older) picture immediately came to mind," said Reed.

"Both photographs were taken at a culmination point," said Reed.

Both came after exhausting campaigns and captured a

moment of relaxation, when the soldiers could "take a minute," said Reed.

Both residences were finally taken with moderate resistance after having been bombed heavily.

While the two pictures share a common theme, the journeys it took to get the soldiers on film were very different.

About 295,000 U.S. servicemembers died in the effort to defeat the Axis Powers. So far, 146 U.S. soldiers and Marines have sacrificed their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To get to Berchtesgaden, the Allies spent 11 months on the ground (from June 6, 1944 to early May 1945) fighting the toughest, most technologically advanced, highly motivated mechanized army the world had seen up to that time.

Getting to Baghdad was not nearly so daunting. It took just one month against a barely trained, occasionally fed army equipped with outdated, ill-maintained equipment and sparse motivation. Most of the Iraqi army gave up far more readily than the Wehrmacht.

Video footage of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) in Berchtesgaden didn't reach the American public for many days, and television was extremely limited. News viewers in 2003 nearly watched it happen live. As a Fox news reporter embedded

with the unit that occupied Saddam's palace made a report, he was slightly injured in an attack.

In 1945, no one could call home from Germany easily; traditional mail was the rule.

In 2003, Lt. Col. Michael Presnell called his parents from just outside the palace and was seen in combat action in the same attack.

In the older photo, soldiers are seen drinking Hitler's wine. According to Associated Press reports, soldiers in Baghdad seemed to be more interested in Hussein's indoor plumbing, especially since the security situation in Baghdad was and is far tenuous than was the one in Berchtesgaden at the time.

Hitler's death was not confirmed for a long time after the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) occupied his Eagle's Nest. Hussein's fate and whereabouts are still unknown.

Museum planners intend to use the photos in an upcoming historical display showing common threads between yesterday's soldiers and those of today.

A layout of TA-50 from 1917 and current field gear will also be part of the display.

With their part of Operation Iraqi Freedom mostly completed, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) soldiers can come home to Fort Stewart now, until the next time they're called on to make history.

*Yank Magazine, June 1945*

**American soldiers celebrate in Hitler's Berchtesgaden, better known as his Eagle's Nest, in May 1945. The Eagle's Nest was one of Hitler's retreats in Berchtesgaden, Germany.**

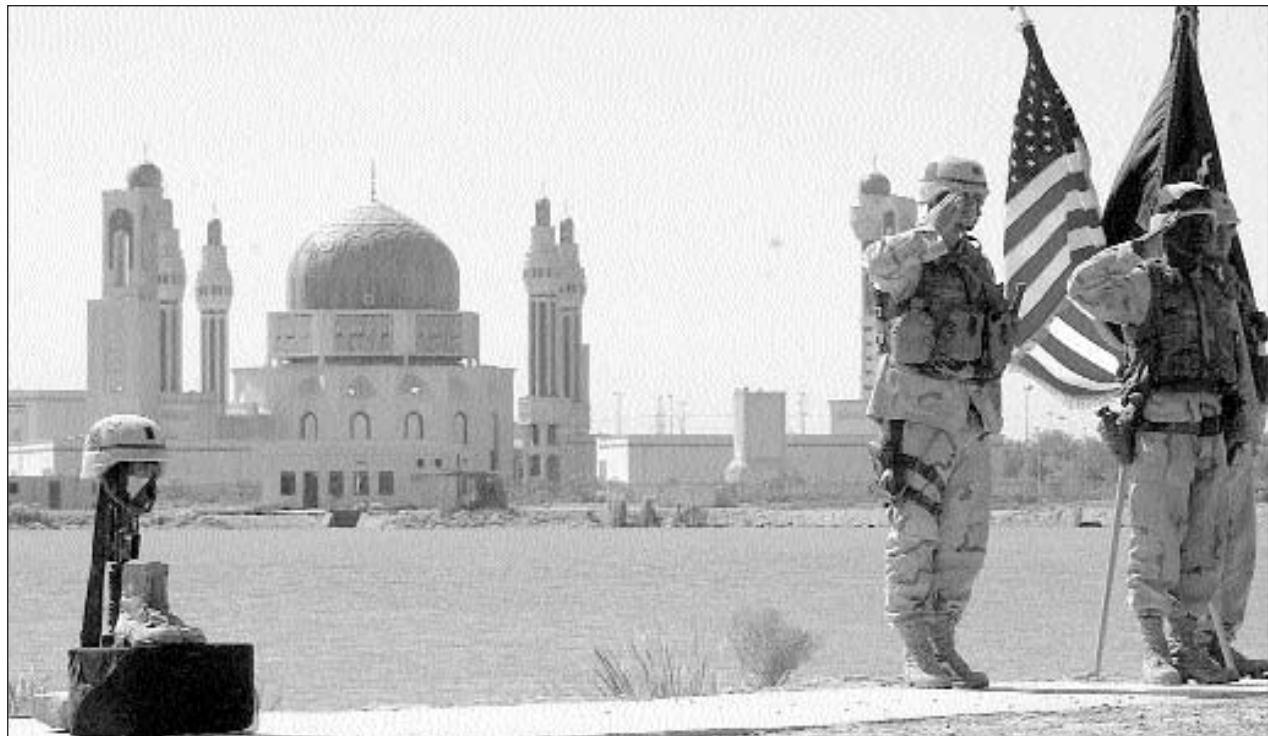


*AP photo/John Moore*

U.S. Army soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment search through a bomb-damaged palace of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad April 7 after entering the Iraqi capital in force.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

# 1/30th pays tribute to fallen leader



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team color guard salute as "Taps" is played.

**Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp**  
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — With the sun glinting off a reflecting pool and the majesty of a mosque towering in the background, elements of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team assembled to pay final respect to one of their own.

The memorial ceremony honored 1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, who was killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The word 'greatness' can often be overused, but not in this case. Garza was the ultimate quiet professional. I

have never met anyone like him, and I probably never will," said Lt. Col. Wesley Gillman, 1/30th Infantry commander.

Prior to his assignment with the Battle Boars, Garza served in Korea, Fort Benning, and Germany. He reported to 1/30th on Sept. 5, 2000. While there, he served as the operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge, B. Company first sergeant, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant. Garza had deployed in support of peacekeeping operations in Macedonia, Kosovo, and Southwest Asia.

"His primary focus was always his soldiers, and he loved his soldiers with all his heart," said Capt. Mitchell Watkins,

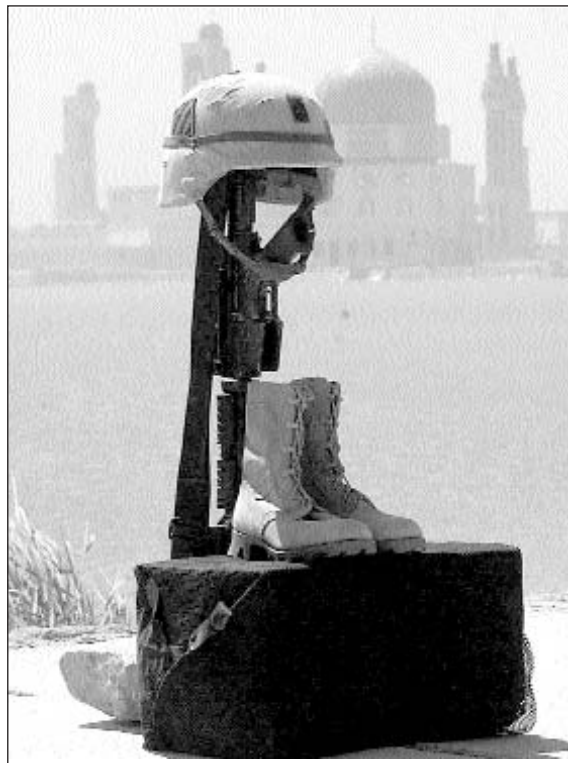
commander Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/30th Infantry. "I will not cry today; I will honor him by attempting to be the soldier he was," added Watkins.

The memorial service featured a melodic rendition of "Precious Lord," sung by six soldiers who served with Garza.

"He was always in charge, yet we were always in his charge," said Gillman.

"Lord, Garza is with you now; have no worries or concerns, he will take care of everything," he said.

Garza, a 19-year veteran of the Army, is survived by his wife Mary, and their three children, Joe, John, and Myra.



A soldier's memorial was set up for 1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza. The memorial consists of an M-16 rifle, desert boots, and a kevlar helmet.



Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team pay their respects to 1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza. He was a 19-year veteran of the army.

# Senator visits Hunter, commends military

1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Hunter Public Affairs

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss visited Hunter Army Airfield April 24 as one of three Georgia military installations he visited in an effort to meet with military families, military and community leaders. Chambliss attended a luncheon with Family Readiness Group leaders and Savannah Chamber of Commerce Members, toured the post, and held a press conference at Hunter.

Chambliss, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is making his rounds because he feels it is important to start planning now for another round of Base Realignment and Closure scheduled for 2005.

"I feel good about going into BRAC," said the senator. He is confident that Georgia's installations will fare well with all the significant weapons and people that have important roles in today's military.

The senator did admit however, that although millions of dollars have been spent at Hunter the past few years to improve the installation's infrastructure, "no base is completely secure."

Chambliss said he has worked hard in the last eight years to increase types of missions Georgia's military receives and to increase the nations' reliance on the state's military. He also wants to make sure that troops

and their families are provided with good educational, health and recreational amenities.

The FRG leaders got a chance to tell the senator exactly what their needs and concerns are during a luncheon and they "didn't hold back" said Lt. Col. Gerald S. Davie, Hunter garrison commander. The FRG leaders brought up issues such as soldiers being deployed more often with the increased operational tempo and the need to improve living conditions on post.

Chambliss said he had a great visit with the spouses of deployed soldiers and appreciated their candor. "That was a bunch of great ladies. They are heroes too holding up while their husbands are constantly being deployed ... they are very secure in their positions."

"He was very sincere and his staff was taking copious notes. I think we will be well represented," said Davie. He also said that it was nice to know that elected officials know the sacrifices our soldiers make and take time out to meet their spouses.

Chambliss also visited the U.S. Marine Corps Material Command in Albany and participated in a military community event in Pery earlier this week.

"God bless and thanks for making sure my children and grandchildren can live in a safe secure America," said Chambliss before he boarded his plane to visit the next post on his list. "I wish I could hug every one of them."



1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Senator Saxby Chambliss holds up a 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) T-shirt at Hunter Army Airfield's Departure/Arrival Airfield Control Group facility during his visit to the installation April 24.

# Fallen World War II veteran honored

Pfc. Emily Danial

Hunter Public Affairs

It's been said that the best way to honor a person after his death is to celebrate his life.

Family and friends of 2nd Lt. Britt C. Cumming, formerly of the 383rd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division, came together, along with over 100 people from Garden City and Chatham County April 29 to celebrate Cumming's life and heroic death by dedicating a sign that will serve as a memorial for him.

The sign, which stands outside Groves High School off Georgia Highway #21, was erected to replace its predecessor, which had deteriorated beyond repair years ago.

Cumming's sister, Carita Cumming-Connor, first noticed the sign missing two years ago, and knew something had to be done, so she got in touch with Lt. Col. Tim Fox, the Groves Junior ROTC commander.

Connor and Julia Folker, commander of the Savannah chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars who had also expressed a high interest in restoring the sign, worked with Fox for the next two years to bring the sign back to

life. Cumming graduated from Garden City's Commercial High School in 1942, after which he enlisted in the Army and went on to prove himself an excellent leader and dedicated soldier. He earned his commission in January 1945, a few short months before his death in overseas combat.

In the ceremony, several members of the Garden City community shared their sentiments and memories of Cumming, who was killed in Okinawa April 29, 1945.

Andy Quinney, Garden City mayor, dedicated the day "Britt C. Cumming Day," in honor of the man he had grown to appreciate and respect as he learned more about his life through working on the sign.

James Causey, guest speaker and Past President of the 96th Infantry Division Society, said, "I want to commend all who had a part in this ... it's very important to maintain the legacy of those who sacrificed like Lt. Cumming."

"My family cannot thank you enough for honoring the memory of my brother," said Connor.



Pfc. Emily Danial

Rep. Ron Stephens presents the Georgia Assembly proclamation for 2nd Lt. Britt C. Cumming Day to Carita Cumming-Connor, Cumming's sister at a ceremony at Groves High School in Savannah April 29. Cumming was a member of Groves High School's Army Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps program who lost his life in Okinawa, Japan in World War II.

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# Portable PX visits soldiers

**Spc. Katherine Robinson**

50th PAD

**CENTRAL IRAQ** — The Army Air Force Exchange Service visited 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) support operations soldiers for one day May 5.

Soldiers stood in line for up to six hours for the chance to shop for the first time since the war started.

The portable PX arrived in trailers, which AAFES staff and soldiers downloaded in boxes to create a makeshift shopping area.

Then the soldiers were given boxes to carry their items in as they were let into the store area, where they browsed, then stood in a second, shorter line for checkout.

The AAFES warehouse is located at Baghdad International Airport, and small teams often go out to the different units to set up business for a day, according to Mary Moreno, a rodeo coordinator for AAFES from Germany.

"It just takes coordination," Moreno said. Command groups let AAFES know what units are in what areas and then arrange a schedule for visits.

"It gives (soldiers) something to look forward to," she added. "It gives a sense of normalcy ... makes you feel like you're at home."

Moreno said she enjoys going out to the

units who don't have regular access to shopping.

"I love it ... these guys are so appreciative. It makes you feel good when people say things like, 'thanks, are you coming back?' and 'we're glad to have you here.'"

"That's what makes it worth it," she explained. "They really, really appreciate us being here."

"We sure do," agreed soldiers in line at Moreno's checkout stand.

Spc. James Threet, a 317th Maintenance Company machinist from Anderson, Ind., stood in line from 11:30 a.m. until close at 4 p.m., but was satisfied with the visit.

"I got more than what I needed," he said.

Many soldiers have items sent to them from their families, Threet explained, but by the time the items arrive, need has often increased.

"A lot of these soldiers haven't had a chance in over 30 days to get any kind of shopping for personal hygiene (items)," said Sgt. Christopher Cook, a 274th Movement Control Team transportation manager from Winter Park, Fla.

"It's a good morale booster for the soldiers," agreed Sgt. Irene Broussard, the 24th Corps Support Group paralegal noncommissioned officer in charge, from Montgomery, Ala. "It gives them something to do and somewhere to go other than work."



Spc. Katherine Robinson

**Staff Sgt. Sarah Vidal, a movement supervisor with the 258th Movement Control Detachment unloads her shopping box at the checkout.**

## Servicemembers get a little bit of home

**Spc. Jacob Boyer**

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) PAO

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Servicemembers at Baghdad International Airport got the chance to stock up on supplies and personal necessities used on the way to Baghdad when a post exchange opened at the airfield April 22.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service opened the PX with essential sundry items, said J.W. Merriman, Jr., general manager for AAFES operations in the BIA area.

"We just brought the basic stuff to start off, like food, baby wipes and hygiene items," he said. "It's great to be able to bring these types of items to soldiers who haven't had access to them recently."

Before the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, soldiers were told to pack for 30 days, so supplies were beginning to get thin by the time the store opened, said Pfc. Timothy Joiner, chemical specialist, A Co., 9th Psychological Operations Battalion.

"It's a big relief to get the stuff we need," said the Baltimore native. "We really need a good PX here after going so long without a chance

to replenish our supplies."

The store was originally supposed to open at a different location, but Merriman and 13 other civilian volunteers found out they were coming to BIA two days before they were supposed to open the 5,000 square foot facility.

"We got in at 9 or 10 in the morning (April 21) and went to work on getting the building set up and unloading the trucks," Merriman said. "The command here was very supportive. This thing has worked out very well for us to support the troops here."

About 60 soldiers volunteered to help set the store up, Merriman said. The crew worked until 10 p.m. the night before the PX opened and came back at 7 a.m. the next day to get everything ready to open at 11 a.m.

"I just wanted to help out the best I could," said Sgt. Derrick James, electronics intelligence specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion. "I'll do anything to help my fellow soldiers."

James, a Clinton, N.C., native, said the PX has been a "great morale booster" for the soldiers.

"Everybody's happy it's open," he said. "And they're all really



Spc. Jacob Boyer

**Soldiers shop in the new post exchange at Baghdad International Airport. Various essentials were made available to them for the first time since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

appreciative of the work everyone here has done. They all tell us to keep up the good work."

Merriman said while the store started off offering the basics, he plans to bring in more items as time passes.

"Right now, we're just trying to get established and set up the hub,"

he said. "We'll bring in things like CDs and movies as we get more stuff warehoused. We'll add items as we get requests and input from the soldiers shopping here."

The PX at the airport will not be the only AAFES operation in the Baghdad area, Merriman said. There are plans for rodeos to go out

to other areas troops are located to "bring them a little bit of home."

"This is what AAFES is all about," he said. "When we say 'We go where you go,' we mean it. We'll be setting up rodeos and more stores, and we'll continue to do that as troops move forward in the future."

# POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 47-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving on suspended license, failure to use headlights
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old female, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 33-year male,
- **Charges:** Driving too fast for conditions
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 18-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Larceny of government funds, larceny of private property, forgery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Forgery, attempted larceny of private funds, larceny of private property
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private, 18-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds, attempted larceny of private funds
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, Division Artillery

- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds, forgery, attempted larceny of private funds
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Family member, 21-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 55-year-old male
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 29-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 30-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 57-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 32-year-old female
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, open container
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 31-year-old male,
- **Charges:** Possession of open container, unlawful transfer of license plates, no driving license, speeding
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private Second Class, 22-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Drunken driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Loitering, prowling
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male separate battalion
- **Charges:** Drunken driving
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

## Rector, Roberts tell soldiers' story through theater

**Pfc. Emily Danial**

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

It's winter, 1991, in Connecticut, one of those parts of the country that actually experiences winter. Operation Desert Storm has just begun, and a renowned writer is missing her deployed son terribly, while at the same time struggling to make her mark in the world of theater using material that has been written by people who aren't writers at all.

This is the premise of the play "Letters from the Front," a production that has been touring military posts all over the world, and made its mark on Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart May 7, May 8 and Friday.

The play, written and directed by Robert Rector and produced by Marsha Roberts, was originally staged twelve years ago, soon after the start of Desert Storm – thus its setting – and is based around actual letters written by soldiers and family members during military conflicts now spanning from the Revolutionary War up to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Roberts said the idea for the play came to her in the middle of the night, and that Rector, her husband, was her most enthusias-

tic supporter.

Together, the two developed a show that grippingly portrays both the fears and joys of soldiers and military families during wartime.

In 1999, Rector and Roberts developed a World War II version of the play, which, said Roberts, struck a deep chord with most Americans.

After September 11, 2001, and the ensuing events that led to Operation Iraqi Freedom, she and Rector thought it suitable to revive the original version of the play.

It centers on Katharine Hartgrove, played by Bobbi Kravis, and her "good friend" Johnny Chastain, played by Bob Curren.

Katharine is a writer, and a single mother, whose son, Mark, has been deployed to the Middle East. At the opening of the play, she is composing a letter to him, anxious but trying to keep her head up, while also stressing out over a play she is writing – a play based on letters from soldiers throughout all of history's wars.

Johnny, a former television personality, appears at Katharine's door to help guide her through the trials and tribulations that go along with writing for an audience.

As the two collaborate and converse over the following days, they become closer and more understanding of each other, and when hard times hit, Katharine and Johnny realize, through the letters they are reading and the words they are sharing, just what is most important to them.

"It's funny in places, and sad in some," said John Lowe, production manager. "In some places it's very difficult, and some places are absolutely hysterical ... it's a truly wonderful piece."

For him, Lowe said, "The most challenging part is keeping a professional distance from the material. The material can get very personal for me, and for everyone who sees the show."

The show has been touring military installations since 1992, said Rector, because the story that was being told was that of soldiers.

Throughout the show's run, he said, he has been tinkering with various details, trying to make it better and more personal, for the actors as well as for each audience the group plays to.

"That's something you just can't do with film," said Rector,

See LETTERS, Page 21A

## 3ID IN BRIEF

## Stewart

**Officer Candidate School**

The next HQDA Officer Candidate School selection board will be conducted at PERSCOM, July 21 to 25. The Fort Stewart local OCS Board will be conducted on June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at TBD. Packets will be accepted at Bldg. 9126. Deadline for packets to be turned in to the Personnel Action Section, B Co, 3rd SSB is June 10.

Point of contact for this action is Sgt. 1st Class Clark or Sgt. Elkins at 767-5817/1452.

**Vacation Bible School**

Fort Stewart SonHarvest County Fair will be held 9 a.m. to noon, June 16 to 20 at Brittin Elementary School. Ages 2 to 12 are invited.

Register during Sunday School hour from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. at Diamond Elementary or at Marne Chapel until 280 vacancies are filled.

For more information contact Evon Roberts 863-7678 or Marne Chapel 767-8801.

**15th Street temporary change**

Effective Monday, the traffic at the 15th Street Gate will be temporarily restricted to a single inbound lane. Outbound traffic must exit the installation through any of the other open gates. This restriction will last until first week in June.

**Special Forces**

The Special Forces recruiting office is seeking professional enlisted and officer volunteers to join the ranks of one of America's most premier fighting forces.

To learn more about Special Forces attend a weekly briefing at Hunter at noon and 2 p.m., Tuesdays, at the Education Center or Fort Stewart at 10 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Special Forces Recruiting Office Building 132.

For more information, call 767-0229.

**Environmental Assessment**

M3A3 Bradley Fire Support Team (BFIST) Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates potential environmental impacts encountered during manufacturing, testing, and field use of the M3A3 BFIST.

These vehicles will be fielded at Fort Stewart. It has been concluded by EA there is no significant environmental impact and no statement is required for continued manufacture and use of these vehicles.

For more information contact Mr. Kenneth Pitko at (586)574-6321.

**Learning center hours**

The Main Education and 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Centers, Buildings 130 and 1237

respectively, will expand their hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours. Two temporary changes are in effect until further notice.

Computer access will be available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, will be available 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.

Learning Center, Building 1237 will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Do It Yourself**

Learn to check tire pressure, rotate your tires, inspect belts, hoses, brakes and more.

Libby Auto has classes available during the week and weekends. Teens are welcome.

For more information call 767-3527.

**Childcare Needed**

Military wives in counties surrounding Fort Stewart are needed to provide childcare in their homes.

Free training and assistance offered through Youth Services' Family Childcare program. If you love children, why not consider this excellent opportunity to make money

For more information call 767-2311.

**Operation Salute**

Anheuser-Busch will give free single-day admission to its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and up to four of their dependents.

For more information 1-800-DIAL-BUD for visit your military ticket office.

**Volunteers Needed**

The ACS Volunteer Coordinator and the Installation Volunteer Coordinator have information about a variety of volunteer opportunities in the ACS Center and other agencies at Fort Stewart.

Call 767-5058 for more information about services needed.

**Fort Stewart Library**

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage month. The library has books of special interest these citizens. The Asian American Information Directory is a guide to organizations, agencies and institutions concerned with Asian American nationalities and ethnic groups in the U.S.

Interesting web sites are [www.nypl.org/branch/kids/asian/asian.html](http://www.nypl.org/branch/kids/asian/asian.html) and [www.infoplease.com/spot/asian-history1.html](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/asian-history1.html).

## Hunter

**Softball Tourney**

Memorial Day Softball Tourney will be held May 23 & 24. Entry fee is \$100 and deadline is May 21. There is a maximum of 15 people per team.

For more information call the Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

**After-school Program**

The Hunter Youth Center is now signing up students in the 6th grade level and higher for a free After-School Program.

1st through 5th graders may also sign up, however, space is limited. Those who are interested can register at Building. 1286.

**Phatt Katz Comedy Show**

The Phatt Katz Comedy Run will present shows at the Hunter Club on Wednesday starting at 9:30 p.m. Performances will feature two comedians and one headliner.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations call 912-269-0277.

**First Steps Program**

The First Steps Program needs volunteers. This is a program that provides information and support to expectant and new parents stationed at Hunter. Volunteers make home visits to expectant parents and provide a 12 month phone call follow up.

Volunteers are paid mileage reimbursement and enjoy flexible hours. For more information, call 756-6516.

**Wilson Avenue**

Widening and resurfacing from approximately 800 feet west of the Stephenson Gate to the intersection of Lightening Road is scheduled to Commence Monday until July 3, tentatively. Traffic will be maintained to one lane.

**Softball**

Intramural Softball registration is still open – sign up today! Semi-pro baseball is also available. All sports open to active duty, reserve component soldiers and family members.

For more information call Art Lewis, Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

**Continuing education**

Family members, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen can continue their education during their relocation to Hunter Army Airfield, regardless of their specific unit, at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center, Building 1290. For more information, call 352-6130.

Classrooms are also available for training and FRG meetings. For

additional information about these locations, or the ACES program, call the Main Education Center at 352-6130.

**Operation Yellow Ribbon**

Operation Yellow Ribbon Savannah/Hinesville 2003 will be held Saturday at Lake Mayer. Entertainment and family fun from 1 to 4 p.m., special guest speakers and candle light vigil from 4 to 8 p.m.

Press coverage expected – bring your pictures of your soldiers and signs of support. Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended.

**Youth Services**

Youth Services is offering tae kwon do classes, golf lessons, weight training, basketball, cheerleading, soccer clinics and much more.

For more information call Youth Services at 352-5708 or 352-6075.

**Swimming Lessons**

Red Cross certified swimming lessons held at pool located between Community Club and hotel. Must be a CYS member and must register in advance.

Fee is \$25 and classes are limited to 10 students. All classes will be held Monday through Thursday with Friday being a rain day.

For more information call Youth Services at 352-5708 or 352-6075

**Mystery Bowl**

This event will be held June 1 to August 3. Chances to win bowling prizes such as a Brunswick Viz-a-Ball, bags, toys, and "instant win" opportunities. The nine weekly winners go on to compete for one of two resort vacations sponsored by [www.GovArm.com](http://www.GovArm.com).

Get additional information at Hunter bowling centers or call 352-6279.

**Renaissance Festival**

Get in free with your military identification May 31 and June 1. Georgia Renaissance Festival is a Medieval Amusement Park open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sundays, plus Memorial Day.

For information visit [www.georgia-renaissancefestival.com](http://www.georgia-renaissancefestival.com) or call 770-964-8575.

**Hunter Outdoor Recreation**

Lotts Island equipment is available 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday free of charge but must be used on the island.

Pavilion reservations can be made for parties, reunions or organizational functions to military and general public.

For Pavilion reservations call 352-5722.

## Winn Army Community Hospital

**Youth Summer Program**

The American Red Cross Youth Summer Program mandatory orientation will be 5 p.m. May 15 in Winn's Patriot Auditorium. The program is open to young adults age 14 to 17. The eight-week volunteer program will be from June 3 to July 25.

For more information or to get an application, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or e-mail [Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil)

**Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at Winn Army Community Hospital.

**"Take Care of Yourself"**

The next Winn "Take Care of Yourself" classes will be 2 to 3 p.m. May 14 and 11 a.m. to noon May 28. Tuttle's class will be 10 to 11 a.m. April 30. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle.

To register for the Winn class, call 370-5071. To register for the Tuttle class, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Tobacco Cessation**

Tobacco Cessations classes will be available at Winn 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday starting May 15. To register for the class, call 370-5071. The class will be available at Tuttle 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays starting May 7. To register for the class, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Expectant Mothers Support**

The Expectant Mothers Support Group is specifically tailored to the meet the needs of pregnant women whose significant other is deployed. The next meeting will be 9 a.m. May 13 at Club Stewart.

The educational class topic will be pregnancy wellness. Childcare will be available with advanced notice. For more information or to book childcare, call Beth Wilkinson at 370-6779.

**Bereavement Support Group**

A Sunrise Bereavement Support Group will be held 7 to 8 p.m. May 13 in Winn's chapel. The group is open to beneficiaries who have lost a loved one. For more information, call 370-6661 or 370-6779.

**Coping Support Groups**

The Coping Support Group is for adults having difficulty dealing with the stress in their life. The group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. every

Monday.

The Coping Support Group for Children meets 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday for children ages 6 to 9 and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for children ages 10 to 13. For more information, call 370-6100.

**TRICARE Hours of Operation**

The TRICARE Service Center will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 370-6015.

**Tuttle TRICARE enrollment**

TRICARE enrollment briefings for Tuttle are held by appointment from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday. To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Winn and Tuttle Champions**

The Winn and Tuttle Champions program matches representatives with Family Readiness Groups to answer questions about what healthcare services are available to you - from transferring your TRICARE enrollment to refilling prescriptions to schedule appointments.

For more information, call Winn's representatives, Linda King or Darla Vaught, at 370-6225/6143 or Tuttle's representative, Marilyn O'Mallon, at 352-6015.

**Intervention Services**

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments.

For more information, call 370-6349.

**ASAP sees families**

The Army Substance Abuse Program will now see dependant family members at least 18-years-old, retirees, contract employees and Department of the Army civilians on a walk-in basis.

ASAP is located in Building 620 on 6th Street. For more information, call 767-5265/5267.

**Pregnancy Nurse Line**

Patients more than 20 weeks pregnant who have questions between their regularly scheduled appointments can call the direct nurse line at 370-6550.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Fort Stewart McGruff  
Safe House Program



All inquiries or requests for information should be directed to:  
Attn: Pamela Gaskin, Army Community Service  
76 Lindquist Avenue, BLDG 470, Fort Stewart, GA 31314-5512  
Phone: (912) 767-5058/5059 • Fax: (912) 767-5502  
Sponsored by DCAS Army Community Service - Family Advocacy Program

## Electrical Aid: Power station receives emergency funds

Cpl. Todd Pruden

372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Emergency funds were disbursed May 6 at the South Baghdad Power Station to five local electric companies by the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance in order to keep them operational.

According to Maj. Lawrence Tubbs, economics officer, 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, \$23,000 seized by coalition forces from the previous regime were allocated for an emergency payout to electrical workers and for electrical maintenance to keep the power on in Baghdad. Each electrical worker is expected to receive a \$20 payout in U.S. dollars to keep them on the job.

"At some point salaries will kick back in," said Tubbs. "If this takes a little while longer, they may issue another payment."

According to Navy Capt. Ted Brown, chief of operations, requests for payment come from the Iraqi Electric Commission from various electrical entities within the country.

Individual company representatives received lump-sum cash payments to pay employees to keep them on the job. This was done to make the process move more quickly and efficiently.

"It is not our job to hand out individual disbursements," Brown stated. "We want to use the Iraqi chain-of-command."

Also disbursed was an \$8,500 fund allocation for repairs to the Middle Baghdad Region for wire repairs.

"The main priority is a return to normalcy for the people of Iraq," Tubbs said. "That is our main priority."

According to Tubbs, this was the 15th emergency payment disbursement to date for the utility companies and 30 more are planned for the future.



Cpl. Todd Pruden

Staff Sgt. Parren Flemming, disbursing officer, 208th Finance Battalion, counts money for administrators of the Middle Region Electrical Distribution Company.

## Baghdad Post Office opens for business with ribbon cutting

Spc. Adam Nueken

3rdID (Mech.) PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Alkahdmia Post Office in Baghdad reopened recently in a ribbon cutting ceremony that also symbolized the reopening of the mail services across Iraq.

The opening of the post office is a large step for the Iraqi people because with downed phone lines and limited Internet access, it gives them a way to communicate across and outside Iraq.

"It's a very important step for the Iraqi people to communicate with the outside world," said Sgt. 1st Class Kent Chacoski, platoon sergeant, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. Chacoski, a Jamestown, NC native, was in charge of returning the post office to working order.

In order to rejuvenate the postal services in Iraq, all 1,809 Baghdad employees were paid \$20, and the civil affairs office has provided additional financing until the postal service becomes self-sufficient.

"They're going into a new era where there is no competition with the Internet, so they are going to make money," Chacoski said.

Even before Alkahdmia Post Office opened its doors, local Iraqis were lining up to try and mail packages and letters.

An initial problem was faced by the destruction of some of Baghdad's post offices. Many of the offices were in the same buildings as telecommunications buildings and were destroyed during coalition bombings.

"When the telecommunications got hit, (some offices were destroyed)," Chacoski said. "The (post offices) have moved to smaller, temporary locations."

Of the 69 post offices in Baghdad, 44 remain ready to serve, according to Chacoski. With the destroyed and consolidated post offices, the civil affairs unit and Iraqi postal service has worked to reopen branches and keep employees.

"There are more workers, but they are moving to other locations to consolidate — we are going to keep all the workers," he said.

The reopening of the post offices isn't only important for sending out letters and parcels. The offices also provided the welfare money for Iraqi citizens.

"We give the money for the Ministry of Finance for the sick and elderly," said Ghazi Subhe, 46, postmaster at Alkahdmia Post Office. "Those who can't walk to the Ministry come here."



Spc. Adam Nueken

Kalid Al-Aziew, Iraq's Postmaster General, and Sgt. 1st Class Kent Chacoski, platoon sergeant, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, and Jamestown, NC native, cut a ribbon signifying the reopening of the Alkahdmia POst Office.

The reopening of the Alkahdmia Post Office is symbolic because it was the first post office to open in Baghdad.

"This post office opened in Baghdad in 1922," Subhe said.

U.S. forces are continuing daily to help revitalize Iraq and rebuild its infrastructure. Subhe said many Iraqis are appreciative of what the U.S. military are doing to help rebuild Iraq.

"If the American forces have any ideas of development, (we ask that they) help us do it," he said.



## LEADER

from page 2A

he calmly picked off enemy one at a time with his rifle.”

As Yetter was bringing his vehicle toward the gate, a mortar round hit the driver’s hatch, injuring him and two soldiers inside.

Shortly thereafter, an RPG hit a Bradley from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment that, moments before, had breached the gate and passed to the other side.

An RPG then struck another 2nd Plt. APC. Fortunately, the round embedded in a rucksack on the side of the vehicle, absorbing the blast and sparing the two occupants serious injury, according to Keller. The rucksack belonged to the platoon sergeant – Smith.

Fifteen minutes after the first round was fired from the Iraqi forces, Bulldog Company, 11th Eng. Bn., was pinned down, receiving fire from three guard towers, the wall to their front and dozens of fighting positions on the other side.

“Nobody backed down from the fight,” said Sgt. Derek S. Pelletier, 3rd squad team leader. “I fired five (antitank rounds) at two of the towers. They just kept coming.”

“It was non-stop,” said Pvt. 2 Michael Seaman, APC driver 1st squad. “The enemy kept spraying rounds over the wall, hopping up to fire RPGs and dropping mortars on us.”

Smith was worried about getting his men out of there, according to Pvt. 2 Michael Seaman, 2nd platoon driver. “I could see it in his eyes that he felt something was going to happen, but he never flinched. He had complete control of himself, his soldiers and the situation”\

### A sacrifice that saved the soldiers

To facilitate the evacuation of the casualties and the maneuverability of his troops, Smith made what came to be a life-altering decision.

“He was driving (Yetter’s) APC to get into a better position to engage the enemy,” Seaman said. “He called for a driver so he could man the .50 cal, so I hopped in. I’d follow the man anywhere.”

Remaining in the courtyard, Smith directed the vehicle into a position where he could effectively engage enemy forces to the west in the towers and fighting positions.

“He must have been firing for ten minutes,” Seaman said. “He kept calling me up (from inside the APC) for more rounds. He easily fired 400-500 rounds.”

Smith, behind the .50 caliber machine gun, was at a height that enabled him to see a majority of the enemy forces. In turn, they could clearly see and engage him.

“After I loaded what I think was the fifth can of ammo, he told me to get back down in the hatch,” Seaman said. “I stopped hearing firing, so I looked at the ammo can and gun to see rounds were still loaded.

“I couldn’t see him and was wondering what had happened to him. Then I looked and saw him fall in through the hatch.”

Amid the confusion and uncertainty, Seaman exited the vehicle and shouted, “Sergeant Smith’s hit, Sergeant Smith’s hit.”

When he got to the scene, Hartley said Smith’s pulse was weak and breaths were short.

“We were still under fire, and we had to get to the tank and evacuate him to the (forward aid station),” Hartley said. “We quickly got to him, put him on a litter, and carried him to the FAS.”

Thirty minutes later, Smith was dead — killed in action from a single gunshot wound to the neck.

Ten minutes after Smith was hit, Iraqi forces retreated into the woodline.

“There weren’t many of them left to fight,” Pelletier said. “(Sgt. 1st Class) Smith must have taken most of them out because (after he was hit) we didn’t hear much enemy fire.”

The word of Smith’s death slowly trickled down the line.

“When I first heard I thought, ‘Not him, how could it be him.’ He almost seemed invincible,” Pelletier said. “It wasn’t until I saw senior leadership in tears that it hit me – he’s really dead. I broke down.”

### Soldiers reflect

Almost immediately, the leadership and soldiers of B Company realized that many of their lives were saved because of Smith.

“If he didn’t hop on that .50 cal, those soldiers that were hit by the mortar may have never gotten evacuated, and we would have definitely been pinned down a lot longer,” Seaman said. “It would’ve been a lot uglier – he saved a lot of us.”

His extraordinary bravery under fire didn’t come as a surprise to any of his troops.

“He’s always been that way,” said Pelletier. “He never sat back and watched – always led from the front.”

The lessons and leadership brought to 2nd Platoon by Smith at Fort Stewart have resonated in the soldiers’ minds throughout the war. Their actions and valor have been indicative of what Smith was trying to drill into them back in the training environment.

“We were always working late back at (Fort) Stewart. We’d go home some days and curse the man up and down,” Pelletier said. “We now see why we trained harder and

worked longer — he was preparing us for this. We’re all pretty thankful for it now.”

“(Sgt. 1st Class) Smith demanded the best,” Hartley said. “He’d have no problem letting you know when you didn’t perform to standard.”

Aside from his hard-lined approach to training and soldiering, and keen attention to detail, he was a personable man who would always lend an ear to a soldier in need.

“He was always looking out for me — making sure I was rested and fed. He’d do that with all the squads,” Hartley added. “We talked a lot throughout war. He started out as a hard ass and, by the time he died, he was a father figure to me.”

Clearly evident in the words of 2nd platoon. are their admiration for a great leader, soldier and man.

“He was the best. He strived for perfection and always made sure we knew the right way to do things,” Seaman said. “He was what a soldier and leader are meant to be. He was one of a kind.”

Combat engineers are referred to as “Sappers.” Within their profession, they speak of the “Sapper God,” who looks down upon them and guides them throughout their missions. The soldiers of B Company, 11th Eng. Bn., believe that Smith has taken up a seat next to the Sapper God — that he is worthy of that position. They have no doubt that the lessons they’ve learned from Smith in life are just as important as his selflessness, bravery and sacrifice in death — for he will always show them the way – the right way.

**Editor’s note:** *Hollinsaid, Smith’s replacement as platoon sergeant, was killed in action April 7 in Southern Baghdad.*

## LETTERS

from page 18A

whose previous work was mainly as a filmmaker.

“Every actor has things that they excel in, and you’d be a fool as a writer to not play to that,” he said. “I think with every Johnny and Katharine we’ve had, I’ve gone in, changed, tweaked dialogue a little bit, so that it plays to their abilities.”

The actors did seem perfectly comfortable in their roles — as I watched the story play out, I had to remember that these actors were just that, as they fit so well into the characters’ skin.

“I just like the whole concept,” said Curren, who is in the midst of his third season with the production and picked up the role of Johnny

during the World War II version.

Both Curren and Kravis, who is beginning a second year with the show, agreed that what drew them to it originally was the amount of interaction they would have with the audience.

“In regular theater, you just don’t get a chance to do that,” said Kravis, who performed in the 2001 national tour of “Footloose.” “It can be very emotional and very gratifying to have people come up and say to you, ‘Thank you for telling my story.’ It’s very moving.”

And, thanks to the work of Rector, Roberts, the cast and the crew, their story will continue to be told.

## MARKET

from page 1A

Zanelotti said that cooperation between the Americans and the Iraqis has been improving steadily as the Iraqis come to understand what the soldiers are here for.

“The problem is a difference in culture,” he said. “We both want safety, but they are used to being far more dependent and looking to others for decisions. But they’re beginning to understand that they need to make their own choices.”

The goal of the collaboration between the soldiers and police officers is to eventually turn all of the work over to the Iraqis, Garrell said.

“The biggest thing we want them to know is that we’re trying to help them,” he said. “We want to get the people back on their feet. That will allow us to step back, so eventually they’ll fully control their towns and villages. The sooner we can do that, the sooner (U.S. soldiers) can go home.”

## UNIVERSITY

from page 1A

The Baghdad University College of Agriculture, founded in 1952, contains a research center on campus that serves as a central hub for agriculture and animal genetic research in Iraq.

The re-opening of one of Iraq’s premier learning institutions is one more step to returning the country to order and rebuilding its infrastructure, said Capt. David Conkle, 1/15 intelligence officer, who has worked closely with Montgomery in the rebuilding effort.

U.S. forces have been working for weeks to rebuild what has been damaged, destroyed or looted in Baghdad.

However, much of the work of the U.S. forces would have not been possible had it not been for the Iraqi citizens who have been more than willing to assist in clean up and repair operations, added Montgomery.

In the coming weeks, 3rd Brigade soldiers and Iraqi civilians are expected to continue working to rebuild Baghdad’s infrastructure, restore power and water to the majority of the Brigade’s area and clean remaining weapons and ammunition off the streets to help build a better Baghdad.

## LIFE &amp; TIMES

B SECTION

## On Post

## Spouses' night out

A Spouses' Night Out will be held 6 to 10 p.m., Friday at Club Stewart's Patriot Corner. There will be line dancing and ballroom dancing lessons at 7:30 p.m.

There will also be board games, music, snacks, cards and a beverage station. Child care is available, call CYS at 767-3203 for child care requirements.

## Toastmasters

Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your communication skills.

The Dog-Faced Soldiers Toastmasters International Club meets noon every second and fourth Wednesday at Club Stewart and is open to everyone.

For more information, call 767-0383 or email at [Bowenja@stewart.army.mil](mailto:Bowenja@stewart.army.mil).

## Education Center hours

The Main Education Center and 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Centers, Buildings 130 and 1237 have expanded their hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours until no longer needed.

Computer access will be available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Center, Building 1237, will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Prayer Warriors

The Fort Stewart Prayer Warriors meet 3 to 4 p.m., Sundays at Marne Chapel Conference Room.

This prayer group is open to everyone, if you cannot make it, email your soldier's name and unit to [caseybrcraig@coastalnow.net](mailto:caseybrcraig@coastalnow.net) and we will add them to our prayer list. No babysitting is provided, please bring a toy for your child.

## Prayer service

The installation commander announces a weekly prayer service, noon to 12:20 p.m., Thursdays at Marne Chapel. It is a prayer time for Remembrance and Hope.

## CYS Central Registration

The CYS Central Registration, Building 443 will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday by appointment only; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only and all day Wednesday for walk-in. Pick up records from your child's program (SAS, CDC, FCC and YS) prior to update. For more information, call 767-2312.

## Off Post

## Parent's night out

Enjoy a night out while your kids have fun at the YMCA 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays and every 2nd and 4th Saturday. Rates per child, per hour are E-1 through E-4, \$1; E-5 through E-6, \$1.25 and all others, \$1.50. Children may bring swimsuits. Registration is required and may be completed when children are dropped off.

## Art School Exhibit

Hospice Savannah will host the End of the Year Exhibit of Student Art Work 2003, May 1 to May 31 at the Hospice Savannah Art Gallery at 6711 LaRoche Avenue. The gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For more information, call 355-2289 or 691-1181.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Tina LeMaster (right) has her candle lit by Anita Blount, wife of Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commanding general, at the candlelight ceremony on Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Shane LeMaster is currently deployed to Iraq.

## Picnic held for military spouses

## Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer

"He realized that when you support a soldier, you support the spouse," Linda Heifferon, Directorate of Community Activities and Services director, said about President Reagan's inception of Military Spouse Appreciation Day in April 1984.

May 9 was a special Spouse Appreciation Day, as DCAS teamed up with the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee to set up a picnic that would benefit not only the spouses, but

children as well, she said, this year Spouse Appreciation Day almost exactly coincides with Mother's Day.

Military spouses and their children enjoyed free refreshments under a big tent while listening to Christian music from The Accords and Precious Pearls. The Snelson Golden Middle School's eighth grade band played patriotic songs as well.

The Accords, a traditional Christian band known for the hit single, "The Cross Speaks Louder," on the Billboard Christian chart's

Top 40, have begun a tour of military installations around the country.

"We want to share our music with soldiers and soldiers' families. It's our way of saying thank you ... to have the freedom to play our music for those who gave it to us," said Olan Witt, bass vocalist.

Children were able to ride a pony, or try their hand at rock climbing among other carnival-type exhibits.

The picnic was worked and funded by local business owners, retirees and more than 30 volunteers.

Businesses that provided

support were Heritage Bank, Coastal Communications, Holtzman Realtors, Georgia Power, McDonald's, Papa John's Pizza, Nesmith Chevrolet, Sonic Drive-through, Derst's Baking and Wal-Mart.

"It's been a true partnership with the committee, not just with the war effort, but with the entire community ... to tell the spouses that we appreciate them and their courage," Heifferon said.

The Military Affairs Committee is made up of many organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars,

"that say what can we do to make Fort Stewart better?" said Gary Dodd, picnic committee chairman.

Aside from picnics, the committee helps organize memorials, sendoffs and welcome-backs.

Extensive planning for this great undertaking began more than a month ago with participation coming from all over the city, he said.

"Everyone wants to help. It's been a team effort," Dodd said.

At 7:30 p.m. the festivities were halted temporarily.

See PICNIC, Page 3B



Sp. Jonathan M. Stack

Col. Gerald J. Poltorak (left) and Kay Poltorak (right) wave to the crowd as passing by in the Sweet Onion Parade.

## Glennville celebrates harvest of onions

## Sp. Jonathan M. Stack

Staff Writer

The 27th annual Sweet Onion Festival and Parade was held in Glennville, Ga., Saturday.

The parade consisted of floats, bicycles, shriners, many beauty queens of different ages, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) color guard and Col. Gerald J. Poltorak, installation commander.

During the festival the color guard presented and retired the colors and Poltorak spoke to the attendees. The festival included music, vendors selling different items from food to arts and crafts, a dance, beauty pageant and a turtle race.

It is important for the 3d Inf. Div. (Mech.) to be involved within the sur-

rounding communities to show that the division cares about the community and it helps raise the morale of the soldiers by seeing how the community appreciates seeing them, said Sgt. Christopher Royal, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 3d Inf. Div. (Mech.) color guard.

Although, the 3d Inf. Div. (Mech.) was participated in the day's events the festival was to honor the crops of the sweet onion harvested this year.

The festival was started 27 years ago, said Wayne Dasoher, chairman of the Sweet Onion Festival. The festival has grown each year.

The onion festival would not be possible if it wasn't for the farmers, he said. The festival is important to keep the sweet onion popular and not become just a novelty.

## Hunter prepares for return of troops; Dresses it up with patriotic ribbons

## 1st. Lt. Amy Phillips

Hunter Public Affairs

Military spouses and Boy Scouts gathered at Hunter Army Airfield to assemble patriotic ribbons and place them throughout post, May 7.

The Hunter wives and Boy Scouts Troop 3 and 88 volunteered to help make Hunter a little more festive in preparation for the return of our troops.

"I'm just glad to make people happy by providing them with the material," said Gary Pokrandt of Waltrich Plastic Corporation, the person who made this whole event possible by donating 11,200 feet of plastic material to make the ribbons. His company manufactures material to make lawn chairs. Pokrandt also made a device to make ribbons that helped make the ribbon-making process go smoothly.

"It's like a celebration that they're coming home soon!" said Jerica Schwoerer when asked why she volunteered. Jerica is wife of Spc. Justin Schwoerer, 202nd Quartermaster Detachment.

Hunter wives spent the day making more than 200 ribbons and

See RIBBONS, Page 3B



1st. Lt. Amy Phillips

Children are given an opportunity to play in the ribbons since they couldn't help make them.

*Hundreds of species call Southeast Georgia home and not all of them bite but there are many ...*

# 'Dangerous' bugs of the Coastal Empire

## Paper Wasp

Laurie Kemp  
Winn Public Affairs Officer

Fort Stewart and the surrounding areas are home to hundreds of species of insects. Some as common and harmless as grasshoppers and some as potentially dangerous as scorpions and Black Widow Spiders.

"Overall, nothing around here is likely to kill you, but it can hurt you a whole lot," said Capt. Robert G. Lowen, installation entomologist, as he explained nature gives insects special defense mechanisms so they can do one of two things: prey on other insects or protect themselves from becoming prey. In the case of human involvement, insects are protecting themselves, he said.

The following segment talks about the more 'dangerous' insects indigenous to this area that humans may encounter.



The Paper Wasp is reddish-brown with a yellow circle. It is the type of wasp more inclined to be in a house attic or garage because its delicate nest has no outer cover.

"This is an aggressive wasp when protecting its nest," Lowen said. Wasps can sting multiple times so he recommends exercising caution when attempting to remove a nest.

## Caterpillars



Even some caterpillars have a defense mechanism that can inflict intense pain on a human.

The Puss and Saddleback Caterpillars have poisonous hairs, or spines, that are hollow and connected to underlying poison glands. Contact with the hairs causes a burning sensation and inflammation that can be as painful as a bee sting.

The irritation can last for a day or two and may be accompanied by nausea during the first few hours.

These caterpillars are commonly found on bushes



and trees. "Generally speaking, bright colors and big spines are nature's way of saying 'stay clear,'" Lowen said. "They aren't aggressive — they won't jump from the trees onto you, but beware of any hairy caterpillar or cocoon."

## Black Widow Spider



"It is almost a guarantee that every house in the south has a Black Widow around it," Lowen said.

They can be found in any small nook or cranny and will attack anything that hits its web. However, they are not aggressive.

Lowen recommends seeking immediate medical attention if bit by the Black Widow Spider.

"They attack with a neurotoxin - it feels like you are getting repeatedly kicked in the gut. Depending on the person's sensitivity and the amount of venom, it can feel that way for a week," he said.

According to Lowen, even if a person doesn't know they have been bitten by the spider, the symptoms will be strong enough to warrant a trip to the doctor.

## Scorpion



The scorpions in this area are yellow-brown in color, 2 to 3 inches and can live for 5 to 9 years.

According to Lowen, scorpions aren't too common though they are out there. They are nocturnal feeders which hide under rotting logs, rocks and loose tree bark.

"They aren't shy about being in houses," Lowen said. "They like to be enclosed on two sides so they are likely to be found under blankets or in shoes. They are great climbers and may hide behind picture frames."

Lowen said scorpions are easily crushed with a shoe and warns to treat the stinging tail with respect, even if you think its dead.

He recommends seeking medical attention if you react strongly to being stung.

## Velvet Ant



The Velvet Ant is red and black with a soft, velvety appearance. While actually a wasp, it got its name because the female is wingless. This seemingly harmless wasp carries the nickname 'cow killer' due to the intense pain its sting causes.

Velvet Ants are parasitic, feeding on other wasp and bumblebee nests. Due to its hard outer shell, it is able to successfully invade a nest and lay eggs.

Velvet Ants are commonly found in open fields. On occasion, one might be spotted in the backyard but it is not an indoor bug and it will not usually attempt to enter the house, Lowen said.

## Wheel Bug

Wheel Bugs are 1 to 2 inch brownish-black bugs with a distinctive semi-circular crest behind the head.

Wheel Bugs prey on insects which makes them a great ally to man. However, do not handle Wheel Bugs as the bite they inflict can be painful and long lasting. They can fly and are typi-

cally found in low bushes or trees. Lowen said they are non-aggressive and are a great garden asset because they eat caterpillars and other garden-harmful insects.

"There is not a strong chance of it coming inside, but stay clear of it when you encounter it," he said.



# Annual Scottish games honors military, families

**Sgt. Raymond Piper**  
Editor

Thousands of people visited Old Fort Jackson Saturday for the 27th Annual Scottish Games and Highland Festival to witness and celebrate traditional Scottish athletic events, dancing and music.

This year's event was a little different though as the gathering honored the sacrifices servicemembers and their families have made.

"We want the servicemembers to know that the majority of Americans support them and what they are doing," said Moira Vejar, president of the Savannah Scottish Games and Highland Festival.

Military members and their families were given free access to the games.

"This is the first time we done this, but we felt it was very appropriate this year with so much of the military deployed," Vejar said. "We're doing this to show our admiration and for a job well done."

Members of the military and their families were honored during the parade of tartans.

The parade consisted of the clans lining up on the parade field, led by bagpipers, and marching past the reviewing stand.

As the honored guests walked around the field, Vejar read a proclamation explaining their support to the military and their families.

During the ceremony, Vejar said, "It's not just those who go in harm's way that we honor today, but their families who stay behind."

The ceremony concluded with two spouses, Deborah Sparks representing Fort Stewart and Renee Davie representing Hunter Army Airfield, receiving a copy of the proclamation and Scottish and American flags.

"I'm honored and delighted to be a part of this ceremony," said Davie. "Community support has been phenomenal all around."

During the event, amateur and professional athletes tossed cabers, lobbed sheafs of hay on pitchforks and 56-pound weights for height.

Booths lined the field along the Savannah River. People behind tables draped in the plaids for clans Douglas, Wallace, Hay, Hamilton and others, sold T-shirts, passed out information and socialized.

Merchants peddled goods like plaid ties, Scottish history books and sporrans, or leather purses where those wearing kilts keep personal items.

There was a special booth setup so people could research to see what clan they belonged to and it's history.

"America is a nation of immigrants ... and people like to know where they come from," Vejar said.

Davie said, "This is a great festival and a great way to learn about Scottish heritage and history."



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Military members walk around the parade field to the applause of the attendees of the 27th Annual Scottish Games and Highland Festival at Old Fort Jackson Saturday.

## PICNIC

from page 1B

for a brief ceremony to honor the spouses.

"I've seen incredible strength here as you've endured these deployments," said Col. Gerald Poltorak, installation commander.

Hinesville Mayor Thomas J. Ratcliffe Jr. also had encouraging words for the spouses.

"Please know that we appreciate your service," he said.

"In all my years of association with the Army, I've never been more proud to be an Army spouse than I have the last few months," said Anita Blount, wife of Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) commanding general.

She also shared a story about a young lady who lost a contact lens while mountain climbing. The lady found it later, being carried by an ant. Her father a cartoonist drew a picture of the ant with a caption that Blount said could be the official military spouse creed.

It read, "Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I don't always see the good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will."

Wal-Mart made a special presentation. The corporation gave \$100,000 to the Army Emergency Relief fund, which provides loans and grants to families in need.

The program concluded with a candle-lighting ceremony to honor the troops of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Megan Crawford's husband, Spc. Brian Crawford, is in Iraq. She felt that the picnic geared towards children was a welcome change.

"It think it's great that they're doing something nice for the kids. Missing their dad is the toughest thing. This definitely helps distract them," she said.

Her children, Quintin, 5, and Gabby, 4, were too busy playing games to answer.

## RIBBONS

from page 1B



1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Viola Bastian prepares a ribbon for her husband from 2/3 Avn. Bn.

catching up with each other while the Scouts spent the evening putting them up.

"We were honored to be asked to help," said Scoutmaster Arnie Cobby. "We volunteered for two reasons. One was to support the troops because we have several boys whose parents are deployed. And second, service to others is part of what scouting is all about."

Several soldiers witnessing the event that evening approached the scouts to thank them for their help and share stories from when they used to be a scout. An Aviation soldier commented on how impressed he was that the scouts were properly wearing their complete uniform.

"What a great way to mark the light at the end of the long tunnel. These family members were wonderful and we're thankful to have their precious spirit in our community," said Robin Weber, commander of Operation Yellow Ribbon and wife of Assistant Division Commander Brig. Gen. Louis Weber.

# SPORTS & FITNESS

## On Post

### Basketball courts opened

The Hunter gym's basketball courts are newly renovated and now open.

### Tae Kwon Do lessons

Tae Kwon Do is available for children and adults.

Classes are held 5 to 6 p.m. for children and 6 to 7 p.m. for teens and adults, Tuesday and Thursday at Fort Stewart Youth Services Center, Building 7338, Austin Road in Bryan Village next to the shoppette.

The cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call Child and Youth Services at 767-2312.

### Marne tournaments

A 9-pin, no-tap tournament will be held the first Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes.

Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

A scotch doubles tournament is held the third Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple. For more information, call 767-4866.

### Newman offers training

The Newman Physical Fitness Center now offers personal-training consultations. Consultations consist of health screenings (body fat assessments), exercise prescription and nutritional counseling. Consultations are on appointment basis only.

Persons desiring this service may contact the Newman Physical Fitness Center at 767-3031.

### Golf course

Taylor's Creek Golf Course offers Senior Blitz on Thursdays with a 9 a.m. tee off. They also offer a Dogfight Tournament at 7:30 a.m. and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

• **Troops Tune Up**, a soldiers free clinic, is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **A Ladies Free Clinic** is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

• **A "Junior Golf Academy"** is scheduled to be held during the summer.

Anyone who wants to schedule a fundraising event for Family Support Groups, Unit Activities or a private organization is asked to contact Charlie Dobbertin at 767-2370.

### Pool passes

Pool passes will be available May 23. Call Andy Arrington, DCAS Aquatic Director, at 767-3034 for more information.

### Picnic areas

Picnic areas are available at Fort Stewart and Hunter. To reserve the picnic areas, call Outdoor Recreation Center at 767-8609.

The center also rents boats, trailers and kayaks, as well as small items such as cookers, pots and pans.

### Therapeutic massage

Therapeutic massage is offered three times a week at Caro gym. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There is a deployment special for April and May, \$10 for 20 minute massage. To make an appointment, call 767-4763.

## Off Post

### Firecracker 5000

The Island Packet Firecracker 5000 Road Race and Fun Walk will be held 8 a.m. July 4 at the Mall at Shelter cove.

Runners from all over the United States participate in this Independence Day Event. It is the largest road race in Beaufort County and will be limited to the first 1,000 participants registered.

For more information or to register, contact Bear Foot Sports at (843)379-3440 or register online at [www.bearfootsports.com](http://www.bearfootsports.com).

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.

## Army driver in stable condition after crash

### Wallace to sub for Nadeau

Army Nesw Service

RICHMOND, Va. - U.S. Army racecar driver Jerry Nadeau was critically injured in a crash during practice May 2 at Richmond International Raceway.

He has been upgraded from critical to serious but stable condition, officials said. Doctors at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center said Nadeau's head injury does not include a skull fracture, and his improvement is on course for the injuries he sustained. Nadeau, driver of the No. 01 U.S. Army Pontiac, suffered head, lung and rib injuries when his car hit the wall on the driver's side between Turns 1 and 2, only 10 minutes into the first of two Happy Hour practice sessions.

The Nadeau family has requested that get-well wishes be sent to the team's race shop address at: Jerry Nadeau Fan Club, P.O. Box 3610, Mooresville, NC 28117.

Mike Wallace will be the substitute driver for Jerry Nadeau in the No. 01 U.S. Army MB2 Motorsports Pontiac.

Wallace, 44, will be filling in for Nadeau, who is recovering from injuries sustained in a practice crash May 2 at Richmond International Raceway.

Nadeau was upgraded to fair con-

dition today by doctors at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center.

He was previously listed as serious, but stable. He has been moved out of the intensive care unit into a private room. Doctors say his vital signs are normal and he continues to show improvement.

Nadeau suffered head, lung and rib injuries.

Wallace's first race in the U.S. Army car was The Winston Open at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

"We're appreciative that Mike has agreed to drive the U.S. Army car during Jerry's absence," said Jay Frye, general manager of MB2 Motorsports. "Mike has a vast amount of experience and we're confident that he will do a great job. This is a difficult time and we are fortunate to have a veteran like Mike, who will help all of us get through it."

Wallace, the middle of three racing brothers, has competed in all three of NASCAR's premier series in recent years.

He recorded a ninth-place finish at the Daytona 500. Additionally, in 2003, he has competed in the Busch Series with the No. 04 Biaggi Brothers car. After 10 starts, he's 12th in the points with one top-five and two top-10's to his credit.

"First, let me say how much



Courtesy photo

Army racecar driver Jerry Nadeau was injured when his car hit a wall during NASCAR Winston Cup practice.

we're all hoping for a speedy recovery for Jerry," said Wallace after accepting the U.S. Army ride. "I'm looking forward to helping this team out. It's a very good, quality race team. I fully understand that I'm helping out on an interim basis. The goal is to keep this car good in the points until Jerry comes back. Perhaps, we can even win a few races along the way."

In an ironic twist, this will be the second time in as many seasons that

Wallace has subbed for a driver who is part of the MB2/MBV Motorsports stable. Last year, he handled the controls of the No. 10 Valvoline Pontiac while Johnny Benson recuperated from injuries sustained in a crash during a Busch Series race, also at Richmond Virginia International Raceway.

In addition to his stint in the No. 10 car in 2002, Wallace also drove Andy Petree's No. 33 car and A.J. Foyt's No. 14 car.

## Puller pounces ...



Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Slack

(Above) Emily Clouse, of the Fort Stewart Tigers, pitches to a Pooler #2 batter during a 12 and under midget girl softball game Friday at Field 18. Pooler crushed the Tigers 25 to 2.

(Left) Brittany Brown, pitcher for the Tigers, stops Krystin Seckenger, a Pooler #2 team member, from scoring by tagging her out at home. The two teams squared off for three innings.

## Marne Scoreboard

### Softball

**12 Under Midget Girls Softball CAA League**  
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Tigers v. Hendrix Park  
Saturday, 11:30 a.m. — Tigers @ Pooler 2  
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. — Tigers v. Garden City  
Home games will be played at Field 18

### Youth Baseball

**Youth Services T-Ball League**  
Today, 6 p.m. — Braves v. Rangers  
Today 7 p.m. — Marlins v. Pirates  
Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Dodgers v. Rangers  
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Rockies v. Pirates  
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Braves v. Marlins  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Pirates v. Dodgers

All games will be played at Bryan Village Field 24

**7-8 Pee Wee League**  
Today, 6 p.m. — Mets v. Expos  
Monday, 6 p.m. — Mets v. Braves  
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Braves v. Expos  
All games will be played at Field 18

**9-10 Mite League**  
Monday, 6 p.m. — Pirates v. Yankees  
Monday, 7 p.m. — Dodgers v. Marliners  
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Mariners v. Yankees  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Dodgers v. Pirates  
All games will be played at Field 16

**12 Under Midget Boys CAA League**  
Today, 6 p.m. — Diamondbacks @ Garden City  
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Diamondbacks v. Hendrix Park 3  
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Cubs @ Pooler 1  
Monday, 5:30 p.m. — Diamondbacks @ Fort Stewart 1

Monday, 5:30 p.m. — Cubs @ Fort Stewart 2  
Home games will be played at Field 24

**14 Under Junior Boys CAA League**  
Monday, 7 p.m. — Richmond Hill 2 @ Fort Stewart 15

### Aerobics

**Hunter Fitness Center  
Aerobics schedule**  
Mondays — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Cardio-Stepping  
Cardio-Kicking  
Buns/Thighs Weights  
AB Work Stretch

Wednesday — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Cardio-Stepping

Low Impact  
Jump Rope  
Weights  
AB Work Stretch

**Fridays — 6 to 7 p.m.**  
Fun Fridays  
Party Dance  
Yoga Stretches

### Spring Schedule

**Spring schedule for softball, racquetball and tennis**  
Call 767-8326 to sign up.  
Softball League May 3-June 26  
Softball Tournament July 7-10  
Racquetball Tournament June 14 & 15  
Tennis League June 9-26

Got Scores? Contact the *Frontline* staff at 767-3440 or e-mail [Frontline@stewart.army.mil](mailto:Frontline@stewart.army.mil).

— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER —

# Faith and commitment

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jacqueline Alexander

Special to the Frontline

As we celebrate Armed Forces Day, it leads me to think about President Dwight D. Eisenhower's statement in 1953, "Today let us, as Americans, honor the American fighting men and women. For it is the soldier, sailor, the Airman, the Marine— who has fought to preserve freedom. It is his valor that has given renewed hope to the free world that by working together in discipline and faith our ideals of freedom will always prevail."

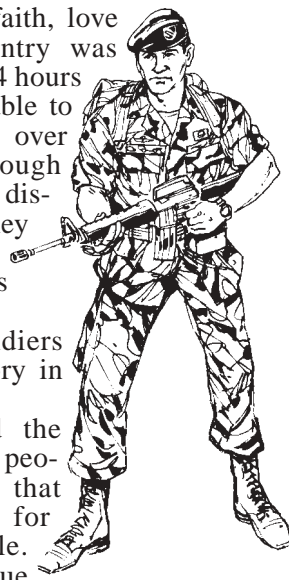
As the nation heard these words of President Eisenhower, it reaffirmed that our nation is built upon faith and conviction in our creator. Yet faith is the substance of all things hoped for and things yet unseen.

Many fighting soldiers and veterans walked by faith and not by sight for our country's freedom. During World two even the atheists turned to God. They saw faith

as the total days as well as the dark days. Their faith, love for God and Country was able to keep them 24 hours a day. They were able to become conquerors over their fears. Through their commitment, discipline and duty they were able to preserve America's freedom.

Today, our soldiers faced another victory in the Middle East.

Their faith and the prayer of American people have proven that freedom exists for oppressed people. Let's always continue to have faith and prayer so that our Creator will deliver our nation from the storm of life and preserve freedom for all.



## Prayer Warriors

The Fort Stewart Prayer Warriors meet 3 to 4 p.m., Sundays at Marne Chapel Conference Room.

This prayer group is open to everyone, if you cannot make it, email your soldier's name and unit to caseybrcraig@coastalnow.net and we will add them to our prayer list. No babysitting is provided, please bring a toy for your child.



## Pet of the Week

**G**oldie is a 6 to 8 week old Golden Retriever mixed. She is active and very loving. This little sweetheart would bring joy to any family and only wants a chance to prove it.

If interested in adopting a cat or dog, call 767-4194 or stop by the clinic located at 461 W. Bultman Ave., Building 1180, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

# Worship Opportunities

## Fort Stewart

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Victory	7 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.

### Protestant

Sunday "Protestant Worship"	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.

### American Samoan

Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
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### Muslim

Friday Jum'ah	Bldg. 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Bldg. 9182	5:30 a.m.

### Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday Sabbath School	Vale	9:15 a.m.
Saturday Divine Worship	Vale	11 a.m.

### Lutheran

Sunday Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
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### Contemporary Service

Sunday Worship	Marne	6 p.m.
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## Hunter Army Airfield

### Protestant

Sunday Service	Post Chapel	11 a.m.
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# Volunteer Spotlight



## WOODRUFF THEATER

May 15 — May 21

Admission for all shows is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.



### Renee Reese



Renee Reese is happy to volunteer her services at ACS/Relocation Services. She is from Columbia, S.C., and her spouse is with the 703rd MSB. Renee volunteers in hopes of making a positive impact in the lives of her community and others.

She said "The feeling of joy and happiness that you get when helping others is very special. No paid job can bring me the feeling of truly being a good servant and helping all people regardless of race, creed or color."

If you would like more information about becoming an ACS volunteer, visit ACS at Building 470 on Fort Stewart, Building 1286 on Hunter Army Airfield or for more information, call Vickie Wiginton at 767-5058.

### Piglet's Big Movie (G)

Animated  
Tonight 7 p.m.  
When Piglet disappears, the others use a scrapbook as a map to find him and discover that he is a hero in a lot of ways.  
Run time: 75 minutes

### Chicago (PG-13)

Starring: Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones  
Free showing Friday, Sunday and Monday at 7 p.m.  
Based on an award winning musical, Roxie's one wish is to follow in the golden footsteps of vaudeville performer Velma Kelly. Roxie gets her wish but some very wrong steps land both the star and starlet in prison for separate murder charges.  
Run time: 104 minutes

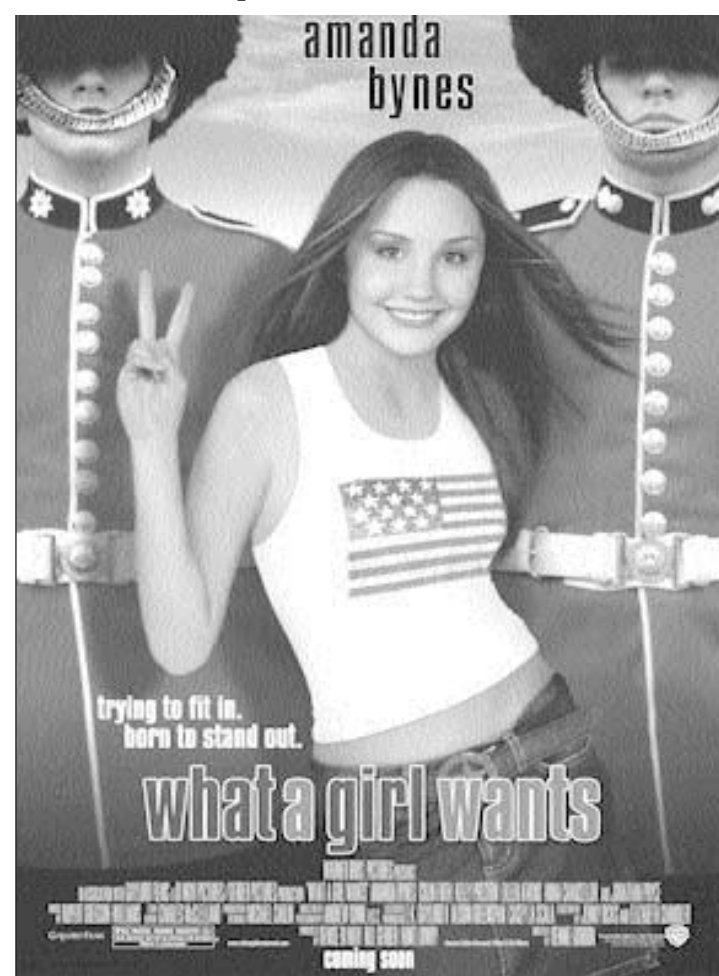
### What a Girl Wants (PG)

Starring: Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth  
Free Showing Saturday at 7 p.m.  
Daphne, a spirited young American girl travels to London in search of her long-lost father. As Daphne attempts to prove that love can conquer all, her impulsive behavior creates an uproar in high society and threatens the relationship she has waited her whole life to experience.  
Run time: 104 minutes

### A Man Apart (R)

Starring: Vin Diesel, Larenz Tate  
Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.  
A mysterious man known only as Diablo takes over a powerful drug cartel when the former boss goes to prison. That former drug lord then teams up with a DEA agent and his partner to try and take down Diablo.  
Run time: 109 minutes

Free Showing  
Friday — Chicago  
Saturday — What a Girl Wants



## Birth announcements

April 26  
**Jada Ramiyah Hester**, a girl, 5 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. LaTonya Hester.

April 28  
**Twins - Miriam Joy Bonney**, a girl, 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and **Anna Grace Bonney**, a girl, 6 pounds, 11 ounces, born to Capt. Philip J. Bonney and Georgia Y. Bonney.  
**Terry Gerard Frazier III**, a boy, 6 pounds, born to Sgt. Terry Frazier and Spc. Marion Frazier.

April 29  
**Kaya Imani De La O Lucena**, a girl, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Sgt. Lorenzo Richard Lucena and Candice Nicole Lucena.  
**LaKeiyah Jay-Nesha Sims**, a girl, 7 pounds, 11 ounces,

born to Pfc. LaKeitha ReGina Sims.

April 30  
**Domanic Kekoa Knuckles**, a boy, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Pfc. Roy Lee Knuckles II and Stephani H. Knuckles.

May 1  
**Aimee Leilani P. Brust**, a girl, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Tracy S. Brust and Emilia P. Brust.

May 2  
**ShyAnne Skye Hambright**, a girl, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Spc. Michael R. Hambright and Jennifer L. Hambright.

**Jake Thomas Parzych**, a boy, 9 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Capt. Marco Parzych and Courtney Parzych.

**Twins - Ivy Lynn Velasquez**, a girl, 5 pounds, 1 ounce, and **Destany Wilma Velasquez**, a girl, 5 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Sgt. Joseph Wynne Velasquez and Darlene Desiree Velasquez.

May 3  
**Braden Ian Cunningham**, a boy, 5 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Sgt. Jonathan Brian Cunningham and Tracey Lynn Cunningham.  
**Kaelee Anne Hernandez**, a girl, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Pfc. Venancio Hernandez and Deanna M. Hernandez.

May 4  
**Keanu Duane Johnson**, a boy, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Pfc. Bradley D. Johnson and Shashi L. Johnson.  
**Emily Victoria Rodgers**, a girl, 6 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Pfc. Nicholas Ryan Rodgers and Pfc. Nina Rae Rodgers