

# The Voice

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*photos by Sgt. Denny Cox*

*Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Moran and retired Sgt. 1st Class Carlo DePorto trade stories at the post Veterans Day Observance. DePorto wore his World War II uniform to the event held at the post chapel Nov. 9.*

## Post pays tribute to veterans

BY SGT. DENNY COX  
*SOUNDOFF!*

Veterans, service members and families gathered at the historic Main Post Chapel Nov. 9 to celebrate and remember the sacrifices of those who answered their nation's call and stepped forward in its defense.

The Francis Scott Key Chapter of the Association of the United States Army hosted the Veterans Day observance with the assistance of the Defense Information School Armed Forces Color Guard, the Installation Chaplain's Office, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, Headquarters Command Battalion and the U.S. Army Field Band.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the guns fell silent across Europe. In 1919, President Wilson declared Nov. 11 to be Armistice Day to ensure Americans remembered the war to end all wars. President Eisenhower proclaimed Nov. 11 Veterans Day in 1954 to honor the sac-

rifices of veterans of all conflicts, said retired Col. Bert Rice.

Today, we remember those who came before us and paid the ultimate price for our freedom. We also pay tribute to those who serve today and the families that support them, said Chaplain (Col.) Gregory DiEmma, garrison chaplain.

The Defense Information School Armed Forces Color Guard opened the somber service by presenting the national colors along with the colors of the five branches of the military.

Next, speakers paid tribute to the veterans of each war America has fought in the 20th century.

Retired Lt. Col. Alfred H. M. Shehab quoted Franklin Roosevelt in his tribute to the veterans of World War II.

Roosevelt believed that each person was entitled to four basic freedoms. They are the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom of religion, the freedom from want and the freedom from fear. These four freedoms are what so many of our veterans died to protect, he said.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Moran, who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars, praised the veterans of those conflicts.

The fall of South Vietnam in 1975 may have been a setback for American foreign policy, but it did not reflect upon the bravery and dedication of the Armed Forces, he said.

Following Moran's tribute, Sgt. Maj. Michael Culbertson, a soloist with the U.S. Army Field Band, sang the emotionally patriotic song by Lee Greenwood, "God Bless the USA."

The final tribute of the observance was given by retired Sgt. Maj. James Gilbert to the veterans of Operation Desert Storm and the nearly 40 operations since.

On the first Veterans Day of the 21st century, all Americans should pause to reflect on the 27 million veterans who served their country and the one million who died while serving, said Gilbert.

As long as we honor their sacrifices, they will always be with us.

Following the service, the colors were retired and refreshments were served.

# Retention Office: All about the family

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR  
Brigade Career Counselor

Be on the lookout—there is a new attitude on board when it comes to retention, especially when you consistently hear the brigade commander, and the command sergeant major say, "Retention is our number one business!"

First, I would like to say kudos to all for their continued support of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Retention Program. Without you and the great soldiers of this brigade there would be no program!

As of October, I assumed duties as the 704th MI Brigade career counselor. I am replacing Master Sgt. Ports who did a great job keeping high quality soldiers with the winning team in the U.S. Army.

No doubt, the soldiers of this brigade are some of the most highly trained and skilled in the Army.

The challenge for us is keeping them in boots. Soldiers are very marketable in this area for high-tech jobs. There are parameters in the civilian sector that we in retention cannot change—but we can definitely have a positive influence on a soldier's career.

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley could not have said it better when he addressed career counselors at a November training conference. "We must get back to the basics and ensure we are taking care of soldiers, genuinely and respectfully," he said.

This command just recently embarked upon such a milestone. On Nov. 3, Spc. Samuel Castillo, of Company A, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, reenlisted for a tour in Europe. This was not just a typical reenlistment. What made this one really special was the entire family played an active role. Castillo's parents, (retired) Chief Warrant Officer 4 James G. Castillo, flew in from Atlanta to be a part of this special occasion. With Rebecca Castillo

by her husband's side, he reenlisted his son.

History was being unfolded before our very eyes as a crowd of well wishers, including Lt. Col. Marcus Burch, Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, soldiers and others, witnessed a father reenlist his very own son. To make it even sweeter for Castillo, he also received a reenlistment bonus.

In short, this brigade, its soldiers and I need your continued support at every level in order to accomplish a challenging mission this quarter. One of the keys to success is ensure all soldiers are counseled on Retention Issues/Options. If we focus on the soldiers, we will not have to focus on the numbers: they will take care of themselves.

I look forward to working with each of you in support of the brigade retention program, and I trust it will be both a positive and rewarding experience.

For more retention information, contact your company or battalion representative. Also, please feel free to call Sgt. 1st Class Orr, brigade career counselor, 677-0164, Bldg. 9805 room 104.

## Brigade readiness group to help soldiers, families

BY CAPT. PAUL KIRSCHBAUM  
COMMANDER, HHC 704TH

The soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade and Company A, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion have teamed up to create a Joint Family Readiness Group.

According to Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, company commander, HHC, 704th MI Brigade, the Family Readiness Group will be used to help the unit's soldiers and family members.

"The mission of the readiness group is to promote unit cohesion through unit activities and to provide a source of information to family and friends of soldiers in our units," he said.

The readiness group looks to recruit new members from among single soldiers, family members, spouses, fiancées, and friends of the unit. The readiness group is open to all and will aim to provide activities the members express an interest in. The Family Readiness Group participated in a unit Thanksgiving potluck dinner and will host a unit Christmas party before the holidays kick off.

Additionally, the group would like to hold fundraisers to support unit and group activities, and anticipates starting a care package program for deployed soldiers. The group currently meets on the first Thursday night of each month in the 741st MI Battalion television room.

At the meetings, the Family Readiness Group gets together and plans for upcoming events, determines if any group member needs assistance, and exchanges information on activities happening on post and off. One of the group's primary purposes is to provide support for families who have a soldier deployed. Oftentimes this puts additional stress on Army families, and the Family Readiness Group works to help alleviate some of this stress.



photo by Spc. Jonathan Matthews

The goal of the Family Readiness Group is to help the unit's soldiers and family members.

The current leaders for the Family Readiness Group are 1st Sgt. Cynthia Wood, first sergeant, Company A, 741st MI Battalion and Capt. Paul Kirschbaum.

Individuals interested in joining the Family Readiness Group can contact Kirschbaum or Wood at (301) 677-0105 or (301) 677-0178 respectively.



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### 704th MI Brigade Mission

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade conducts continuous full-spectrum signals intelligence, computer network and information security operations directly, and through NSA to satisfy National, Joint, Combined and Army information superiority requirements.

### Focus

To ensure mission accomplishment in an ethical environment while providing opportunities for individual professional growth and satisfaction, we must have:

- Competent and caring leaders,
- Well trained and fit soldiers,
- Efficient, effective unit operations,
- Unit cohesion and pride,
- Planned, orderly growth and change.

# 743rd soldiers play address upí for PT



The soldiers of 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, lead by Command Sgt. Maj. Lee Moore, battalion command sergeant major, participated in a Halloween Run at Buckley Air Force Base Oct. 27.



courtesy photos

Command Sgt. Maj. Lee Moore (left) and Staff Sgt. Adam McKinney chat after the run.

BY 1ST LT SEAN KERNAN  
743rd Military Intelligence Battalion

The 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion conducted its first Halloween Run at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado Oct. 27. Many soldiers used the opportunity to show off their creativity and came up with some great costumes.

The battalion's commanders and staff set the example by getting in costume. Lt. Col. Mark Quantock, battalion commander, 743rd MI Battalion, was dressed as a Hawaiian tourist, complete with shorts, knee-high black socks and black shoes. "I have become my father," he said to the formation before the run began.

Major Deb Beckwith, executive officer, 743rd MI Battalion, was an authentic witch and called herself "Major BeckWitch." Command Sgt. Maj. Lee Moore, command sergeant major, 743rd MI Battalion, called her an old hag and she showed him how old she was by chasing him around the company parking lot brandishing her broom.

Captain Maggie Musser, commander, Head-

quarters and Operations Company, 743rd MI Battalion, was a big jack-o-lantern complete with orange and black face paint. Capt. Jill Wagner, commander, Company B, 743rd MI Battalion, transformed herself into a scary ghoulish character cloaked in all black. Moore and Capt. Dave May, plans and operations officer, 743rd MI Battalion, both dressed as martial arts experts and joked about having a taekwon-do match in the middle of the staff.

Other characters represented among the battalion's troops included Superman, many aliens, a masked character reminiscent of "Scary Movie," a mom carrying a very ugly baby on her back, a Boy Scout Troop Leader, a proctologist, a Ranger ghost, and a Viking. It was clear that the soldiers were very motivated to participate in the day's activities. Prior to the run, the company commanders sent their best-costumed soldiers to the front of the formation for judging by the whole battalion. In the end, there were co-winners: Spc. Yatta Powell, of Company B, dressed as an old man,

and Sgt. Ryan Rudman, of HOC, 743rd MI Battalion, as roommate Sgt. Coleman Shelley, complete with bushy eyebrows. The two soldiers received a three-day pass as their prize for winning the contest.

Quantock also took the opportunity to reenlist Spc. Robert Harris, of Company B, prior to the run. Harris chose to reenlist for stabilization as well as taking the brigade's education incentive.

Finally, before the battalion's feet hit the pavement, Quantock added weight to the company guidons by presenting the companies with streamers. HOC received streamers for attaining the Battalion goal of a 250 Army Physical Fitness Test average, the "Top Gun" streamer for 100 percent weapon's qualification, Reenlistment of the Quarter, and Reenlistment for the Year. Company B also received the "Top Gun" streamer and will receive the "Birds of Prey" streamer for winning the Commander's Cup during Organization Day.

Upon completion of the run, the HOC and Company B first sergeants provided fruit and drinks for all the runners creating an opportunity for soldiers to unwind a bit and socialize before heading home.

## Travel settlement review, reminders

BY CAPT. ALEC BLAKELEY  
704th Military Intelligence Brigade

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Rome, New York has had to continue to return travel settlements without payment to a number of people because of simple errors. This has been caused by the lack of providing an administrative review and signature. There also seems to be some confusion between the requirement for an approving official's signature and the requirements for an administrative review. A recap of these requirements follows:

### Approving official signature requirement:

There are two occasions when block 21a (Approving Official Signature) **MUST** be signed by

an approving official (the same person as block 18 on the travel orders DD Form 1610):

When faxing travel vouchers (DD 1351-2) the reason is that the approving official must maintain the originals for 2 years. We do not recommend faxing travel vouchers for that reason.

When there are reimbursable expenses (i.e., registration fees, official phone calls, rental car, etc.) that were not authorized on the original orders (DD Form 1610), the approving official can sign block 21a and state exactly what he or she is authorizing. This is done in place of an amendment. Signature cards (DD Form 577) are required to be filed with DFAS ahead of time.

### Administrative review

All civilian and military travelers must have

their travel voucher administratively reviewed, approved and signed. After the 1351-2 is completed by the traveler, it is submitted to the traveler's immediate supervisor (or other designated representative when the immediate supervisor is unavailable) for review.

The review should ensure the claim is complete, proper, and in compliance with the orders. If an old version of the 1351-2 is used, the reviewer signs and dates over his or her printed name in the upper right-hand corner of the 1351-2. If the March 2000 version of the 1351-2 is used, blocks 20c and 20d are used for the signature and date. A signature card for the person performing this review is NOT required.

If you have any questions pertaining to the review or approval of a 1351-2, please contact your battalion travel POC or the Brigade RMO (DSN 923-0129 or 923-0511).

# Big Dogs earn second place finish

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY  
Editor, The Voice

Throughout the game both teams ran their mouths. More than once the officials had to step in and warn both squads about the trash talking. But as time expired and the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Big Dogs had defeated Student Company 18-6 at Gaffney Field, the talk stopped.

Instead each of the Big Dog players lined up at midfield, shook their opposition's hands and left the field like professionals. That's probably because the team is used to winning.

With the flag football victory Nov. 7, the Big Dogs continued their winning ways and went on to finish the regular season in second place with an overall record of 13-2 in the Fort Meade Intramural League.

"This was my first season with the team," said Jonathan Holloway, Big Dog running back. "Coming in we had huge expectations for this season. Last year we had a very good team and we wanted to be as good or better this year."

And by most accounts, the players were happy with this season.

"The only team to beat us this year was us," Holloway said. "If we lost a game it wasn't because the other team was better, it was because we lost the game."

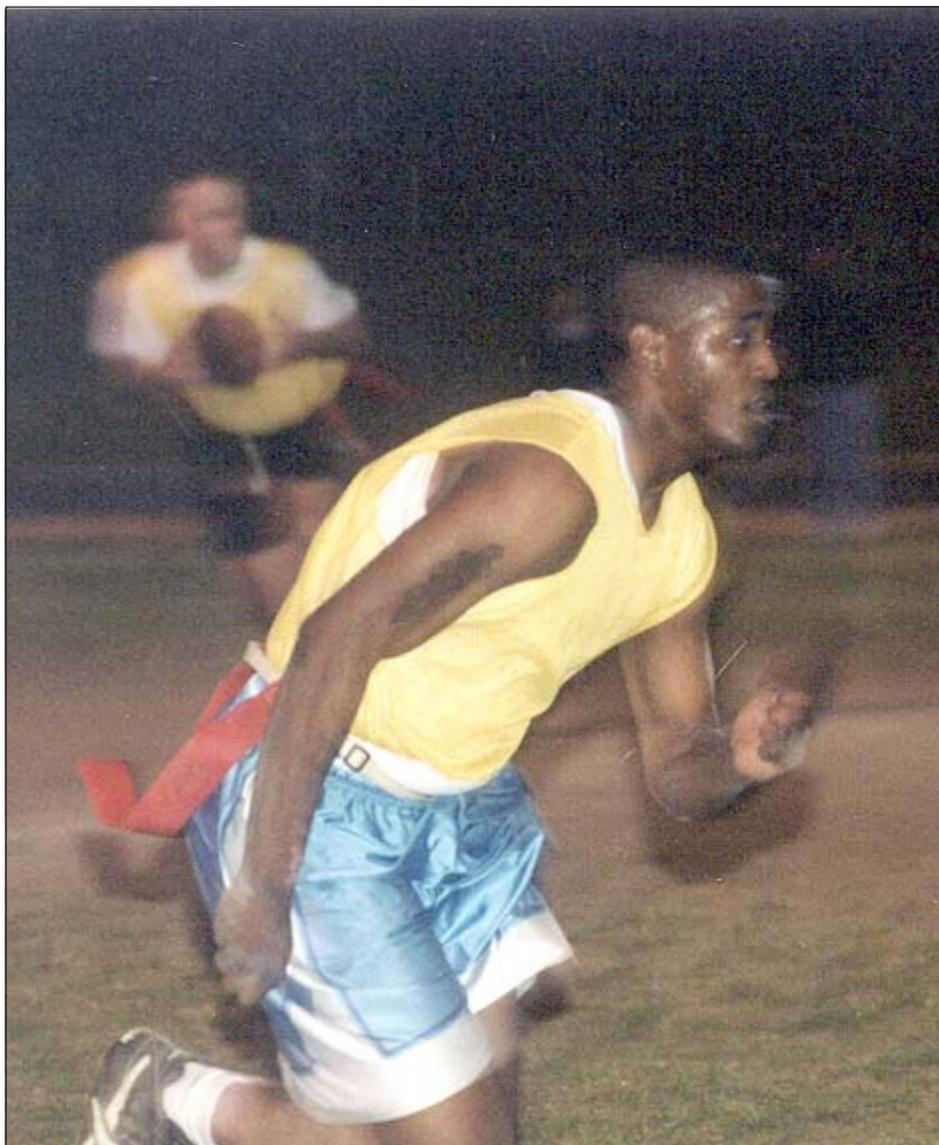
Holloway's season was ended prematurely after he strained his collarbone.

"I'm not happy with the way my season was cut short," he said. "I'm already looking forward to next season."



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Big Dog safety Michael Bey ends a JFSC drive by pulling the flags off of the running back. The JFSC squad was the only team to defeat the Big Dogs during the flag football regular season.



(Above) Wide receiver Shan Sims sprints to get open as quarterback Tracy Robbins drops back to throw him the ball.

(Top right) Player/coach John Livesey jukes past two defenders in route to the end zone during the Big Dogs' 18-6 victory over Student Company Nov. 7.

(Bottom right) Big Dogs quarterback Tracy Robbins eludes a defender as he rushes for a first down. Big plays, such as this one, enabled the Big Dogs to finish the regular season in second place with a 13-2 overall record.



# U.S. Army Soldier Show hits town

BY CARESSA BOLDEN  
SOUNDOFF!

While a light rain persisted in dampening the area Nov. 9, inside the McGill Community Activity Center the cast of the 2000 U.S. Army Soldier Show was gearing up for the evening's performance.

The show's crewmembers moved quickly to set up, arrange and adjust the sound equipment to create the best tone and volume level for clarity in the hall. They put the finishing touches on scenery and costumes and provided last minute instructions to the performers.

Despite the rain and the change in the show's location from Murphy Field House to McGill, patrons filled the more than 600 seats, with children overflowing on floor mats in front of the stage.

This year's theme was "Seize the Day."

Ron Campbell Smith, the show's artistic director, said the theme is based on vision and hope.

"We chose the theme 'Seize the Day,' because it asks our audiences to make their dreams and hopes become a reality by starting today," he said.

The troupe's performance began on just that note. The cast joined to sing, "Seize the Day," a song written by Alan Menkin and Jack Feldman.

"Open the gates and seize the day. Don't be afraid and don't delay. ...Arise and seize the day."

The program continued with a medley of popular tunes past and present including Destiny's Child's "Say My Name" performed by Pvt. 1st Class Carmilia Davis, Staff Sgt. Sandria Nelson, Spc. Danielle Calhoun and Spc. Danielle Mitchell.

Sgt. Dave Bell, Spc. Stephen Darnall, Spc. Bryan Durant, Pvt. 1st Class Michael Murphy II and Sgt. Verdell Smith donned afro-styled wigs to perform the Jackson 5's hit "I Want You Back."

The troupe's highly energized, professionally choreographed Dance Fever and Big Band Boogie numbers set the crowd's hands clapping and toes tapping. Their stamina and endurance continued to flow during an original production number titled "The Army Says Yeah!" The routine required the cast members, dressed in Army "sweats," to perform a variety of calisthenics, leg lifts and machine exercises. The cast, led by Durant, rallied to drive home the message that often when the body says "no," the Army says "yes."

The troupe's musical range, versatility and overall stage presence allowed each member to smoothly transition from one genre to another.



photos by Ed Bunyan

Spc. Karalea Andelle Formen, who is stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, sings during the 2000 U.S. Army Soldier Show. The show was held at McGill Community Activity Center Nov. 9.

Following the show's standing ovation, Installation Commander Col. Michael J. Stewart presented the cast and crew, represented by 1st Lt. Wendi Brown, with a plaque in appreciation for their dedication and performance.

Mary Ann Becker with the Defense Security Service in Lithicum, Md., and former employee here said it had been several years since she attended a Soldier Show.

"I knew I was in for an evening of great entertainment," said Becker.

Kristin Becker, an employee with the Child Development Center II, said the show was an awesome experience.

The performers enjoyed the show as much as the audience.

Sgt. Verdell Smith, a Maryland native and singer with a voice like Barry White, said his tour with the Soldier Show has been a fantastic experience. Smith, who has his own recording studio, looks forward to producing songs when he gets out of the Army.

"It is a great starting point to reaching your goal," the singer said.

Brown, a former Washington Redskins cheerleader, now with the U.S. Army Reserve in Gaithersburg, Md., said, "I love music and performing because it

gives me the opportunity to project and display my vibrant energy." Brown said her main goal when performing is to inspire and emotionally move the audience.

"Being a part of the Soldier Show is definitely a productive stepping stone to making my dream of being a world class entertainer come true," she added.

"There is a sense of pride you get as a soldier sitting in the audience, and the performers come out on stage wearing the same uniform that you have," the artistic direc-

tor said. "You realize that these are people just like you who come from every walk of life, and they are actually being all they can be."

"I think it is a great statement for the Army," the artistic director added.

In the lobby of the main entrance, before the show started, the artistic director provided the local media with the history and background information of the program.

"Back in World War I, Sgt. Irving Berlin, who hated getting up in the morning for physical training, looked around his barracks and saw that there were a lot of talented soldiers," he said. "Berlin decided that the one good thing soldiers could do was form a theater company and entertain the other soldiers."

The first Army Soldier Show conceived and directed by Berlin appeared on Broadway in 1918. It was revamped during World War II and titled "This is the Army." The modern version of the show is an outgrowth of its predecessors.

Smith said the earlier shows toured the world winding up on Broadway and raising money for the Army Emergency Relief program.

"Our motto has always been 'entertainment for the soldier by the soldier,'" said Ron Smith.

In 1998, the show celebrated the 80th anniversary of the original 1918 version and the 15th anniversary of the modern Army Soldier Show.

Smith said the show is exclusively dedicated to active-duty soldiers.

"It doesn't disallow National Guardsman or Army reservists, because they can be put on active duty to do the tour," he said.

Competition for the show is based on videotaped and live talent auditions and is open to all ranks, ages and military occupational specialties.

Once selected, the new cast and technical crew spend six arduous weeks in intensive rehearsal. Military formations, aerobic workouts, vocal coaching, dance training and learning how to assemble and dismantle equipment fill the group's 12-hour days. The show is totally self-contained.

The artistic director said that the production is geared toward the 18- to 24-year-old soldier who is away from home. However, there is something for everyone from rhythm and blues, country, rock and gospel to patriotic, rap and Broadway tunes.



Ron Campbell Smith, the artistic director of this year's Soldier Show, is interviewed by Defense Information School students.

# Survivor 2: Battalion Fitness Challenge

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY  
Editor, The Voice

The television networks may have shows like *Survivor* or *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* but the 742<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion has its own unique way of finding their big winners. Twenty-one of the best soldiers the unit has to offer were put to the test during the Battalion Fitness Challenge here Nov. 17.

The challenge began at the Gaffney Gym before the sun rose, as each member of the three-man teams had to swim a 25-meter leg in the pool. From there, the soldiers grabbed their 40-pound rucksacks and marched six miles to the next section of the event. The next stop for the soldiers was the grenade range, where each of the participants were given two grenades to engage a target with. Once they completed the grenade range, the soldiers moved to the obstacle course.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Darnell Draughn, command sergeant major, 742<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, teamwork was necessary to successfully complete the 19 different obstacles.

"The obstacle course was definitely a team event," Draughn said. "In order to complete it, the soldiers needed to work together. The entire challenge was about working together and building camaraderie."

The event didn't get any easier after the obstacle course. The soldiers then moved to an Army Physical Fitness Test site, where they participated in a condensed version of the APFT. The soldiers had two minutes to do as many push-ups and another two minutes to do as many sit-ups as they could push out.

After that, the soldiers grabbed their rucksacks again and headed back six more miles to the Gaffney track, to do one lap around the track before finally crossing the finish line.

"It was no coincidence that we held the Fitness Challenge on a Friday," Draughn said. "Unless they were in perfect shape, the soldiers were going to feel some pain. By having the event take place on a Friday, we gave them the weekend to recover."

Draughn's intent during the Fitness Challenge was to keep the participants moving and heavily engaged from start to finish.

"From the very beginning we wanted to continually challenge the soldiers," he said. "It might be a little easier for an infantry unit, but I consider this to be very challenging for someone who doesn't do it every day. But because we took soldiers who normally wouldn't do something like this, it was very challenging."

Draughn said they are already planning another Fitness Challenge for next year because the event went so well.

"It is my intent to have another Fitness Challenge in the future," he said. "And we will probably change a few of the events to keep it challenging."



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

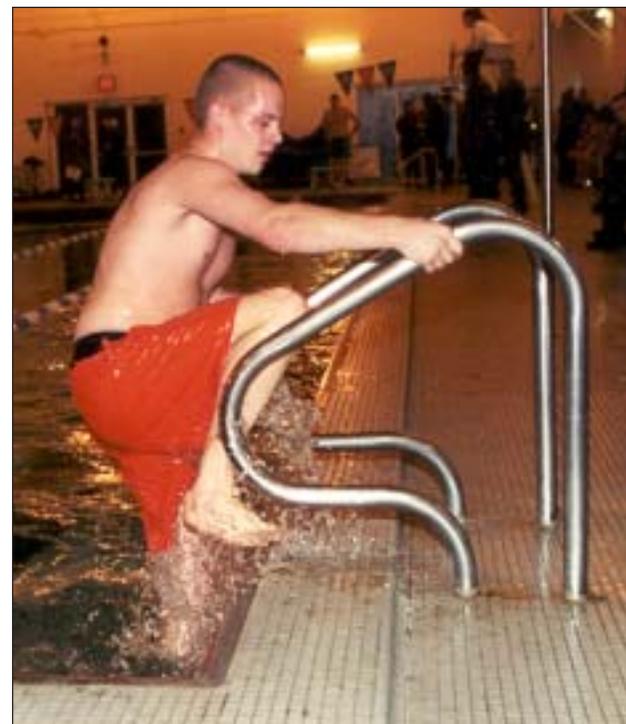
After completing a six-mile road march and the obstacles course, Capt. Wilmer Shank and his team had to complete as many push-ups and sit-ups as they could. Each repetition completed took seconds off of his team's overall time.



Sgt. Brian Montgomery uses a rope to pull himself over the obstacle during the 742<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion Fitness Challenge Nov 17.



According to the competitors, some of the 19 challenges during the obstacles course weren't that difficult, they were more of an inconvenience. Here, Sgt. Brian Montgomery crawls through a tight space to get to the next obstacle.



Pfc. Dick Wilkerson races out of the pool after completing his 25-meter leg of the 75-meter swim.



Staff Sgt. Derek Sierra and Staff Sgt. Brian Diehl show off their trophy after the closing ceremony at Gaffney Field. Sierra and Diehl received the trophy for their first place finish during the Battalion Fitness Challenge Nov. 17.



Sgt. 1st Class Yvonne Moseley and Staff Sgt. Valerie Cleary race towards the finish line at the Gaffney track.



Sgt. 1st Class Rodger Rogers pulls himself up the rope during the obstacle course.



The soldiers participating in the Battalion Fitness Challenge had to endure two separate six-mile road marches. To make the hike more difficult, the soldiers were required to wear 40-pound rucksacks.



Sgt. Brian Montgomery (right) and Sgt. 1st Class Rodger Rogers move across a log balance beam to the next section of the obstacle course.



Teamwork was a necessity in order to successfully complete the obstacle course and the Battalion Fitness Challenge.

## Around the Army

# Army unveils Light Armored Vehicle

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Army officials unveiled a family of wheeled armored vehicles Friday for the Army's transformation, to be fielded first with two new brigades at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The Light Armored Vehicle known as the LAV III will be manufactured in two major variants: the Infantry Carrier Vehicle and the Mobile Gun System.

Army officials signed a contract with a subsidiary of General Motors to produce 2,131 LAVs over the next six years at a cost just under \$4 billion. The company - GM General Dynamics Land Systems - is the same firm that now builds LAVs for the U.S. Marine Corps, Canadian forces, the Saudi Arabian military and the Australian army.

The new LAVs for the Interim Brigade Combat Teams will be configured differently though, officials said, from the ones now being used.

Eight different configurations of the LAV Infantry Carrier will be used as scout, support and command vehicles. Another LAV variant will serve as a Mobile Gun System with a 105mm cannon, the same gun tube as the one on the original M-1 Abrams tank.

"This is not a tank replacement," said Lt. Gen. Paul Kern, director of the Army Acquisition Corps and military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. "But it gives us direct fire capability to support the infantry elements."

All of the LAVs will be deployable by C-130 and larger aircraft. They will have a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour and a range of 300 miles on a tank of fuel.

"This Infantry Carrier Vehicle is swift, easily maintainable and most importantly includes features designed for the safety of our soldiers," Kern said.

The LAV has armor protection all around, even on top, Kern said. The armor will stop 50-caliber bullets and protect against 152mm airburst shells, and Kern added that the armor is twice as thick as original contract specifications called for.

The tires of the LAV can be inflated or deflated from inside the vehicle, Kern said, to make it safer for different surfaces ranging from deep mud to hardtop, and the vehicle has run-flat tires. The LAV has a built-in fire suppression system and self-recovery winch.

The first of the new LAVs should be fielded in Fiscal Year 2002, Kern said. The contract's first iteration



courtesy photo

The U.S. Army introduced its new family of speedy wheeled combat vehicles Nov. 17. Spokesmen said the Army has no intention of scrapping 5,000 heavy tanks in the thrust toward a lighter, more mobile 21st century force.

calls for enough LAVs to equip the first IBCT at Fort Lewis. Each brigade will have more than 300 LAVs, and Kern said the six option years of the contract should produce enough LAVs for the first six Brigade Combat Teams.

The LAV is the first new ground combat vehicle the Army has procured since the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle in 1980, Kern said. He explained that improved versions of vehicles like the M1 Abrams tank have been fielded, but no entirely new ground combat vehicles.

Procurement of the LAV III starts the material part of the Army's transformation, said Paul Hoepfer, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, at Friday's press conference announcing the contract.

"In an award like this one, where there's been a very good competition, there is often a lot of talk about winners and losers," Hoepfer said. "The winner I want you to pay attention to is the American soldier, who is

a tremendous winner by being given the best off-the-shelf equipment in the world in this class."

The LAVs will run quieter than the current armored personnel carriers, Kern said, increasing their stealth. They will also give the new brigades a reduced logistics footprint, he said, and make the units cheaper to operate than today's heavy brigades.

The Interim Brigade Combat Team should be about 25 percent cheaper to operate than today's heavy brigades, said Lt. Col. Donald F. Schenk, program manager for the IBCT.

"We expect it's going to be billions of dollars we're going to save," Schenk said.

The LAV engine is a Caterpillar engine, which is common to the Army's family of medium tactical vehicles, Kern said. That means some of the same repair parts can be used. "Commonality of equipment," Kern said, reduces the brigade's logistical footprint and support costs, and makes the entire vehicle fleet easier to maintain.

## Active-duty soldiers can use GI Bill

Congress has increased the maximum possible tuition assistance for active-duty service members from 75 percent of the cost of off-duty classes to 100 percent.

If the services cannot or will not fund the full cost of off-duty education, the new law allows active-duty students to use their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to make up the difference.

The changes are included in the 2001 Defense Authorization Act, which President Clinton signed into law Oct. 30. Congress did not appropriate additional funds for the increase in the education benefit, so defense officials say they have not yet figured out when they can begin paying full tuition.

Until now, the four military services have each used different criteria to decide how much tuition assistance they would pay, up to the authorized ceiling of 75 percent.

But Pentagon policy officials plan to huddle over the next few weeks to come up with a way to make tuition assistance more uniform so there's more equality in the services, said Army Maj. Timothy Blair, a Pentagon spokesman on personnel issues.

The Defense Department's Office of Force Management Policy wants the four services to agree on a plan to implement the new full-tuition benefit, Blair said.

### Paying the last 25 percent

Before the new law went into effect, military members had to pay at least 25 percent of the cost of any off-duty courses out of their own pockets.

"A service member eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill wasn't allowed to receive both tuition assistance and the MGIB for the same course," a spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs said in an information paper describing the new

change.

This led to cases in which active-duty students and veterans would receive substantially different amounts of assistance while taking the same course.

If an active-duty service member uses the GI Bill to help pay for education, the amount will be deducted from future GI Bill payments.

For example, a typical service member may have accrued \$23,400 in GI Bill benefits, payable at \$650 a month for 36 months.

According to the VA, if that same service member spends \$1,950 on education costs while on active duty, he would be left with \$21,450 in GI Bill benefits. The smaller total amount would still be paid over 36 months. So, if the service member left active duty and enrolled as a full-time student, the discharged veteran would receive \$595.83 a month for 36 months.

## Around the Army

# Soldiers begin eDigital MP field testing

FORT POLK, La. (Army News Service) Military Police could see around corners, through trees and in the dark as they tested the Army's new iDigital MP System' this month at Fort Polk, La.

Patrolmen wore eyeglass-mounted miniature cameras providing istreaming video' to their partners. Viewing screens in the eyeglasses also allowed the MPs to check the faces of suspects they stopped against digital mug shots of known offenders.

Fort Polk's 91st Military Police Detachment soldiers became the first MPs to test the system Oct. 30 to Nov. 3. Representatives of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., brought the Digital MP System to Fort Polk. They were joined by members of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and a number of contractor teams wanting to see how the system would work on real soldiers.

The Digital MP is a durable, lightweight, wearable communications and information management system designed to help carry out reconnaissance, checkpoint security, anti-terrorism operations and other MP missions, said program manager Henry Girolamo, Natick Soldiers Center.

The backbone of the Digital MP is a wearable computer developed by ViA Inc., MicroOptical Corp and Honeywell Inc. and tailored to the mission requirements of the MP soldier, Girolamo said. The Digital MP's support features include a hands-free, voice-operated interface and a battery that provides day-long power on a single charge. It features peripherals

such as:

An audiovisual system with built-in miniature camera for face recognition and image display plus a noise-cancelling microphone and bone-conduction microphone/earphone for voice recognition, all incorporated in a pair of normal-size eyeglass frames

A BDU-pocket-sized imilitary e-book' readable even in strong sunlight or pale starlight (with night vision goggles) that emits no light to give away a soldier's position

An electronic glove that can function like a computer mouse with the e-book and translate hand signals into words on other soldiers' eyeglass-mounted viewers

The Digital MP system can connect a military police team wirelessly and in ways never before possible, officials said.

The eyeglass-mounted camera provides streaming video, which means it can transmit to me what another MP is looking at even though I can't see him,' said Sgt. Michael Sauer, Special Reaction Team non-commissioned officer in charge, 91st MP Det.

An MP making a traffic stop or manning a checkpoint can take live videos which are checked against digital mug shots stored in the National Crime Interdiction Center database, Sauer said, so he's quickly alerted if the person stopped has a criminal record. On deployment, the system can warn him that he's dealing with a suspected terrorist or war criminal.

An MP on patrol can use the e-book to quickly help others locate what he sees. 'Say he's on recon,

looking at the terrain,' said Sauer. 'He sees enemy tanks.' Using traditional methods, the soldier plots coordinates on a paper map, calls the TOC on the radio and another soldier plots the coordinates on another map. With Digital MP, 'He puts the icon on the map and sends it to the operations center,' Sauer said.

With the electronic glove, MPs separated by thick woods, buildings or darkness can still communicate silently with the familiar hand signals for 'Suspect armed!' and other vital information.

The adapted Nomex flight glove, with bend sensors in each finger and in the wrist, pressure sensors in the index and middle fingertips and 2-degree tilt sensors, renders preprogrammed gestures as words in fellow MPs' eyeglass display monitors. The glove works when the signaler doesn't have line of sight communication with the others and doesn't want to give away his position by speaking, said Sauer.

The glove also functions like a mouse with the e-book, guiding the cursor with the tilt sensor and using the pressure sensors as right and left clicks. When silence is necessary, as on patrol, the glove can override the voice-operated system.

The Digital MP can be programmed to continuously translate speech from English to another language and vice versa with only a five-second lag. Presently it can handle Spanish, Korean, Arabic, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Thai and Turkish, and officials said they plan to add imilitares' ó translating the soldier's 'clicks' into the civilian's 'kilometers,' for instance.

# Native-Americans honored during celebration

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - When this Indian talks, people listen.

Those attending the Department of the Army's National American Indian Heritage Month observance at the Pentagon Nov. 15 got an earful of facts that debunked many so-called accomplishments of Europeans.

Those attending didn't just believe him because he's a retired Army Special Forces colonel who fought in three wars over 23 years. Dr. Edwin Strong-Legs Richardson is also a member of the Penobscot Tribe, Eastern Abenaki Confederacy and president of the Kiyian Indian Consultant Group, Wakpala Shungmanitu Indian Lodge.

Speaking engagements are something the 81-year-old Richardson, who describes himself as a little more than half-Indian, still frequently does. Whether the topic is cultural diversity, arbitration, conflict resolution or just trying to get along with difficult people, Richardson can teach it.

For this event, Richardson wore his Army green beret with a long brown feather attached to it that rested on his back. He also wore heavily beaded moccasins, buckskin pants, a faded red cotton shirt with a design of tiny blue flowers, and an array of man-made jewelry dangling around his neck.

Richardson, who frequently injected humor into his presentation, covered a multitude of inventions and accomplishments by the people indigenous to the Americas.

Some include developing more than 3,000 types of potatoes, vulcanized rubber, the first North American hospital, pyramids, tacos, corporate business, advanced highways, cosmetics, the world's most accurate cal-

endar, the discovery of oil, and real democracy which the United States' 'great white fathers' used as a blue print for the Constitution, Richardson said.

'The American Constitution comes almost directly from Indian people,' he said.

'If you think Irish potatoes are Irish, you're wrong. If you think Italian spaghetti is Italian, you're wrong. These are all things native people did.'

Another fact Richardson told the audience concerned the origin of Indians. Of late, the consensus by scientists was that they came across Asia's Bering Strait about 30,000 years ago. However, recent drawings discovered in caves in Itea, Peru depicting what appears to be a neurosurgical procedure have been carbon dated to be 75,000 years old.

'Many people believe Indians were here to start with,' Richardson said.

In an interview following his lecture, Richardson said that during World War II, he and Bob Dole, the former Republican senator from Kansas, were in the same field hospital while fighting in Italy with the 10th Mountain Division. Richardson sustained shrapnel to his back, and Dole a wounded right arm.

'To have been in the military is great for Indian people,' Richardson said, who also fought in Korea and Vietnam. 'It's great. The proudest thing he (an Indian) can do is get into his old uniform and go to a powwow. He still has parts of his uniform and he can wear it with great pride.'

Of great concern to Indians is the health of Mother Earth, Richardson said. 'We pray to our Mother Earth all the time,' explaining that the environment is always of great interest to Indians.

Richardson cited a joint announcement made last year by NASA and the National Science Foundation that if

something isn't done in the next 25 years, the global warming phenomena will be irreversible.

Close to that is water pollution. 'It's just amazing. It's a real problem,' Richardson said citing articles in USA Today about arsenic and lead problems.

Asked what are the biggest misunderstandings that others have about Indians, Richardson first addressed the notion that they are getting rich from casinos.

'There's only four or five (casinos) that are really successful. And, it's probably only 4 percent of all the tribes that have casinos.'

Other concerns include acknowledging that tribes are the same as sovereign nations, and the lack of genuine concern by politicians of Indian people.

And, finally, the lack of integrity displayed by those who signed their names to treaties.

There is no concern about the dishonesty of their word,' Richardson said. 'Not one of the 876 treaties ... not a single one were honored. It's terrible.'

This was echoed in this year's presidential proclamation when President Bill Clinton stated 'We also remember with sorrow the suffering they endured because of federal actions and policies that had long-term and often devastating consequences for Native Americans and their culture.'

Richardson estimated there are 2 million American Indians in the United States. 'We are probably the smallest minority,' he said.

Also offered at the presentation were eight types of Indian food from different regions, which included Mohegan Succotash, Penobscot pudding, red chili stew and Pueblo barbecued pork roast.

'Sixty percent of foods consumed today are of Native American origin,' Richardson said.

## Around Town

# Maryland wrestlers bodyslam Meade

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY  
 Editor, *The Voice*

More than 700 hard-core wrestling fans packed into the Morale Welfare Recreation Festival Tent to see the return of Maryland Championship Wrestling to Fort Meade Nov. 17.

Some of the individuals who wrestled in the show were lesser-knowns such as Qenaan Creed, Jimmy Cicero and Adam Flash. Wrestling regulars Tom Brandi, Gillberg (both formerly of the World Wrestling Federation) and the legendary Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka also participated in the action.

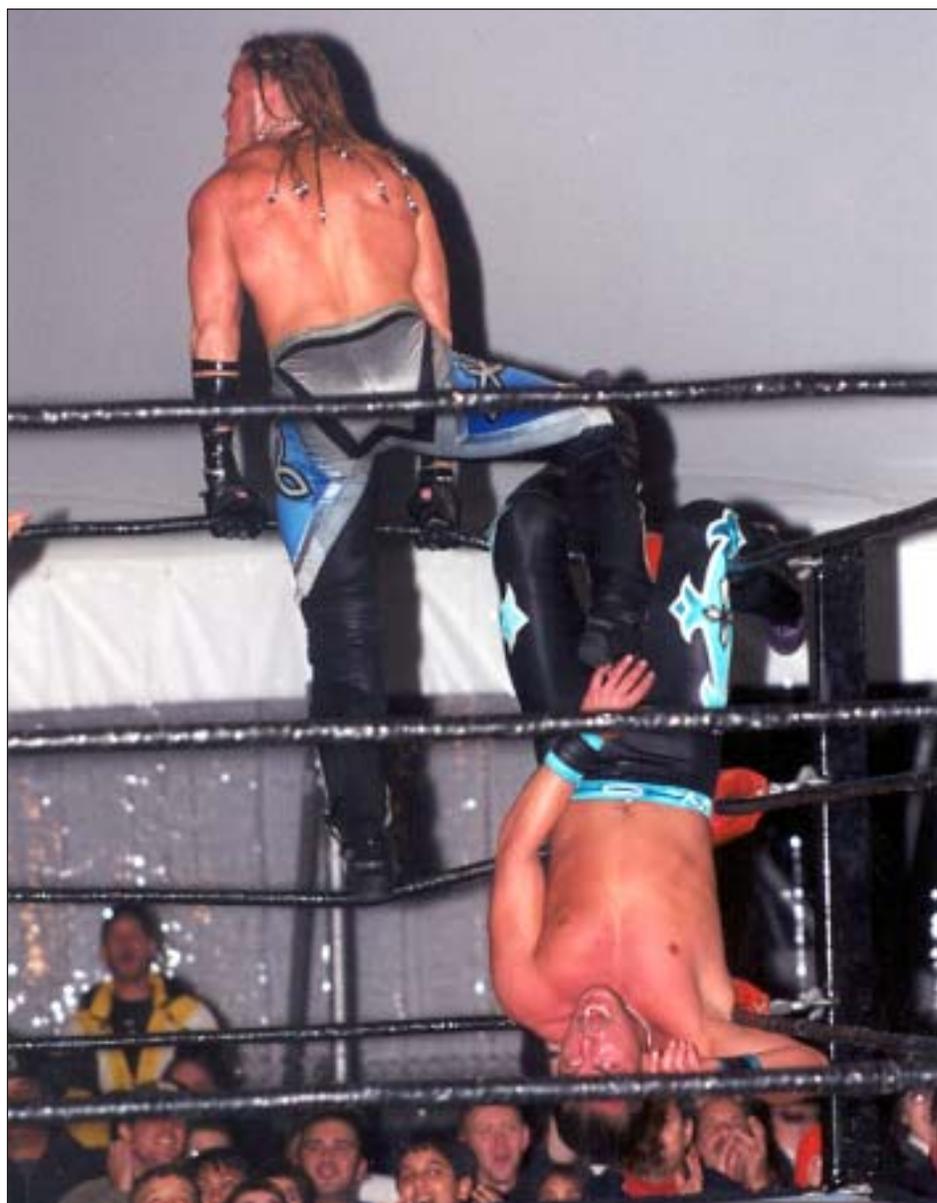
The night involved heavy doses of crowd participation. Prior to the beginning of the show, fans had the opportunity to get autographs and meet with the wrestlers. Then at the intermission, Gillberg and Snuka invited fans into the ring to get their photos taken with them. The matches didn't begin again until every fan who wanted to, had their photo taken with the two MCW stars.

"The MCW is great," said Justin Foster, a Southern Maryland teenager who drove an hour to see the show. "They try to make everything very enjoyable for their fans. They also put on a quality show."

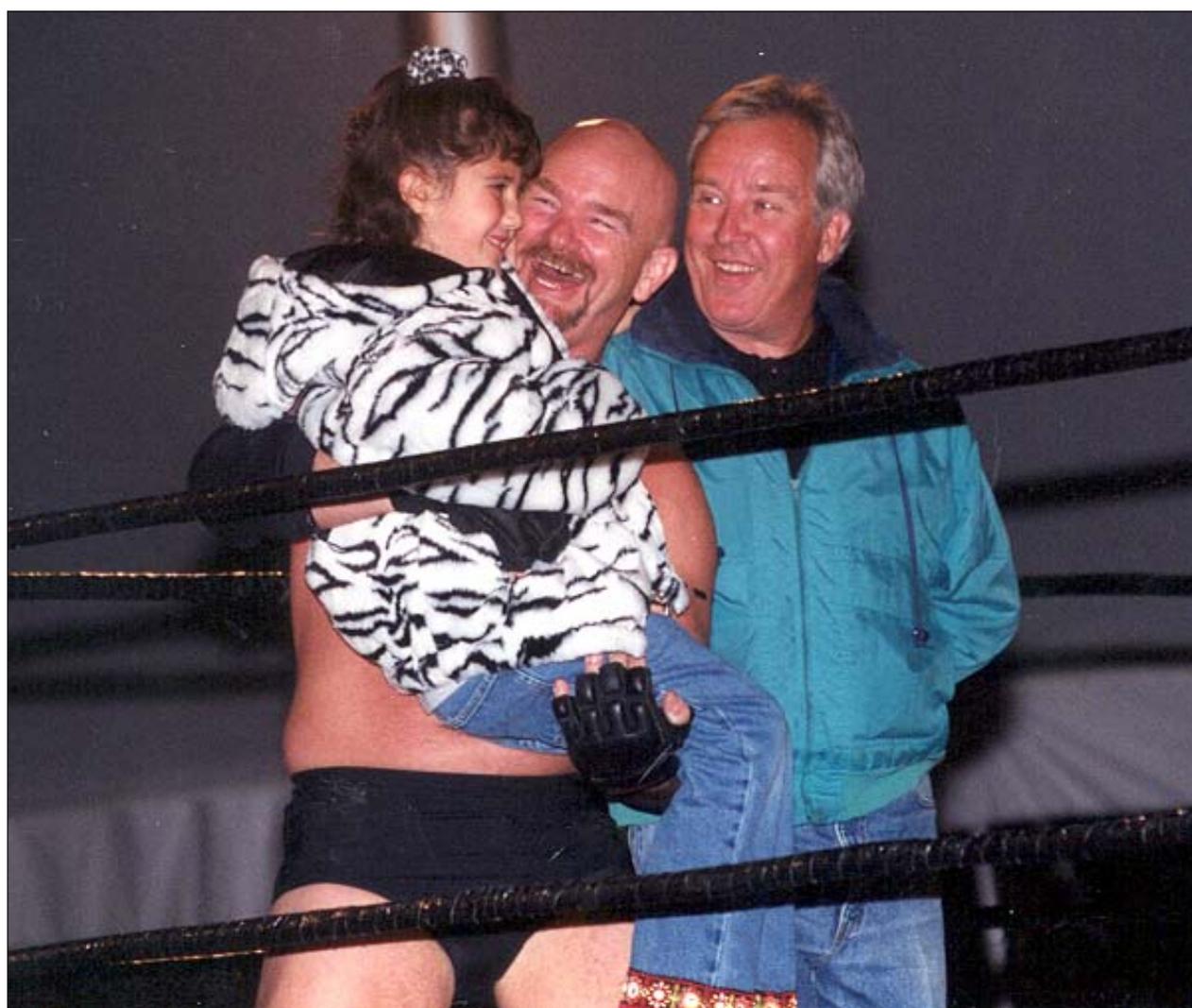
The MCW was established July 19, 1998 by a group of wrestlers who believed in work ethics.

According to the Maryland Championship Wrestling official website ([www.marylandwrestling.com](http://www.marylandwrestling.com)), they believe in making sure each fan who spends his money on an MCW ticket will not leave the show feeling he has been ripped off. The wrestlers believe in three simple words: unity, honor and pride. Maryland Championship Wrestling is gaining popularity and is quickly becoming one of the premier independent professional wrestling organizations in the United States. Wrestlers, managers and valets currently competing in the big three (the World Wrestling Federation, World Championship Wrestling and Extreme Championship Wrestling) have used MCW as a springboard to stardom.

The attitude within the MCW is that while many of the wrestlers competing in MCW are not mainstream names in professional wrestling, they are without a doubt, the superstars of tomorrow. So they will continue to put the best show on they can until it's their time for the spotlight.



Christian York gets a "leg up" on Ramblini Rich Myers during their tag team match. While the Holy Rollers were the victors, Myers seems to be on the losing end of this move.



Former World Wrestling Federation star Gillberg poses with local fans in the ring during a break in the action at the Maryland Championship Wrestling show at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Festival Tent Nov. 17.



Tom Brandi does his best to upset the crowd during his match against Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka.

# SAFETY BRIEF

BY NANCY FELDMAN

Fancy dips, tempting hors d'oeuvres, inviting canapés, delightful desserts — the holidays are filled with scrumptious culinary delights. Don't ruin the holidays with food poisoning.

During the holidays or anytime, refrain from eating certain foods such as raw oysters, soft-boiled eggs, and mousse or bread pudding. Avoid raw cookie dough, hollandaise sauce, egg drinks or Caesar salad, unless made with pasteurized eggs or an egg substitute.

Steak tartare and rare or medium hamburger can also harbor bacteria that cause food poisoning. It is particularly important that young children, the elderly, pregnant women and those who are ill or whose immune systems are compromised not eat raw or undercooked animal products or raw oysters unless they have consulted their physicians.

Most food poisonings are preventable if two important rules are followed: keep hot food hot and cold food cold, and remember to keep everything in the kitchen clean. Cooking food to a temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit kills most bacteria that cause food poisoning. Cooked foods that are not served immediately should be kept at a holding temperature between 140 and 165 degrees. The chances of bacterial growth increase with food left unrefrigerated longer than two hours.

Most bacteria get into food through careless handling. However, following these simple steps will prevent most food poisoning:

Hands should always be washed before handling food.

Towels and wash cloths should be kept clean since bacteria can linger in those used repeatedly between launderings.

Countertops and utensils should be washed with hot, soapy water between each step in food preparation. Bacteria from raw meat and poultry can get into other foods if both touch the same surfaces.

Because many warm-blooded animals such as turkeys and other poultry often harbor salmonella organisms, proper thawing and cooking are important to avoid foodborne illness.

Be sure to wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap before handling or boning meat or poultry.

Always cook meat and poultry to the recommended temperature. Use a meat thermometer, inserting the tip into the thickest part of the meat and avoiding fat or bone. For poultry, insert the tip into the thick part of the thigh next to the body.

Partial cooking should be avoided because it allows bacteria to grow. Cook meat and poultry completely at one time.

Frozen meat or poultry should be cooked one and a half times the period required to prepare thawed food. For example, if 60 minutes is required to cook a dish, allow 90 minutes if the dish is frozen. (Turkey is an exception. It should always be completely thawed before cooking.)

Do not cool leftovers on the kitchen counter. Divide them into smaller portions so they will cool more quickly and put them in the refrigerator as soon as possible.

Cover leftovers to reheat. This helps maintain moisture and ensures that meat is heated all the way through.

The guidelines differ a little when pre-

paring a turkey. Start early and thaw the turkey in the refrigerator or in a place where the air temperature is no higher than 40 degrees. The turkey thaws at about five pounds per day. Be sure the turkey is thawed completely, until no ice appears in the inner cavity and the meat is soft. Be cautious! If the inner cavity is still frozen or even partially frozen when you put the turkey in the oven, the outside of the bird will be done before the inside, and the inside temperature will not be hot enough to destroy disease-causing bacteria.

If you mix stuffing a day ahead, pre-mix only the dry ingredients. Mixing moist ingredients ahead of time offers the opportunity for bacteria to grow. It is safer to cook stuffing separately. However, if you do stuff the bird, do so just before cooking it. Stuff it loosely so the stuffing cooks thoroughly.

Insert a meat thermometer into the center of the thickest part of the thigh, breast or stuffing. Temperatures should register 180 degrees for turkey, 165 degrees for stuffing and 170 to 175 degrees for boneless roasts. After the meal, immediately refrigerate leftovers such as meat, dressing, gravy or soups in small shallow containers. Letting these foods sit several hours at room temperature allows time for the growth of disease-bearing bacteria. Refrigerate stuffing and other items separately from the bird. Remember when serving leftovers it is important to do so either very cold (directly from the refrigerator) or very hot (at least 165 degrees).

Nancy Feldman is a registered dietitian and nutrition adviser for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.



photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Marcus D. Burch, deputy commanding officer, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, pies Charles Keller, brigade senior civilian, in the face. Keller agreed to the pie face as part of the Big Dog auction, which was held to raise money (Burch paid \$30 for the honor) for the upcoming Holiday Ball.

## CIVILIAN'S CORNER

BY CHARLES KELLER  
BRIGADE SENIOR SILLY-VILLIAN

The military is very used to change. Military personnel rotate every two or three years and soldiers leave the Army at a consistent rate. Every month sections



throughout this and other Army units hold a farewell luncheon and units organize Hails and Farewells to welcome new members and salute those pending departure. Service members expect, however, that civilian employees will provide greater stability. Usually, they are right. Although we have had employees leave this brigade for schools and promotions, departures have usually been singular.

Recently, however, we have had an unexpected series of departures. In July, Mr. Van Beall departed the S3 for an exceptional opportunity to be a contract instructor at the National Defense University. This was followed in October by Ms. Nancy Robinson's departure for the 902nd MI Group - receiving a promotion to GS-11 in the process. Now it is my turn.

This will be my last article in the Voice. My last day as a Department of the Army Civilian is Nov. 18. I am leaving to join Sytex Corporation to become the Project Manager - Information Warfare for the corporation. For the first time in 30 years, I will not be a member of the Army - either as a soldier (20 years) or civilian (10). For the first time since I joined the Army (October 27, 1970) I will not be paid directly by Uncle Sam. For the first time in seven and one-half years, I will not be the 704th MI Brigade Senior SIGINT Technical

Advisor (I never did find out who the junior advisor was). For the first time in my adult life, I will miss the camaraderie associated with military life.

It has become a cliché (but like all clichés, it is based on truth), I will miss the people most of all. I always enjoyed my time as a soldier, and have no regrets for serving 20 years. As circumstances, both professional and personal, changed, I decided to retire after I reached 20 in 1990. I also decided to stay with the military as a civilian. Throughout this entire time, I have served with many great people, both senior and junior. Military people have a special bond that those who have not served will never understand. I will miss this.

Nonetheless, it is time to move on and there were few opportunities for me to do so within the military, given the restrictions my personal life places on my mobility. Therefore I leave the mili-

tary and become a contractor. I will, however, continue to support the Army and hope to have a positive influence on efforts now underway. In my new position I will frequently interface with the brigade and look forward to working with each and every one of you again.

### CAREER PROGRESSION:

For those of you who are interested in my career, I continue to move down the ladder of competency:

- Those that can: **DO**
- Those that can't: **TEACH**
- Those that can't teach: **SUPER-VISE**
- Those that can't supervise: **BECOME TECHNICAL ADVISORS**
- Those that can't technically advise: **BECOME CONTRACTOR PM'S**

# HHC soldier gives rock-solid effort



Farnsworth was recognized by Lt. Col. Jerry Sharp, commander, 742nd MI Battalion during a ceremony Nov. 3.



photos by Spc. Jonathan Matthews

After three months of work, Farnsworth admires her completed rock mural she designed for the 742nd MI Battalion.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY  
Editor, The Voice

In August, Spc. Jennifer Farnsworth began the process of taking an unusually large chunk of rock and transforming it into a mural featuring the seven Army values for the 742<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion.

Almost three months later, as the 20-year-old stood in front of the finished product, Farnsworth's artwork was recognized during a ceremony Nov. 3.

Farnsworth, who is an administrative specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade, is not an artist by trade. The only art classes she ever took was during high school. She simply volunteered to do the mural for one simple reason ñ

to get outside and away from the isame old of-fice routine.î

îI asked to do it to get out of the office,î she said. îI don't dislike my office, I just wanted the chance to be outside.î

Don't expect Farnsworth to change her career profession to that of an artist, she says it is still just a hobby.

îThis is just something I like to do,î Farnsworth explained.

In 1999, the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania native enlisted into the Army for four years as a signal intelligence analyst. After basic training and her advanced individual training, Farnsworth was sent to HHC, 704<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade, where she has remained for almost a year. She recently received her top-secret clearance and will be moving to the National Security Agency Building in the near future. But it is her time as a Big

Dog that has impressed people.

îSpecialist Farnsworth has consistently been one of the hardest working soldiers in the Headquarters Company,î said Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, commander, HHC, 704<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade.

îAlthough usually quiet, her duty motivation and commitment to the unit speak volumes about the kind of soldier that she is. She was recently promoted to specialist ahead of many peers based on her past performance and on her potential. The company expects great things in the future from her,î Kirschbaum added.

Even though Farnsworth knows her days with the unit are numbered, it hasn't changed her approach to her job.

îI know that I'll be leaving in January,î Farnsworth said. îBut I still show up every day and do what is asked of me. And I will continue to until my last day.î



## VISION STATEMENT

704th Military Intelligence Brigade



**Be the premier Army team providing full-spectrum signals intelligence and operational support to warfighters and national command authorities *îHERE AND EVERYWHERE.î***