The Voice

Vol. 4, Issue 8 | Published in the interest of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Team | February 2001

Inside The Voice

New Commander in Chief
page 2

Musicians on a mission
page 5

Big Dog basketball in full swing
pages 6-7

Visit the Brigade web page at www.meade-704mi.army.mil

photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Even though Staff Sgt. Francisco Cruz has had to start his life over again, he still has a smile on his face. ìTo be in such a trying time and to have so many people help you out; I really canít say thank you enough,î he said.

741st soldiers come to rescue

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Where were you at 10:30 p.m. December 29, 2000? Ask Staff Sgt. Francisco Cruz and he can recall his whereabouts of that evening in an instant.

Having just returned from dinner with his pregnant wife, Grace, and seven-year-old daughter, Nicole, Cruz was taking a shower and getting ready for bed that Friday night. Suddenly, he heard a pounding on his front door. Thatís when his life changed forever.

When Cruz opened the door, a stranger frantically informed him that his house was on fire. Cruz, not even dry from his shower, grabbed his family and got out of the house as quickly as possible.

The fire started at his neighborís house, but because of strong winds, spread to his MacArthur Avenue residence. Firefighters quickly arrived and put out the flames. As the rest of the world was settling down after Christmas and preparing to bring in the New Year, Cruz was faced with a situation that no one would wish upon his worst enemy. Although the fire itself did little damage, all of his personal possessions were lost due to water and smoke damage.

ìI lost everything,î said Cruz, who is a platoon sergeant with Company C, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion. ìThey say in death situations you see your life flash before your eyes. I saw my life go away, because everything I owned was in that house. It was pretty scary. î

So Cruz and his family attempted to get their life back on track.

ìIt hasnít been easy for us,î he said. ìMy daughter was asleep when everything happened. It didnít really hit her until she wanted to play with her toys. It was hard to tell her that all of her toys were gone.î

Knowing that things werenít going well for Cruz and his family, Staff Sgt. James Brubaker decided to help out.

ìI had to get involved,î said Brubaker, senior analyst reporter, Company C, 741st MI Battalion. ìWhen I heard what had happened I knew I had to do something. I put myself in his shoes. I knew if I was in his place I would hope people would be there for me.î

Brubaker then spearheaded a drive, collecting food, money, clothing, furniture and other donations to aid the Cruz family.

ìItís amazing,î Cruz said. ìIf I werenít in the military and didnít have home ownerís insurance I would have nothing. But because I am in the military itís like I have a second family. People I donít even know have given me and my family money to help us out.î

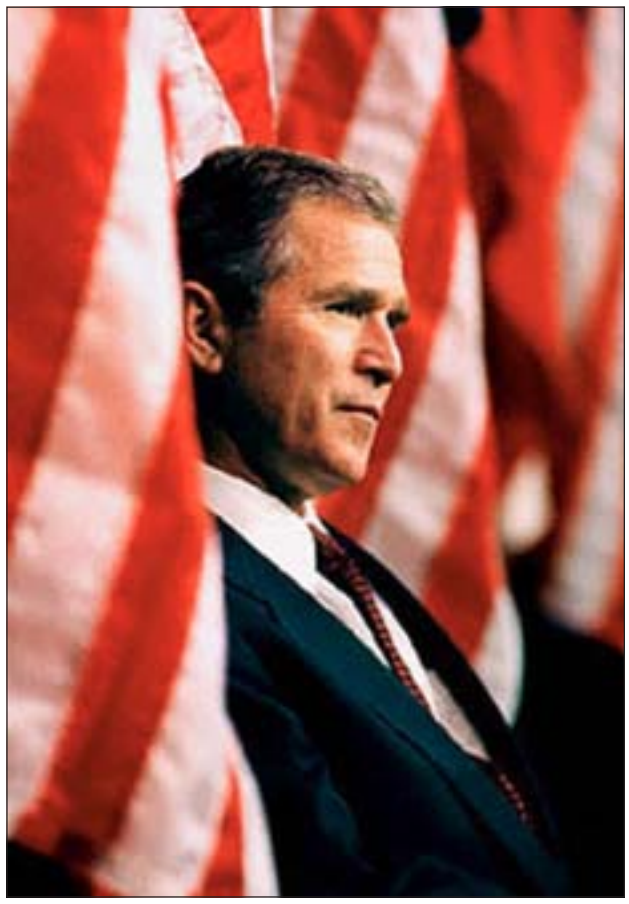
According to Cruz, the helping hand hasnít been limited to only soldiers.

ìSome local Marines heard what happened and wanted to help us out,î he said. ìThey took my daughter and I to where they were collecting toys for their ëToys for Totsí program and basically said ëtake what you want.í

ìSo many people have been there for us. Words cannot say how much all of this support has meant to us. To be in such a trying time and to have so many people help you out; I really canít say thank you enough,î he said.

From First Son to Commander in Chief

In January 1995, George W. Bush celebrated his inauguration as governor of Texas with wife, Laura, in a parade down Congress Avenue in Austin.



George W. Bush became the 43rd president of the United States during an inauguration ceremony Jan. 20.

George Walker Bush was sworn in as the nationís 43rd president Jan. 20 and, with a call for compassion and civility in public life, pledged to ìwork to build a single nation of justice and opportunity. î

The solemn, tradition-bound transfer of power unfolded beneath gray skies on a raw January day as the 54-year-old former Texas governor, his eyes misty with tears, took the oath of office that had been administered 12 years earlier to his father, former president George Bush, who looked on proudly.

Weaving themes and issues that he invoked during his campaign through his 14-minute inaugural address, Bush called on Americans to be ìcitizens, not spectatorsî and promised ìto bring the values of our history to the care of our times.î

The day was filled with emotion for the Bush family and its supporters, and Bush struggled not to reveal the deep feelings of the moment. A tear rolled from his eyes after the oath was administered by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and, a second time, at the conclusion of his speech, when he hugged his father.

On the nearby rain-soaked streets of Washington, there were also vivid reminders of the emotions that were stirred by the heated campaign and the marathon count of votes in Florida that finally gave Bush the presidency. Thousands of sign-waving protesters, some chanting ìHail to the thief,î roamed the streets, which were patrolled by about 7,000 officers from more than a dozen law enforcement agencies.

But at the Capitol, the ceremony proceeded smoothly as first Richard B. Cheney took the oath of office as vice president, and then Bush, his voice firm, recited the hallowed words promising to ìpreserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.î

Vice President Al Gore, defeated by Bush in a bitter contest decided by the Supreme Court, glumly faced Bush on the West Portico of the Capitol. Outgoing President Bill Clinton, the man who ousted the new presidentís father from the White House in 1992, and the outgoing first lady and new Democratic senator from New York, Hillary Rodham Clinton, sat near the elder Bush and his wife, Barbara.

Bush was accompanied by his wife, Laura, and their 19-year-old twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, and Cheney by his wife, Lynne, and their daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. In addition to Bushís parents, the ceremony was attended by former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn.

George W. Bush and pop star Ricky Martin ìshake their bonbonsî during the pre-inauguration celebration. Even though the weather was less than ideal, an estimated 300,000 individuals attended the inauguration.

The Voice is an authorized unofficial publication under the provisions of AR 360-1. Reproduced by the the Defense Automated Printing Service, The Voice serves as an information medium for the soldiers and families of the Brigade. Circulation is 700 copies a month. Opinions expressed in the Voice do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or any of their commands, agencies or affiliates. Material selected for publication is subject to editing. Manuscripts and photos submitted for consideration should be sent to:

Commander
704th MI BDE
ATTN: IAMS-PAO (Editor, The Voice)
Fort Meade, MD 20755-5930
DSN 923-0069
Commericial (301) 677-0069

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command
704th Military Intelligence Brigade

Commander
Col. Deborah J. Beckworth

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Major Randy Wilson

Acting Brigade S-6
Lt. Col. Danny Mason

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Danny Mason

Public Affairs NCOIC / Editor
Spc. Brian Murphy

Graphic Artist
Spc. Anishka Forbes

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.

Education Brief

BY DEBRA T. DAY
BRIGADE EDUCATION COUNSELOR

Spring semester is here, and registration for classes at colleges on Ft Meade is ongoing. School bulletins have been available since mid November, so itís imperative that students who have not already registered, do so as soon as possible to ensure the best selection of classes on post or at the main campuses. Although many of the classes began in January, there are opportunities to register for courses that begin in March, for both University of Maryland University College, and Anne Arundel Community College.

As it was during fiscal year 2000, Army Tuition Assistance is available to soldiers in the amount of $3500.00 for fiscal year 2001, which began 1 October 2000. The per semester hour cap is $187.50 or 75% towards tuition: whichever is the lesser amount. It is important to note that once the servicemember has received Tuition Assistance for 9 semester hours from this Education Center, no further TA will be provided to the servicemember unless he/she has an official evaluation or Servicemember Opportunity College agreement on file. A Guidance Counselor can assist in obtaining these documents. Call (301) 677-6421 for details.

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC):

Anne Arundel Community College is a Service Member Opportunity Army Degree (SOCAD) and offers a wide range of certificates and 2 year degrees in the classroom and on-line. For details contact the schoolís office for more information. (410) 672-2117.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC):

University of Maryland University College is a Service Member Opportunity College, offering bachelors degrees in a wide range of subjects. Ask about their Cooperative Education program, where students can earn college credit for new learning in ones current position. The college also has a program called Prior Learning where college credit may be earned for life experiences. As well the school also offers graduate level certificates and degree programs. Contact an advisor at the college for details, at (410) 551-0431.

Bowie State University (BSU):

The school offers a Teacher Certification program for those who want to teach secondary education in the state of Maryland. The school also offers graduate programs in Counseling Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, and Management Information Systems. For details on these and many other programs, contact Manfred Reinhold at (301) 912-2318 for more information.

Central Michigan University (CMU):

Central Michigan University on Ft. Meade is currently accepting admission applications for the Master of Science in Administration degree with a concentration in Software Engineering Administration. The program is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer. For more details please call the Central Michigan office at Ft. Meade, (301) 621-9796.

Regents College:

The New York Regents College representative will be at the Ft Meade Education Center on 20 February 2001. Appointments may also be available for 12 March 2001. Call 677-6421 to see if appointments are still available for this date. Ask to speak with an Education Guidance Counselor about how to best prepare for your visit.

The Ft. Meade Education Services Division is located in Building 8601 on Zimborski Ave. For information about testing and other services, call (301) 677- 6421 and ask to speak with a Guidance Counselor for details.

Gulf War was milestone for Military Intelligence

SPECIAL ARTICLE BY JOHN P. FINNEGAN
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command

In August 1990, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched a surprise attack on the neighboring Emirate of Kuwait, a tiny but oil-rich territory in the Persian Gulf. Husseinís actions threatened the stability of the whole Middle East, especially since his forces were now in a position to threaten the key oil fields of Saudi Arabia.

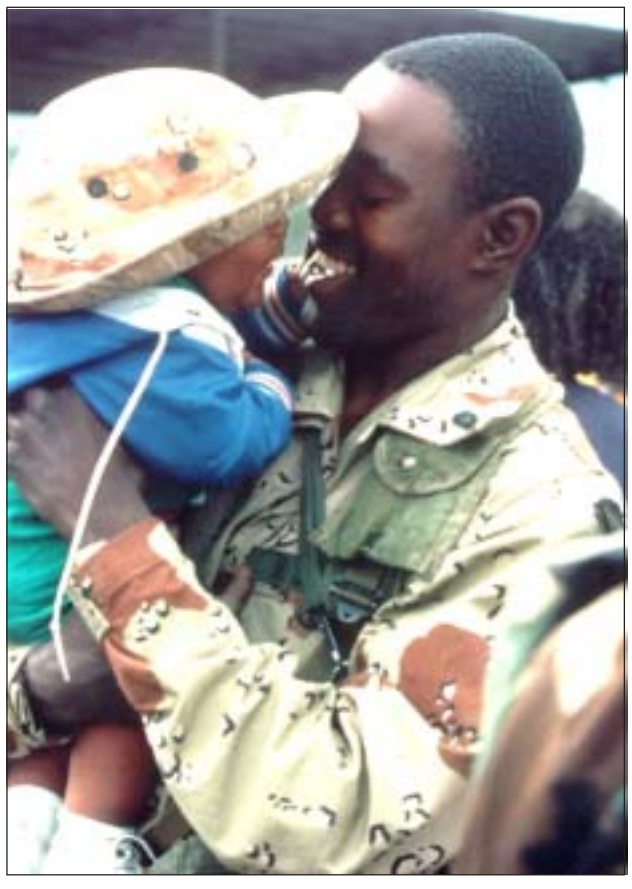
The United States was quick to react. Troops were rushed to Saudi Arabia and the United States rallied world opinion against this aggression through the United Nations. When neither Security Council orders nor international sanctions proved effective in forcing Saddam Hussein to relinquish his prey, President George Bush reinforced the troops already committed to Saudi Arabia, calling up reservists and redeploying an army corps from Germany. In January 1991, an American-led allied coalition launched the air phase of Operation Desert Storm, the liberation of Kuwait. In February, this was followed up by a lightning ground attack that overwhelmed the Iraqis in 100 hours of fighting.

In addition to being a triumph for American arms and logistics, Desert Storm also proved to be a milestone in the history of military intelligence. New technologies allowed commanders unprecedented surveillance of the entire Kuwaiti Theater of Operations, while enhanced satellite communications permitted intelligence produced in Washington to be relayed down to divisions in the field almost instantaneously. The 3rd U.S. Army that fought in the desert received intelligence support from three military intelligence brigades and numerous ancillary intelligence units. And in line with the Total Army concept, reserve MI units were deployed in the desert to assist the active component.

Shown here is a prisoner-of-war compound, where Iraqis were held. Those captured Iraqis provided valuable information to U.S. military intelligence soldiers.

One of the best testimonies to the success of military intelligence in Desert Storm was provided by a captured Iraqi officer.

ì We had a great appreciation of your intelligence system; we knew from our experience in the Iranian War that at all times you could see us during day and night and knew where we were on the ground. If we communicated, you could both hear us and target us, and if we talked too long, you would target us and destroy us with your ordnance,î he said.



A 513th Military Intelligence Brigade soldier reunites with family after returning from Operation Desert Storm.

(Editorís note: John P. Finnegan is a historian with the history office, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. Parts of this article are excerpted from: The Military Intelligence Story: A Photographic History, second edition.)

Post celebrates Martin Luther King Day

BY SGT DENNY COX
SoundOFF!

The Black Employment Program Committee of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office here hosted the installationís annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Jan. 18 at McGill Community Activity Center.

The event started with musical selections by the Volunteers of the U.S. Army Field Band.

After the bandís performance, Shaunteh Kelly of the BEPC welcomed the audience and introduced the programís next participants.

Navy Petty Officer 1st class Shannon Wells, Joint Services Black Heritage Committee; Sgt. 1st Class David Barnes, equal opportunity adviser; Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jasper James, JSBHC; and Betty Fowlkes, BEPC, led the crowd in a commemorative reading about King.

ìMartin Luther King Jr. envisioned the ultimate freedom - the freedom free of hate and the freedom full of love,î said Wells.

ìIn the name of the freedom of love, let my people go,î the crowd responded.

The Volunteers returned to the stage under the direction of Sgt. Maj. Jesse Powers. They played ì*Whatís Going On*î and ì*Come Along With Me*î accompanied by guest vocalist Martha Lewis from the Field Bandís Jazz Ambassadors.

Carroll Hicks, chairperson of the BEPC, introduced featured speaker Carlton A. Funn Sr.

ìMr. Funn was motivated after an experience he had in the seventh grade with a Virginia history book. He realized that there was very little in the book concerning the contributions of African Americans,î said Hicks.

ìWhen he returned to the same school as a teacher 10 years later, the exact same book was still in use,î he continued.

Funn dedicated his life to changing the education system to reflect the multicultural make-up of America. He compiled a collection of exhibits celebrating the cultures of 28 different ethnic groups, according to Hicks.

Funn started his speech by showing the crowd the history book that started his 40-year career as an educator.

ì Today is the 400th showing of this exhibit. I only brought a very small part of the artifacts, books, posters and memorabilia that Iíve collected over the years. I hope as you look at it, you embrace the world diversity that Dr. King preached,î Funn said.

Following Funnís remarks, Installation Commander Col. Michael J. Stewart presented Funn with a plaque thanking him for his participation in this yearís observance.

ìMr. Funnís comments have been both instructive and educational. They remind us that our strength as a nation lies in our blending of cultures and diversity as people,î said Stewart.

Refreshments were served and the audience was invited to examine Funnís exhibit after the ceremony. Youth Services and Meade Senior High School also held observances in honor of King.

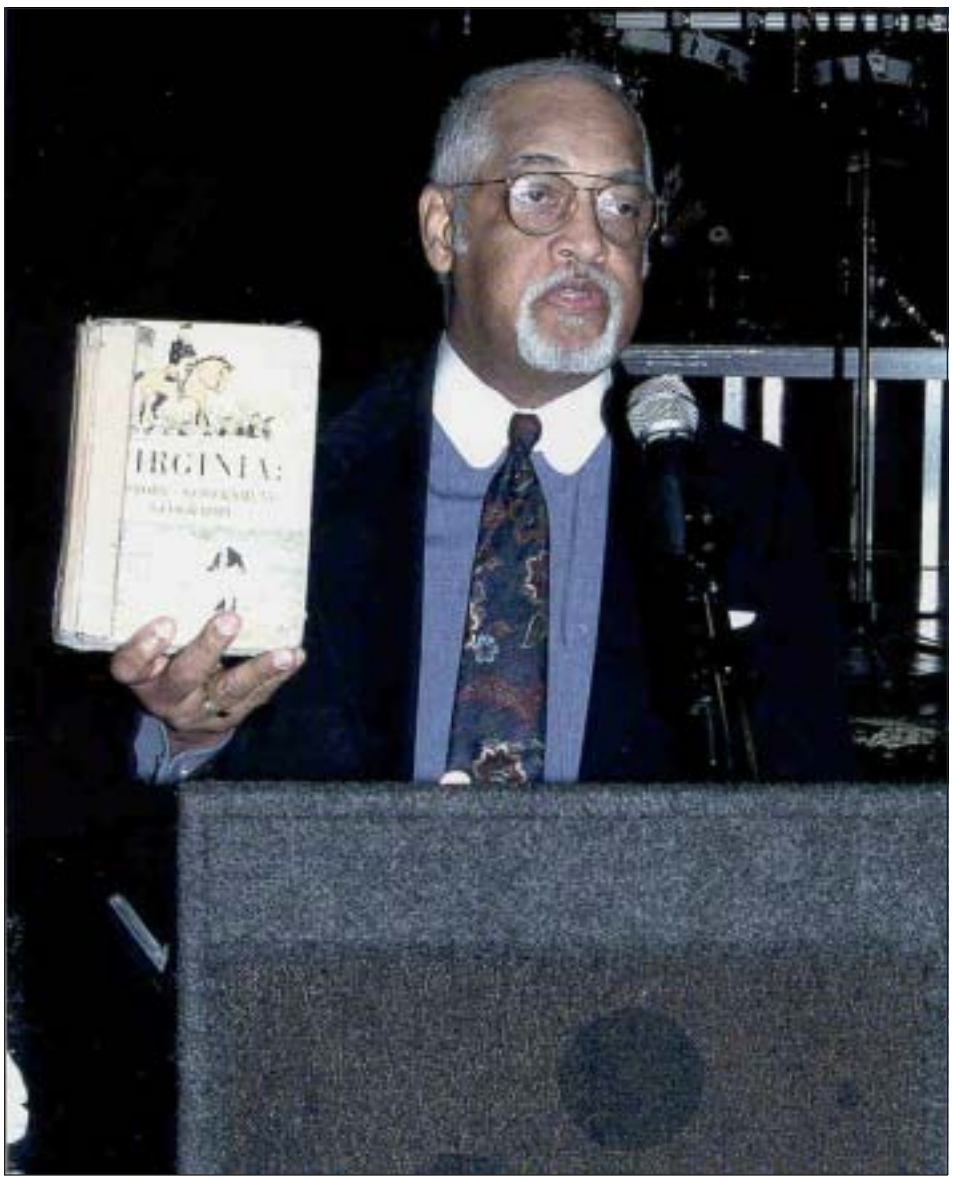


Photo by Ron Rooney

Carlton A. Funn Sr. speaks at the installationís Martin Luther King Birthday Observance. Funn displayed a small part of his exhibit celebrating diversity at McGill Community Activity Center Jan. 18. The exhibit, collected by Funn over 44 years, includes artifacts and memorabilia from 28 different cultures.

Heritage, history on display

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Sgt. 1st Class Alva Drayton, supply noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, put together an artistic display in honor of Black History Month at Bldg. 9828 Feb. 9.

Music brings local soldiers together

Both Pfc. Randy Batarao, Company B, 741st MI Battalion, and Pfc. Erick Elliott, HHC, 704th MI Brigade, have aspirations of one day being part of the music world.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

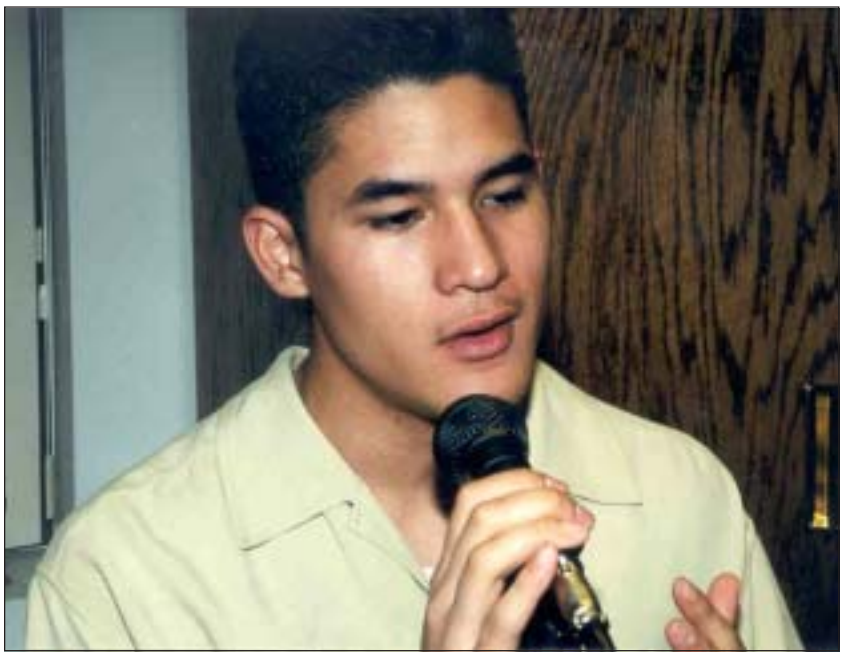
Erick Elliott joined the Army in July of 1999 because he ìdidnít want to go straight to college after high school.î So he packed his bags, and left Salem, New Jersey to go wherever Uncle Sam sent him. After basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he headed to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for his advanced individual training as a morse-code interceptor.

About a month into his tenure at AIT, Elliott found out he was getting a roommate. While his new ìbattle buddyî Randy Batarao was unpacking he noticed that Elliott had brought his guitar with him on his Army journey. The two began to talk. With their new musical connection they instantly hit it off and began to work together creating new music.

ìI only used to play other peopleís music,î Elliott said. ìI played Metallica, Ozzy Osbourne and stuff like that. When Batarao came along he asked me why didnít I play my own music, instead of someone elseís. Thatís when we started working together. î

The duo quickly learned that they had more in common than just a love for music.

ì We were the same type of people and we were going through a lot of the same stuff,î Elliott said. ì We were both new to the Army and we both had girlfriends we left behind when we joined. Our music was based on what we were feeling during that time. It was like an outlet for what we were going through.î



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

According to Batarao, he and Elliott are just ìdoing what we love to do.î

Elliottís music taste includes ìEric Clapton, and bluesy music like that,î while Batarao prefers more of an R&B sound. Their music falls somewhere in between, according to Elliott.

ìHe sings and I play the guitar, î he said. ìBecause we donít have a lot of other instruments our sound comes across like pop music.î

In a fortunate twist of fate, Elliott and fellow private first class, Batarao, ended up with Fort Meade as their first duty station. Elliott has worked in the in/outprocessing section of the Brigade Information Management Cell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade since he arrived at the brigade last June. Batarao is assigned to Company B, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion.

According to Batarao, the only change has been the location.

ì We are doing what we love to do,î said the Charleston, South Carolina native. ìWe were very fortunate to both end up here from AIT. Weíre getting serious about our music now. We donít just throw songs together, we try to say something with our music.î

Elliott and Batarao routinely continue to fine tune their act, as any soldier walking down the barracks hallway after duty hours can attest to.

ì We get together a few times every week,î Elliott said. ìWeíll either play in his room or mine. As long as weíre playing, it doesnít matter where.î

A few months ago the duo wanted to get used to playing in front of crowds. So they headed to downtown Baltimore and began playing down by the harbor.

ìIt was just the two of us and a guitar,î Elliott said. ìWhoever walked by could have checked us out.î

In Bataraoís mind, that evening of music down by the water was just the beginning.

ì We want to make it all the way,î he said. ìIíd love to get our music out there. Iíd love for us to be played on the radio, for people to be able to buy our music in the stores.î

But Batarao isnít being overconfident.

ìEven if we donít make millions of dollars, if one person ever came up to us and said ëyour music has changed my life,í that would make it all worth it,î he said.

Big Dogs hoop it up, aim for league title

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Talk about a stacked deck. Not only is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Big Dogs basketball team competing against the nine other teams in the menís intramural league, theyíre also trying to keep up with the Big Dog flag football team.

The Big Dogs showed exactly how good they could be during their 71-49 blowout victory against 91st IS at Murphy Field House Jan. 22. Led by forward Jonathan Holloway, who finished with a game-high 16 points, the Big Dogs offense jumped out of the gates early and never backed down. Other notable performances include small forward David Philips (12 points and three rebounds), center Marcus Denson (six points and 10 rebounds) and point guard Edward Smith (five steals).

ì We are a high-energy team,î Philips said. ìWe focus a lot of attention on playing solid defense and as soon as we get the ball we push it up the court. Defense creates offense. If we play on that end of the court, weíre going to win.î

Philips compares the Big Dogs squadís style of play to that of the Sacramento Kings.

ìNo two teams are going to be exactly alike,î he said. ìBut there are a lot of similarities between us and the Kings. We have solid big men; they have solid big men. We play good defense; they play good defense. We run a fast-break offense, and so do they. î

Itís no coincidence that Philipsí favorite pro team is Sacramento.

While the Big Dogs-Kings comparison is up for debate, one thing the entire squad agrees on is the teamsí biggest asset.

ì We have a very deep team,î Denson said. ìWe have two or three people that can play every position. If we donít worry about individual stats, this team can go a long way. î

Because of their talent and depth, the Big Dogs came into the season with the highest of expectations.

ì We wanted to go undefeated,î Denson said. ìWe wanted to win all of our regular season games and then win the league championship. We lost our first game of the season because we werenít playing as a team. But that loss will end up helping us in the end. It showed us we have to come to play every night.î

Holloway agrees that they have what it takes to earn the trophy.

ì We have the talent and the ability to win the championship,î he said. ìIf we play our game, there isnít a team out there that can beat us.î

Holloway then pointed out that the Big Dogs flag football team that he played running back for was immensely talented as well, but fell apart in the playoff.

ì We had a stacked team in football too,î he said. ìBut we werenít able to get it done. That left a bad taste in my mouth. I want us to win the basketball championship to help erase the disappointment from not finishing the job in football.î

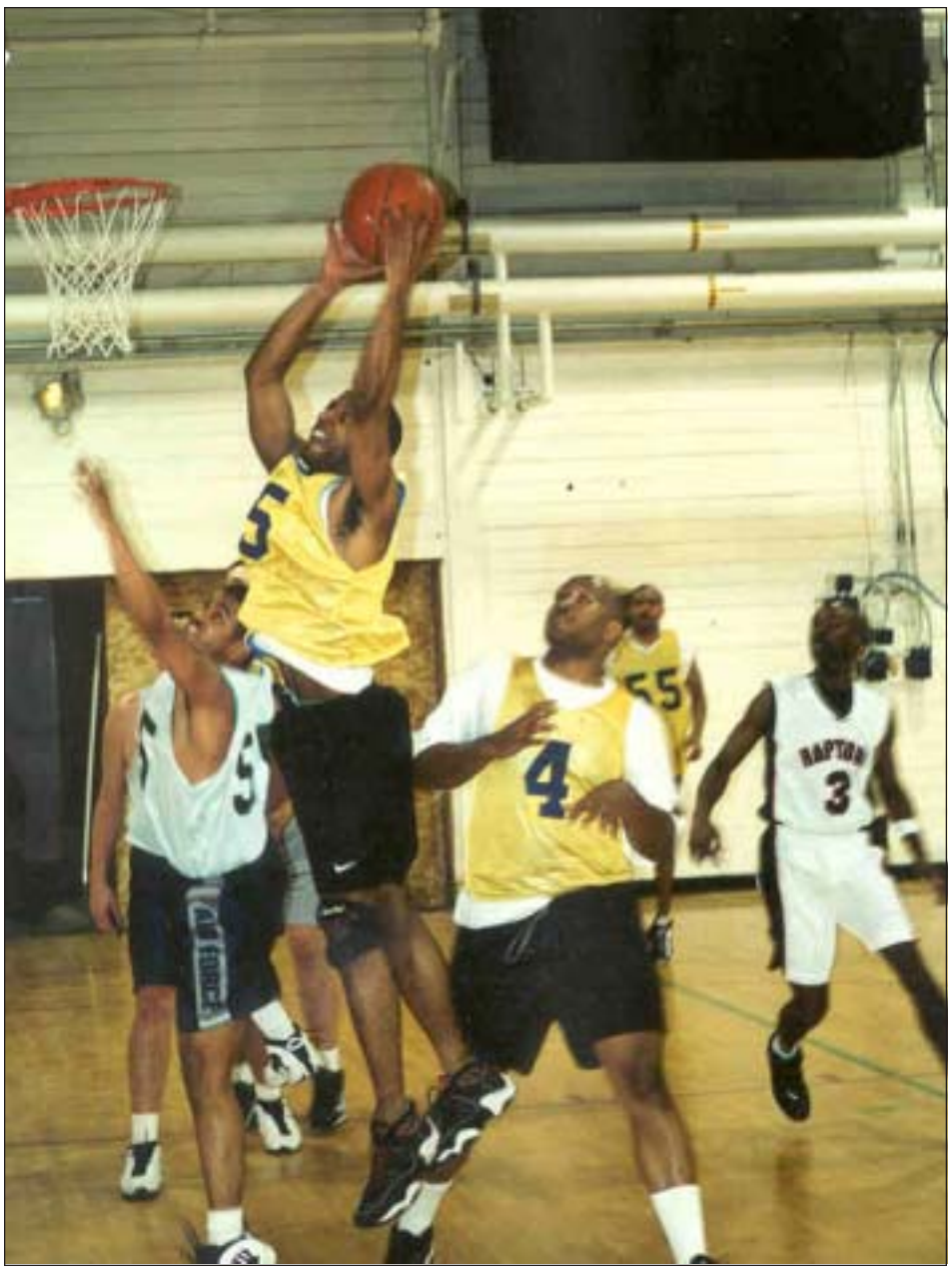
photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

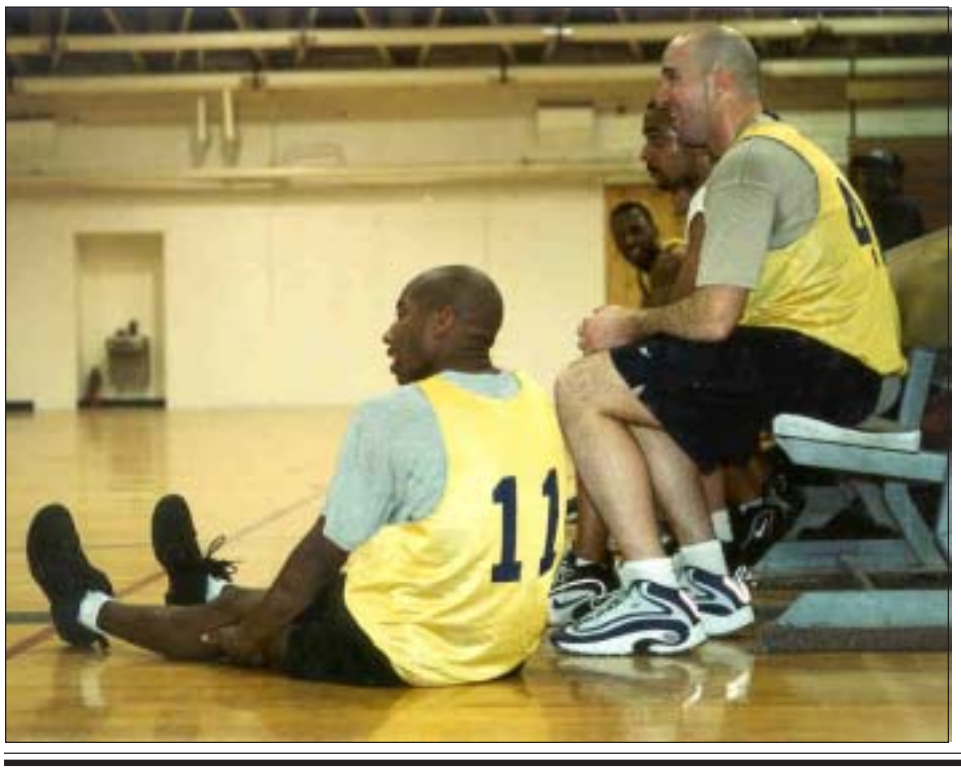
Big Dog small forward David Philips (right) and a 91st IS defender battle for a loose ball during the 71-49 Big Dog blow out victory at Murphy Field House Jan. 22.

(Above) Big Dog center Marcus Denson finishes an easy lay-up as three 91st IS defenders are forced to become spectators. According to Denson, the Big Dogs won the contest because they simply out-hussled their opponent.

(Left) Big Dog forward Willie Scott fights a 91st IS player for position during the Big Dogsí lopsided 71-49 menís intramural victory Jan 22.

Big Dog shooting guard Nadir Sayyaad shows how easy basketball can be as he puts the finishing touches on an easy lay-up, much to the dismay of the four 91st IS defenders.





(Above) Dunking 101: Big Dog forward David Philips shows the opposition the correct way to ëthrow it downí during the second half of the Big Dogs-91st IS contest.

(Top Left) Big Dog guard JaMarcus Roy pulls up for a jumper against two defenders.

(Bottom Left) With the game well under control against the 91st IS, the Big Dogsí bench can relax and enjoy the show.

Around the Army

ëBe all you can beí slogan gone

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó To ìBe all you can beî in the Army now means being ìAn Army of one.î

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced the new Army slogan that underscores the importance of individuals in a unified effort and unveiled a new Army logo ó a white star superimposed over a yellow star ó during a Department of Defense press briefing at the Pentagon Jan. 10.

ìI am tremendously inspired by this new campaign and feel as if we are conveying a more accurate view of the men and women who comprise our Army,î Caldera said. ìIt speaks to the individual strengths of each soldier and their part within the overall Army force.î

The new slogan and logo will be featured in future Army advertising and recruiting efforts.

Leo Burnett USA, selected last June as the Armyís lead advertising partner, has already developed a campaign featuring real soldiers rather than actors in a series of television, radio, print and web commercials. The first television ad, titled ìDogtags,î initially airs during NBCís ìFriendsî sitcom Jan. 11. It will also air later on ìThe Simpsons,î ìBuffy the Vampire Slayer,î and MTV.

ìLeo Burnett took the time to learn about the Army and the people who are making significant contributions each and every day,î Caldera said. ìThey understood that over time the Army had strayed from the true story of the American soldier ó one of strength, intelligence and opportunity. And, they have showed a strong commitment to presenting a clear, unified picture of the Army. î

ìI am the Armyî is the literal translation of the new message going out to the Hispanic target audience of 17- to 24-year-olds. The message is bilingual with Army being in English and the rest in Spanish. The reason for Army being English is to differentiate it from armies in Latin American countries, according to Victoria Hudson, executive vice president of Leo Burnettís Hispanic advertising partner Cartel Creativo.

The reason for a different message is because it says close to the same as ìAn Army of oneî but accounts for Hispanic cultural differences such as the need to fit in and be embraced, said Hudson.

One of the key reasons why the Army needed to change its message was the fact that the Army has missed its recruiting goals three out of the past five years ó Be all you can be just wasnít working, Caldera said. Another reason is that advertising messages get old and tired with time no matter how recognizable they are, he continued.

The first slogan for the all-volunteer Army was ì Todayís Army wants to join you.î This was followed in 1973 by ìJoin the people whoíve joined the Armyî which evolved into a short-lived ìThis is the Army.î ìBe all you can beî first appeared in 1981.

Along with senior Army leaders and key Leo Burnett staff, five of the soldiers featured in the $150-million ad campaign attended the press briefing. They were Cpl. Richard Lovett, assigned to 27th Engineer Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. and shown as the lone runner in the Dogtags commercial; Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Soldier Systems Center, Natick, Mass.; Spc. Natalie Ortiz, 32nd Medical Logistics Battalion, Fort Bragg; Spc. Carlos Perez, a reservist assigned to the 6252nd Army Hospital, Ventura, Calif.; and Sgt. Leroy Durrah, 1st Signal Battalion, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Armyís new slogan is ìAn Army of one,î the new logo is shown above.

Education benefits changes begin in February

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Soldiers wanting more money for higher education should report to their local education center beginning Feb. 1, the Army has announced.

The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvements Act of 2000, signed into law Nov. 1 (Public Law 106-419), offers soldiers and their family members new options to fund higher education.

ìChanges this year will really help soldiers keep up with the higher costs of education,î said Lt. Col. George Richon, chief of the Recruiting Resources Branch, Enlisted Accessions Division, under the Armyís Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

One big change will allow soldiers who are enrolled with the Veterans Education Assistance Program to convert to the much more generous Montgomery GI Bill. VEAP is the education program designed for post-Vietnam era soldiers.

The VEAP program offered a total of $8,100 to help pay for higher education based on a $2,700 individual contribution. Critics of the VEAP funding have said it didnít go far enough in helping soldiers meet the ongoing rising costs of education.

The law allowed soldiers who were on active duty and had money in their VEAP accounts on or before Oct. 9, 1996 to convert to the MGIB. There was previously a one-year window to convert.

Out of an eligible 21,707 soldiers in 1996, 10,223 converted to the MGIB, 550 opted not to convert, and 10,934 did not respond during the one-year window.

Now the new law is providing another window for VEAP-era soldiers to convert to MGIB and it allows them to convert even if their account was inactive in 1996.

In order to be eligible to convert under the new window, soldiers must have continuously served on active duty from Oct. 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000.

Those wishing to convert must make an irrevocable election to change to the MGIB; they must withdraw any balance left in their VEAP accounts; and they must make or complete a $2,700 payment during an 18-month window beginning when they opt to convert to the MGIB, Richon said.

ìThis is a very good deal for soldiers wanting to continue their civilian education. Soldiers do have time to make the right decision before Oct. 31, 2001,î Richon said. ìThey need to discuss this with the counselors at their education center. î

Those eligible and wishing to switch must do so by Oct. 31.

Additionally, the law states no one can receive more than 48 months of benefits between the two programs. And, that the soldier, upon discharge or release from active duty, must receive an honorable discharge.

Another significant change is that new soldiers selecting the Armyís Loan Repayment program are also eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits, Richon said.

The Armyís Education Incentives and Counseling Branch is responsible for issuing implementation guidance to Army Education Centers. Counselors will assist those seeking to convert from VEAP to the MGIB, he said, and also assist soldiers who have participated in the Loan Repayment program.

The new law offers soldiers the option to increase the total benefit amount by allowing them to contribute an additional maximum of $600 on top of the original $1,200. With the governmentís nine-fold contribution, this would mean another $5,400 would be available for a maximum entitlement of $28,800.

Those veterans discharged between Nov. 1, 2000 and April 30, 2001 must elect to make eligibility contributions for additional benefits by July 31 of this year.

Soldiers who convert from the VEAP to the MGIB, however, are not eligible for this additional monthly amount.

On Nov. 1, the MGIB entitlements were increased 23 percent. This allows soldiers serving three or more years on active duty to receive $23,400 or $650 monthly based on a 36-month full-time school installment plan.

For those serving less than three years, the payment is $528.

Another change is that educational benefits may now be used for licensing and certification tests needed to enter, maintain, or advance into employment in a civilian status. Eligible veterans or family members will now receive payment of the fee charged for the test or $2,000 - whichever is less.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will reportedly soon place a message on Leave and Earning Statements that it is available to accept payments for MGIB contributions after Feb. 1.

For more information, log onto the Veterans Administrationís internet site at www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-452-4551; the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000; the Veterans Administration public affairs office at 1 (202) 273-6000; or, educational affairs at 1-888-442-4551.

The Education and Incentives and Counseling Branch, Army Personnel Command, can be contacted at 1-800-872-8272.

Around the Army

Pentagon conducts sergeantís time

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó During the first-ever ìSergeantís Timeî at the Pentagon Jan. 23, soldiers packed an auditorium to learn the ìdosî and ìdonítsî about the wear and care of the black beret.

Master Sgt. Kittie Messman, the Armyís noncommissioned officer who oversees uniform policy, presented a Powerpoint slide class. She brought with her actual berets for inquisitive soldiers to try on and learn how to correctly wear the serviceís upcoming standard headgear.

June 14, which is the Armyís birthday, is the date when soldiers throughout the Army will began wearing the headgear which has brought much debate since it was announced last October.

ìWhen the chief of staff makes a decision, itís not time to start debating,î Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley told attendees.

Tilley also addressed NCOs working at the Pentagon on other topics like military courtesy.

ì Weíre going to start ratcheting it down and enforce standards,î Tilley said, referring to the Armyís birthday as a good time to renew customs and traditions long-held in the service.

Messmanís presentation included information about how the beret should be worn, its care, and debunked some myths floating around the field.

One interesting tidbit was pointing out that the new black berets will not have liners compared to those made before them.

ìThe Army figured if everyone was going to cut them out, to not just put them in,î she said.

One slide stated ìFemales may not pack hair into the beret,î in accordance with Army regulation 670-1.

Female soldiers will have to adjust their hair style to the beret, and not the beret to the hair style normally worn, Messman said.

As for the maintenance aspects of it, Messman said many of these care methods used by other beret wearers handed down over the years are not recommended by the manufacturer and can actually damage the beret because of its wool material.

For example, one of the so-called care methods discussed was soaking the beret in warm water which could actually shrink it, a slide stated.

Soldiers that care for their beret in any manner not authorized will not be reimbursed or reissued a new one, but instead will be replaced at the soldierís expense, Messmanís class noted.

Other key points made were:

Soldiers will be issued their first beret in April with the Army flash sewn on.

The second beret will be issued in October.

The beret will be available for sale at military clothing stores in January 2002.

No black berets will be worn at Basic Training, Officer Basic Course, Warrant Officer Basic Course, Officer Candidate School, ROTC, or the U. S. Military Academy.

Uniform policy on the black beret will be featured in Hot Topics in the May issue of Soldiers magazine.

Tilleyís message to soldiers: ëremain focusedí

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó Seven months into the job as the Armyís top noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley is urging soldiers to stay focused in their lanes of responsibility and not worry about what they cannot change or affect.

That was one of several messages Tilley delivered to more than 230 active, Reserve and Guard senior noncoms at the first Nominative Command Sergeant Major Conference, held Jan. 8-12 at the Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas. Typically, nominative command sergeants major are those who serve at one-star commands or higher.

Staying in your lane is also the main message Tilley takes to the field. Since starting as sergeant major of the Army June 23, Tilley has talked to more than 30,000 troops at 40 Army installations in the United States and overseas.

ì Too often people get concerned and off track worrying about things they are not responsible for nor have any control over,î Tilley said. ìMy message to all soldiers is to stay focused on the things within your lane of responsibility ó let others take care of the things they are responsible for. î

One thing soldiers should not be concerned with, according to the sergeant major, is the black beret. Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced in October that Army troops will start wearing the beret in garrison June 14 to symbolize the Armyís transformation to a lighter, more deployable force.

ìThe decision has been made and it is not up for discussion,î Tilley said. ìIt is time to move on and start preparing our soldiers by teaching them now how to wear and maintain the beret.î

Backing those words with action, Tilley scheduled a class to instruct conference attendees on the proper wear and maintenance of the new headgear.

In addition to delivering his own messages to the field, Tilley also gives updates of Department of the Army issues that directly affect soldiers during his visits. The top issues soldiers want to hear about are pay, quality of life, retention, TRICARE and retirement, Tilley said.

ìI have always been a field soldier and I still consider myself to be one,î the sergeant major said. ìI see my job as getting out there ó taking the pulse of the Army by talking to soldiers and bringing the issues I donít have the answers for back to DA.î

Prior to his current assignment, Tilley had never held an Army staff job at the Pentagon.

ìI never really knew what exactly went on around here until I had been in the job for a couple of months,î he said. ìI now know there are all sorts of people here at the Pentagon who are genuinely concerned about soldiers and who are constantly working for their benefit.

ìI think the sergeants major who attended the conference caught a glimpse of that concern and of how important NCOs really are when they saw the secretary of the Army, the chief of staff of the Army and more than a dozen other senior Army leaders show up at the conference and take the time out of their busy schedules to brief them about what is going on within our Army. î

As an outcome of the conference, Tilley now has a new NCO vision for the Army with five messages he will take to the field. Those messages are: lead by example, train from experience, maintain and enforce standards, take care of soldiers and adapt to a changing world.

Attendees chose these leader skills the Army needs today by consensus from among about 25 choices, said Tilley.

photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ken Kassens

ëOld Gloryí arrives in style

Sgt. Chris Altman flies the American Flag over the Lincoln Memorial, Thursday January 18. Six other jumpers from the Army Parachute Team participated in the opening ceremonies to the 54th Presidential Inauguration.

Around Town

Super Bowl XXXV: Quote the Ravens

AP photos

Linebacker Ray Lewis, shown crushing Oakland Raider quarterback Rich Gannon during the AFC championship game, and the Baltimore defense are the biggest reason for the Ravens success this season. The Ravensí defense led the league in six key categories this season and also yielded the fewest points over a single season (165) in NFL history.

The Baltimore Ravens are the talk of the town after their crushing Super Bowl victory over the New York Giants 34-7 Jan. 28 at Raymond James Stadium.

The last time the Ravens franchise, which was known as the Cleveland Browns prior to 1996, played in a game this meaningful was 1964. Ironically enough, that team defeated the Baltimore Colts to earn the National Football League championship.

No one is happier about the Ravensí recent success than owner Art Modell, whose franchise had not had a winning record since the move.

ìI said in five years weíd be an elite team, and that prediction came true,î he said. ìIím happy, very happy. Iím happy for the players, their families and above all, the fans of Baltimore.î

The reason for the Ravens success can be summed up in one word -- defense. Led by the NFLís defensive player of the year, linebacker Ray Lewis, the Baltimore defense set an NFL record for fewest points allowed in a 16-game season, with 165.

The Ravensí defense led the league in six key categories in season, havenít permitted a running back to gain more than 100 yards in 34 straight games, and they have held the opposition without a point in 49 of 76 quarters this season.

After winning their 10th straight game by defeating the Oakland Raiders 16-3, Baltimore earned the first appearance in the premier game for the city since the Colts won Super Bowl V.

So a team that went through a five-game, no-touchdown drought in the middle of its season has had just enough offense to become the third wild-card team in the last four years to advance to the Super Bowl.

ì Weíre a high-powered groupî on defense, Ravens defensive end Rob Burnett said. ìWe play with a lot of heart. Thatís why weíre here and going to the Super Bowl. No one is invincible. Weíre all flesh and blood, but when we play our game, weíre tough to beat.î

But for those who think the Ravens will settle for their recent success, they have a clear message.

ì Weíre already planning now how to be in New Orleans next year,î said Ozzie Newsome, vice president of player personnel for the Ravens, referring to the 2002 Super Bowl venue.

Quarterback Trent Dilfer and the Baltimore Ravens have given the town something to talk. This season marks the first since 1964 that the Cleveland Browns/Baltimore Ravens franchise has competed for the NFL Championship.

Baltimore Ravens tight end Shannon Sharpe enjoys the moment as his team earned a trip to Super Bowl XXXV.

Safety Brief

BY CAPT. ANTIONETTE N. RAINEY
SAFETY OFFICER

I chose to use excerpts from the following article for ìThe Voiceî because many of us tend to forget that it is ourselves, as well as other drivers on the road that we should be looking out for.

Just to make sure

by Bob Elise

If you have ever watched any drag racing on television, you know that when both cars are staged at the starting line and the light turns green, both drivers ìput the pedal to the metalî and accelerate down the strip as fast as they can. This technique works well if you are racing at the drag strip, but itís not the best way to operate a vehicle when youíre on the street. Yes, according to the ìRules of the Roadî book that is published by your state department of motor vehicles, a green light means that you have the right to proceed on your way. In the real world, however, simply using the green light as your only criteria for proceeding ahead can get you into serious trouble.

Back in 1976, about a month after my wife and I were married, we decided to take a drive early one Saturday morning in November. I was driving my í71 Javelin with the big-block motor. It was cold that morning; and that big chunk of Detroit iron under the hood was still cold when we pulled up to a traffic light about 3 blocks from our house. When the light turned green I let the clutch out a little too fast; and because the motor wasnít warmed up well, the engine died. I reached up to turn the key to restart; and just as the engine was coming to life, a car came flying through the red light from right to left. It appeared to be going much faster than the 30 mile per hour speed limit; and whether the lady who was driving didnít see the light because the sun was in her eyes ñ or because she was thinking about something else ñ I donít know. It was obvious to me, however, that she could have caused an accident.

It wasnít until later that I really sat down and visualized what could have happened. If the engine in my car had not died, we would have been in the middle of an intersection when the other car ran the light. We would have been struck broadside, and my wife could have been killed instantly ñ while I could have suffered serious injuries. The lady driving the other car would probably have been killed or seriously injured, as well. Sure, we had the green light; but if the circumstances had been slightly different, it would have been a green light to the Promised Land for some of us.

You never can accurately deduce what other drivers are thinking or predict what they are going to do. Sometimes, even THEY donít know what theyíre going to do! A case in point was another occurrence at a stop sign just about a block form our house. My wife and I were going on a short trip in the afternoon, and we stopped near the stop sign ñ a ìTî intersection ñ at the end of our street. I looked left and saw a car coming toward us. His right turn signal was flashing, he was slowing down, and he was even starting to swing the front of his car toward the street we were on. There was no other place he could turn into if he wanted to, so it was obvious to me that the way to the left was clear. I then turned to look to the right to check for bicycles, pedestrians, etc.; and seeing none, my first impulse was to go ahead and make my right turn. But something told me to look left againÖîjust to make sure.î I started to turn my head to the left and was shocked to see the other car RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ñ JUST A FEW FEET AWAY! Apparently, he had changed his mind about making the turn at the last second and was swinging back into his lane again. If I had simply pulled out into the street, he would have taken the front end off of our car and smashed the front end of hisÖ and as before, it would have been MY FAULT!

Iíve had other experiences like this that I could relate, but Iím sure you get the idea. The bottom line isÖwhen you are driving your car; you should never take anything from granted. You must always assume that other drivers are going to make mistakes or do things that will put you and your family or friends in jeopardy. This means that you need to devote your complete attention to driving your vehicle. You canít drive while you shuffle through a stack of CDs looking for some music to match your mood. You canít ìwindow shopî while driving through the business district. You canít drive while looking toward the back seat to arbitrate an argument between your kids. And above all, you can never assume that just because you are following all of the ìRules of the Roadî that your safety is assured.

On the drag strip, ìGreen means go.î Everywhere else, green means ìtake another lookÖ**just to make sure.î**

Civilianís Corner

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

I would like to wish all of you the very best in this new year. Now that everyone in our area got his or her 2001 net pay increase of 3.81% here is a possible solution to the question of ìwhat to do with all that extra cashî.

TSP Contribution Limits on the Rise!

ìIn a surprise move Congress has passed a budget package that includes a raise in contribution limits to TSP. The TSP action was included in the Labor/HHS/Education Public Law 106-1033. The measure raises the maximum amounts that can be deducted from employeeís salaries each pay period to 11% for FERS employees and 6% for CSRS employees. Employees may elect to raise their contributions up to the new limit effective with the TSP Open Season that begins May 15, 2001. The contribution limits will rise by another point to 12% for FERS and 7% for CSRS employees the following open season beginning November 15, 2001. The TSP investment limit will rise by 1 percentage point at the start of each fiscal year until 2005 when it will reach 15% for FERS and 10% for CSRS. The percentage limits will be abolished in fiscal 2006. The phase in of higher limits was necessary to avoid arguments posed by some in congress and some federal agencies that higher contributions create a significant loss in tax revenue as TSP contributions are made with pre-taxed earningsî. (Article published in HQ DA Civilian Personnel Bulletin number 00-46)

Currently, you can only change the amount you wish to contribute by filing form TSP-1 (Revised 7/97). To date, you cannot make this election on line. Iíll give you more information as we approach 15 May.

Intelligence Community Internet Recruitment Website Beginning Construction. ìOne of the key initiatives under both the DCIís and DMIís efforts to revitalize and reshape the workforce is a state-of-the-art Internet Recruitment Website for the entire Intelligence Community (IC). It will use cutting edge web technology with competitive, dynamic tone. It will be modeled on award winning private sector recruiting sites and will use academia certified best web practices. Funding has recently been received and work has begun to construct the site. Initial Operating Capability (IOC) may be achieved as early as the end of this fiscal year.

The proposed site will provide U.S. citizens with a positive and correct picture of the ICís structure, missions, and practices. Its purpose is to create a central portal by which entry-level and mid-career professionals and other applicants can obtain information on the ICís organizational structure, missions and functional areas, career tracks, and employment benefits and submit their resumes to any of the thirteen Community member organizations. The benefits to the IC are numerous: Advertise the IC as an exciting, dynamic, modern, lifestyle-supportive enterprise; Market lesser known IC components; Convey interesting aspects of the business of intelligence; Reach people worldwide any time, any where; Strengthen and improve the IC image; Broaden potential applicantís appreciation of career opportunities; Promote a population of informed applicants; Advance E-recruiting; and Target diverse applicant pools.

The site will be composed of there major sections: Who We Are; What We Do; and A Place for You. The ìA Place for Youî section will include an interest map to help applicants translate skills and interests into a career channel or skill community/occupation and a capability for submitting resumes on-line.î

More information to follow as it becomes available.

ëPT stud patchí: something soldiers should aim for

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr, reenlistment noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC 704th MI Brigade, is one of the select few in the company who qualify to wear the ìPT stud patch.î

Every once in a while Capt. Paul Kirschbaum will encourage his soldiers to strive for the ìstud patch.î One quick read-through of Army Regulation 670-1 will show that there is no such Army decoration named the ìstud patch,î but thatís not his point. Kirschbaum simply wants his soldiers to qualify to wear the Army Physical Fitness Patch.

ìI think everyone should strive to earn the patch because it is a symbol of personal excellence,î said Kirschbaum, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade. ìWhen a soldier arrives in a unit wearing the patch, the leadership instantly notices and assumes that soldier to be highly motivated and a good troop. And generally, this assumption is absolutely correct.î

Kirschbaum said he got the name ìPT stud patchî during his school days.

ìWhen I was at West Point our companyís physical training officer used to call it the PT stud patch,î he said. ìHe was a 42-year-old infantry major who could smoke about ninety-eight percent of the eighteen to twenty-four year-old cadets any day of the week in any event. He truly epitomized the spirit of the PT stud patch, and I have since carried his nickname for it with me.î

In order for a soldier to earn the PT patch they must score at least a 270 on their PT test, while earning 90 percent in each of the three categories (push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile run). The brigade standard is a total score of 240 with no failed events, while Kirschbaumís company goal is a 260 average, with no failures.

According to Kirschbaum, out of a company of roughly 220 soldiers, only 10 soldiers qualify to wear the PT patch.

ì To me, a soldier who has earned the ëPT stud patchí has physically and mentally elevated themselves well above the average,î he said. ìTo earn the patch takes a lot of hard work physically and a strong mental faculty for overcoming the pain that is associated with training.î

One of the soldiers in the elite PT group is Sgt. 1st Class Willene Orr, reenlistment noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade.

ìExperts say that exercising regularly reduces stress,î said Orr, who scored a 300 on her last PT test, which she took in October. ìBeing physically fit also allows you to be productive on your job and lead an active, healthy life. Like milk does the body good, PT does the body great.î

In addition to exercising during the normal PT times Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, Orr also finds time during the rest of the week to get her work out in by running Tuesdays and doing Taebo and kick boxing aerobics Saturdays at her church.

ìThe key is consistency,î Orr said. ìIn order for a soldier to improve his PT score, he must work on the actual event. For example, if he needs improvement on the push-up, then he must do a variation of push-ups and upper body workout. For me, I must do forty-six repetitions in order to max my push-ups. So I double the number of repetitions needed in order to maximize the training session. But the key is simply this ñ consistency delivers results.î

But physical fitness goes further than that, said Kirschbaum.

ìFitness is not only an Army requirement, it is one of the most essential elements of well being,î he said. ìPhysical exercise has many benefits for the body to include a healthy heart, strong bones and muscles, and it is a great way to relieve stress that can lead to many health problems down the road.

ìMost important to Army personnel, it is the essential element that will pull you through stressful situations. A person who is in great shape has confidence in themselves, and that confidence makes them much more likely to be successful in every endeavor, to include combat and daily soldiering,î he said.

VISION STATEMENT

704th Military Intelligence Brigade

HERE AND EVERYWHERE

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