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courtesy photo

Bataan Death March competitors (from left to right) Spc. Sean Anderson, Spc. Andrew Freeburg, Sgt. Juan Jasso and Spc. Troy Kaldor stop for a quick photo. Not pictured is the team's fifth member, Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Sorola.

Local soldiers go Bataan Death Marching

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

More than 3,200 military and civilian marchers competed in this year's march, which commemorated the 59th anniversary of the surrender of American and Filipino troops to the Japanese in the Philippines.

The Bataan Death March is the largest military memorial march in the country, with competitors representing 45 states as well as Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Holland, South Korea and Guam.

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of Americans and Filipino soldiers were surrendered to Japanese forces. The Americans were Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines.

Service members from each of the different U.S. military branches participated along with various other organizations, such as the iBatling Bastards of Bataan, a group created to recognize those who died on Bataan. To make the event even more special, more than 30 Bataan survivors were on hand for this year's competition.

Six members of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade made the trek

across the desert. Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Sorola, Sgt. Juan Jasso, Spc. Sean Anderson, Spc. Andrew Freeburg and Spc. Troy Kaldor competed in the male military heavy (with 35-pound rucksack) category. The sixth competitor was Capt. Mary Campbell, who finished second overall in the female military heavy category.

iI wanted to challenge myself and honor those who have sacrificed themselves for our way of life and our country, said Spc. Troy Kaldor, administrative specialist, Receiving and Holding Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade. iThe whole event, especially the open ceremonies, caused you to reflect on what those individuals went through and made you proud to be a part of the same Army. i

The course covers 26.2 miles of southern New Mexico desert ranging in elevation from 4,100 to 5,300 feet above sea level. The route crosses hilly terrain, winds around a small mountain and returns to the main post through sandy trails and washes.

iI personally trained by rucking 15 to 30 miles a week with a 25- to 50-pound rucksack, said Kaldor. iEach

time I would increase the distance and mentally tell myself that it is only a few more miles. By the time we left we had gone as far as 22 miles, so to do the 26.2 was just a few more than that, no problem. i

For those who participated, the Bataan Death March was an event they'll never forget.

iThe event was probably the most challenging thing I have ever done since I joined the Army, said Kaldor. iIt was an experience that I will never forget. To know that you can push yourself to such limits gives you a lot of respect for yourself and those members of your team. i

Active and reserve component and retired members, ROTC cadets and civilians competed in light and heavy divisions as individuals and teams. All heavy division marchers carried a 35-pound rucksack; light division entrants did not. Military marchers in both divisions were required to wear full field gear other than the rucksack; civilians wore appropriate attire for a desert road march, White Sands officials said.

Teams were allowed to carry up to seven people, but at least five had to cross the finish line together within 10-yards.

Brigade reenlistment èright on trackí

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

Kudos to all leaders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who made significant contributions in keeping our soldiers with iThe Winning Team ñ The U.S. Army!í During the second quarter, your commitment to excellence and prowess enabled the brigade to, not only meet its Initial Term Mission, but exceed it with a 122 percent accomplishment rate. The brigade also achieved 100 percent of its reserve component mission as well. The competence and expertise exhibited by all is second to none when it comes to reenlisting highly skilled and proficient soldiers.

Special recognition is also due to the 741st MI Battalion's retention team for a superb job in overproduction of Initial Termers. Because of their efforts, the brigade overcame the shortfall of the year-to-date initial term mission and reached 100 percent for the fiscal year. The overproduction by 741st also enabled the Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) retention team to meet its initial term mission as well. So, again, thanks to all and a job well done by all!

As for soldiers staying with the U.S. Army, Sgt. Jennifer D. Woods, computer network exploitation specialist, Headquarters and Operations Company, 741st MI Battalion, made that commitment on the first day of the brigade's training and planning conference which took place February 26. What a way to start the conference! Woods reenlisted for the Army Training Reenlistment Option to become an Interrogator (military occupational specialist - 97E). She was administered the Oath of Reenlistment by Lt. Col. Walter Pollard, 741st MI Battalion, battalion commander. A host of well wishers were on hand to include Col. Deborah Beckworth, brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Major Randy D. Wilson, brigade command sergeant major. Woods' chain of command also was present.

Another such story is that of Sgt. Melissa J. Prasenski, a 98G - Chinese Mandarin Linguist, assigned to HOC, 741st MI Battalion, a Bonus Extension and Retraining Program (BEAR) recipient. The BEAR Program allows soldiers to extend for Army Training into a new military occupational specialty or receive additional language training. And after the training, soldiers reenlist and receive a bonus ñ such was the case with Prasenski. She received a 3A bonus upon her reenlistment as a 98G(CM), meaning she would actually pocket \$20,000 for her total bonus payment. All soldiers receive half of their initial payment upon reenlistment, which amounts to \$10,000 for Prasenski. Moreover, what made



courtesy photos

Sgt. Jennifer D. Woods reenlisted on the first day of the brigade's training and planning conference Feb. 26.

this reenlistment even more memorable was the location. Her desire was to reenlist at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Her wish was granted as Capt. Dave Pendall, plans and operations officer, assigned to 741st MI Battalion, administered the Oath of Reenlistment to her on March 13.

The above are only a few of the exciting stories that are taking place in this command. We encourage soldiers to make their reenlistment a memorable and special occasion. All soldiers who reenlist, extend under the BEAR Program, or receive letters of acceptance into special programs will receive a personal letter of thanks from the brigade commander and the brigade command sergeant major for staying with the U.S. Army.

For more information on retention, please contact your respective Career Counselors:

704th MI Brigade: SFC Willene Orr (301) 677-0164
741st MI Battalion: SSG Veronica Ingle (310) 677-0157
742nd MI Battalion: SSG Cynthia Kling (301) 677-0117
743rd MI Battalion: SSG Shelly Pringle (303) 677-5048



Sgt. Melissa J. Prasenski stops for a photo during her reenlistment at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall.

Upcoming Events

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Organizational Day is scheduled for June 22 at Burba Lake beginning at 9:30 a.m. All brigade members and their families will have the opportunity to enjoy food, fun, games and entertainment. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.



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:

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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.

Wolfpack wife shares story

COMMENTARY BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS PAULA CROW-BILLS
Service member and military spouse

Mothers-in-law, family reunions, and overall a new set of family members is what one expects when they get married. So when I recently married one of the sergeants from Headquarters and Operations Company, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, I was not aware of all the extra friendships I would be gaining or of all the challenges I would be facing.

From the first softball game right down to the wedding party, the soldiers at 742nd made me feel like I belonged. As a native Texan stationed at Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) here, I knew what it was like to be away from home. But in July and August of this past summer when my husband and I first became engaged I found my new family. I was introduced and welcomed by so many different individuals throughout the company.

Over these few months, I have taken part in

many new activities. I brought water to the games over the summer, cheered on Florida State at a football game, attended an awards ceremony for a discharging soldier, and most recently was asked to assist in the alcohol awareness program at the battalion. From bowling at Greenway to the volleyball/barbecue parties behind the barracks, it has been fun. It has not always been easy, though. Frankly, it has been downright hard sometimes.

Being in the Navy is not hard if you can tell a chief from a captain. If you can eat a plate of lasagna and still have bleach whites, you are doing really well. The Army is not so easy, however. Rank and recognition is not hard when you have been through boot camp and had anchors and oak leaves drilled into your frightened, re-issued brain. (I am a firm believer that in boot camp you are issued a new brain.)

When you have been out of boot camp for over a year, you are not going to be able to learn the rank of another branch as you might have before. So when my husband, James, sat me down to learn the difference between an iO-3i and an iO-6,i we

had some trouble. Rank is not the only challenge I faced.

Battalions, brigades, companies, and platoons were all the same before iclassi began, but for one hour every night, he taught me the particulars of his service versus my own.

Slowly but surely the Army way came to light and I realized just what sort of new life and new family I had been given. I knew that for all the time that James and I would spend here we would leave as part of a family. I saw that Article 15, soldier of the year boards, and advancement exams would only make this family stronger. I know now that no matter how hard the times at HOC got there was a commander and first sergeant's door open for those who had problems. I know this because I, myself, have sat in front of both for help on work or family issues and both have always been helpful.

For those soldiers and others, who read this article, let it be known that when you're a soldier's wife at the HOC, 742nd MI Battalion iWOLFPACKi you're where family matters.

Understanding the Management Control Program

BY CAPT. ALEC L. BLAKELEY
Comptroller, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade

As the brigade comptroller, I'm always concerned about resources ñ particularly money. In fulfilling my appointed duty as the brigade's management control administrator, I am also especially concerned with management controls. Resources within the government, Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army continue to decrease and scarce resources are lost or wasted when management controls don't function properly ñ sometimes because they're not in place, sometimes because they're not adequate, but most of the time because they're just not used.

Let's back up a second ñ what are management controls? They are those absolutely essential check mechanisms that must be established, implemented, and sustained in daily operations to ensure organizational effectiveness and compliance with legal requirements. They are the rules, procedures, techniques, and devices employed by managers to ensure that what should occur in their daily operations does occur on a continuing basis. It's simple ñ establish rules and procedures that assist your section or office in ensuring that regulations and other guidance from higher headquarters is followed. Once these controls are put into place, they must be periodically checked to see if they are effective and that all personnel are adhering to them.

The three keys to success in implementing a solid management control program are leadership emphasis, education and training, and reporting material weaknesses. Leadership emphasis involves making the Army a good place for Congress to invest the public's money. Every effort must be made to eliminate management control failures that waste money, destroy equipment, or cost lives. Education and training is fairly self-explanatory. Soldiers at all levels must be made aware of the program and need to be educated on how to formulate, emplace, and sustain management controls. Finally, reporting material weaknesses pertains to providing ifull disclosurei of major failures within the system. Reporting serious problems should be seen as a positive action. We've

been taught not to report ourselves, but this full disclosure serves to keep all parties informed and allows the sharing of information by other units. Satisfactory accomplishment of these three common elements will ensure a successful management control process within the 704th MI Brigade.

Management controls are important to everyone ñ yes that includes you! The 704th MI Brigade does many things so we must check our processes to ensure things are done properly. Maintenance, personnel, resource management, security, and supply are only some of the functions that the 704th MI Brigade performs that fall within the scope of the Management Control Program. If you are aware of or become aware of a management control that is not in

place or is not functioning properly or as intended, then please bring that discovery to the attention of your immediate supervisor or to one of the management control POCs listed below. If everyone does his or her part, then the program will be a success.

Current 704th MI Brigade unit/section POCs are as follows:

HHC, 704th MI Brigade ñ Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, 741st MI Battalion ñ Maj. Jennifer Merkle, 742nd MI Bn ñ Maj. David Tohn, 743rd MI Bn ñ Maj. Deborah Beckwith, S1 ñ Maj. Jose Principe, S2 ñ Capt. Carl Lamar, S3 ñ Maj. Joe Howard, S4 ñ Maj. Neal Daniels

IO ñ Maj. David Tiedemann, IMO ñ Lt. Col. Danny Mason, RMO ñ Capt. Alec Blakeley, Command Group ñ Ann Kepler



742nd Officer earns second place

courtesy photo

Capt. Mary Campbell, Company B, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, earned a second-place finish in the military female heavy (with rucksack) category during the Bataan Death March April 1st at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Campbell is shown here weighing in her rucksack prior to the competition.

Volunteers change the world

BY CARESSA BOLDEN
SoundOFF!

Imagine waiting for assistance at the information desk in the health care clinic, going to register a child for a sports team, or sitting in a quiet church service waiting to hear the choir. And there is no one there.

It may seem unimaginable for some people that this could happen.

Thankfully, this community has more than 1,700 volunteers who supplement the installation's work force by donating their time and effort to make this community a great place today and an even greater place tomorrow.

National Volunteer Week was celebrated April 22 - 28. It was established in 1974, to recognize and applaud the efforts of volunteers across the country.

This year's National Volunteer Week theme, *Change the World, Volunteer*, commemorates 2001 as the International Year of the Volunteer.

The annual event, which coincides with the President's Service Awards, is celebrated across the country to say *thank you* to the diverse group of people in the community who endeavor to change the world by volunteering.

One area where volunteers are strengthening the community and making a difference is youth sports. Volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents donate countless hours to train and develop youth, in not only the theory and skill of a sport, but also teamwork and leadership.

Darryl Johnson, a teacher at Baltimore Community College, coaches football at the 140-pound level. He also coaches 12-year-old and under girls' basketball.

I've been coaching 28 years, said Johnson. *It is a process of giving back. This is the time when volunteers are most needed. We have become a society of takers rather than givers.*

Johnson said volunteers who work with youth exemplify the best of an older tradition that taught, *it takes a village to raise a child.*

When people are paid, they stop when the paycheck stops, Johnson said. *But volunteers continue as long as they are needed.*

The Youth Services sports program, which includes baseball, softball, soccer, track and field, football, cheerleading, basketball, tennis and special programs, supports an average of 1,900 youth each year with two staff members, according to James *Bo* Lepinsky, YS sports manager.

The only way we have been able to support the program is with the help of volunteers, said Lepinsky. *The coaches, assistant coaches and team parents, in addition to the regular duties associated with the games, make supply and snack orders and develop telephone trees to get the word out.*

Lepinsky said that in the spring, there are 167 committed adult volunteers covering 675 youth; approximately 150 adults to 450 youth in the fall; and 135 adults to 400 youth in the winter. Additionally, the volunteers handle special events and tournaments.

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Hall with the Garrison Headquarters Company has been a track and field coach for four years. This is his first year as a head coach.

Being a positive role model can influence a child and change the world by changing the way a youth looks at the world, Hall said. *I've seen a child's general attitude change for the better.*

Teen volunteers also contribute to the sports program through mentoring and the Nike Swoosh Club. The youth learn coaching and leadership skills by working with other youth in a variety of sports-related activities.

In another area, on any given Sunday, the Argonne Hills Chapel boasts a collective Protestant gospel service with more than 500 participants. It is the Army's second largest congregation, according to Maj. Juan Crockett, chaplain for the gospel service.

The gospel choir, young adult and youth choirs and the CC Carroll male chorus are all comprised of volunteers.

The congregation's volunteers also support 25 other areas of the chapel's ministry including the adult Bible study, adult and children's Sunday school, education committee, mentoring program, Jacob's ladder, praise team, audio visual services, Protestant singles, men and women of the chapel, the Welcome Wagon, ushers, missionary ministry, parent support group and children's church.

The chapel is a vital part of the community, Crockett said. *And it rests upon the shoulders of volunteers. They give their second most precious commodity, which is time. And they give their talents.*

Crockett said the chapel's volunteers help to supplement the center's small staff.

Members of the chapel share what they have to make the community better, he said. *They are always ready to give back what they have received.*

Volunteers also assist in the set up for activities and the preparation of food baskets for the community's needy families.



photo by Ted O'Brien

Teen volunteers, Valencia Peter, 12, and Jennifer Rous, 16, participate in the 2001 Community Symposium as teen work-group delegates.

Our goal is to grow, develop and impact the community, the chaplain said. *We grow volunteers that will be able to train other volunteers. We are investing in people, not in programs.*

Crockett said the chapel's volunteers are its strongest pillars.

If they (volunteers) were to leave, the staff would be strained. They would have limited availability for the community, and the impact would not be as great as it is, he said.

The chapel's ministry groups make a change in the community through reaching and teaching people to carry on good values, morals and ethical training, said Crockett. *We have to live for something bigger than ourselves, and look to the greater good.*

Last year, the installation's volunteers contributed an average of 53,000 hours of their time monthly in service to the community.

To formally acknowledge the contributions of the installation's volunteers, the garrison sponsored a banquet April 9 at Club Meade.

Installation Commander Col. Michael J. Stewart, Command Sgt. Maj. Sandra Matlock-Williams and Volunteer Community Life Coordinator Mary Ringgold joined community officials, volunteers and guests to honor volunteers whose selfless service makes a difference and the community a better place.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to the volunteers nominated by their organizations for volunteer of the year.

The Enlisted Spouses' Club nominated this year's winner, Sheri Conant.

The special time, effort and energy that you give us makes us strong, said Matlock-Williams.

Individual organizations' volunteers of the year were: Ann Fiehn, American Red Cross; Brinkley McCann, Boy Scout Troop 379; Christine Joseph, Arts and Crafts Center; Michael W. Hawks, U.S. Army Claims Service; Wendy Wilmore, Baltimore Recruiting Battalion; Cecille I. Morse, Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council; Missy Duncan, Post Garden Club; Petty Officer 1st Class Patricia A. Hinrichs, Naval Security Group Activity; Rosalee Mills, Post Thrift Shop; Carlo A. Deporto, Provost Marshall Office; Steven Trifiletti, Cub Scout Pack 378; Stephen Day, Girl Scouts; Barbara Schur, Patchwork Porch; Jennifer McCullum, Catholic Religious Education; Aurora Fall, Catholic Religious Education; Elizabeth E. Trautman, Officers' Wives Club; Miki Coleman, Navy Family Service; Bonnie Andersen, United Service Organizations; Connie Robinson, Argonne Hills Gospel Parish; Jay Thompson, Calvary Chapel; Bozie Donalson, Main Post Chapel; David Eugene Wylie, Fort Meade Women's Basketball; Frank Meely, Gospel Chapel; Iris Delancy, Army Community Service; Bruce Hunter, Youth Services Sports; Olivia Hunter, Youth Services Sports; Tami Jones, Installation Volunteer Office; Janie Warner, Community Life Office; Louise Outlaw, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity; Gloria Criss, Joint Services Black Heritage Committee; Maj. James LaRusch, Partners in Education, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate; and Urban Kempf, Boy Scout Troop 377.

Volunteering in the community is volunteering for each other, said Stewart. *We could not accomplish what we accomplish without the volunteers.*

We get to make a living; we give to make a life. - Winston Churchill.

(The articles on pages four and five are courtesy of the SoundOFF!)

Fish Rodeo: Youth catch the fun at Burba Lake

BY CAROL CUMMINGS
SoundOFF!

There was a cast of hundreds at Burba Lake Saturday for the first of three scheduled Youth Fishing Rodeos.

The Fort Meade Rod and Gun Club, the Fort Meade Outdoor Recreation Branch and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) co-sponsored the free, public event which attracted more than 200 children, ages 3 to 15, and their adult companions.

Earlier in the week, DNR Fisheries Service biologist Ross Williams introduced 350 rainbow trout into the lake.

Outdoor Recreation Branch Manager Nate Whitlaw helped release the fish.

As Williams dip-netted scoopfuls of the 10- to 12-inch iridescent piscine creatures from the fish truck, Whitlaw explained Saturday's rodeo was the first in three years because of environmental upgrades to the installation.

"We're restocking. In 1998 the lake was dredged, it was pretty much completely drained. So this will be the first Fishing Rodeo we have had since then," Whitlaw said.

DNR donated the fish. The 1- and 2-year-old trout were bred and raised at the Albert Powell state hatchery in Hagerstown, Md., according to Williams. However, trout weren't the only type of creatures pulled from the lake Saturday.

With rods and reels in hand, children began appearing about 9 a.m. for on-site registration, before staking out their coveted spots around - or in some instances - in the water.

There were three age divisions.

Children, 3-to-6, 7-to-11 and 12-to-15 years, competed against each other to land the biggest fish for a chance to claim first-, second- or third-place medals.

There were also trophies awarded for the biggest and smallest fish caught overall.

Eight-year-old Eddie Hayes was there with his great-uncle Wilbert Berryman of Capitol Heights, Md. Hayes mother, Joyce, is an Army major stationed here.

"We're having a good time," Berryman said as he helped his nephew cast the line on his brand-new rod into the murky surface of the lake.

"Eddie is trying to learn. We haven't done this before. We're trying to keep the lines untangled and things like that," Berryman laughed.

"It is not the first time I have been fishing, but I'm not a fisherman. It's just a good opportunity to spend time together," the older man said gesturing toward the boy.

Soon their attention was directed to activity occurring further down the shore line.

"Oh, they got a good-sized one," Berryman pointed out to Eddie, as a neighboring fisherman pulled a large-mouth bass from the water.

Unfortunately for the lucky angler, according to state fishing regulations, bass are not in season. So the fish went back into the lake without being weighed. Fun seemed to be the catch of the day, however, as kids cast and reeled and parents snapped pictures. Whenever a child hooked a fish, excitement would spread up-and-down the shore, where children stood shoulder-to-shoulder in some areas.

Pat Garcia, a budget analyst with the Directorate of Information Management, was there with her grandsons and nephew.

"It's been fun," Garcia said. "We just got here a little while ago, but we've already caught some perch."

At that precise moment, Garcia's nephew, Buddy Harlow, 10, got a bite.



photo by Susan Whitney

Wilbert Berryman gives his great-nephew Eddie Hayes, 8, pointers on casting his line at the Youth Fishing Rodeo.

As the fifth-grader landed another perch, Garcia's younger grandson, Tommy Crouse, 4, caught fishing fever.

"I'll bet you're going to catch a fish," Tommy told his cousin. "Look, look. He flew in the water. He made water fly in my face," the little boy excitedly called to his grandmother.

Not everyone was so fortunate.

By noon, 5-year-old Alec Parker, his dad, Capt. Walt Parker, and cousin John Moskal, 12, packed up their gear.

"We're done. We didn't get a bite," Alec said.

"It turned out to be normal fishing for us," his dad explained. "No rainbow trout, just rocks, sticks and seaweed."

But Alec knew it was simply bad luck that particular day and not a lack of know-how that caused them to be empty-handed.

The youngster was quick to explain his fishing expertise.

"I see it on television shows. You pull the line back and you throw it out. But not so the hook gets in your head and stuff," the little boy lectured. "Then you've got to wait until a fish bites."

A thought suddenly occurred to the youngster who had been unsuccessfully using a fluorescent-yellow artificial bait that comes packaged in a jar.

He turned to his dad. "Maybe we need other stuff to catch the fish. Yeah, like green stuff."

Alec further explained, "This stuff smells gross. But, fish like it because it smells good to them."

Fish were not the only ones being lured by the smell of food.

"Business has been good here," said kitchen volunteer Penny Dolinger, as she and fellow members from the Rod and Gun Club manned the kitchen where hot dogs, donuts, sodas and coffee could be had. Back at the lake, 14-year-old Shaun Rogers made angling look easy.

The blue-jeaned, seventh-grader from MacArthur Middle School stood quietly on the bank. He concentrated on his line.

A fish soon snatched the piece of bread Shaun had attached to the hook. He reeled it in and carefully removed a flopping sunfish using the needle-nose pliers on his multi-tool. The teen-ager knelt and gently released

his prize back into the water.

Shaun pulled another bit of bread from his jacket pocket, kneaded it into a ball, placed it on his hook and cast again.

Within seconds the line snapped and jerked. This time Shaun pulled in a catfish and repeated the process.

Another cast, another fish.

"Sometimes when I catch them, I eat them. But today I'm catching them just to let them go. Then I'll catch them again when they get bigger," he said. Shaun did not take any of his fish to the official weigh station, but Tomiko Mosby, 3, did.

As her mother, Susan Thornton, placed one of Tomiko's catches of the day on the weigh-station scale, Tomiko darted away.

"She caught five fish, now she sees the playground and she wants to go play," her mother explained before quickly scurrying after the dark-eyed youngster. The two returned hand-in-hand as Rod and Gun Club member David Michels recorded Tomiko's results. The tiny child had landed a blue gill weighing a scant 3/4 ounce.

As it turned out, this was enough to make Tomiko a winner. At the award ceremony at the conclusion of the rodeo, the little girl walked off with the trophy for the smallest fish.

In addition to trophies and medals, organizers handed out door prizes donated by a number of groups. For more than an hour, volunteers gave away in excess of 40 prizes, such as skate passes, pizza coupons, and fishing equipment, to the assembled youngsters. Rod and Gun Club president Dean Raymond spoke to the group, telling them the event exemplified the proud portion of the Rod and Gun Club.

"In past years, we've charged a small fee for this. But this year it was complimentary. We had a successful turnout and I enjoyed watching the kids - even the ones whose lines were caught in trees," Raymond chuckled.

"We were very surprised as we walked around today. The majority of the fish we saw caught here today were catfish. We didn't stock any catfish," Raymond added.

Future Youth Fishing Rodeos will be held June 9 and Sept. 29. For more information, contact the Fort Meade Rod and Gun Club at (301) 674-4071.

Soldiers, families enjoy Easter Egg Hunt



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Once the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Easter Egg Hunt concluded, the children and their families took a seat and begin to survey their goodies. In an effort to make the event enjoyable to everyone, prizes were given out to children with the most and least amount of Easter Eggs collected.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Chaos. Mayhem. Anarchy.

Those words best describe the scene as more than 40 children sprinted around the baseball field in search of goodie-filled plastic eggs during the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Easter Egg Hunt outside of Bldg. 9828 April 14.

At least it was a controlled anarchy. Before the start, the coordinators broke the children up into different age groups and divided the field into equal parts for each age group, in an attempt to keep the older kids from pilaging any three-year-olds' stash. Those less-interested children could opt to spend time with the Easter Bunny rather than scour the grounds for eggs. The result ñ a fun time was had by all.

My daughter loved it, said Staff Sgt. Michael McNulty, Help Desk noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th MI Brigade. She loved finding the eggs and then eating the candy. She also enjoyed talking to the Easter Bunny.

McNulty and his three-year old daughter, Kelsey, worked together during the Easter Egg Hunt. Unfortunately for Kelsey though, her daddy took her to the wrong side of the field. When the event concluded she had one lone egg in her basket.

But in an attempt to ispread the wealth, the Easter Egg Hunt gave prizes to the children with the most eggs and the

least amount of eggs. So little Kelsey, one egg and all, earned a prize Easter basket too.

The purpose of the days' events was to have fun and that we did, said Capt. Carl Lamar, acting commander, HHC, 704th MI Brigade. Everyone had a great time and no one went home feeling left out or ignored.

The parents liked the evening of the odds as well.

It felt it was outstanding, said McNulty, about the event awarding the children with the most and least amount of eggs prizes. My daughter only found one egg because her daddy led her astray and she still got a prize.

Units should have events such as the Easter Egg Hunt more often, McNulty said.

It lets the soldiers know the unit cares not only for you but your family also, McNulty said. It also lets soldiers and their families meet other soldiers and their families in an environment that is relaxed for all.

Events such as the Easter Egg Hunt are another way to make the families of the soldiers feel like more of a part of the brigade, Lamar said.

The importance of including families in unit activities cannot be stressed enough, he said. We try to make the families feel as much a part of the unit as the soldiers themselves. Functions like the Easter Egg Hunt give us such an opportunity.



The children sprint out of the gate in search of Easter Eggs at the start of the hunt.



Some of the participants chose to spent quality time with the Easter Bunny rather than hunt for eggs.



Another egg is spotted during the Easter Egg Hunt.



(Above): These children wait with their parents for the start of the Easter Egg Hunt. In all, more than 40 children participated in the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Easter Egg Hunt April 14.



(Above right): Some children decided to work together in an effort to scout out the area and find the eggs.

(Right): Three-year old Nick searches the fence line for eggs during the Easter Egg Hunt.

(Below): Off to the side and away from all of the commotion, the real Easter Bunny watched the festivities.



Around the Army

Officer earns 'Hero' award for rescue

BY PFC. STEPHANIE SHEPARD
1st Cavalry Division PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas (Army News Service) "I acted quickly. I always act quickly," said 30-year-old Capt. Dameion Logan, commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division about the rescue. "But I never thought I would have to act quickly to something like this."

A single glance outside a window was all it took to make the soldier jump up, race across a seven-lane highway and without a regard to personal safety, leap into a cement drainage filled with raging waters.

After a fight with the strong current, the soldier emerged with a 10-year old girl who had nearly drowned.

Because of his bravery during the heroic act, Logan was selected to receive the Forces Command Hero Award for the active component for the Army March 21, nine months after the incident.

The FORSCOM Hero Award, Logan's most recent award for the rescue, is an Army-wide award with three separate categories: the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve and active Army component.

For the two sisters who were on their way home June 10 in Copperas Cove, Texas, Logan acted quickly just in the nick of time because what had started as a shortcut for the girls ended as a near death experience.

Although thunderstorms flooded the culvert with rapid water, Jennifer, and her sister, Tara Hazlett, 10 and 12 at the time, still attempted to cross it to get back home. Before they knew it, an unexpected current dragged them into the water and swept them away downstream.

Logan was sitting in a nearby restaurant when he saw the girls with their arms

flaying, struggling to get to safety. He ran outside to help, saw the older girl pull herself out of the water. Logan also saw the younger sister get pulled into a tunnel under the highway.

Several other people witnessed the girls in trouble, but it was Logan who reacted. He ran across the highway and leaped into the water without a thought.

"I was acting on pure adrenaline," said Logan. "I knew in my mind that when I jumped, I was going to get that little girl and get back to safety."

Because the current was so strong, Logan had to struggle to keep both himself and Jennifer from going under. That is when another soldier, Staff Sgt. Daniel Racicot, Co. C, 2/8 Cav., 1st Cav. Div., came to help. He too jumped into the water.

Logan pushed Jennifer to Racicot, and Racicot swung Jennifer to safety.

Tired and cold, Logan fought to save himself from going under. The water pushed him further downstream as he fought to find something to pull himself out with.

"I grabbed a piece of metal that appeared out of nowhere," Logan said.

Using the metal, Logan pulled himself out of the water and back to safety.

The whole event was such a blur to Logan, he never realized the danger he was in until much later, he said.

"It happened so fast, and it was over before I knew it," he said. "It was hours, and maybe even a couple of days, before I realized the risk involved."

Since the rescue, Logan has received many expressions of gratitude from the military as well as the people of Copperas Cove.

Logan has received other awards for the rescue as well as the FORSCOM Hero Award.



Capt. Dameion Logan holds the piece of metal that saved his life and looks into the now calm waters of the drainage ditch where he saved the life of a 10-year-old girl.

Logan's act of heroism and risk to personal safety distinguished himself to the Army. He was therefore deserving of the Soldiers Medal. This medal is awarded to those who demonstrated heroism in the face of danger in non-combat situations.

Logan was also awarded with a plaque and several gift certificates by the town of Copperas Cove.

Even though he believes he is undeserving of all the recognition he has received, to others, he truly is deserving of a hero's bounty.

"Logan risked his life to save that little girl, and I know he wouldn't hesitate to do it again," said 1st Sgt. Lovell Mitchell, Co. C, 2/8 Cav. first sergeant. "The medals and awards are only to show him he is appreciated for what he did."

"Logan did what is expected of all good soldiers when he rescued that girl," said Mitchell.

To the soldiers in his company, Logan is a true hero and a great leader.

"Logan is the type to give of himself freely. He cares about his soldiers and

their families, and he does his best to see to their needs," said Mitchell.

Lovell remembers another time when Logan came to the rescue.

Due to an unfortunate incident that led to a lack of funds, the soldiers in Logan's company almost lost their chance to have a company Christmas party. Logan, along with Mitchell, took money out of their own pockets to pay for the party.

"Logan gives 110 percent to help another person," Mitchell said.

The Soldiers Medal citation describes Logan's actions as displaying heroism and bravery above and beyond the call of duty. He believes he only did what was right, and what he hoped anybody else would do.

"A hero is someone who does volunteer work or charitable deeds day to day without a thought to personal gain," he said.

Logan doesn't believe he is a hero. A hero to him is someone who wakes up each day and has the courage to do the right thing all the time.

Earth Day founded by World-War II Army veteran

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND (Army News Service) "Earth Day founder and former senator Gaylord A. Nelson is known as a champion of the environment. But Nelson was also a soldier, serving in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant for four years.

Upon his commission into the Army in 1942, Nelson was sent to Okinawa for service during World War II.

After his tour of duty in the Pacific, Nelson came home to Madison, Wis., and was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1948. Ten years later, the people of Wisconsin elected him as their governor, and then sent him to the U.S. Senate in 1962.

Throughout his political career, Nelson supported legislation addressing land conservation, natural resource preservation and pollution prevention, saying his goal was to raise public awareness of environmental issues.

"For years prior to Earth Day it had been trou-

bling me that the critical matter of the state of our environment was simply a "non-issue" to the politics of our country," Nelson said. "It was clear that until we somehow got this matter into the political arena, until it became part of the national political dialogue, not much would ever be achieved."

Nelson said he found his answer in grassroots activism, and in 1969 he developed the idea of rallying people for an environmental teach-in called Earth Day.

According to Nelson, "the response was dramatic. It took off like gangbusters."

The Earth Day Network, the organizers for the 30th anniversary Earth Day event held in Washington, D.C. last year, estimated half a billion people around the world participated in Earth Day 2000.

Included in that half billion were people at Army installations sponsoring Earth Day activities throughout the United States and overseas.

"Soldiers are participants in the Army's (Earth

Day) efforts," Nelson said. "The idea, ultimately, is to nurture a generation imbued with an environmental ethic that causes people and institutions to ask, "If we intrude on nature here, and in this way, what will the consequences be?"

When Army leaders address environmental concerns in making decisions, they minimize the human impact on nature and keep training lands open for tomorrow's soldier, according to Army Environmental Center officials.

When discussing the Army's success on environmental issues, Nelson said, "I am impressed with how much the Army is doing on its many properties."

What the Army does on its properties depends on its own grass roots "the soldiers at the unit level making stewardship part of the mission, AEC officials said.

"The grass roots are the source of power," Nelson said. "With it you can do anything "without it, nothing."

Around the Army

Army's war-fighting capabilities displayed

FORT IRWIN, Calif. (Army News Service) - In the largest rotation ever at the National Training Center, The 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) started its quest March 31 to win the battle and demonstrate its new hi-tech digitized systems.

In the dimness of the cool desert morning, the 4th ID received its marching orders and elements of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team started rolling out. By 4:30 a.m. they began maneuvering their way across the desert training area known as the iBox to officially begin their battle against the NTC's world-class opposing force.

The Division Capstone Exercise at NTC is the Army's first look at the 4th ID's elite mechanized and aviation war-fighting capability under realistic battlefield conditions, officials said.

The DCX has drawn more than 11,000 soldiers and civilians - the latter being on hand to provide support services and technical assistance, officials said.

Our intent is to conduct an exercise that creates the conditions for 4th ID's mechanized and aviation brigades to demonstrate they are combat mission capable, said Maj. Gen. B.B. Bell, exercise director and commander of the U.S. Army Armor School and Center at Fort Knox, Ky. This exercise is not an experiment. Its intent is to give 4th ID a chance to train for war.

The 4th Infantry Division was designated as an experimental force in 1995 by the Army to develop the power of digital communications and adapt doctrine to take advantage of it. Since that time, 4th ID

has developed and experimented with digitized systems, and officials said DCX is the transition stage from experiment to execution.

The exercise is designed for the division to thrust the mechanized brigade into complex threat and terrain environments expected on 21st Century battlefields. Additionally, the Aviation Brigade Task Force will fight in the division's air battle space employing enhanced battle command and control systems, Bell said. That is the purpose of this monumental undertaking by the Army.

One of the new digitized systems 4th ID will unveil is the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below. The FBCB2 is designed to facilitate communications between multi-vehicle platforms, officials said, to give soldiers assets they didn't have before. It allows a soldier to know where he is, where his buddy is, and know where the enemy is, officials said, adding it allows units and their commanders to see first, understand first, and act first.

In the past, we (the Army) had a lot of friendly fire accidents because we weren't always in sync with each other, said Pfc. Leonardo Rodriguez, a M1A2 Abrams tank driver with Company B, 1-67th Armor, 4th Infantry Division. We didn't always know where everyone else was, and sometimes mistook one another for the enemy. But with this system, everyone is on the same page. The FBCB2 lets everyone communicate and know who's who.

This system is the start of the Army's future, said Staff Sgt. Robert Munsey, also a member of Co.

B, 1-67th. The FBCB2 is another eye for soldiers. This system is a soldier's battle buddy.

In the past I had to remember to log in reports, but in a battle you forget numbers or you wait until later which gives commanders inaccurate reports, Munsey said. The new system allows me to log in reports on sight, which helps commanders get my soldiers and me the supplies we need. From fuel to food, commanders know what we need within a few minutes.

The iBox in which the 4th ID, the Blue Force, will engage the NTC's opposing force has been greatly expanded from previous NTC rotations, officials said. It will allow the Blue Force commander to disperse his force over a greater area, they said, adding that the NTC measures just over 350,000 acres.

Since the commander should know where the enemy is, he can operate with smaller groups over a much greater area, officials said. Being internetted, the groups should be able to mass their fires to greater destructive effect against the OPFOR.

Before departing for the battle, 4th ID spent its first weeks at Fort Irwin performing pre-combat checks on equipment and machinery during the reception, staging, onward movement and integration phase of the operation.

For the next two weeks, division leaders and soldiers will be in continuous operations, which Bell said does not mean constant combat, but he said it will still stress the bad guys and the good.

Events on the DCX calendar include deep attacks, digital deliberate attacks, and live-fire. The DCX will conclude April 14.

Army earns three DoD environmental awards

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 17, 2001) Three Army installations will receive the Secretary of Defense Fiscal 2000 Environmental Security Award during a May 3 ceremony at the Pentagon.

Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort McCoy, Wis., will receive Cultural Resource Management awards and Fort Eustis, Va., will be recognized for its pollution prevention program.

Winners of this year's awards earned their honors through community outreach programs that shared the Army environmental story, Army officials said, and through innovative partnerships built on shared vision.

Today's Army is a committed steward serving as an environmental leader in America's communities, said Raymond Fatz, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. Winners of these awards demonstrate that partnering and engaging local interests enhance Army environmental programs and achieve military readiness goals.

Fort Bliss, Texas, won the Cultural Resources Management award for an installation through partnering efforts with Native American tribes and for adaptive reuse programs that support the post's mission in a cost-effective manner.

In one adaptive re-use project at the installation, the 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command consolidated operations into a single historic building. Spending about \$20 per square foot to renovate the approximately 27,000-square-foot interior, the organization moved into a facility costing about \$100 per square foot less than normally spent on new facilities - a savings of about \$2.7 million overall.

More than a million archaeological artifacts as well as historical architectural drawings and photographs of

post facilities are housed in the Fort Bliss state-of-the-art curatorial facility. Fort Bliss staff members consulted with the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Mescalero Apache tribes.

The rich history of the Texas fort is evident throughout the post - from buildings that were the earliest mess halls, barracks and quarters in the main cantonment area to the prehistoric campsites and pueblos and the remains of 19th- and 20th-century ranches.

The Cultural Resources Management Program Team at Fort McCoy, Wis., won the Cultural Resources Management team award for community partnering projects and for its comprehensive archaeological management program.

During the past three years, 13 of 46 prehistoric sites on the post were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties. Meanwhile, Fort McCoy architectural historians documented every building and structure at each Reserve Center within the 88th Regional Support Command in the states of Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota.

The evaluation of so many sites has resulted in an intensive collection of new data. A comprehensive analysis of the post led to revision of the prehistoric and historic views of

the Army installation to identify it as a distinct interior region of the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

Fort Eustis, Va., won the Pollution Prevention award for a non-industrial installation for its ability to integrate what officials called a highly effective environmental management program into mission support of the 7th Transportation Group, one of the most frequently deployed units in the Army.

Fort Eustis recently tackled several critical envi-

ronmental issues. The post became one of the first Army installations to prepare a pollution prevention plan prior to the executive order mandating the preparation of federal plans. Another initiative was the integration of a solid-waste management program that has helped the installation maintain a 37-percent waste diversion rate, exceeding the federal goal of 35-percent diversion by 2004.

Fort Bliss, Fort McCoy and Fort Eustis were three of six Army installations and two Army teams that won Secretary of the Army Fiscal 2000 Environmental Awards in January.

U.S. Army Alaska won the Natural Resources Conservation award for a large installation by applying innovative landscape ecology and ecosystem approaches that support the military mission of the Arctic Warrior.

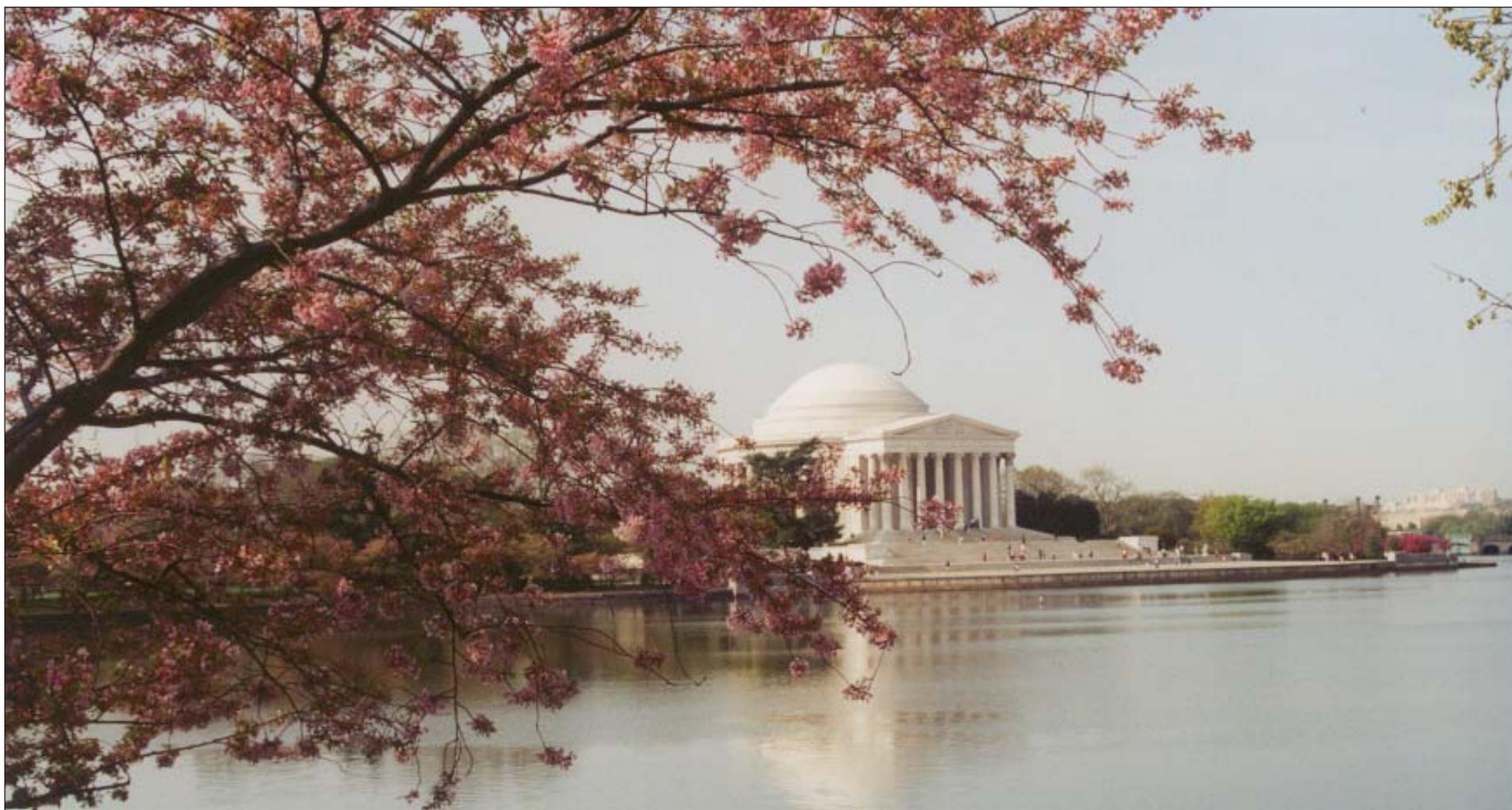
In applying these stewardship practices, the environmental staff maintained biodiversity through habitat mosaics, officials said, and incorporated the soldier as a species within that habitat.

Fort Meade, Md., won the installation Environmental Restoration award for the success of its environmental partnership team, the signing of three approved remediation plans for six sites, and for the successful transfer of a military airfield to the local county. The installation additionally deleted the airfield from the Environmental Protection Agency's national priorities list in the fastest time - only 16 months - in the history of the Superfund program.

All winners will be presented with their Secretary of the Army awards during a May 2 ceremony at 2:30 p.m. in Pentagon Room 5A1070. DoD awards will be presented May 3 at a 3 p.m. ceremony on the Pentagon Lower Parade Field near the River Entrance.

Around Town

Visiting D.C.'s Cherry Blossoms



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival marks the 89th celebration of the original gift of the 3,000 cherry trees by the city of Tokyo to the people of Washington, D.C. in 1912. The blossoms, along with the festival's numerous cultural, community and sporting events attract over 700,000 visitors annually to our Nation's capital.

The blooming of the cherry trees around the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. has come to symbolize the natural beauty of our nation's capital city. Thousands of city residents and visitors from across the nation and around the world come here to witness the spectacle, hoping that the trees will be at the peak of bloom for the Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington's week-long rite of spring.

Cherry Blossom Festival dates are set based on the average time of blooming, but nature is not always cooperative, and unseasonable icy winds sometimes nip the blossoms and spoil the show.

In 1885, Mrs. Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, upon returning to Washington from her first visit to Japan, approached the Superintendent of Public Building and Grounds with the proposal that cherry trees be planted along the soon to be reclaimed Potomac waterfront. Her request was ignored. Over the next 24 years, Mrs. Scidmore approached every new Superintendent with her proposal with no success.

In 1906, Dr. David Fairchild, plant explorer and U.S. Department of Agriculture official, imported 75 flowering cherry trees and 25 single-flowered weeping types from the Yokohama Nursery Company in Japan. He planted these on a hillside on his own land in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he was testing their hardiness.

In 1907, The Fairchilds, pleased with the success of the trees, began to promote Japanese flowering cherry trees as the ideal type of tree to plant along avenues in the Washington area. Friends of the Fairchilds also became interested and on September 26, arrangements were completed with the Chevy Chase Land Company to order 300 Oriental cherry trees for the Chevy Chase area.

In 1908, Dr. David Fairchild gave cherry saplings to boys from each District of Columbia school to plant in their

schoolyard for the observance of Arbor Day. In closing his Arbor Day lecture, Dr. Fairchild for the first time expressed an appeal that the "Speedway" (the present day corridor of Independence Avenue, SW, in West Potomac Park) be transformed into a "Field of Cherries". In attendance was Eliza Scidmore, whom afterwards he referred to as a great authority on Japan.

In 1909, Mrs. Scidmore decided to try to raise the money required to purchase the cherry trees and then donate the trees to the city. As a matter of course Mrs. Scidmore sent a note to the new First Lady Helen Herron Taft outlining her new plan. First Lady Taft had once lived in Japan and was familiar with the beauty of the flowering cherry trees. Two days later the First Lady responded:

"Thank you very much for your suggestion about the cherry trees. I have taken the matter up and am promised the trees, but I thought perhaps it would be best to make an avenue of them, extending down to the turn in the road, as the other part (beyond the railroad bridge) is still too rough to do any planting. Of course, they could not reflect in the water, but the effect would be very lovely of the long avenue. Let me know what you think about this."

Sincerely yours, Helen H. Taft.

Four months later, the Japanese Embassy informed the Department of State that the City of Tokyo intended to donate 2,000 cherry trees to the United States to be planted along the Potomac River. The blossoms have been here ever since.



The blooming cherry blossoms have been a symbol of springtime in Washington D.C. for the last 89 years.

SAFETY BRIEF

BY PATTI SHELLEY
SAFETY OFFICER

It is at once the great and terrible thing about living. You never know what is around the corner.



In the case of Stephen Dodson Jr.'s family, that truism is figurative. They had no idea when the doorbell rang early on the morning of May 31, 1998, that two troopers and a chaplain were waiting for them.

In Stephen's case, the rule is literal. The car in which he was a passenger entered a work zone on I-264 driving too fast and flipped on a concrete barrier, and he was instantly killed.

Road met Stephen's family Tuesday at a Work Zone Safety Awareness Week rally.

When you meet someone who has lost a child, it's right there, on their faces.

After seeing the troopers at her doorstep, Stephen's mom, Elizabeth, remem-

bers running for Stephen's room, throwing open the door.

Empty.

Every Friday night, we had pizza together, and he was there with us, Elizabeth said of her 22-year-old son. He never left us unless he kissed us and hugged us.

His dad, Stephen Sr., had a premonition of sorts - a small jolt of fear. He stopped his son and said, if you need me, just call.

At 7:30 the next morning, the knock on the door.

Stephen's sister, Lisa Cherry, travels to high schools now, showing pictures of Stephen and of the wreck, telling the story to driver's ed classes.

It really hits home when I show them the pictures, Lisa said.

Most fatalities in work zones involve someone in a car, like Stephen, not construction workers. And most are, like Stephen, young men between 18 and 24.

Since 1995, there have been 50 fatalities in Virginia work-zone accidents. In 2000 alone, there were more than 600 accidents, resulting in 10 deaths and more than 320 injuries.

Tuan Vu is the safety director for



E.V. Williams Inc., the construction firm handling the massive Kempsville Road project. The firm is among groups promoting Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.

People have become desensitized, maintaining their speed because they see a construction area but no one working, Vu says. That is the time most accidents occur: when they drop their guard.

The two biggest problems, Vu says, are speeding and tailgating.

The issue is particularly important in Virginia, as the largest construction program in history is under way. There will be more than 600 major construction work zones in Virginia this year. That means a work zone for every 90 miles of highway.

Sam Williams, the trucking superintendent for E.V. Williams, offered this advice: Don't find out who loves you by being inattentive in a work zone and getting into an accident.

CIVILIAN'S CORNER

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

To all those who have not heard yet, I have been selected to remain the Brigade Technical Advisor; so I will continue writing articles for a while. Please let me know what type of information or articles you enjoy. This month's topic includes general information for you to ponder.



Thanks,
Sam

BUSH FORMALLY PROPOSES 3.6 PERCENT RAISE

As expected, last week President Bush proposed a 3.6 percent pay raise for federal civilian employees for fiscal year 2002. The proposal was part of President Bush's formal budget proposal to Congress. The proposed raise is a full percentage point lower than the 4.6 percent pay raise the president proposed for military personnel. Traditionally, federal employees and military personnel receive the same pay raise. In an effort to preserve this practice, budget resolutions supporting pay parity have passed both the House and the Senate.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN UPDATE

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) rates for March posted slight gains for the F and G funds, up 0.51% and 0.45% respectively, but a loss of 6.33% for the C Fund. In the last twelve months, the C Fund has lost 21.63%, while the F Fund gained 12.61% and the G Fund increased 6.09%.

NEW COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING AVAILABLE FROM THE EEOC

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced a new computer-based training initiative for federal agencies as part of its efforts to improve the federal-sector complaint process. The training is being conducted through the use of a state-of-the-art CD-ROM that provides comprehensive information and interactive instruction to federal employees, managers, and others involved in the federal EEO process. The CD, which is entitled *Sailing Through the Federal Sector EEO Process*, is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Contact the EEOC's Office of Federal Operations by e-mail at eeo.cbt@eEOC.gov for further information.

SPECIAL REPORT: OPM RELEASES LONG TERM CARE PLAN

Last week, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released its preliminary plan for a long term care insurance program for federal employees and their families. Noting that it may change in the coming months, OPM described the elements of its preliminary plan as follows.

A comprehensive policy would be offered under the plan. This means that the insurance would make payments toward several types of long term care, such as nursing home care, assisted living facility care, in-home care, hospice care, and respite care. (Respite care is care given by others when family members or other informal caregivers need some time off.) In addition to federal employees, annuitants, and the parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of employees, OPM is considering covering parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of annuitants; adult children and spouses of employees and annuitants; unmarried former spouses of employees and

annuitants; and adult foster children of employees and annuitants. Participants will be able to customize their insurance, by choosing a maximum weekly benefit (from \$400 to \$2,000 per week, in multiples of \$50), the length of the policy (3 years, 5 years, or lifetime coverage), the waiting period (the number of days of covered care the insured must pay for before the long term care insurance begins to pay), and the type of inflation protection. OPM anticipates the standard waiting period to be 90 days, but may permit people to choose a shorter waiting period, such as 30 days. The two inflation protection features participants may choose from are *compound inflation* (the weekly benefit would automatically increase by a given percentage - probably 5 percent - each year, with premiums staying the same) and *future purchase option* (the weekly benefit would automatically increase every 2 or 3 years based on an outside index measuring inflation, with premiums increasing as well). There will be two benefit payment levels of either 100 percent or 50 percent of the maximum weekly benefit chosen. With respect to premiums, OPM states that premiums will be based on age at the time the individual purchases the coverage. The insured is responsible for paying 100 percent of the premium cost, but OPM anticipates savings of 15 to 20 percent below standard premiums because of group policy rates and economies of scale. Insurance coverage will be guaranteed renewable, so that the insurance carrier cannot cancel coverage unless the insured stops paying premiums. The coverage will be fully portable. This means if the insured leaves federal service or gets a divorce from a federal employee spouse, the insured can keep the policy at the same premium. As far as underwriting is concerned, OPM is asking the insurance industry to make proposals for three levels of underwriting - full underwriting, modified guarantee issue, and short form underwriting. For more detailed information on OPM's preliminary long term care insurance plan, click on <http://www.opm.gov/>.

704th officers enjoy night out, dine in



First Lt. Michael Connell, assistant plans and operations officer, HHC, 704th MI Brigade, displays a red rose on the table set for one in remembrance of U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action.

More than 100 officers from the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade took time out from their busy schedules to enjoy the Brigade's Annual Officers' Dining-In at Club Meade April 20.

Throughout the night, the officers had the opportunity to put work aside for a short while and relax with their peers. After special remarks by the distinguished guest, Brig. Gen. Keith Alexander, the night concluded with a series of skits by representatives from each of the battalions.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

The 704th MI Brigade Select Honor Guard presents the colors to Col. Deborah J. Beckworth, president of the mess, and the distinguished guest, Brig. Gen. Keith Alexander during the Dining-In April 20.



Capt. Laura Geldhof, commander, Company C, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion welcomes everyone.



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 *HERE AND EVERYWHERE.*